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High Court rules decision to allow British anti-transgender activist Posie Parker into country was lawful

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[subject=High%20Court%20rules%20decision%20to%20allow%20British%20anti-transgender%20activist%20Posie%20Parker%20into%20country%20was%20lawful](mailto:anneke.smith@rnz.co.nz?subject=High%20Court%20rules%20decision%20to%20allow%20British%20anti-transgender%20activist%20Posie%20Parker%20into%20country%20was%20lawful))



The High Court in Wellington Photo: RNZ / Aaron Smale

P The government's decision to allow British anti-transgender activist Posie Parker into New Zealand was the right one, the High Court has ruled.

Parker, also known as Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull, is currently en route to Aotearoa to speak at domestic rallies in Auckland and Wellington this weekend.

Immigration New Zealand reviewed her case after some supporters at her Melbourne event threw Nazi salutes. The department ultimately decided she could enter the country.

P A coalition of rainbow communities has now tried - and failed - to challenge this decision through a judicial review (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/486572/rainbow-groups-take-immigration-minister-to-court-over-posie-parker-decision>) urgently heard in the High Court at Wellington this morning.

Gender Minorities Aotearoa, InsideOUT Kōaro, and Auckland Pride argued the Immigration Minister made a mistake giving Parker the green light to come to New Zealand.

Their lawyer Tiho Mijatov, citing Parker's transphobic views, said the activist met the criteria to be barred entry, with domestic research showing transgender people are twice as likely to kill themselves.

"We're beyond a situation of offence or people just being really upset ... we're moving into starting to disrupt social cohesion and thus, public order."

Section 16 of the Immigration Act allows the Immigration Minister a discretionary power to ban a non-citizen if they have reason to believe they're likely to be a threat or risk to security.

Drawing on affidavits provided by his clients, Mijatov said an online sleuth had infiltrated at least two far-right groups on Telegram that had 194 and 70 members each.

He said a news article about Parker being allowed entry into New Zealand had generated inflammatory and baseless comments like "anti-paedophile protest at Albert Park on Sunday" with references to "final solutions".



Posie Parker, also known as Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull Photo: AFP

"[It's] an unambiguous reference to nazi ideology, and again, it's not just in a late night chat room where people are letting off misguided steam. It all started with that news article 'Posie Parker's coming, there's an event on'."

Mijatov also pointed to evidence the Ministry knew about a Twitter post in which Parker allegedly encouraged people with guns to go into girls' bathrooms at schools.

"It's espousing this idea that people who call themselves transgender, they're just making it up. So if you're a man, just call yourself a girl and get in there and do it with guns."