

League table of oppression

The first shall be last, said Jesus. He obviously hadn't checked his privilege. Michael Deacon in [Pink News](#), the NUS Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender conference has [Peter Tatchell is a racist](#). Then they tell us the founder of Hope Not Hate is an Islamophobe. And now they tell us gay men are bigots.

I'm trying to understand, I really am. But I suspect I'm not alone in needing some help here. That's why I propose the following solution.

To let everyone know where they stand, the NUS must publish [an ex-Muslim woman, Maryam Namazie, was due to give a speech](#) at Warwick University arguing that patriarchal Islamic culture oppresses women. However, the student union tried to bar her on the grounds that her views were "inflammatory". So that's that one sorted: Muslim men are more important victims than Muslim women.

Other questions, however, will be more complex, because some people have a frustrating habit of not conforming to easy stereotypes. Is, say, a heterosexual, middle-class, black, immigrant woman more or less oppressed than a gay, working-class, white, British man? On the one hand, she has the hateful privileges of being heterosexual and middle-class. On the other hand, she also has the noble disadvantages of being black, an immigrant, and a woman.

Is she oppressor, or oppressed? Should we celebrate her as a victim, or