Brussels: Conference on trans activism prevented

Masked activists broke into the Café laïque Brussels to disrupt a conference on transgenderism.
The organizers denounce the method.

By Clément Pétreault

Published on 19/12/2022 at 18:39 - Modified on 20/12/2022 at 13:24
Reading time: 4 min

By what are trans activists playing at? Like what’s happening in the United States, the noisy activism of social networks is being extended in increasingly tumultuous ways into real life. On Thursday 16 December, masked activists burst into the Café laïque Brussels to prevent a conference by Céline Masson and Caroline Eliacheff, who had come to present their essay La Fabrique de l’enfant transgenre (published by the Observatoire). The twenty or so activists of this collective, called ‘Ursula’ - The twenty or so activists of this collective, called ‘Ursula’, spread excrement in the room and chanted the slogan: ‘Transphobic coffee, racist coffee, Islamophobic coffee’. The conference had to be interrupted and the police only arrived after the activists had left.

What is the object of their wrath? By questioning the excesses and abuses of the transgender movement, especially among minors, the two speakers would be advocating ‘conversion therapies’ (practices that claim to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity) or would reduce ‘trans people to the status of patients’ who need to be treated...
Conference cancellation
'It's obviously not true,' says Céline Masson, who, along with Caroline Eliacheff, is also the founder of the Little Mermaid Observatory. This collective is alarmed by an increase in the number of cases of children wanting to change their gender. 'For a few years now, there has been a teenager in every class who says he or she is trans. Why not... We simply consider that this kind of decision, which can lead to irreversible operations, must take time. However, radical trans activists consider that it is necessary to go very quickly to reduce the suffering of teenagers who say they are trans and encourage them to make radical decisions such as cutting themselves off from their parents', points out psychologist Céline Masson, who evokes a similarity in method with the Antifa movement, which specialises in spectacular and sometimes violent action.

Cau: 'There is no danger of trans

"Since late April, as soon as one of our conferences is announced somewhere, social networks start and put pressure on the organizers to make us cancel. Sometimes they succeed,' she explains. This was the case last November 20, when the city hall of central Paris cancelled the conference that was to take place on the occasion of the International Day of Children's Rights, entitled "The new challenges of parents".

Identity-based Left
The book La Fabrique de l'enfant transgenre (The Factory of the Transgender Child) - which denounces the excesses of radical activism - has not pleased activist groups whose representativeness is hard to assess... 'We are in contact with groups that do not recognise themselves at all in the radicalism of this activism'... confides Céline Masson, who tells us that she regularly exchanges with trans people: 'The president of a trans asso told me that she too was called transphobic because she was too moderate.'
Denouncing without debating, intimidating those who doubt, mobilizing the troops on social networks, doing everything to prevent public speaking (up to and including throwing excrement on the audience, therefore)... These methods are clearly aimed at bringing about the social and academic death of all those who have the audacity to question the methods of a movement largely influenced by the new struggles of the American identity left, based on the glorification of communal belonging in all its forms. At the heart of all these new claims is a presumed inalienable right to racial, sexual or religious identity. Nothing humorous

That these activists are not great supporters of contradictory debate, of freedom of expression (and of good taste), is undeniable..., but how to qualify these spectacular gagging actions? 'It is not a question of agitation or hullabaloo, we must use the word: it is terrorism, I defend this term. It's about sowing terror in people's minds, preventing any debate wherever it occurs,' says anthropologist Florence Bergeaud-Blackler, an anthropologist at the CNRS - a specialist in Muslim Brotherhood activism in Europe - and co-founder of the Café laïque Bruxelles, with secular activist Fadila Maaroufi. "This is not symbolic violence. They force a door, they barge in screaming, they are masked, you don't know what they plan to do, where their violence is going to stop, there is nothing good-natured or playful about it," she said.

The incident, although foreseeable, was not considered serious by the Belgian State Security (the kingdom's intelligence service), which did not wish to dispatch security forces. "The address and number of the Secular Café were posted on social networks. I started receiving messages two days before the conference to cancel it, explaining that the speakers would be transphobic," said Florence Bergeaud-Blackler, for whom this kind of event is a first. Messages on social networks called for a step up in violence: "What's the problem, they wrote that the café is racist and transphobic. So they have the right. And are even super lenient. They could have burned it because they also have the right," says a brave anonymous Twitter user, whose profile suggests a particularly active conspiracy activist ... and who seems unaware, two years after the murder of Samuel Paty, that the method of designating personalities as racist or Islamophobic on social networks - and contrary to any reality - can take a tragic turn.
Je suggère à ces gens de faire ce que je fais régulièrement, ouvrir mon Coran et pointer tous les versets appelant à l'amour de l'hérétique au lieu de sauter comme des cabris en hurlant islamophobe, islamophobe.