

Greater Manchester Resisters

Questions

1 Do you have any comments on the proposal that applicants must live in their acquired gender for at least 3 months before applying for a GRC?

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

Three months is a dangerously short period of time. At sixteen a young person, who is legally not an adult until 18 years should not be presented with this option. diagnosis of gender dysphoria is made from an in-depth assessment carried out by two or more specialists over a period of time, which takes longer than 3 months to complete thoroughly. The reforms would dramatically speed up the process of applying for a legal Gender Dysphoria can be present from childhood.

The majority are simply gender non-conforming and grow up to be Lesbian or Gay. 80% will, under the current framework desist. Therefore this treatment is wholly inappropriate. Also young people may experience Gender Dysphoria owing to trauma i.e. physical or sexual assault. With the right therapy they may desist or even with self-help .This proposal amounts to fast-tracking and putting those affected on an irreversible medical pathway. It not what vulnerable youngsters should be offered under any circumstance

2 Do you have any comments on the proposal that applicants must go through a period of reflection for at least 3 months before obtaining a GRC?

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

This period of reflection is far too short at six months – there is no requirement to discuss this with anyone, a medical practitioner or therapist, putting young people at risk with no professional support. Other mental health problems or different neurological conditions will be missed as there is no requirement for the involvement of any health professionals. It creates opportunities for abuse by those who simply seek personal gain. I in 50 men in prison now identify as Transgender-this affords them their own cell and separate washing facilities. Men who self-ID as women in sport have an unfair biological advantage. Under these proposals men who self-ID as women would get access to cheaper insurance this is already happening in America. Therefore self-declaration of sex is not a principle that should be embedded in law.

3 Should the minimum age at which a person can apply for legal gender recognition be reduced from 18 to 16?

Not Answered

If you wish, please give reasons for your view.:

Young people who wish to be the opposite sex are frequently placed on an experimental medical pathway which leads to loss of sexual function, infertility, and lifelong medication. Current research shows that, for the vast majority of children, these feelings of gender dysphoria resolve with maturity. The causes for both the rapid increase in children seeking medical help and detransitioners (those who return to their original sex having been through the medical route) needs to be investigated before any law change extends the right to legally change sex to young people.

4 Do you have any other comments on the provisions of the draft Bill?

Not Answered

If yes, please outline these comments.:

Single-sex exemptions in the Equality Act 2010 (EqA) exist to uphold women's and girls' human rights. These include: Privacy, dignity and safety (toilets, changing-rooms, hospital wards, overnight accommodation, prisons) so that women and girls may access healthcare, participate fully in public life and feel safe in environments where they are most vulnerable Recovery from trauma (rape crisis centres, refuges) so that women and girls can rebuild their lives and re-enter public life Equality (women-only shortlists, Public Sector Equality Duty requirements etc) to advance women and girls in areas where they face historic disadvantage Fairness and safety (the right to participate in sports on a level playing field) If any man, for whatever reason, can simply self-identify as a woman and gain a GRC on that basis, all sex based rights and protections for girls are compromised, and for all practical purposes become unworkable. All single-sex provisions have been implemented on the basis of biological sex and the reasons for that have not changed. With the advent of camera phones and the ability to upload videos to porn sites such as Pornhub, rights to female-only spaces are more critical than ever; the risks to women and girls have substantially increased, not lessened, in recent years. Single-sex exceptions are allowed as a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim in the EqA Schedule 3, paragraphs 26 and 27. If a person has a GRC however, although they may still be excluded, the EHRC Code goes beyond the EqA and the GRA, in stating that this exception must only be used in 'exceptional circumstances.' Case by case service provision is unworkable in practice so a legal self-ID system would effectively end women-only services and facilities. The erosion of single-sex facilities and services would make it impossible to safeguard girls in schools, organisations, public toilets and changing-rooms. In this Draft Bill the Scottish government has failed in its duty to show due regard to women and girls.

5 Do you have any comments on the draft Impact Assessments?

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

The impact assessments are wholly inadequate and not fit for purpose. The impact on other protected characteristics, primarily sex and sexual orientation, and on children, has not been thoroughly assessed in any serious way.

Via freedom of information requests obtained by the Sunday Times, 90% of complaints from public changing rooms i.e. those under local authority control have originated in Unisex changing areas. Girls have to share sanitary spaces with boys at school are not drinking water and other liquids all day as they are may be menstruating. Walesonline and the Sunday times have covered this. It will affect their health and there ability to concentrate and so negatively impact upon there education. The rugby union governing body, whose current policy follows that of the International Olympic Committee, is consulting regarding the potential impact on women in Rugby.