

Board of Reformed Christian Education Scotland

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.:

The Board of Reformed Christian Education Scotland rejects the concept of self-identification and gender recognition certificates. Our belief is founded upon the Word of God which speaks clearly into the confusion present in society. God has created humans as male or female, thus biological sex is binary. To consider gender identity to be on a spectrum and different from one's biological sex is to oppose the clear teaching of the Bible. Males are to live as males and females are to live as females. We oppose the Scottish Government's attempts to legislate for measures that are at variance with the Scriptures.

Our Board is concerned about any measure to further liberalise this law and thinks that it is unwise to reduce the timespan in any way.

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.:

We think that the law should not be liberalised further, especially since it would make it easier for young people to be pressured into making hasty decisions that they will later regret. The very fact that transgenderism is being promoted so aggressively in Scottish schools should make us pause to consider the dangers of liberalising the law. Pupils could be surrounded by LGBT propaganda in school (provided by the very groups that the Scottish Government has already consulted about this proposed Bill) and in such an environment be put under pressure to re-evaluate who they are. As they are being given one ideology, and not the alternative, they may make the decision to transition quickly. All of this could be done, with the certificate issued, before they leave school. However, if adequate time is given to re-evaluate, and if the pupils are allowed to consider that transgenderism is not universally accepted, then they may change their mind and come to understand more accurately who they are. Why is the Scottish Government so keen to allow young people to press through with hasty decisions? We should recognise that young people are not adults and 16 year olds do not have all the same liberties as those who are 18.

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

No

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

The proposed Bill has serious ramifications for education and schools. Schools have a duty to teach what is true and not what is "politically correct". Confusing and false political ideologies concerning gender are being taught in Scottish schools and undue pressure is put upon young people to self-identify contrary to biological sex. When a pupil does so, the expectation is that the school will affirm this identification, whether it is true or in the child's best interests. To make matters worse, the Government is not proposing any medical or psychological reports to ensure that the young person is of sound mind, nor is the Government prepared to uphold parental authority over these young people.

To give a 16 year old a legal certificate stating a gender contrary to biological sex hinders the school in fulfilling its responsibility to do what is in that young person's best interest. The self-perception of the pupil becomes the most important factor. A gender recognition certificate removes the right of a teacher to freely speak the truth (e.g. to use the pupil's correct name and pronoun) and leaves teachers at serious risk of legal action. Additionally, the school is no longer able to safeguard single-sex spaces and so those who are most vulnerable will be adversely affected.

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

The Scottish Government is not making any provision to uphold the God-given right of Christians to freely speak the truth. Will the Scottish Government protect the rights of independent Christian schools that teach a Biblical view of sexuality? Or will such teachers and schools be accused of transphobia, even though the same schools teach their pupils to love their neighbours?

The Bill challenges the whole concept of biological sex as a protected characteristic. Although the Bill proposes that false-declarations would be a crime, how would it be possible to police it since the feelings of the person are internal and cannot be objectively judged?

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

Our Board is concerned at how little thought is being given to safeguard the right of pupils to have single-sex facilities. This Bill will inevitably make school facilities mixed-sex. To give legal sanction to delusion or malevolence will lead to harm for the vulnerable. Schools teach about privacy and boundaries, but the Scottish

Government would legally remove these rights. Girls would not be able to defend their privacy because the law would be on the side of the "transgender" pupil with his certificate.

The proposed Bill makes the subjective (feelings and self-identity) to be more important than the objective (physical sex). By advancing this order it makes it more likely that young people will seek life-changing medical interventions, which will later be regretted. The order should be reversed: the objective must clarify the subjective. Teachers are in a position of trust and must be allowed to do what truly is in the child's best interests, i.e., to guide them towards objective truth.