

North Edinburgh Reformed Presbyterian Church

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.:

God has created male and female right from the very beginning of human existence. Sex is not chosen or changed. I cannot support any attempt to make it easier or quicker to change gender. These views are widely held and not just by those of religious faith. Considerable harm has been caused in many lives by changing gender or by doing so too quickly. Our government needs to be responsible and uphold safeguards which will protect vulnerable people, rather than trying to make this process easier or quicker.

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.:

A longer period of 'reflection' is needed. Many who have begun or undergone gender transition look back on that decision with sincere regret. As stated above, making any aspect of the process quicker will have serious implications for those who are young or immature or vulnerable. The government has a duty to protect these exact categories.

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.:

Again, while reaffirming that one's status as male or female cannot be changed, any process for attempting to change gender cannot be left open to children. Legally, under 18s are not adults and therefore should not be making decisions for themselves which will profoundly affect the rest of their adult life.

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

The Bill does not recognise the Biblical position, which has also been held throughout the majority of human history and across the majority of nations and cultures - that a man is a man and a woman is a woman.

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

As well as defying the law of the Creator God, and turning against worldwide practice throughout all of human existence, these proposed changes place others at significant risk. No one who has been born female should have to share single-sex facilities with a man who 'identifies' as female. Non-transgender rights need to be recognised too.