

OurStory 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 3 months delay is arbitrary and unnecessary. GRC should be obtainable without having to go through this delay, which would only cause further stress.

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.:

The 3 months reflection period is arbitrary and unnecessary. GRC should be obtainable without having to go through this further reflection period, as applicants will have already had a long period of reflection before reaching this point.

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

Yes

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

As you can marry and vote at 16, you are considered to be able to make decisions as an adult. Those who are 16 and 17 should also be able to change their birth certificate to match who they are.

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

It is vital to make the legal recognition of gender a more straightforward process that reduces stress for trans people. Transition is difficult enough without the extra burden of having to negotiate multiple legal obstacles.

In addition it is vital to have legal recognition for non-binary people. In the work we do with LGBT+ people, and the life stories we record, we find that more and more people identify in this way. It is essential that non-binary people are not left out: they should be able to gain full legal recognition too.

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

Trans people's rights must be supported. They do not infringe other people's rights. In listening to the voices of our highly diverse community, we have found great support for trans people's rights: we have come across no-one who has indicated that trans people's rights would impact negatively on their own rights. On the contrary, from the evidence of our own highly diverse LGBT+ community, rights for trans people give us all more rights.