

## **Reformed Presbyterian Church of 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 Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland is founded upon the Bible. From the very first book, the Bible makes it clear that humans are created as either male or female (Genesis 1:27). The law of God also shows that it is wrong for a man to portray himself as a woman and vice versa (Deuteronomy 22:5). We challenge the whole concept of gender recognition certificates as this would be the law of the land authorising and condoning something that is contrary to the Law of God. This practice is an exchanging of "the truth of God for the lie" (Romans 1:25). We urge the Scottish Government to reconsider transgenderism in light of the Scriptures rather than pushing to liberalise an already immoral and confusing practice. Scotland must not liberalise these laws further and expect the blessing of God.

**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.:**

Any person who is confused about their sex (whether they should identify as male or female) should be given time for reflection rather than facing pressure from others to legally change their gender.

**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 Reformed Presbyterian Church opposes giving teenagers the right to change their gender in the eyes of the law. It is a disgrace that many young people are being indoctrinated with this confusion in schools. In the school environment there may be great pressure placed on young people to conform. Additionally, our Church is concerned about the safety of other young people, particularly girls, who have the right to single-sex facilities. How can there be adequate safeguards in our schools if males are permitted to enter female facilities?

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

Yes

**If yes, please outline these comments.:**

Our Church is opposed to the concept of transgenderism as well as of gender recognition certificates. This consultation simply asks about our views in terms of the proposed legislation, but does not ask about transgenderism or self-identification in general. Nevertheless, it is important that the Scottish Government considers seriously the concept as a whole rather than just the proposed liberalisation of a part of the bill.

Christians are increasingly being accused of being transphobic. One wonders what the Scottish Government will do to uphold the Biblical right of Christian ministers to preach the Word of God fully and faithfully, including speaking against transgenderism and instead upholding Biblical sexuality.

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

Yes

**If yes, please outline these comments.:**

We believe that a woman has the God-given right to be valued as a woman since she is created in the image of God. The law of the land should rightfully punish all who domestically abuse, rape, sexually assault or exploit women. The law should ban prostitution, female genital mutilation, and forced marriage. To abuse women in such ways is abhorrent to Christians and we expect the civil magistrate to punish this evil.

The proposed Bill makes it easier for women to be abused, particularly as it denies women the right to single-sex facilities by distorting the natural category of what a woman is. A man identifying as a woman remains a man. The Bible gives him no right to pretend to be a woman and the laws of nature agree. The proposed Bill makes it easier for such a man to get legal recognition as a woman, putting genuine women and girls at risk.

The Scottish Government needs to reconsider its obligation to women and girls in this matter and see that its duty is to protect the vulnerable in society. The proposals do not improve the public good but create greater confusion and disorder.