Response ID ANON-SX8A-ENZR-3

Submitted to **Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill: A consultation**
Submitted on **2019-12-17 22:32:17**

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.:
While preferable to the current system, the question arises as to who decides whether the person has fulfilled this criterion. If it is to be the Registrar General, then this is still placing judgement of the validity of a trans person's gender in the hands of one or more (most likely cis) strangers. This is unacceptable. Even if it is a matter of self-declaration, it remains the case that gender is a fundamentally internal matter, and does not intrinsically depend on behaviour, dress, etc.

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.:
As above, I see no reason to impose any waiting period. The very act of applying for gender recognition is evidence enough that the person is sure of eir own gender and takes the process seriously. A compulsory 'period of reflection' betrays a lack of trust in trans people's ability to know themselves, a lack of trust to which cis people are not subject.

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.:
Yes. People as young as two or three can be capable of expressing a clear sense of gender—whether congruent or dissonant with the one assigned at birth. People transitioning in their teens are now quite common, and interacting with society when your legal documents show the wrong gender can be inconvenient at best and at worst outright dangerous. Lowering the age at which recognition can be sought to 16 is the absolute minimum; ideally it should be younger still—12 or 14, for example.

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:
The refusal to extend recognition to non-binary people is unacceptable, and serves no purpose that I can see except to appease bigots both within and outwith the SNP/Scottish Government. Non-binary people exist, and at present are forced to exist with official documents that are legally required to be inaccurate. Rectifying this situation should be a matter of the utmost urgency, but instead, members of the Scottish Government have chosen to use NB people as a bargaining chip to placate transphobic elements of their own party. I find this not only unacceptable but deplorable.

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

No

If yes, please outline these comments.:

About you

What is your name?

Name:
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What is your email address?

Email:
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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Individual

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Where are you resident?

Scotland

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Please enter comments here.: