

Free Church of Scotland (Continuing)

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.:

For anyone considering altering their birth gender, it is a huge step, and one they will agonise over for a long time. If the government make this step easier it may reduce the short term anxiety, but could have utterly devastating effects in the longer term. We have been noticing increasing numbers of 'regrets' from those who transitioned without full consideration, or who have simply changed their mind/view. Please do NOT make this period any shorter.

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.:

Three months reflection might seem like a long time, but it is not enough, or even close to being enough. Most of use spend longer than that planning our summer holidays! Due to the busyness of life, three months can pass without hardly a day to yourself, a day to think through and reflect. The intention behind a reflection period is laudable. The timescale is deeply inadequate.

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.:

Children mature at different levels, and at different rates. Surely in a society that is seeking to protect its children, we ought not to thrust any of them into such a drastic life-decision the moment they exit their childhood?

There is already abundant legislation in place that differentiates between a 16-18 year old and over 18s. Why would that not be reflected in this legislation too?

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

This draft bill appears to labour under the mistaken view that gender and sex are different. Whilst that is a modern and even trending position, it is not borne out by any medical evidence. Instead we have vulnerable people, who are struggling to accept their bodies, being encouraged by popular myths, that their issues will dissolve if only they can 'transition'. This is a desperately sad situation for anyone to be in, however it would be greatly aggravated by governments providing a simple and fast way to claim another gender.

I am writing both as a concerned Scotsman, and also representing my denomination, the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), as Convenor of their Public Questions, Religion and Morals Committee. Our nation has embarked upon a foolhardy departure from the authority of the Bible. God created our race 'male and female'. Neither a piece of paper from a government body, nor full body-altering surgery can change that.

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

What assurances are there in the DIAs, that those who come to regret their decision will not be faced with prison and or a fine?