

Scottish Parents Against the Gender Reform Bill

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.:

Scottish Parents Against the Gender Reform Bill consider that reducing the 'living in their acquired gender' period to just three months means that the diagnosis and treatment of gender-dysphoria, which according to the NHS should involve two or more specialists over time periods running into many months or years, will not be performed properly.

We believe that the Bill as it stands has disregarded the thousands of youngsters (mainly girls and teenage women) who have been flocking to Gender Identity services in the past few years. Scottish Parents Against the Gender Reform Bill has looked into this and are horrified that the Scottish Government seems to be planning to make it as easy as possible for these young people (many of them it seems with a diagnosis of autism), to legally transition without the appropriate period of reflection.

Chest-binding, puberty blockers and life-altering surgery such as double mastectomies are happening more and more frequently, but many of those going down that path are already regretting their chosen path. We find it incredibly alarming that because of this problem a De-transitioners Advocacy Network has been launched across the UK, and that currently a young female de-transitioner is taking the Gender Identity Development Service to court for the harm it has caused her – leading to the announcement a full judicial review in the UK.

Surely given these facts the Scottish Government should be inclining towards caution until the psychological and social forces pushing so many young people into transition are properly understood. Our children and young people should be encouraged to have healthy and balanced feelings about their bodies. Giving the green light to fast-track legal transition is definitely putting more and more vulnerable and confused children and young people at risk of long term physical and mental health problems. In the opinion of Scottish Parents Against the Gender Reform Bill the Government is on the verge of publicly endorsing self-harm amongst troubled young people.

The proposed changes will also remove appropriate protection for girls & women only spaces and services. The bill would allow any young man (for any reason) to be legally recognized within months as a girl or woman simply because he believes himself to be, or claims he is, one. No other questions asked, no diagnosis of gender dysphoria required. We do not accept the argument that there is nothing to worry about, or that the safety and well-being of our daughters should be put

at risk because of the mental-health problems of some boys and men. We think these individuals should be given all the help they need to deal with their dysphoria, BUT this is clearly a child protection issue and for us this will always come first. The Scottish Government should be thinking and acting likewise or it is failing in its duty of care.

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.:

Scottish Parents Against the Gender Reform Bill believes that the retention of a thorough and robust medical process, including examining alternatives to transition, is essential to ensure a person is aware of all the potential avenues and implications. Three months is too little time, especially for vulnerable young people.

Sensitivity and a process of counselling/ healthy dialogue will help save young people going through identity crises from making terrible mistakes with their lives and with their bodies.

This Bill in its current form undermines such measured, respectful processes. Scottish Parents Against the Gender Reform Bill are very worried that the Scottish Government's plans are informed by powerful and well funded lobbyists rather than by rational debate.

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.:

Scottish Parents Against the Gender Reform Bill condemns the huge medical experiment already being conducted on our young people's minds and bodies. Loss of sexual function, infertility, a lifetime of medication and, in a growing number of cases, the horrifying anxiety that comes with a sudden realization of a colossal life changing mistake, awaits many of our young people already. Our daughters, with their distressing body-image problems as they go through puberty, are already under threat. Lowering the age for full legal transition is a further step towards creating many personal disasters. Already an 18 year old young woman can get a double-mastectomy because she thinks she is (or has been encouraged by online peer pressure to believe she can be) a man. De-transitioners now speaking out are mainly discovering that they were lesbians all along, just struggling with identity and acceptance in a still homophobic and misogynist society.

In introducing full legal transition at 16 the Scottish Government adopts a seriously flawed and very dangerous outlook on those who, in their everyday lives, fail to

fit in with conventional gender roles. It will thereby collude with the long term, irreversible physical and psychological damage now becoming a reality for many of our current generation of young people.

Most gender confusion eases with maturity. Allow maturity sufficient time! If the Scottish Government fails in this it will allow childhood/teenage confusion to become an inescapable tragedy for many future adults.

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

Scottish Parents Against the Gender Reform Bill feels that the Bill should be rejected in its entirety. Scotland already complies with European Law (consultation paper section 2.13). There are no justifications that outweigh the risks to our children and young people.

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

Scottish Parents Against the Gender Reform Bill have examined the draft Impact Assessments, and find they fall well short of what we would expect in advance of such an important and wide ranging piece of legislation. They lack concrete research and have not given anything like sufficient importance to examining and understanding the implications of this legislation for girls, young women, young people in general and for those undergoing identity crises.