

Stornoway Reformed Presbyterian Church

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.:

We challenge the whole concept of gender recognition certificates. We are created by God as male or female and this fact has been recognised throughout history by people in all cultures and countries, by Christians and non-Christians. Each person's sex is evident at birth (and possibly earlier through ultrasounds) and their sex is noted on their birth certificate. This certificate is sufficient. The idea that gender is different than sex is not one that the Bible recognises. We reject any measure to make it easier to legally change gender including reducing the time it takes to pass through the process. No one should be able to quickly change their legally recognised gender. The quicker it is done the more potential there is for the system to be abused, producing safeguarding risks for women, children, and vulnerable adults.

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 longer the period of reflection the better. There are many people who have begun gender transition only to deeply regret it. They should not be allowed to change their legally recognised gender quickly. Young people are impressionable and may be being pressured into taking these steps. All should have the opportunity to hear alternative arguments.

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.:

We oppose any liberalisation of gender recognition including lowering the minimum age. Many 16 year olds are still immature in their thinking. Many of them are still in schools where they are indoctrinated in LGBT teaching- is there any wonder that transgenderism is a fad when it is promoted so forcefully?

There is too much pressure put on young people to conform to this new doctrine and to transition. Lowering the age limit opens the door for further abuse, especially when the proposal is to make the process more hasty at the same time.

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

The draft bill proposes further liberalisation in an area where there is substantial public disagreement. In today's polarised society the more ground the LGBT lobby gains, the more common it is for them to call their opponents transphobic. The Biblical stance is clear and should be recognised in the Bill: God created humans as male or female. Men are men and women are women. This has always been the case and always will be. The Scottish Government should be using its time and resources on better projects than this Bill.

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

The proposed bill is so open to abuse that it is astounding that it has been proposed at all. Anyone will be able to change their legally recognised gender in a short time and with relative ease. Since there is evil in the heart of man, these proposals allow for easier access to vulnerable children and adults for malicious purposes. It is the God-given duty of the Government to protect the most vulnerable in society and this proposed bill hinders that cause greatly.

Single-sex facilities must mean just that. There should be no way that a man can enter a single-sex facility even if he has undergone legal change of gender.