

The Proud Trust

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.:

There should not have to be any time requirement. There is no evidence to suggest that an arbitrary time period provides any benefit. This implies people have not thought about their decision. In my experience with working with over 200 trans and non-binary people, it is a decision people have thought a lot about before they undertake the GRS process. Gender is a social construct so it is a pretend sentence to "live in an acquired gender". Any women wearing trousers - are these women not living in their required gender? It's archaic weird gender policing, and I still sexist. You should be allowed a GRC without having to prove you have lived in your acquired gender. For some people it's not safe to live in their acquired gender until they have a GRC, so it's a catch 22 situation.

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.:

There should not have to be any time requirement. An arbitrary time period has no evidence base for effectiveness. Gender is a social construct so it is a pretend sentence to "live in an acquired gender". Any cis women wearing trousers - are these women not living in their required gender? It's archaic, weird gender policing, and is sexist. You should be allowed a GRC without having to prove you have lived in your acquired gender. For some people it's not safe to live in their acquired gender until they have a GRC, so it's a catch 22 situation.

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.:

16 year olds should definitely have this right. Otherwise you force people to put their life on hold for two years whilst they have to wait until they are 16 which is not moral. At 16 you can marry, gain emolument, vote and be legally responsible, therefore you need to also have the right to self-determination of your gender.

Those under 16 should be able to change birth certificate with the aid of parents/carers. This is vital to help trans young people prove their i.d and not be held back from opportunities due to a lack of proof of who they are.

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

We support the move to demedicalise the process. We would welcome the extension to include this legislation to non-binary people and international precedents shows that this can be done effectively and provide better equality for non-binary people.

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

This bill will not harm anyone else's rights and everyone concerned should try to take the heat out of this legislation and not be pulled in to harmful right wing rhetoric. We must protect and enhance trans rights given how much transphobia there is and how much work there is to do to bring trans acceptance and integration into our communities. We owe it to 1% of our population who is trans and who deserve the right to education, jobs, meaningful partnerships and relationships and to be an active part of civic society.

This bill does not negatively impact cis women. As a cis woman and a feminist I am fully trans positive and believe that trans women and trans men are also subject to sexism and we should work together to dismantle sexism. Currently spaces that some people are worried about such as toilets and changing rooms are NOT policed by having to show ID, therefore this bill makes no difference to these spaces - neither positive nor negative,