



Government
Equalities Office

Making it easier for people to change their gender

What do you think?



Reform of the Gender
Recognition Act

Government Consultation

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Introduction



The Government is wanting to improve the way that people can lawfully change their gender in England and Wales.



This document explains the proposals.



The Government wants to know what you think about these proposals.



Please give us your views by Friday 19th October 2018.

Gender



When we are born, our parents say that we are either male or female. This is recorded on our birth certificate.



As we grow up we start to understand more about gender.



Most people will be quite happy with being the gender that was written down when they were born.



Trans people may feel that they are a different gender to the one that was recorded at birth.



They may not feel like either a male or a female.

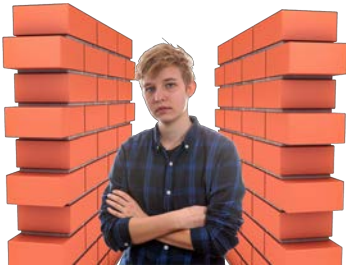


We think that there are between 200,000 and 500,000 trans people in the UK.

Trans people



Being trans is not a mental illness.



Trans people face many barriers to taking part in things.



Some young trans people take their own life or harm themselves.



Trans people face discrimination and bullying.

The law



If you want, you can change your gender by law.



There is a law that explains the process of how to do this called the Gender Recognition Act (GRA) 2004.

This law only covers the genders of man and woman.



If you go through the process you will get:

- A Gender Recognition Certificate
- A new birth certificate

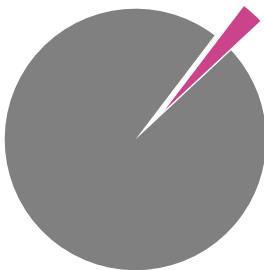


From the day that these are issued, the law will see you as the gender that you say you are, not the gender you were given at birth.

What do trans people say about the law?



Since this law came into force about 5000 people have used it to lawfully change their gender.



This is far fewer than the number of trans people in the UK.



Many people said that this law:

- Has too much paperwork



- Is too expensive



- Asks too many personal questions

This consultation



The Government wants to make the process easier.

The Government wants to know how people think they should change these things:



1. The rule that says that a trans person must provide 2 medical reports.

Currently they must provide:

- One that shows they have something called **gender dysphoria**



Gender dysphoria is a medical condition where someone feels that their gender is not the same as their sex.



- Another explaining the treatment they have had



2. The rule that says that the trans person must provide lots of letters that prove they have lived as their new gender for at least 2 years



3. The rule that says the trans person should sign a legal statement saying that they will live in their new gender until their death



4. The rule that says that a trans person who is married must get the permission of their spouse before they can lawfully change their gender.



The rules say that if they can't do this, they must end the marriage



5. The cost of going through this process. It currently costs £140



6. How this law protects the privacy of people who have applied to lawfully change their gender



The Equality Act 2010

The Government wants to know whether people think changing the law will affect a different law called the Equality Act.



The Equality Act makes it generally against the law to discriminate against people who have changed their gender.



But the law does say that discrimination may be allowed in certain circumstances. Some services are allowed to be just for one sex.



For example Rape Crisis Centres want to be a safe place for women who have been raped by a man.

They do not allow men in.

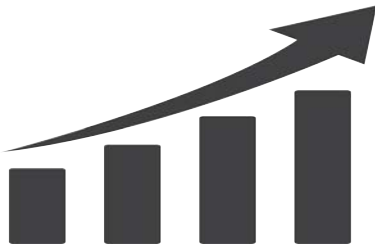


Trans women can only be refused if other women would be so upset that they couldn't go to the centre.

Non-binary gender identities



Non-binary gender identities are where someone doesn't think of themselves as male or female.



More and more people are in this group.



The Government is asking for advice about how law affects **non-binary people**.



There is a question in the consultation questionnaire about what non-binary people think about the law and how it should be changed.

Intersex



Intersex people have diverse body development. This means their body has developed differently to other people.



They can be male, female or non-binary.



There is a question in the consultation questionnaire about what intersex people think about the law and how it should be changed.

The law about medical treatment



This consultation is not asking what people think about the rules about medical treatment for people who are wanting to change their gender.

For more information

If you want more information please contact:



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