

## **Anent Transphobia (Fetter Together Ltd)**

### **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 agree with the three months, as an improvement over the current system. Nonetheless, we feel this three month period is arbitrary and unnecessarily long. This three months delay will merely frustrate trans people, and there will be no benefit.

We also note there is no statutory three month requirement for other statutory declarations, such as for a name change.

### **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.:**

Similarly, we are supportive of this proposal, as an improvement over the current situation.

Nonetheless, again, the further three months delay is arbitrary and unnecessary. We repeat that there is no statutory three month requirement for other statutory declarations, such as for a name change.

All the delay will do is frustrate the almost all trans people who apply.

### **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.:**

Yes, absolutely the age requirement should be lowered to 16. Sixteen year olds can legally marry, have sex with their peers, leave school, work. It would be farcical to pretend sixteen year olds don't know their gender.

Additionally, we support allowing younger children to obtain a GRC. This is because many trans people will understand their gender identity from a younger age than 16. As a check and balance, we believe under sixteens should have support of their parent or guardian. This would match the process for gender recognition on other documentation such as passports.

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

Yes

#### **If yes, please outline these comments.:**

We are broadly supportive of the proposals.

Nonetheless, we are disappointed by the complete lack of non-binary recognition.

Non-binary people deserve to be recognised as such, including for GRC/birth certificates.

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

Yes

#### **If yes, please outline these comments.:**

We want to be clear that GRA reform will not have a detrimental impact on non-trans people. We note that single sex spaces, such as women's refuges, do not

check birth certificates.

These refuges have been trans-inclusive for many, many years. This is important, because trans people are disproportionately victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse.

At the same time, we note that these shelters already apply appropriate safeguarding. This prevents violent non-trans people from abusively gaining access to shelters, under the guise of being trans. So, again, GRA reform will not endanger anybody.

Moreover, we note that major feminist charities and shelters were are in favour of GRA reform, as seen in the first consultation.