**Glasgow University Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer + Society (GULGBTQ+)**

**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.:**

As an organisation we talk to many trans and nonbinary people who are going through the process of sorting out and changing identification. At university this is incredibly difficult and can lead to long term complications.

There is no reason to suggest that this is a necessary minimum and it puts many young people in difficult situations when it comes to identification. Many students use services to help pay for their time at university which will refuse to change identification until they have a GRC. This means that you end up with students being addressed as Miss Charles P for instance which is not only demeaning and hurtful but is completely pointless.

**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 idea that there needs to be a reflection time is nonsense. Not only does it ignore the long standing and constant self-reflection and anxiety that many trans and non-binary people face, it is also not necessary. The period of reflection comes throughout every individual persons life and the changes to the GRA should accept and reflect this.

Trans and non-binary people have already made a decision, no one decides to spend all the time and energy changing documentation including applying for a GRC on a whim. It takes a lot of courage and confidence to being changing anything in social, medical or legal transition and this reflection period is disrespectful of these trans and non-binary experiences.

**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.:**

Most of the trans and non-binary people we interact with at University are over 18, many are only just able to start any sort of medical or social transition. The opportunity to begin this process before this point would help many young trans and non-binary people feel that they can come to university ready and confident in at least one way.

For many, being able to apply to jobs and university without outing themselves would be so important. Not having to take a stand against tutors or employers all of the time would help with so many individuals mental health.

Under 16 you can change many details linked to you through the education system and giving people control over their identity is vital to helping them feel confident and supported in their future decisions.

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

Yes

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

We support this act in full support of our trans and non-binary members and community. Where they have been let down in the past, this is the opportunity for the Scottish Government to support those being left behind and forgotten.

The changes are not perfect, non-binary recognition is vital to this act meaning anything for our community. The non-binary community is active and wonderful and deserving of respect. The idea that we should be making these changes and not supporting non-binary people is abhorrent. Non-binary people helped to form this consultation and should not be being ignored. This bill is not successful if non-binary people are not given equal rights.

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

Yes

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

Rights are not pie. One person having rights does not, and should not impact another person having rights.

Trans and non-binary people get access to these spaces without needing their birth certificate and this will and should remain this way. Other acts have been able solidify the rights of other groups so this will just add trans and non-binary people to the groups who should be safe and protected anyway.