

## **Springburn Assemblies of God Church, Glasgow**

### **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.:**

An individual committing to this is taking forward something which will alter the rest of their one and only life. How they feel for a short period of time should not be a basis for a massive step which may be regretted later and blight the rest of their temporary existence on earth. Many people have ideas and moods which they think a radical quick decision will help them to resolve. Many people who tried to commit suicide did so because they were making a decision to relieve themselves of internal pain but those who survived and were helped were grateful that their emotionally loaded irreversible decision of the time was not successful. It is extreme folly and irresponsible to allow people to rush into assisted major changes to their body

**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 acknowledgement that a period of reflection is needed is a recognition that for some there may be future regret in what they committed to. Three months is a very short insignificant period of time. When I got married to my wife it was after a much longer period of time of getting to know each other. 3 months courting did not allow us to know if we could live our lives together happily for the rest of our lives.

Similarly people who only court this idea for 3 months have not got to understand fully what they are committing to for the rest of their earthly existence.

Evidence is growing that there is a growing number of detransitioners who realised that the step they took did not alleviate the confusion and distress that they were trying to alleviate and are returning to their birth sex. The Scottish Government would be foolish to ignore this evidence by facilitating an easy access to altering people's bodies

**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.:**

Young people are easily influenced and during their teens are swayed by all sorts of things. Confusion is part of growing up in many areas of life and meddling with the natural process is adding to confusion. Research needs to be carried out on reasons for young people being influenced. Teenage years, pre maturity, are the most easily externally influenced by external forces. The Scottish government should not be seeking to influence or encourage gender dysphoria during these delicate years and become one of the influencers but instead of bringing the age down they should be researching to find out why young people are distressed and unhappy in general and what influences are steering them. As an ex school teacher I can say that many 16 year olds are functioning still like younger children in life today.

Perhaps in past generations when people took responsibility earlier ie leaving school earlier and working for a living they were initiated into realities of life. The fact is that 16 year olds today are school children. They are not legally allowed to leave school until 16 and many stay on to 18 because there is no job opportunities.

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

No

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

A decision made by a young person without medical understanding opens the door to a government following the possible whims and frivolous decisions which young people are capable of making and will make. My experience of working with young people all my life as a school teacher, a careers councillor, a training coordinator for apprentices and as a church pastor leave me in doubt that I can state without fear of being wrong that within young people there exists a percentage of maladjusted people who will do all sorts of things to put the spotlight on themselves and bring attention to themselves. Only what the young person says is the wrong foundation for an ultimate decision and my view shows gross irresponsibility on the intelligence of those who are looking to help young people.

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

Yes

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

The threat of a two years imprisonment or a fine to those who make a false declaration is almost a blackmailing statement against those who go through with government assisted body changes and then regret it later. To come back and say that they should not have done it is hindered because they might be fined or imprisoned yet the evidence is that there is a growing number of people who eventually come back and say they made a mistake.

The government acknowledges that mental health issues amongst young people are at an all time high and that trans people are more likely to have mental

health issues. Much more research is needed to understand why young people are confused and unstable.