

SAVE FEMALE RIGHTS!

A **step-by-step** guide to filling in the public consultation on changing the Gender Recognition Act.

Speak up **NOW**

www.fairplayforwomen.com

HANDS
OFF
MY
RIGHTS!

FAIR PLAY
FOR WOMEN

FEMALE RIGHTS ARE UNDER ATTACK!

The Government is threatening a legal change that will rob women and girls of their rights. Shockingly, no one in our entire parliament is stopping them.

The Government has said it wants to change the Gender Recognition Act to make it easier for transgender people to change their birth certificate to the opposite sex.

There are many ways of supporting transgender people, but it's crucial that, whatever changes are made, they do not come at the expense of female rights.

One of the ideas the Government is considering, called "sex self-ID", will destroy the legal definition of "female" and "woman" and with it the legal rights of those born female, leading to the end of women-only spaces.

Most people can see the stupidity, danger and unfairness of sex self-ID. A recent national poll found that just 18% of the electorate support it.

The Government is currently asking for our views in a public consultation. It wants to know how some of the changes to the Gender Recognition Act that are being proposed might affect women.

We must all fill in the consultation and show the Government that women's rights matter. This is one of the most important things you can do to defend female rights.

Remember, filling in the consultation doesn't mean you are against transgender rights. It just means you support female rights too and you want fairness for all.

Female rights – like the right to single-sex services – exist to ensure privacy, dignity, fairness and safety for women and girls.



They're our rights. We need them. It's not up to politicians to give them away.

We have one chance to stop this.

HOW DO I FILL IN THE CONSULTATION?

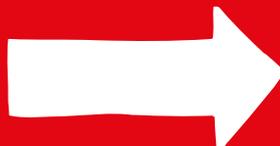
- ➔ Anyone can fill in the consultation.
You don't have to be an expert.
You can live anywhere in the UK or abroad.
- ➔ There are 21 questions in the full consultation.
You don't have to answer them all.
- ➔ In this guide we've shared some tips for responding to eight of the questions that are most critical to make sure female rights are protected.
- ➔ You don't have to do it all in one go.
You can save your answers online as you go along.
Or you can use a paper copy and fill it in by hand.
- ➔ Don't worry about the complicated jargon in the consultation questions.
This guide explains the basics as you go along, step-by-step.
- ➔ If you have time to answer all the consultation questions or want to find out more about a question, check out the comprehensive guidance on our website.
- ➔ But if you don't have much time, or find it difficult to explain your reasons for an answer don't worry.
A "yes" or "no" answer will do. Everyone's view counts.

Please do it now.

For your mum, your daughter, your sister and yourself.

So let's begin!

Go to
www.fairplayforwomen.com



Click on
Submit to consultation

Which takes you straight to the Government's consultation web page.

Fill in your details

Now you are ready to tell the Government what you think.

Before you tackle the questions, we need to explain the basics

What is gender dysphoria?

Gender dysphoria is a medical diagnosis, made when someone is experiencing discomfort or distress because there is a mismatch between the sex they were born and their own sense of their “gender identity”.

Many transgender people don't have gender dysphoria, and very few want or need any treatment to alter their body. In fact, it's estimated that only one in five transgender people have any medical treatment at all. Even fewer have genital surgery.

What is the difference between transsexual and transgender?

Transsexual people have severe gender dysphoria and have what we used to call “sex change surgery” on their genitals. They are a very small group in the UK, estimated to be a few thousand people, for whom the original Gender Recognition Act was designed. Many transsexual people have also spoken out against sex self-ID.

Transgender is a broad umbrella term that includes anyone whose gender identity doesn't sit comfortably with their biological sex, including cross-dressers. Most transgender people only undertake a social transition, with some also taking cross-sex hormones to change the appearance of their body. Some transgender people also have cosmetic surgery, such as breast implants, but almost always retain their birth genitals. This is a very large group of people, currently estimated to be up to 1% of the UK population and growing. Many transgender people do not have gender dysphoria and are currently not eligible for a legal transition.

The scope of the Gender Recognition Act may be widened so this group of people can easily change the sex on their birth certificate too.

What is a medical transition?

This is where someone changes the appearance of their body to resemble more closely the sex they feel themselves to be. This is normally done by taking cross-sex hormones and sometimes by having surgery.

Someone must be diagnosed with gender dysphoria before they can get a medical transition on the NHS. Some treatments are only available privately. The most common surgical changes are breast implants, cosmetic facial surgery and hair removal for people who were born male to look more like women, and breast removal for people who were born female to look more like men. Surgery to change the appearance of the genitals is extremely rare.

What is a social transition?

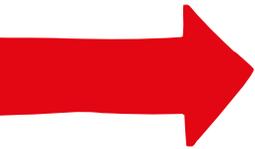
The vast majority of transgender people change their appearance only through clothes, hair styles and name changes. Everyone is free to make these changes, including children. There is no requirement for a diagnosis of gender dysphoria or even to see a doctor or have any treatment. A social transition like this is all that's needed to be seen as transgender in the eyes of the law, and to be protected from discrimination by UK equality law and hate crime legislation.

What is a legal transition?

A legal transition is where someone changes their birth certificate to say they were born the opposite sex. Currently, someone must have a diagnosis of gender dysphoria before they are allowed to make this legal change but they don't need to have any medical treatment or surgery.

The Government has suggested it may scrap the requirement for a diagnosis of gender dysphoria, and powerful transgender lobby groups want parliament to legalise an on-demand process known as sex self-ID. This process would allow any man, transgender or not, to sign a form and get a new birth certificate saying he was born female, with no checks and balances. It would make it easier for transgender people to change legal sex, but it would be bad law and open to abuse.

**This is what the Government wants
our views on in this consultation.**



STEP ONE *Click straight through to Question 3 of the consultation*

The question

Do you think there should be a requirement in the future for a diagnosis of gender dysphoria?

What it means

Should doctors be involved before someone can change the sex on their birth certificate?

We would tick YES and here's why:

There is absolutely no justification for allowing someone to switch the sex on their birth certificate **without** a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria. Only people who are genuinely dysphoric and have been through a sincere, professionally monitored medical process should continue to have this right.

People are already free to express their gender as they wish: they do not need to change their birth certificate to do so. Removing the need to see a doctor will give the estimated 250,000 males who identify as transgender instant access to the legal rights of women. This figure could increase much further if other men take advantage of this system too.

A diagnosis of gender dysphoria must remain an essential part of the eligibility criteria.

If doctors, diagnoses and medical reports aren't part of the checking process it means anyone can declare themselves male or female and no one can say otherwise. It leaves the system open to abuse **by anyone, for any reason.**

It means, **any man, transgender or not,** could just sign a form and get a new birth certificate "proving" he was born female. This is a serious issue for women and girls because he can then access places and services designated female-only, and it will be practically impossible to challenge him.

Allowing individuals, not biology, to decide their sex will **force the very definition of "woman", "man", "female" and "male" to change.** Biological women, a group particularly at risk of violence and discrimination, will no longer be uniquely described in law.

This would make all our public records meaningless. Crimes committed by males, like rape, will be recorded as female crimes. Males will be counted as women, distorting equality monitoring data. If we can't monitor sex, we can't prove unfairness and we can't stop it.

Being a woman will be about "feeling female" and not about the biological reality of actually being female and having a female body.

Some people with male bodies will be legally female. Testicles will be regarded as female sex organs.



STEP TWO *Click through to Question 9 of the consultation*

The question

Do you think the privacy and disclosure of information provisions in section 22 of the Gender Recognition Act are adequate?

What it means

Should it remain a secret that someone has changed the sex on their birth certificate?

We would tick NO and here's why:

It is against the law for an official to reveal that the sex written on a birth certificate is not someone's true birth sex.

This means that women, girls and society have no way of knowing or challenging whether a "female" is in fact an intact adult male.

Laws or policies that compel us to accept a male as a female, but keep his biological sex secret, violate women's and girls' fundamental right to say an informed "no" to being vulnerable, naked, or touched in a professional capacity by fully intact adult males.

Transgender people can already get all other forms of ID, like driving licences and even passports, changed on demand. The birth certificate is the **document of last resort** for any organisation needing definitive proof of someone's birth sex: in many cases it is the only document left that accurately reflects this.

Equality law gives female-only services the right to exclude male-born people, even if they are transgender, but the Gender Recognition Act's privacy protections take away the means to check who is male.

It is vital that women's organisations and services have the legal tools to differentiate between people born male and people born female. To enforce their rights under the Equality Act, organisations offering single-sex services to women need an objective way of being able to exclude all males, including those biological males with paperwork to say they are female: if not, women's legal rights will be destroyed.

A transgender person's right to privacy must not trump a woman's right to know when a male is present, or services' lawful right to exclude males. Women's safety depends on it. *Keeping the women who run or use women-only services in the dark about someone's true birth sex creates a serious safeguarding loophole for predatory males.*

Keeping birth sex confidential means women won't know if male-born people are present.

Could changes to the Gender Recognition Act mean women lose the male-free spaces they want, need and deserve?

The next four questions will be asking you how changes to the Gender Recognition Act will affect women's access to male-free space. Each question asks about a different scenario.

So first we need to explain a little more about how the Equality Act works.

Women and girls have a legal right not to be inclusive when it comes to their private spaces.

The other person's birth sex is what matters when it comes to dignity, safety and fairness for women.

This is why equality law has special rules to allow female-only spaces to exclude **all** people who were born male where this is deemed necessary, even if they are transgender.

To apply the special rules, an organisation must carefully assess the needs of all the groups involved and show that a woman's need for "male-free" is greater than a male-born transgender person's need to be included in "female-only". They risk getting sued in court if they get it wrong.

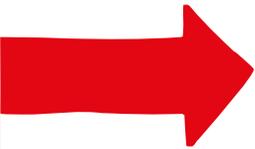
Women's rights on paper are worthless if they are never used.

The right to male-free spaces needs strengthening not weakening further.

The Government has confirmed that these special rules will not be removed or changed. Some say this is enough to protect female rights.

They are wrong. Here's why:

- ➔ The special rules are already not working for women. Many organisations don't know they exist or how to use them. Changing the Gender Recognition Act will make this legal minefield even worse. Organisations will simply not use them.
- ➔ If the Government endorses "feelings" over "biology and birth", organisations around the country will follow their lead, giving up on the principle of "male-free" altogether.
- ➔ Without factual birth certificates or the ability to find out who's born male, organisations have no way of knowing for sure who to exclude. They risk being sued, having their reputations attacked and losing their funding if they get it wrong. Many won't take that risk.
- ➔ If a man uses the Gender Recognition Act to get a female birth certificate, he will actually **BE** a woman in the eyes of the law. He will have rights as a transgender person **AND** as a woman. Courts may decide this tips the balance of rights in his favour, overriding the rights of the women involved who need "male-free".



STEP THREE *Click straight through to Question 12*

The question

Do you think that the participation of trans people in sport, as governed by the Equality Act 2010, will be affected by changing the Gender Recognition Act?

What it means

Will more male-born people be allowed to compete against women in sport?

We would tick YES and here's why:

Professional sports have their own rules about transgender participation based on hormone levels rather than what it says on someone's birth certificate. For that reason, changes to the Gender Recognition Act won't immediately affect elite-level sports.

However, it is at amateur levels, where hormone testing is not feasible, that "women-only" will start to mean "anyone who says they are a woman".

Allowing any man who says he's a woman to compete against women will destroy the fun and fairness of women's sport. Women will stop playing, losing out on both the health benefits of physical exercise and the grass-roots practice and scholarships that provide paths to a professional career.

The picture for females is bleak and unfair in countries that have legalised sex self-ID, where male teens and adults are allowed to compete against girls and women in sport. The fundamental sporting principle of the "level playing field" has been destroyed.

Regardless of their gender identity, males who have passed through puberty benefit from a host of dramatic sporting advantages over females that go far beyond testosterone levels. The male skeleton offers males a permanent competitive advantage over females. Males in every ethnic group are on average larger and taller than their female counterparts, with longer limbs and broader shoulders relative to their torso, and thigh bones that are more vertical than those of females. These structural differences are fixed and remain unchanged by cross-sex hormone therapy.

We must not make the same mistake in this country that has been made in others, sacrificing the health and fitness of a generation of girls for the sake of a political idea.

Allowing any man who says he's a woman to compete against females in sport is strikingly and visibly unfair.



STEP FOUR *Go now to Question 13A*

The question

Do you think that the operation of the single-sex and separate-sex service exceptions in relation to gender reassignment in the Equality Act 2010 will be affected by changing the Gender Recognition Act?

What it means

Will providers of single-sex services be forced to close down or go mixed-sex if the Gender Recognition Act is changed?

We would tick YES and here's why:

If the Gender Recognition Act is weakened to make it easier for males to gain birth certificates saying they were born female, all service providers will find it much more difficult to apply the special rules, when needed, to allow them to exclude ALL people born male. This is most concerning when it comes to services such as domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centres for women who have suffered male violence.

Some women will simply be too traumatised to access a service if a male-born person might be there. For many abused women, such as survivors of rape, domestic violence and childhood abuse survivors, a male-free space is essential for healing. These vulnerable women must not be forgotten.

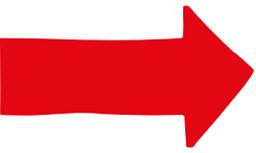
Privately, many worried professionals report that their funding is dependent on them including male-born transgender people in their women-only services.

Staff and survivors also report a very real climate of fear – they feel unable to speak out in favour of female-only spaces for fear of backlash.

If sex self-ID becomes law, the pressure, funding threats and hostility are likely to get even worse.

Transgender inclusion must not lead to the exclusion of another vulnerable group: women who need male-free spaces. Some services must remain strictly female-only. The right tools, support and encouragement must be given to allow some services to remain focused exclusively on the needs of biological women.

Sometimes women need a space away from male-born people.



STEP FIVE *Go now to Question 14*

The question

Do you think that the operation of the occupational requirement exception in relation to gender reassignment in the Equality Act 2010 will be affected by changing the Gender Recognition Act?

What it means

Will women find it increasingly difficult to be sure that intimate or sensitive services will be delivered by other females?

We would tick YES and here's why:

In some cases, it is lawful for an employer to restrict a job role to women only, and refuse the role to anyone born male.

Employers will find it more difficult to apply this special rule if sex self-ID is made law.

That means it could become increasingly common for these jobs to be delivered by "male-bodied women" too.

This could reduce the effectiveness of the service being provided.

Female therapists are often more effective when counselling sexual abuse survivors.

Women are more likely to attend breast screenings if they know the mammographer is female.

Girls are more comfortable having their first bra fitted by a woman.

Sexual abuse survivors report they feel much less distressed about cervical screening when the nurse is a woman.

Rape victims usually prefer a female rape crisis worker or police officer.

Sometimes women need services delivered by other female-born people.



STEP SIX *Go now to Question 15*

The question

Do you think that the operation of the communal accommodation exception in relation to gender reassignment in the Equality Act 2010 will be affected by changing the Gender Recognition Act?

What it means

Will it become increasingly common for women and girls to find male-bodied people in the sleeping areas they sometimes share with other women?

We would tick YES and here's why:

Women and girls are uniquely vulnerable when undressed or asleep. It's common sense and perfectly lawful to exclude male-born people from sleeping accommodation for women. It's what we all expect and take for granted.

However, places like hospitals, youth hostels and sleeper trains have already changed their policies to allow males who "identify as women" into female-only shared rooms, dormitories and wards. As things stand, these policies can be challenged and overturned. But if sex self-ID becomes law, any realistic prospect of doing that will be lost once and for all.

This means you or your daughter could be undressing or sleeping without knowing that a male-bodied person is present in your room.

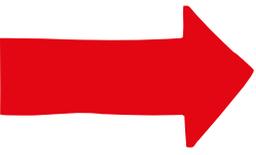
Women have the right to know if they are sleeping in the presence of male-bodied people.

Sex self-ID is a licence for male sexual predators to enter female spaces to carry out sexual crimes against women at their most vulnerable.

For example, if a man enters a female-only sleeping area and exposes his penis to women, the victims can call security or the police, who have the right to eject him and prosecute.

However, if that same man says he's a woman, he will be allowed to enter, undress and expose his penis to women in that female-only sleeping area. Anyone who complains could find themselves accused of transphobia, while he is allowed to remain.

This scenario has already happened in the US and Canada, with males flashing at girls as young as six and a woman of 70 without fear of prosecution.



STEP SEVEN *Go now to Question 19*

The question

Do you think that changes to the Gender Recognition Act will impact on areas of law and public services other than the Equality Act 2010?

What it can mean

Could changes to the Gender Recognition Act mean more male-born prisoners get to live in women's prisons?

We would tick YES and here's why:

Changing the Gender Recognition Act will have a direct impact on the prison system.

If sex self-ID is made law it will mean any male prisoner could get a female birth certificate on demand. No medical checks, no intention of surgery, no changes to his appearance, no checking of motives.

Prison policy states that "prisoners must be located according to their legal gender" and **that a request to move a [legally transitioned] prisoner to a female jail will be refused only in "exceptional" cases.**

As psychologists and prison experts have already warned, it is likely that some male prisoners – **including violent criminals and sex offenders** – will deliberately abuse the new law and attempt to force a move to the female estate to get access to women.

An individual safety risk assessment would be the only mechanism by which prison bosses would be able to prevent the move.

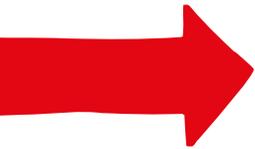
But we know these risk assessments are not always enough to prevent women being put at risk.

A double rapist is currently living in a women's prison in Surrey.

A different male-born prisoner recently told the judge at his trial that he now identifies as a woman and so was sent to a women's prison in Cheshire. He has just been charged with the sexual assault of four female prisoners.

Despite only a handful of requests for transfer, the prison service is already making bad decisions that put women at risk. Prison bosses could be faced with hundreds, if not thousands, of extra demands for transfer if legal transitions are made easier.

Female prisoners should never be forced to live alongside fully intact male-bodied prisoners.



STEP EIGHT *Click through to Question 22*

The question

Do you have any further comments about the Gender Recognition Act?

What it means

Are there important issues the Government has failed to ask you about in this consultation?

We would tick YES and here's why:

Changing the legal category of the female sex to include vastly increased numbers of people born male will have far-reaching consequences. It will impinge on the rights and protections of many different groups covered by the Equality Act.

Sexual orientation

If any man can legally become a woman, it means any man can become a lesbian too.

If this person is sexually attracted to the female sex, the law will see this as a same-sex orientation, despite the fact they have a male body, penis and testicles.

Access to lesbian-only support groups and social clubs is an important part of lesbian culture, and is vital for women who are vulnerable and isolated as they explore their sexuality.

Lesbians are already under immense pressure to consider fully intact male-bodied "lesbians" as part of their dating pool; reluctance is condemned and called transphobic.

Lesbians and gay men have a right to defend the term that defines and protects them by law – homosexual – and to set boundaries based on same-sex (not same-gender) attraction.

Safeguarding children

Laws or policies that dictate a male must be accepted as female, while being allowed to conceal his birth sex, contravene basic rules of safeguarding and informed consent.

All children should be brought up to feel confident in saying "No, I don't feel comfortable" and to trust their own warning signals.

Impressionable children will be given a false signal by the laws of the land that it is possible to "change your sex" (which is medically impossible), with potentially devastating consequences for their health and bodies.

We are already seeing a heart-breaking number of "detransitioned" young adults (ex-transgender people who regret the surgery and hormonal processes they undertook).

No changes to the Gender Recognition Act should be made until the Government fully understands the implications in wider society to ensure other groups are not unfairly discriminated against.

Religious groups

Some forms of Christianity, Judaism, Islam and other religions have strict rules that prevent females from mixing with males or require females to be covered in the presence of males.

Any loss of male-free spaces will mean that these women's freedom to participate in public life and access vital services will be unfairly restricted.

Equally, creating a law that would permit female-bodied people into male changing-rooms and sleeping-areas is likely to cause embarrassment and discomfort for many men and boys.

This issue has already been raised by a boy from a religious background at a school in Wales.

Disability and age

The presence of biological males in areas that disabled and elderly people might reasonably expect to be female-only could lead to an unacceptable restriction of their freedom and a significant reduction in their quality of life.

For example, a girl with learning disabilities using women's facilities who correctly identifies the biological sex of a person as male (even though they are legally female) could experience trauma and a reluctance to use the facilities as a consequence.

A physically disabled woman whose quality of life depends in part on the independence she has achieved around toileting processes may be unduly restricted by the presence of biological males in areas she expects for her safety to be female-only.

An elderly woman could be frightened and uncomfortable to find that the "female" carer she was expecting is in fact biologically male.

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THE CONSULTATION!

You have taken an important step towards saving female rights. We must get as many people as possible to do the same before the **19th October**.

Most people have no idea that the law might change, or that a public consultation is underway.

Please keep helping us to spread the word, defend female rights, and say no to sex self-ID.

WHAT CAN YOU DO NEXT?



Tell everyone you know that you have responded to the consultation and encourage others to do the same.

Get the word out through social media, email and online groups so that as many people as possible tell the Government their views.

Speak to friends, family, neighbours and colleagues about the importance of defending women's rights. Word of mouth is the most effective way to persuade others it's the right thing to do.

Pass this booklet to a friend so that they can fill in the consultation too. It doesn't matter if it's new to them. Everything they need to know is right here in one place.

Download and share the digital campaign resources we've uploaded to our website to help you spread the word.

Meet up with friends to do the consultation together using our guidance.

Order a campaign pack from our website and help get the word out in your local area.



www.fairplayforwomen.com