



Women and Equalities Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 0345 Email womeqcom@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk

From the Chair

Mike Freer MP
Minister for Equalities and Minister for Exports
Government Equalities Office

By email

23 March 2022

Dear Mike,

Reform of the Gender Recognition Act

I am writing to you regarding the Government response to the Women and Equalities Committee report on Reform of the Gender Recognition Act. As you know, in October 2020, our Committee launched an inquiry following the Government's consultation into proposals for reform. We published our report in December 2021, making 26 recommendations for change in many areas.

We are disappointed that the Government will not be bringing forward reform in most of the areas we examined, including removing the diagnosis of gender dysphoria and the requirement to have lived in the acquired gender for a set period of time. However, we are pleased to see that changes will be made in some areas. We are particularly interested to learn that the Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020, will help reduce conflict in relation to the spousal consent clause and we will be monitoring this closely. We also note your response to the recent Westminster Hall debate on the Gender Recognition Act in which you state that the Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 "will remove what is known as spousal veto". We welcome this and believe it to be a step in the right direction.

Following your response to our report, we would like to invite you to speak to us to discuss some of the issues raised in response to our report, and other areas including the upcoming LGBT conference and progress on banning conversion therapy. If you would be willing to meet us in the next few months, my officials will be happy to work with your team to find a suitable date to discuss these important matters.

We look forward to your response.

Regards,

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Chair, Women and Equalities Committee