

## Written evidence submitted by Ms Liv Naylor (GRA0119)

My Name is Liv Naylor, I am a 38-year-old Non-binary individual who has lived in the UK my entire life. I am writing this as I feel that trans people such as myself have been let down by the proposed reforms to the Gender reform act and it is my hope that this enquiry will still enable the changes so desperately needed for all trans individuals in this country.

### The Government's response to the GRA consultation:

- **Will the Government's proposed changes meet its aim of making the process "kinder and more straight forward"?**

No – Still having your gender decided by a panel at an undisclosed cost and still needing a diagnosis of gender dysphoria is both demeaning and unnecessary. The impact of not being accepted on and individual's sense of worth and mental health is huge and the cost of obtaining a diagnosis is prohibitive to many.

- **Should a fee for obtaining a Gender Recognition Certificate be removed or retained?**

Why not charge the same as a replacement birth certificate (£11)? Please just cover the admin costs.

- **Are there other financial burdens on applicants that could be removed or retained?**

Removing the diagnosis requirement will save many from having to provide private proof of dysphoria that their GP may be unwilling to provide. This can be hundreds of pounds if done privately which many do due to the lengthy waiting lists of access a GIC.

- **Should the requirement for a diagnosis of gender dysphoria be removed?**

In May 2019, the World Health Organisation removed transgender as being a classified mental illness. To keep this in would make the UK appear to be backwards in its feelings towards providing a society that is fair to all its citizens. It is demeaning that this is a requirement, it makes me feel unvalued by this country I was born in.

- **Should there be changes to the requirement for individuals to have lived in their acquired gender for at least two years?**

Yes, two years is too long to wait when many have been building the courage to make the transition for years. Please remove this requirement.

- **What is your view of the statutory declaration and should any changes have been made to it?**

I am not sure why this is a requirement – surely this is something that can be decided by the married individuals without the need to for a separate formal declaration?

- **Does the spousal consent provision in the Act need reforming? If so, how? If it needs reforming or removal, is anything else needed to protect any rights of the spouse or civil partner?**

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This one is often abused as leverage during divorce proceedings and used to gatekeep obtaining a certificate by the spouse of the person undergoing the transition. Personally, this put me under a lot of stress during my divorce as I knew this could be used against me and made less inclined to fight for my legal entitlements as part of my divorce.

- Should the age limit at which people can apply for a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) be lowered?

I do not believe an individual's happiness should be impacted by there being an age limit

- **What impact will these proposed changes have on those people applying for a Gender Recognition Certificate, and on trans people more generally?**

These changes make little to no impact whatsoever and have made me feel like the government do not listen to what those who have undergone/are undergoing the process feel. The waiting times will still be lengthy and the feeling of being persecuted just for being myself will remain under the current proposed reformed

- **What else should the Government have included in its proposals if anything?**

Allow us to self-declare! Remove the need for a diagnosis, reduce the cost to and admin fee. Give us back our dignity.

- **Does the Scottish Government's proposed Bill offer a more suitable alternative to reforming the Gender Recognition Act 2004?**

No, it is still too prohibitive and procedural.

### **Wider issues concerning transgender equality and current legislation:**

- **Why is the number of people applying for GRCs so low compared to the number of people identifying as transgender?**

Because the process is demeaning, psychologically impactful, expensive, and lengthy.

- **Are the provisions in the Equality Act for the provision of single-sex and separate-sex spaces and facilities in some circumstances clear and useable for service providers and service users? If not, is reform or further guidance needed?**

I do not think they are fit for purpose. They make no provision for non-binary people and are often used a talking point for attacking our existing rights in the media.

- **Does the Equality Act adequately protect trans people? If not, what reforms, if any, are needed**

The Equality act does protect us. Please do not change it!

- **What issues do trans people have in accessing support services, including health and social care services, domestic violence and sexual violence services?**

No binary people suffer the worst as the amount of education about being trans in services in general is very hit and miss which makes me apprehensive to access any service unless I know that they treat trans people the same as anyone else.

- **Are legal reforms needed to better support the rights of gender-fluid and non-binary people? If so, how?**

Yes, let us be recognised legally. Not being able to lawfully have your status on official documentation leaves you feeling let down and not understood. We are not asking for special treatment. Just equality.

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