

GRA Inquiry Submission

I am a daughter of a male-to-female transgender person who transitioned medically and surgically when I was a teenager. I run the blog [www.childrenoftransitioners.org](http://www.childrenoftransitioners.org) and in that capacity have received many emails and comments from children of transitioners as well as wives of transitioners on behalf of their children. The revelation for me was realising that most children with fathers who transition have very similar experiences. The reason for this is something that most sex researchers will tell you, that autogynephilia (the condition that makes heterosexual men want to transition) is very often accompanied by narcissistic personality disorder. Controlling behaviours, gaslighting, the need to punish women and children for not complying with their need to appear as women and financial abuse are patterns repeated again and again, and in this decade sadly experienced by an increasing number of children. I wish to outline here ways in which we are affected by transgender fathers and what the Government can do to help us.

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Only this month, I was contacted by a daughter of a male-to-female transitioner, recounting the behaviour of her father which included violence, sexual fetish, domestic abuse, stalking and other criminal behaviour. She is unable to use mixed sex facilities at places like leisure centres and public toilets because of the trauma she has experienced.

You will no doubt have heard from the wives of late-stage male transitioners for this consultation, so I wanted to make you aware of the difficult position children of transitioners, particularly daughters, have when your father is an autogynephile. As Dr Ray Blanchard describes in his typography of transsexuals, after decades of research, autogynephiles are men who often transition later in life and are heterosexual. Often they have been in heterosexual marriages and have had children.

Their obsessive and sexual focus is on:

1. Wishing to engage in stereotypically feminine behaviour
2. Wanting to possess female anatomic structures
3. Wanting to dress in women's apparel
4. Wanting to exhibit female physiologic functions

Try to imagine, if you can, what is it like to have a father who believes that he is also undergoing puberty and wants to share in yours in some way. A father who wants to go to bra fittings with you, wants to know about your periods, wants to try on make up with you,

who wants to try on clothes with you, who wants to be your 'mother'. A father who believes that being a woman means adopting the worst kinds of stereotypes about female submissive behaviour and clothing choices. Imagine being a young woman and aware far too early about sexual fetishes. Whatever you think the reason is for transitioning, this is not an arbitrary concept to the children of fathers who transition – these are behaviours we experience.

Obviously there is only so much the government can do to support children in these situations. However, in considering reform of the GRA please consider:

**1. We benefit when a spousal exit clause and annulment is available**

It is vital that the government protect our mothers and enable them to leave their marriages as easily as possible. For those of us from religious families in particular, an annulment is preferable to divorce. As transitioners clearly entered into marriage under false pretenses it is vital that our mothers are protected in these cases. Protecting our mothers means protecting us too.

**2. We need impartial policing**

It is vital that we have the support of the police in matters of domestic abuse. This has become of increasing concern since police forces began openly supporting trans charities such as Stonewall. Children of transitioners are worried that they will not be heard of believed and are wary of approaching the police as they assume they will be considered 'transphobic' for reporting their fathers. For example, adult children may be stalked and threatened, but feel wary of approaching the police.

**3. We need support which includes us**

When councils have explicitly adopted Stonewall training, local women's domestic abuse support groups must include males who identify as women or they will not receive funding. For many children of transitioners, this inclusive policy excludes them. Mothers and children are excluded by policies like this and in reality more are excluded by these policies than included. We urge the government to reconsider this stance by councils and support women-only services.

We also sometimes carry the trauma of our childhood experiences and need to be able to request such things as single sex wards or a female physician without the burden of worrying about having a lecture about being 'transphobic'.

**4. We need clear legal guidance**

## Written evidence submitted by Children of Transitioners [GRA0815]

An anecdote from an acquaintance of a transitioner. *Her 14 year old daughter was taking place in a dance show in a city in the south of England. All the girls were aged 12-16, getting changed in a room with mums to help. Suddenly one of the fathers came in - where the girls were naked and changing - with his 12 year old daughter, who was in the show. There was a lot of teen screaming and horror, as you can imagine and he was asked to leave. He refused, saying he was a woman now (he was wearing a dress and heels -a new thing) and by law they were acting illegally if they told him to leave. There was a standoff. None of the mums or the dance teacher knew the law and they couldn't have enforced it anyway, no one knew if they should call the police (who I doubt would have helped anyway), they were scared as he was insistent and a bit aggressive, his daughter was in tears, the girls were upset and refusing to change. In the end the dance teacher told him the show could not proceed until the girls were changed, and he would need to leave or she would have to go and announce to the audience why the show was cancelled. He angrily left but everyone was upset.*

Without clarification from the government, these misunderstandings will continue. The daughter also needs to know what her father can and cannot do while transitioning.

### **5. We need to be able to express our reality clearly and without censorship**

Our father transitions and wants to be called a woman. Sometimes he wants to be called 'mother'. Whether we want to cooperate with this or not should be up to us. Official bodies should not seek to censor us or suppress our speech when we talk about our real lived experiences in the language we choose. When I was a child my father told me that he had a woman's brain in a man's body. We now know this is not scientifically possible, and the Government has explicitly told educators to stop using this phrase in schools. If we do not believe that our fathers are actually women (which is very much a faith-based belief) we should be able to do so freely. This is why we need police forces not to pursue people for 'hate speech' when we talk about the reality of gender identity.

Here is a child of a transitioner who wanted to contribute anonymously to the Inquiry:

*"One of the painful things for daughters of transitioners is when their father starts to refer to them by body parts- 'menstruator, cervix haver, bleeder'- or to a vagina as a 'front hole' to try and force her belief he has become a woman due to his clothing choices and sexual fetishes. It is degrading and wrecks your self esteem as a teenage girl, and the fact that other organisations- even the NHS- have started using these dehumanising phrases to refer to women, but not doing the same to male 'ejaculators' show just how far from biological reality and care for women and girls many government funded organisations have come, including the NHS."*

### **6. We need accurate legal documents**

The recent rejection of Freddie McConnell's attempt to have their baby's birth certificate changed to record them as the baby's father rather than mother is very

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welcome. We hope that these protections for future children of transitioners will continue.

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