

Rape Crisis Scotland response to the call for evidence from the UK Women and Equalities Committee

November 2020

Rape Crisis Scotland is Scotland's leading organisation working to end sexual violence. We work to transform attitudes and responses to rape, sexual assault and abuse informed by the incredible work of 17 local Rape Crisis services across Scotland and our daily helpline.

We have 40 years of experience in delivering specialist support for survivors that is often described as lifesaving and have been delivering services on a trans-inclusive basis for over a decade. The very top priority within centres is creating a space that is safe, welcoming and supportive for survivors and are experienced and adept at taking a trauma-informed approach to ensure this. Feedback consistently shows that the specialism and support of Rape Crisis is paramount.

There are no Rape Crisis services in Scotland which require sight of someone's birth certificate prior to accessing their services, so proposed simplification of the process of applying for gender recognition certificates would have no impact on the delivery of Rape Crisis services across Scotland. We believe that anyone who has experienced sexual violence should be able to access support, and that services such as ours have a responsibility to be proactive in ensuring that communities across Scotland, including the trans community, know that they are safely able to access our services

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