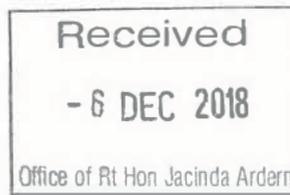


Document 1:

Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister
Parliament Office
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160



9(2)(a)

1 December 2018

Dear Prime Minister

A copy of this letter is also being sent to the Right Honourable Winston Peters, Hon James Shaw, and Hon Marama Davidson.

We would like to congratulate the Labour led Coalition Government on the past year's achievements. As long time Labour Party supporters (now members) we were happy to volunteer at the recent Annual Labour Party Conference held in Dunedin. It was good to feel and be part of the enthusiasm generated by the Election win last year.

We also want to congratulate you and Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters for representing New Zealand so well on the world stage.

We do have significant concerns though, about legislation which the government introduced earlier this year, namely the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Amendment Bill (BDMRR Bill). In particular we are worried that the implications and possible unintended consequences of the self identification provision, introduced late in the day by the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand, have not been fully addressed.

As outlined in the Letter to all Members of Parliament hosted by the website Speak Up for Women (<https://speakupforwomen.nz/>) it seems that "a person may change their birth certificate sex via a simple administrative process, involving a statutory declaration that they "identify" as a person of the opposite sex. There is no longer any need for medical evidence, physical change, or even a change in appearance."

We agree that we should recognise and respect the right of transgender people to live their lives in their chosen identity, and we understand why having a birth certificate consistent with that identity is important to them. We support simplifying this procedure for transpeople.

However, what we wish to have clarified is whether a man who self identifies as a woman but has no intention of changing their male body will have a legal right to enter female only spaces, such as women's toilets, changing rooms, women's refuges, hostels, or prisons.

Will this self identification provision for gender identity override sex based protections for women and girls? Will the seeming conflation of biological sex and gender identity render meaningless the current protections in the Human Rights Act 1993 against sex based discrimination and provisions for sex segregated facilities and services?

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These concerns were raised in submissions to the Select Committee when this amendment to the Bill was originally introduced and are continuing to be raised by women as evidenced by Charlie Montague's Petition No 2017/235 (this petition attracted 1616 signatures in three weeks), and letters to Tracey Martin and all Members of Parliament through Speak Up for Women.

We would ask that either more wide ranging consultation take place and more policy work be done by the Department of Internal Affairs, or at the very least that the draft Supplementary Order Paper attached to the letter sent to all MPs by the Speak Up for Women group be considered.

The concerns around how this amendment was introduced, lack of consultation, and seeking of clarification around access to female only spaces have been met with astonishing hostility. This hostility has not only come from what seems to be an extreme group within the transgender community but also, to our dismay, from certain government MPs. These MPs, who by misrepresenting women's concerns as prejudice and hatred of the transgender community, have given tacit approval to the continuing hostility. This hostility has led some people to prefer to remain anonymous on the Letter to all Members of Parliament hosted by the website Speak Up for Women, for fear of reprisal.

It is ironic that women's voices are being silenced in the year we celebrate 125 years of Women's Suffrage. We would ask you Prime Minister to look carefully at the concerns expressed on the website Speak Up for Woman. These concerns come from ordinary Kiwis from all walks of life, who have no agenda other than protecting women's existing rights to female only spaces.

Yours sincerely,

9(2)(a)

cc: The Right Honourable Winston Peters, Hon James Shaw and Hon Marama Davidson

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 6 December 2018 1:31 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Changes to the BDMRR Act

Dear Minister,

I write to you with great concerns over the proposed changes to this Act. I am particularly worried that the proposed changes have not been adequately explored, and that there is an unacceptable risk of unintended consequences.

I am also concerned that there appears to be little room to question the implications of this act without being characterised as somehow anti-progressive. I suggest that the strength of the Coalition government has been to tackle the tough issues and to do so with respect and compassion.

It is important that the government protect the rights of its citizens, and that people are free to live as they wish.

There are risks to women when men are able to identify as (trans)women and have legal access to women's spaces that have been established precisely because they are a necessary precaution to women's safety (women's prisons/women's shelters).

'Trans' is a wide umbrella term, that many different positions and viewpoints sit under, it is not a unified, single category. There are trans people who object to demands made by others within the trans community. Often well-meaning people outside of the trans community are seeking to be good ally's, but are not fully aware of these internal tensions and debates. It is unhelpful when politicians simply repeat slogans that deem any critique as a 'phobia' and do not really engage with the underlying issues.

One category of people who identify as women are men who socially transition but remain physically male and sexually attracted to woman. Some of these people refer to their penises as 'lady dick' and are abusive if lesbian women refuse them sexually. This behaviour is criticised by some within the trans community, but others are supportive. Clearly this situation presents complexities in protecting people's rights, and this is further amplified when access to 'women only' spaces are being legally demanded by this group of people - changing rooms at swimming pools, prisons, women's DV shelters.

I would ask that you please vote against the administrative changes presented and instead let's begin a public conversation which I believe along with many more social issues will be the future generations challenge to navigate through.

Please promote the need for public consultation on this issue as the unintended consequences of this change are significant.

Kind regards

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Sunday, 9 December 2018 5:14 PM

To: Hon Julie Anne Genter <JulieAnne.Genter@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: The Birth, Death, Marriage, Relationship and Registration Act 1995

Dear Julie Anne Genter, I am writing to you in your capacity as Minister of Women's Affairs in regard to the self-ID provision in the above Act.

Under the proposal a person may change their birth certificate sex via a simple administrative process involving a statutory declaration that they "identify" as a person of the opposite sex. There is no longer any need for medical evidence, physical change or even a change in appearance.

In light of these suggested changes I have some questions which I hope you will be able to answer.

What will be the impact of self-ID on women's rights and legal protection?

Will this reform spell the end to single sex spaces (such as women's toilets, changing rooms, etc.) and the provision of single sex services such as those provided by rape crisis centres and women's refuges?

Will self-identified trans women have to be given access to (women only) sex segregated spaces (and trans men (men in only spaces)? If so, is this going to be clearly communicated to the public/charitable organisations, business owners so that everyone knows what their legal rights and obligations are?

Trans-gender women who have gone through the process of changing their appearance through medication and possibly surgery are of course no threat to ordinary women. They have signalled their intent to truly live as women by going through this process. The major concern is around those predatory men who may see the self-identification process as a means of gaining access to hitherto protected women and girls spaces such as noted above. How is the self-ID going to actually work. Who will be monitoring the statutory declarations? How will the intent be known as genuine? Will there be person to person interviews or just an application on-line? Is the statutory declaration the beginning of the process of changing the male or female body to the desired one of the opposite sex or can a self-identified 'female' remain in a fully functioning male body? If so, that obviously has major concerns for their motive in declaring their preferred identity as female and the safety of women and girls if they can legally access women's safe spaces in a fully functioning male body.

The concern around access to at present legally protected spaces for women and girls is a recurring theme throughout the submissions to the Governance and Administration Select Committee and in the letters sent to Tracy Martin, and all NZ MPs by Speak Up for Women, a non-partisan network of New Zealanders concerned with the implications and unintended consequences of this proposed change to the Act.

It has been truly disheartening to witness the response to these hundreds of concerned New Zealanders, exercising their right in a democratic society to ask questions of their Government around a piece of legislation which could have profound implications for women and girls in New Zealand.

I quote from a submission presented to the Governance and Administration Select Committee by a woman.

"I have asked to speak to the committee privately today due to the intense harassment, ostracism and bullying people face when they raise genuine questions or concerns with gender self-identification or "sex nomination". This is particularly true for women.

Statements such as: we are "trash" who "deserve to be eradicated" are commonplace; along with vicious character assassinations, workplace lobbying and threats of physical violence. I

have submitted to the committee further examples of such abuse as supplementary evidence.”

I signed the letter to all NZ MPs and was happy to put my full name and electorate identity, but many women preferred to remain anonymous for fear of reprisal. This is completely unacceptable in a fair and democratic society which I believe New Zealand is. I have not seen any evidence of bigotry or hatred towards trans-people in the submissions to Parliament or in the signatories to the letter from Speak Up for Women.

The situation in Britain where a 3 month public consultation was called by the British Government for a similar change to their Gender Recognition Act elicited truly horrifying vitriol, intimidation, physical harassment and actual assault. Women who merely wished to gather and discuss the implications of changes in the Act were called trans-phobic, bigoted, TERFs (which is used derogatively) and prevented from getting into the building chosen for the meetings. I recommend you look at Woman's Place UK which explains in detail what these women and trans women supporters faced.

In fact the situation has become so toxic due to the extreme trans activists that a number of prominent trans-gender women have sent a letter to The Times of London expressing their concerns.

PLEA TO TRANS LOBBY

Sir, As transsexual people we are dismayed by the escalation in harassment, threats and abuse directed at women and women's groups in the name of "transgender rights activism" ("Trans lobby sent me death threats, claims professor" Dec 6). In the past few years violent rhetoric on social media has spilt over into real life too often. After the harassment of Julie Bindel and the Working Class Movement Library, the physical assault on Maria Maclachlan and the recent use of "masked-up" tactics at a feminist meeting in Bristol, we are horrified by the intimidation and abuse directed at the human rights expert Rosa Freedman.

We seek to find common cause with women against male violence and we condemn the threats, harassment and intimidation of women who argue that sex-based protections are vital in a society still punctuated by sexism. Women are oppressed because of their sex, not some metaphysical gender identity. We are concerned that women are being dehumanised as "TERFs" (trans-exclusionary radical feminists) in order for abusive males to unleash misogynistic rhetoric and violent abuse with impunity.

We call for respectful discussion and debate, and for transgender rights activists to distance themselves from physical violence and attacks on free speech carried out in their name.

9(2)(a)

I would hope the Government would unequivocally condemn similar abusive speech or action towards the women and some men here in New Zealand who have exercised their democratic right to speak to a piece of legislation which may have profound effects upon them.

I believe it behoves all MPs to read the letter sent by the Speak Up for Women website and the accompanying signatories to the letter. This Labour led Government promised to be transparent and accountable. This is all I and many others are asking for,

Sincerely,

9(2)(a)

Document 4:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 20 December 2018 11:45 AM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Raising Concerns

Tena koe Hon Tracey Martin,

I'm concerned your office has not adequately considered the impacts of changes to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Act.

I am a member of the LesbianRights collective which wrote this report. It was not published or taken into account by select committee. Please consider reading the report when you have time in the summer holidays.

I have included a copy of the Speak Up For Women Letter To Hon Tracey Martin too from the website <http://speakupforwomen.nz>

9(2)(a)

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From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Sunday, 6 January 2019 3:42 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: concerns on the self Id law

I'm writing to express my objection to the proposed changes to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill.

I am all for categories of intersex and trans male and trans female and standard protections that all humans should enjoy. The law should allow for the description of what is not what one wants.

I have serious concern about the protection remaining for women's safety.

You will be aware of the issues in regard to prisons, gyms and the increased rates of violence against women in self Id and shared facilities. Are we failing in our duty of care to children by allowing self ID where their care and safety are concerned? Self ID is a perfect vehicle for pedophiles.

I am already worried for my safety when I cannot now say or write that lesbians do not have penises nor can I say or write that women and girls have vaginas. I am harassed and called a terf if I describe this way (even by MPs) and in this and many ways women and lesbians are silenced once again by those invoking the power of their male privilege.

I am very worried that I will lose my job in the public service for simply expressing that woman is an adult human female. It takes courage for me to wear this on a tee shirt and step outside.

I am very very unhappy that our unique identity as women is being stolen by redefinition excluding the biological and experiential aspects and the profound interaction of those elements in shaping identity as women. This is just not an opt in fluid identity that you can put on and off like a coat. It is not just socially defined but has biological and other aspects. I am beyond myself with worry about very young people being led into real hatred of their own bodies by the sexist classical stereotypes of boy and girl used to determine their identity and the consequent medicalisation. I do think when they are older this will be a situation on par with the Catholic Church's abuses and you will need to shoulder your role in this.

As a lesbian I am horrified at how I would have absolutely been steered into transgenderism if I was young today as now being a tomboy immediately raises the question of whether you are the right gender rather than gender stereotypes. Now my body would be wrong rather than society being sexist. I am concerned that most young people who show signs of unsettled ness with their gender do just turn out to be gay/lesbian so say goodbye to what were once described as butch lesbians or effeminate gays who are happy healthy adults now.

And what about sports (say goodbye to biological women winning ever)?

And what about statistics regarding biological sex and health/crime etc? This is important.

It would not be okay for me as a white person to identify as Maori without having the heritage and biology by my determining what they can say a Maori is, so why is it okay to let men do this to women?

I am perplexed at trans men espousing that they are the other gender and then doing arguably the most woman thing they can do (pregnancy and child birth)- how can that be reconciled with a sureness that you are really a man?

As someone who has fought tirelessly for human rights over the years, from the front lines of Springbok tour protests through Take back the night matches etc I am in despair at this.

This law mocks our living breathing reality as women and silences our voices.

Here is an article that expresses this so much better than I can

<https://quillette.com/2018/12/04/the-new-patriarchy-how-trans-radicalism-hurts-women-children-and-trans-people-themselves/>

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 14 January 2019 7:19 PM
To: Dinah Okeby <dinah.okeby@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Attention the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern: Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill , 2nd reading

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to you to express extreme concern over the possible changes to legislation allowing self-identity to be sufficient for the change of sex on a birth certificate.

The process concerning this Bill has been undemocratic, since self-ID proposals were not included in the Bill when it was first introduced to Parliament on 10 August 2017.

There has been no widespread discussion in New Zealand about the proposed change in the legislation, so Members of Parliament cannot claim to be well informed before they vote on this in February.

The proposed change would mean that a person with a male body, including male genitalia, could be officially recorded as female simply by a declaration of "feeling like a woman", with no medical procedure necessary, no evidence of his having lived as a woman, or any other supporting evidence. It is difficult to imagine any other procedure being introduced into our society with so little discussion or reasoning.

There is an abundance of evidence from overseas, particularly the United Kingdom, as to the harms that can accrue to women and girls as a result of the push from male-to-female transpeople to be accepted as women, with unlimited access to women's spaces in hospitals and prisons and the potential risks if m-t-f transsexuals are able to enter women's lavatories, changing rooms, and so on. Women have fought long and hard over many decades for measures to alleviate their disadvantaged position in society - for example, women's refuges and rape crisis centres were set up after years of pressure from women's organisations, because of the horrific level of male violence against women. Those spaces need to remain inviolate, for women-born women only.

It is notable, is it not, that it is male-to-female transpeople who are leading the charge for these changes, not women who have transitioned as men? The transwomen activists are shown - for example in the sports area, where they are now taking women's championships and medals because of their superior body strength and size - to be operating from a base of male entitlement, male psychological power and male physical power. In other words, they are behaving like men, even though they claim to identify as women.

I wish to make clear that I am not talking about the genuine cases of gender dysphoria, where individuals suffer great distress through feeling they are in the "wrong body". Those people are entitled to appropriate support and to full and equal human rights. My concern is with the small group of activists who by some extraordinary feat have managed overseas to intimidate officials in local and national governments and in academic institutions and non-government organisations to the extent that no questioning of

what is going on is allowed and a policy of silence has been enforced. Anyone who dares to raise concerns is labelled transphobic and trans-exclusionary, even to the extent of prominent and well respected women being labelled as Nazis and fascists. You may have seen from *The Guardian* (16 October 2018) an open letter from 54 British academics who have been forbidden by their universities to discuss with their students any aspect of research into transgender issues. The harassment and silencing of dissenting voices or the voices of those merely seeking further discussions on these issues is a real danger to free speech, and it is happening right here and now in New Zealand, as well as overseas. The apparent "sneaking through" of this proposed change is an example of that.

I urge you to vote against the Bill as it stands and to ensure the country and the House have the opportunity to thoroughly examine the implications of what is being sought.

Yours sincerely

9(2)(a)



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From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 14 January 2019 2:32 PM
To: Hon Chris Hipkins <Chris.Hipkins@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill

Dear Hon. Hipkins,

As my electorate MP, please vote against this bill.

I'm going to add this bit at the start as I know my statements would "earn" me the epithet "TERF". I do not wish ill on any person with body dysphoria, as they have a serious mental health condition that requires treatment.

Humans, like every other great ape, exist as only two sexes: female and male. Sex is defined by the size and motility of the gametes. Females have relatively large and non-motile gametes (ova). Males have relatively small and motile gametes (spermatozoa). These arise from the combination of the "sex" chromosome pair: XX is female, XY is male.

(There are other forms, all of which are considered disorders of sexual development, and frequently result in intellectual problems which is normal for other disorders with an incorrect number of chromosomes. There's also some disorders relating to how the SRY gene isn't properly activated. Again, these are disorders of sexual development and are not related to transgender. Additionally, how can a diagnosis of "disorder of sexual development" exist if the definition of sexual development isn't predicated on sex, i.e. the sex chromosomes present?)

It is not possible to change one's sex. It is not possible to remove a Y chromosome and replace it with an X. Every cell in the body containing a nucleus is sexed.

The signifier on the birth certificate is sex. This is because it shows the sex of the person - whether they are XX or XY. That is all that female/male, girl/boy, woman/man refers to. Sex.

Gender, on the other hand, is an amorphous concept. Common usage (and the term gender is relatively recent, setting aside its historical use in various languages such as French and German) of gender has meant it is used to refer to sex, apparently because many people are too embarrassed to write "sex". In radical feminism, we use "gendered" (derived from the word "gender", as you would expect) to refer to cultural norms that have been associated with one sex in particular. For example, motor mechanic is an occupation that is gendered male, because men are the workers in the vast majority of cases. Nursing is an occupation that is gendered female, because women have formed the vast majority of workers.

So the gender of occupations, clothing, music genres, movie genres, apps, and so forth are based on the sex of typical users/consumers.

We radical feminists have been trying to remove gender for the past 50 years. We think it is a nonsense that there are gendered clothes, or gendered jobs, or gendered housework and caregiving tasks and so forth.

We have also fought for equal rights for women. We fought for women getting the vote. We fought for women getting equal pay for work of equal value. We fought for female representation in higher skilled jobs. We fought for women in sport. We're still fighting for these last couple.

And now we're told that a man can become a woman, or a boy can become a girl (these are the main stories, there's comparatively very few for the opposite). This is because gender is being inflated with sex, when convenient. It is not possible to change sex. As I said earlier, the sex chromosomes exist in every cell in the body that contains a nucleus.

Women have been discriminated on the basis of our sex. We have not been discriminated on the basis of our gender.

When we were prevented from higher education, saying "but I'm a bloke" or "I'm a male trapped in a woman's body" would not have stopped this discrimination.

Were we prevented from voting on the basis of our gender? No. We were considered too stupid and too emotive to vote.

Were we prevented from being given equal pay because of our gender? Were we ignored for promotions on the basis of our gender? Heck no. We were discriminated against on the basis of sex. Heavens forbid that a measly woman get the same pay as a man. And all women are just going to run off and have babies, or take loads of time off work for childcare, so no promotions for them!

This bill is anti-woman. It is removing our legislative rights. If anyone can self-identify as a woman, how are women's rights protected? How do you define "woman" so that anti-discrimination breaches can be identified and addressed? If a woman is "anyone who feels like a woman", how is feeling like a woman defined? This is circular reasoning.

Having male-to-trans representatives on boards, or in executive positions, does not even up the sex gap in these areas.

Having well-paid male-to-trans being counted as women will "disappear" the pay gap between men and women, even though it will still exist.

Having male offenders counted as female offenders will inflate the rate of violent crime committed by "women" and decrease that committed by "men". It will also put violent men in women's prisons - prisons that contain extremely vulnerable women who will be easily victimised.

Having men compete as women is already destroying women's sports. Look at weight lifting and competitive cycling in New Zealand. In Australia, a male-to-trans broke a woman's leg during a game (this person: <https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/sport/afl/transgender-footballer-hannah-mouncey-nominates-for-aflw-draft-20171013-gz0a5e.html>).

There is no outcome here that is good for women. Female-to-trans aren't going to suddenly start smashing records in men's sport. Incarcerating female-to-trans in men's prisons is going to create a huge violence risk for those offenders. Female-to-trans aren't going to become over-represented on boards, or as executives.

How does any of this represent a fair deal for New Zealand women?

Now let's come to race. There is no chromosome pair that defines race. From a gene perspective, there's no way to define "race". Race is primarily socially constructed. For me as NZ Pakeha to claim I am trans-Maori would be racist in the extreme. But given that there is a clear genetic demarcation between the sexes, which hinges on the presence or absence of a Y chromosome, why is transgender treated as an actual, biological, fact?

Please talk to others in the party. Our prime minister encounters misogyny because she is a woman, not because she feels like a woman. Our prime minister was pregnant and gave birth because she is a fertile woman, not because she feels like a woman. Our first and second female prime ministers were disparaged for their looks, clothing choices, and decisions because they are women.

Please look after the rights of New Zealand girls and women and vote against this bill. If nothing else, the backlash against UK Labour and Greens is probably a preview of what will happen if Labour and Greens support these types of bills in New Zealand. You're handing ammunition to conservative parties.

I'm happy to have a conversation with you about this topic.

Sincerely,

9(2)(a)

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Document 8:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 15 January 2019 4:21 PM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Births,Deaths & Marriages reforms.

Good afternoon Minister.

I am writing in regard to previous communications regarding the proposed amendments to the Births, Deaths & Marriages amendments. As you are aware some of the amendments pertain to streamlining processes surrounding Transgender and Intersex persons changing details on Birth Certificates.

Currently there is an extreme amount of hate being directed at the Transgender community by overseas social media accounts and a small number of local activists. It has become quite intolerable online and has started to spill over into open abuse in public places, a very dangerous situation for some members of an already seriously at risk minority. I have noted that some of this is being directed at Women MPs, including yourself

Would you be able to provide some light on when this legislation may see further a reading in the house? The situation is becoming quite acute and many cannot take much more of the abuse this amendment process had generated, real harm is being done.

Any information on the future of this bill would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPad

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Document 9:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 15 January 2019 1:58 PM
Subject: Letter from 9(2)(a) regarding the BDMRR Amendment Bill

Tēnā koe

Please find attached a letter from 9(2)(a) regarding the upcoming BDMRR Amendment Bill. This letter explains the necessity of your support for the legislation, as well as highlighting several dangerous myths that have been spread by members of transphobic organisations seeking to undermine progressive change for LGBTQIA people in New Zealand.

I am no expert on transgender rights - however, trans people are part of my global LGBTQIA whānau. The struggle for their human rights is important to me and believe that we can all play a part in making New Zealand a safer and more inclusive place for everyone.

Please read my letter carefully and if you have any questions, contact me or your local LGBTQIA organisation.

Ngā mihi, nā

9(2)(a)

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Tēnā koe

My name is 9(2)(a) and I am writing to you regarding the proposed amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Act (the Act). In 2018, the Justice and Administration Select Committee agreed to include amendments to section 28 of the Act, updating the process for people wishing to change their legal gender on their birth certificates. This amendment is long overdue and will progress New Zealand as a country that recognises the rights of LGBTQIA people in the legal system.

However, this change has not been without controversy. There are groups organising to undermine this important decision made by Parliament, and attack the rights of transgender people in New Zealand.

My letter to you is to raise awareness of these people and to dispel some of the myths that they will be perpetuating. Many of these groups will present themselves as feminist groups, such as *Speak Up for Women* and the *Lavender Resistance*. They will claim that changing the Act to reflect the human rights of trans people will attack or undermine the rights of women in New Zealand. **This is untrue.** I would encourage you to read my letter carefully and contact me or other LGBTQIA organisations further if you have any concerns.

Ngā mihi, nā

9(2)(a)

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The Case for Change: Why we need to change the Act and what it will mean for the law in New Zealand

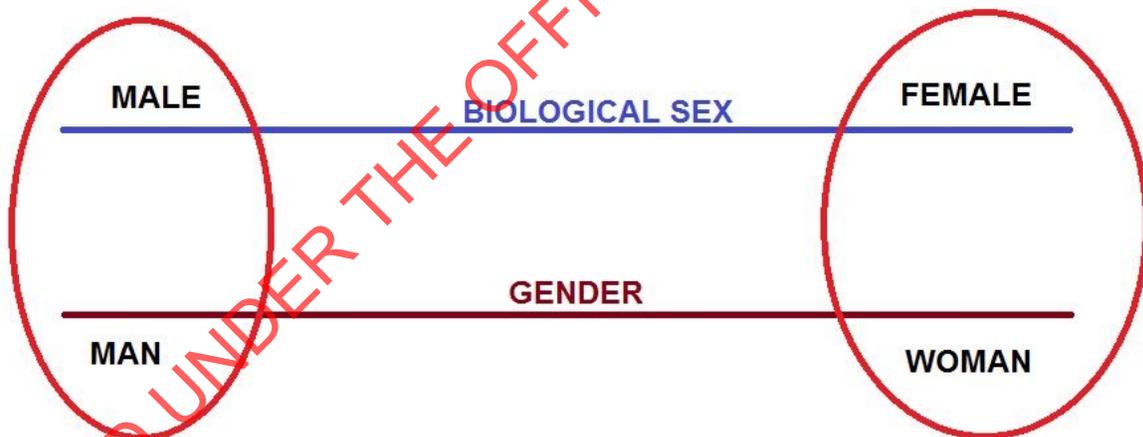
Section 28 of the Act determines the process of changing someone's legal identity on their birth certificate. This section of the Act was enacted in 1995 to recognise that many people in society may have a gender identity that is different from what is shown on their birth certificate. And in 1995, this change was progressive for the time.

However, what we realise now is that section 28 is **outdated** and does not reflect best practice when it comes to recognising the rights of transgender people in New Zealand.

Transgender 101: What does it mean?

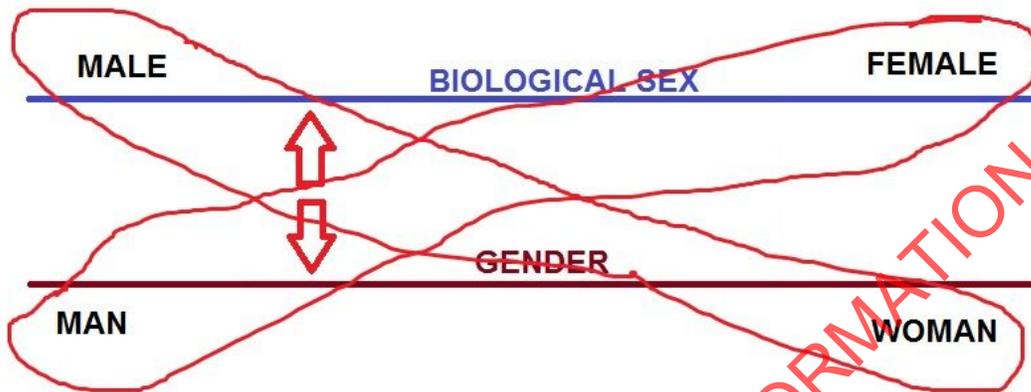
Sometimes, a lot of the terminology in this discussion can get confusing. I will attempt to explain everything below.

The traditional idea of gender and sex has it that they are both the same thing - i.e. we are born with a biological sex, and that is the same as our gender. For example, a person born with a penis would be a male and be a man. Traditionally, we think of gender and sex as two words that mean the same thing (see below).



However, what we have come to realise is that gender and sex are **different**. Sex relates to our biology. And gender relates to how we see ourselves, or how we identify. No longer are the words sex and gender synonyms for each other - rather, they are two very different things. For most of us, this difference is inconsequential. But for transgender people, it is very important.

Transgender people are people who identify as a different gender than the sex they were born with. A transgender woman is someone who is born male at birth, but identifies as a woman. A transgender man is someone who is born female at birth, but identifies as a man (see below).



The Issue with Section 28

Section 28, though progressive for its time, is outdated. This is because it mandates that trans people undergo gender reassignment surgery in order to change their identity on their birth certificate - i.e. undergo a sex change. A sex change is a process where, medically, someone undergoes medical treatment in order to change their biological sex (as far as is medically possible). This may include taking hormones, undergoing a mammogram, or receiving 'bottom' surgery.

This reliance by section 28 on medical transition surgery is outdated because it still ties biological sex to gender. It makes it a requirement that biological sex be reflected in someone's gender identity albeit through surgery. Therefore, someone wanting to identify as a woman would need to have undergone sufficient sex change operations in order for them to 'appear' as much like a woman as possible.

This raises several significant issues:

- 1) **Some trans people don't want gender reassignment surgery.** The idea that transgender people are 'trapped in the wrong body' is false. Many trans people do seek out gender reassignment surgeries so their bodies can reflect their gender identity. But this is not the case for every trans person. It is unfair for the law to expect those trans people who want to change their legal identity to undergo a medical procedure that they do not want.

- 2) **Gender reassignment surgery is expensive.** In New Zealand, the rules have recently changed so that more trans people can access gender reassignment surgeries. However, this is only a recent change and the current waiting list remains decades long. For many trans people, the only realistic option of accessing surgeries is to fundraise and access private healthcare in countries like Thailand. For many trans people, this cost barrier is far too great.
- 3) **Transgender men will never meet the standard imposed by the legislation.** Medically speaking, it is possible for a transgender woman (a biological male who identifies as female) to receive sufficient surgeries under section 28. However, it is medically impossible for transgender men (a biological woman who identifies as male) to reach the same legal standard. This is because it is very difficult, and very expensive, to construct an artificial penis. It is unfair for the law to treat certain groups of people differently - in fact, it goes against the Rule of Law. Therefore, an amendment to simplify or remove section 28 is necessary.

The proposed change by Parliament

After petitions from the LGBTQIA community, in 2018 Parliament agreed to change section 28 of the Act. This was a huge victory for LGBTQIA rights in New Zealand.

The change proposes to replace section 28 with the ability for transgender people to self nominate their own gender identity on their birth certificates without having to reach a medical threshold. This follows the exact same process as changes to gender identities in our passports and drivers licences. People will be able to elect to have their gender changed to "Male", "Female" or "X".

This new section 28 would remove the medical standard and simplify the process. Furthermore, it will entrench in law the very different distinctions between biological sex and gender identity. It is not asking people to ignore scientific fact - rather, it is reflecting the basic fact that regardless of what sex we are born with, some of us may choose to live our lives differently and that should be allowed within the law. It makes the law more free and therefore enhances democracy.

The second reading of the Act is set down for 2019.

MYTH BUSTING

Not all responses to the proposed changes to the Act have been positive. Certain groups of people have seen the changes to section 28 as a threat, and are actively seeking to petition MPs to vote against the amendment. As MPs, you will have the ability to seriously influence the future liberties and freedoms of LGBTQIA people in New Zealand with this vote.

Some of these groups may have already written to you raising several concerns. In the next few pages, I seek to highlight the myths that these groups are using to undermine the extremely necessary changes to section 28.

NOTE: an important piece of terminology that I will be using is the acronym TERF. This stands for "Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminist". A TERF is someone who identifies as a feminist, and believes that woman can only ever be people who are born biologically female. TERFs seek to remove discussions of transgender rights from feminist movements, and are the main groups who oppose changes to section 28. Many TERFs believe that the term 'TERF' itself is derogatory. A common example of a well known TERF is Germaine Greer.

Several TERF groups have been formed since Parliament announced changes to the Act. The main group is Speak Up for Women, although several prominent individuals may also be petitioning MPs personally to vote against the amendments.

MYTH 1: Changes to section 28 will undermine women's rights

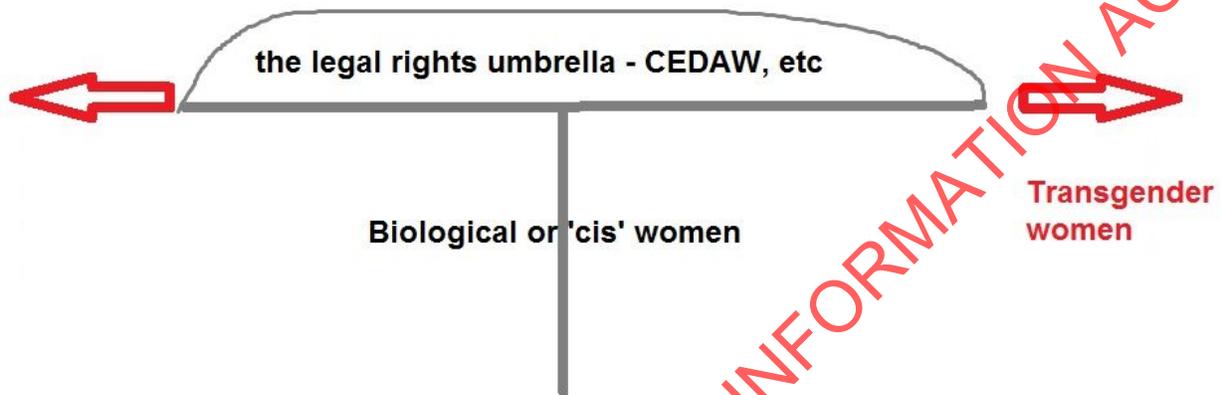
The most common myth advocated by TERFs is that changing section 28 will undermine the rights of women, or possibly put the lives of women in danger.

The root of this belief lies in the fact that many TERFs believe women experience discrimination directly as a result of their biology. For example, criminalisation of abortion, or restricted access to birth control. They believe that alienating the term 'women' from *biological sex* will undermine the rights of women. To support their argument, they may refer to various pieces of human rights legislation such as the Human Rights Act or The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (**CEDAW**) - which explicitly prohibit discrimination on the grounds of **sex**.

This belief is false. Firstly, the reliance on the Human Rights Act and CEDAW is evidence of legislated rights that are outdated. Much like section 28, the Human Rights Act and CEDAW were groundbreaking at the time they were formed, but have not been updated to take into account our current understanding of gender and sex. This means that they currently only provide legal protections for biological women rather than transgender women.

The second reason why this belief is false is that, as we know with legal rights, expanding a legal protection from a narrow scope to a broad scope is not mutually exclusive. For example, in the same way that it was false in the 1960s to say that the expansion of legal rights for black people would consequently undermine the rights of white people, so too is this argument false here. By expanding the legislated rights of women to INCLUDE transgender women, and other transgender people, we are not diminishing the rights of those women who are already protected under such pieces of legislation.

See the diagram below for context. By expanding the legal rights umbrella to cover not only biological women (or 'cis' women) but transgender women too, we are not excluding anyone from legal protections.



MYTH 2: Changes to section 28 will put women in danger

One of the most distressing myths that TERFs perpetuate is that transgender people are dangerous or sexual predators. This is a similar myth to what used to be thought about homosexual men who were in caring professions, such as childcare providers or teachers.

There is no statistical evidence to suggest that transgender people are sexual predators, or that women are targeted by transgender people. There is, however, very clear statistical evidence which shows transgender people are far more likely to experience abuse, suicide and forms of sexual and physical assault.

The myth suggests that under the changes proposed, men will be able to pretend to be women and gain access to women only spaces, such as bathrooms or refuges. When access is gained, TERFs suggest that these men will then target and sexually assault women.

This myth is completely false, and is incredibly dangerous.

Women's Refuge New Zealand currently accepts transgender women in their centres, and openly advocated at select committee for changes to section 28. They stated conclusively that suggesting women would be in danger of sexual assault due to changes to the Act is fear

mongering. I encourage you to completely dismiss this myth whenever you are confronted with it.

MYTH 3: That there has not been reasonable public consultation on the changes proposed

TERFs believe that there has not been sufficient engagement with the public on the changes proposed by Parliament. However, this is not the case. The Justice and Administration Select Committee worked on the legislation over several months and heard from hundreds of submissions on the legislation. Many TERFs expressed their views clearly through this process and were listened to by MPs. However, ultimately, the Select Committee honoured the wishes of those LGBTQIA people who submitted that section 28 be reformed. Furthermore, the Minister in charge of the Bill, the Hon Tracy Martin, also heard the views of those concerned and made a decision to allow the changes to the legislation.

The process for this legislation has been no different than any other Bill and members of the public were given the opportunity to present their views on the legislation.

Conclusion

Overall, it is important to remember that TERFs do not represent the vast majority of women. Several MPs have already spoken out against the views of these groups as they do not reflect the views of many women. As a member of the LGBTQIA community, and someone who would consider himself a feminist, it disturbs me that there are people who would manipulate the principles of feminism to try and undermine progress for one of the most vulnerable groups in our society.

New Zealand is a progressive country. We have seen huge leaps forward in the path towards LGBTQIA equality since the 1980's. In the last 10 years alone, we have seen huge steps forward such as marriage equality and the expungement of homosexual offences.

The promise of equality and human rights has been something that New Zealand has always prided itself on. However, there have been times when this promise has not been honoured in regards to transgender people. I believe it is time to put fear and division in the past and focus on a future where it doesn't matter how you are born, or how you identify, but instead focus on how we can all have the best opportunities in life to succeed. Reforming section 28 is a key way that this dream can be realised for transgender people in New Zealand.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my message and for voting in favour of reforming section 28 when it comes before Parliament later this year.

Ngā mihi, nā

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 17 January 2019 2:18 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: My support for the amendment to the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Act

Kia ora Tracey

I hope that your summer break has been a rejuvenating one for you and your family.

This is a brief email to let you know that I strongly support your proposed amendment to the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Act to allow the self-declaration of gender on birth certificates.

All the best for 2019.

Nāku noa, nā,
9(2)(a)

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Document 11:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 18 January 2019 11:39 AM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Sex-self ID BDMRR Bill

Dear Hon Grant Robertson

I have emailed you earlier about my opposition to sex -self ID and my request you conduct a full public consultation and risk assessment on the harms to sex protections for women and girls under the NZ Human Rights Act as well as more generally.

As Minister for Sports I urge you to consider the destruction of women/girls sport when biological males under the guise of transgender are allowed to compete. There is no incentive for female athletes to compete at any level if they are beaten by males - this is sexism at it's worst.

Please find attached a PDF from Kiwi Antics where a wide range of NZer's are expressing massive opposition to transgender males competing against females.

Yours sincerely

9(2)(a)

Cc: Hon Nikki Kaye
Shadow Minister for Sport

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Save links anywhere using the Save Chrome Extension

Try It Now

9(2)(a) shared a link to the group: KIWI ANTICS.
Yesterday at 10:36 PM

Your thoughts.



WOMENAREHUMAN.COM

Muscle-Bound Male Transgender Dominates Women's Sports

144

206 Comments

Like

Comment

9(2)(a) Transgender sports sounds fair.
Like · Reply · 5

9(2)(a)



Like · Reply · 1d

4

9(2)(a)



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Like · Reply · 22h

1

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) Completely wrong. Genetically they are still a man, that can't be changed. Completely unfair for the opposition woman that have been working hard to be the best

Like · Reply · 1d · Edited

12

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) hence why they state it's a transgender woman.

Like · Reply · 15h

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) There should be a separate division for transgender. Totally unfair.

Like · Reply · 1d

13

9(2)(a) This comes down to biology, they are still male and have an unfair advantage over biological females. Wrong.

Like · Reply · 1d

11

9(2)(a)

Ridiculous!

Like · Reply · 1d

3

9(2)(a)

Donald Trump lost child.

Like · Reply · 1d

1

9(2)(a)

They have Paralympics so why not transolympics?

Like · Reply · 1d

7

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) agreed...

Like · Reply · 23h

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) t's a bloke who grew his hair out. Nothing else as far as I've seen. Don't forget the mma fight where th woman got fucked up and the high school wrestling matches that got dominated.

Like · Reply · 23h

9(2)(a)

There was a MMA fighter the same. So wrong.

Like · Reply · 1d

9(2)(a)

If it's got a dick, it's still a prick...

Like · Reply · 1d

4

9(2)(a)

even a transgender catagory would b unfare unless its trans m or f

Like · Reply · 1d

1

9(2)(a)

I'm a 6'2" woman who after gets referred to a transgender&epa=SEARCH_BOX

RELEAS

THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

9(2)(a)

I'm a 6'2" woman who often gets referred to as having 'man strength'. I think sports should be done on a person's biological sex which is a word wide commonality and not gender which is subject to change as society sees fit.

Like · Reply · 1d

8

9(2)(a)

Doesn't really seem fair. I fully support transgender people. But unfortunately no matter what gender they identify with their genetic makeup is the gender they were born as. And for a transgender woman who was born a male this gives them advantages in sport... that's not to say women aren't kick ass but a transgender woman just has more ummph in her tank

Like · Reply · 23h

2

9(2)(a)

I agree with Belinda, it's an unfair advantage

Like · Reply · 23h

1

9(2)(a)

Playing a women cause it get smashed in men's league I laugh at it

Like · Reply · 23h

3

9(2)(a)

Thats just bullshit and not fair on woman .

Like · Reply · 23h

2

9(2)(a)

Every womans team should get a man in their team to even things up just grow you hair and paint you nails.

Like · Reply · 23h

2

9(2)(a)

Not against trans at all, but thats totally unfair to biological woman...

Like · Reply · 23h

3

9(2)(a)



TENDOR

Like · Reply · 23h

1

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9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) Every chromosome in his body is male except for sperm - being transgender is a mental disorder not biological - if you had schizophrenia and people reinforced it by saying yes the voices are real - how would that play out for those people - it's just comical that society has decided that this is OK

Like · Reply · 23h

8

9(2)(a) i dont agree tbh its rubbish but ladies if u come accross a trans male playin female smash the hell out of them

Like · Reply · 23h

2

9(2)(a) no trans people shouldnt be in prefered gender sports other wise all men that dont make it in the mens teams will just switch to womens wont they

Like · Reply · 23h

4

9(2)(a) Just making a mockery of womens sports. They need to boycott any competitions that allow women with dicks to compete against them.

Like · Reply · 23h

3

9(2)(a) 9(2)(a) They're just gonna cut off their dicks then but keep all their male muscle

Like · Reply · 4h

9(2)(a) Thats so unfair. I cant even believe he was allowed.

Like · Reply · 23h

1

9(2)(a) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsSIEmfNVeA>

Like · Reply · 23h

2

9(2)(a) 9(2)(a) watch this its very good

Like · Reply · 23h

2

9(2)(a) quite interesting

Like · Reply · 14h

9(2)(a) No 1

Like · Reply · 23h

9(2)(a) No, just f**king no...

Like · Reply · 23h

1

9(2)(a) what he said

Like · Reply · 19h

1

9(2)(a) Sorry but it's an unfair advantage wen they compete in the womens section.sports need to organize transgender comps .

Like · Reply · 23h

1

9(2)(a) when the tables are turned its amazing how many people do not agree.

RELEASES

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9(2)(a) Like · Reply · 23h 2

9(2)(a) [Redacted] Trans Olympic games. ...

Like · Reply · 23h 2

9(2)(a) [Redacted] And sport was the winner on the day because anyone who says otherwise is transphobic.... what a load of shit fuck off and play in the weirdo league

Like · Reply · 23h 3

9(2)(a) [Redacted] That's like the one in running more male then female won all the races against women should not be allowed

Like · Reply · 23h 4

9(2)(a) [Redacted] There is no such thing as a transgender.... That word is a pathetic weak excuse for a disease that needs to be looked after in a medical way.

Like · Reply · 23h 3

9(2)(a) [Redacted] Well of course he is dominating women's sports. More muscle mass and higher bone density. Huge advantage.

Like · Reply · 23h 1

9(2)(a) [Redacted] and being 6ft 3 and 256 lbs doesnt hurt

Like · Reply · 13h · Edited

9(2)(a) [Redacted] Well I was generalising about all these trans men athletes. But yes fair comment, neither of those physical attributes would hurt his performance.

Like · Reply · 7h

[View 1 more reply](#)

9(2)(a) [Redacted] Aw mate, not only do they need their own gender ID marriage rights and toilets. They need their own sports teams too

Like · Reply · 23h 2

9(2)(a) [Redacted] Yeeaahh naaaah

Like · Reply · 23h 1

9(2)(a) [Redacted] What a scam transgender my ass If a dog is born in a stable does that make it a horse

Like · Reply · 23h 5

9(2)(a) [Redacted] If u physically have a lahoa and play a physical sport then ur a male or man thats what its about not if u feel like a woman then u can play physical sport with other woman lol nnnnnooooo lol

Like · Reply · 23h 2

9(2)(a) [Redacted] Wrong in so many different directions.

Like · Reply · 23h 1

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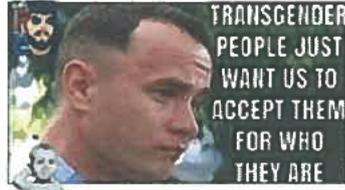
9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) Not Fair... The biological differences give that athlete an unfair advantage

Like · Reply · 23h

3

9(2)(a) Born with penis = MALE
Born with a vagina = FEMALE



Like · Reply · 23h

5

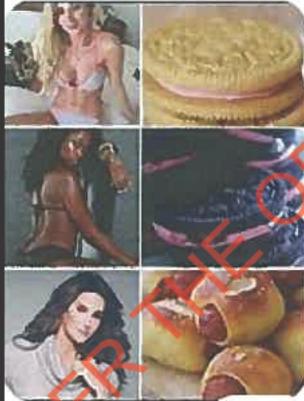
9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) Of course he did

Like · Reply · 22h

1

9(2)(a)



Like · Reply · 22h

4

9(2)(a) These guys will never be female. Just wannabe's born with a brain malfunction.

Like · Reply · 22h

3

9(2)(a) I wouldn't say it's a malfunction. It's hard to know what creates this wanting to change sexes...

Like · Reply · 22h

1

9(2)(a) If the people can't see the unfairness of what they are doing, themselves, then there is definitely a brain problem. It's definitely outside the definition of sportsmanship.

Like · Reply · 22h

4

View 3 more replies

9(2)(a) He is still a man. Ridiculous and unfair

RELEASE

Like · Reply · 22h

6

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) This is so unfair

5

Like · Reply · 22h

9(2)(a) its very wrong

2

Like · Reply · 22h

9(2)(a) This isn't right

1

Like · Reply · 22h

9(2)(a) They can still play soccer

3

Like · Reply · 22h

9(2)(a)

Like · Reply · 22h

9(2)(a) If born with a dick you are a male

6

Like · Reply · 22h

9(2)(a) Amen

Like · Reply · 22h

9(2)(a) Trans hua's should be playing against other trans hua's,women vs women,men vs men,trans hua's against women is unfair,trans hua's should be playing against men as well then

6

Like · Reply · 22h

9(2)(a) Trannys against Trannys otherwise its not fair

5

Like · Reply · 22h

9(2)(a) fags against men like they r

Like · Reply · 21h · Edited

9(2)(a) Pisses me off really. No business at all playing against natural born females! It is dangerous and have far too many physical advantages. Be and identify with what ever you wanna be but leave the sports alone.

2

Like · Reply · 22h · Edited

9(2)(a) yeh hes alrdy broken a womans leg !!!

1

Like · Reply · 18h

9(2)(a) They should only compete in their original sex

Like · Reply · 21h

9(2)(a) He's showing them women athletes equality

1

Like · Reply · 21h

9(2)(a) ripd of woman

RELEAS

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..fagit shd compete against his own ..queer cunt

Like · Reply · 21h · Edited

9(2)(a)

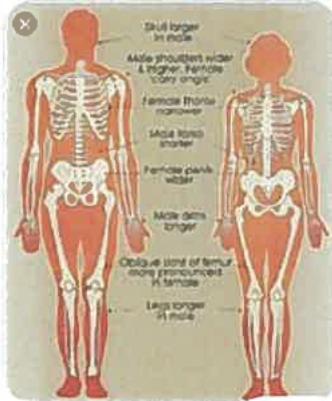
itz like da russian who beat our shotput lady

Like · Reply · 21h

1

9(2)(a)

Trans can change hormone levels, appearance, genitalia but they will always have the advantage of a males bone structure which is significantly different and advantageous imo



Like · Reply · 21h

5

9(2)(a)

can't change your

chromosomes

Like · Reply · 21h

9(2)(a)

spoilt or xpected to much frm dad

Like · Reply · 21h

9(2)(a)

View 14 more replies

9(2)(a)

f course he will genius!

Like · Reply · 21h

9(2)(a)

Not fair for females

Like · Reply · 21h

1

9(2)(a)

st8 up fagit got no balls to take his own on

Like · Reply · 21h · Edited

1

9(2)(a)

Weasel that couldn't beat other men so it decided to bully women. It's a puke.

Like · Reply · 21h

5

9(2)(a)

Against

Like · Reply · 21h

1

9(2)(a)

Cheating bullsh&t

Like · Reply · 21h

1

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9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) Cheating crnt

Like · Reply · 21h 2

9(2)(a) FFS ,WTF

Like · Reply · 21h 1

9(2)(a) 🙄



Like · Reply · 20h 8

9(2)(a) bullocks!! totally wrong

Like · Reply · 20h 3

9(2)(a) Fix this shit up FFS who let this crap happen ?

Like · Reply · 20h 4

9(2)(a) Uh the moral absolutists.

Like · Reply · 15h

9(2)(a) t's ma'am

Like · Reply · 20h 3

9(2)(a) hey 9(2)(a) how's things?

Like · Reply · 19h

9(2)(a) This is wrong ...

Like · Reply · 19h

9(2)(a) This very wrong it's a man in a woman's world

Like · Reply · 17h 1

9(2)(a) OMG if you going to make your own choice to change then fine . It's you want to compete like that against others then you should still have to go up against others that are the same as you , or at least biologically the same .

Like · Reply · 17h 4

9(2)(a) Apparently the NWO don't think women are human.

Like · Reply · 17h

9(2)(a) A dude puts on a dress and you people lose your minds is it really that offensive or are you all just

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your friends, is it really that offensive or are you all just snowflakes/closet homosexuals?

Like · Reply · 16h

3

9(2)(a) 9(2)(a) he can wear all the dresses he wants but to compete against women is an unfair advantage.

Like · Reply · 15h

9

9(2)(a) Right cause womens AFL is highly popular among kiwi males? If anything it makes the shit watchable hahaha

Like · Reply · 15h

1

9(2)(a)

View 3 more replies

9(2)(a) Couldn't handle playing against his own gender just a bully in sheep's clothing Bloody sick that governing body's allow this crap. real woman have no chance .

Like · Reply · 16h

8

9(2)(a) Can't beat men so play as a woman lol

Like · Reply · 16h

9

9(2)(a) that is fuxking stupid

Like · Reply · 15h

2

9(2)(a)



GIPHY

Like · Reply · 15h

5

9(2)(a) It's simple FFS.. If you are born with a dick you're a bloke, if it's a vagina when you are born you're a female.. No X-gender.. What next.. This guy says he's a woman, NO WAY HE IS..... I suppose the next thing he says is that he's a Lesbian as well..

Like · Reply · 15h

3

9(2)(a) ^^ Someone said it

Like · Reply · 13h

1

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9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) Noooo no matter what anyone says... physically as a man will always win.This is wrong anatomy wise.....

Like · Reply · 15h

5

9(2)(a) 🖐️ It's pretty damn simple if you have an XX chromosome your female and XY your male....

Like · Reply · 15h

7

9(2)(a) Pc drivel gone mad. in sport you are not alowd to to take inhancong Drugs to obtain an unfair advantage, but if your a man, you can hand in yr... See More

Like · Reply · 15h · Edited

6

9(2)(a) Whats the next one? ' Musclebound Female Transgender Dominates Mens Sports? Even stevens then

Like · Reply · 15h

9(2)(a) 🖐️ That's just wrong and should be aloud in this sport

Like · Reply · 14h

2

9(2)(a) Good shit

Like · Reply · 14h

9(2)(a) Hahahahaha, dude this is nuts.....New definition of Dominating

Like · Reply · 14h

9(2)(a) It's a Man,simple

Like · Reply · 14h

1

9(2)(a)



TENOR

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Like · Reply · 13h

2

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) It's a known fact that men are stronger physically....Probably disadvantaged in certain sports categories when playing in women's grade

Like · Reply · 13h

1

9(2)(a)

Looks like she's saying "It's Spam"

Like · Reply · 13h

9(2)(a)

Cheating pure and simple

Like · Reply · 13h

1

9(2)(a)

Cause it's dominating woman's sports. It's a man

Like · Reply · 13h

1

9(2)(a)

Why not create a team where transgenders can play against/with each other

Like · Reply · 13h

1

9(2)(a)

Might have enough to field a team.

Like · Reply · 12h

2

9(2)(a)

Imagine that though 1 from Australia 1 from Germany 1 from NZ or where ever. Forgot that bruce Jenner lol.

Like · Reply · 11h

2

9(2)(a)

kick it in the nuts

Like · Reply · 13h

2

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) it's not got nuts lol

Like · Reply · 9h

1

9(2)(a)

bull shit it may not have balls but it has nuts

Like · Reply · 8h

1

9(2)(a)

Or just stop male and female teams all together do it on height and weight whatever

Like · Reply · 13h

1

9(2)(a)

Maybe in the future we will arrange competitors based on their body's muscle percentage. Easy to do.

Like · Reply · 13h

9(2)(a)

Stop allowing the changes to happen...let pple do what they want to their own bodies but you are either born with one or the other ..simple. good idea 9(2)(a) they have there own team...

Like · Reply · 13h

3

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RELEASE

9(2)(a)

KIWI ANTICS

9(2)(a) Sick rubbish!

Like · Reply · 12h

2

9(2)(a) Start a competition just for transgenders .

Like · Reply · 12h

4

9(2)(a) Haha taking cheating to the next level, people can claim what they like but thats still got the genetic make up of a man!

Like · Reply · 12h

2

9(2)(a) Should have a transgender categories

Like · Reply · 12h

4

9(2)(a) What a disgrace

Like · Reply · 12h

2

9(2)(a) It just not cricket

Like · Reply · 12h

1

9(2)(a) What a joke

Like · Reply · 12h

9(2)(a) Punch the cunt out

Like · Reply · 11h

2

9(2)(a) What a heap of shit!!!!

Like · Reply · 11h

2

9(2)(a) People need to "boy"cott this sport if they gonna let this shit slide!

Like · Reply · 11h · Edited

2

9(2)(a) I'm actually all for people being whoever they want to be. I can't imagine how difficult it must be growing up a boy but feeling entirely like a girl or vice versa, but there's got to be some kind of leveller when it comes to sports. Perhaps some kind of handicap given?

Like · Reply · 11h

5

9(2)(a) or a separate event for transgender to compete against transgender. That way it would be fair competition.

Like · Reply · 11h

4

9(2)(a) Are these people then handicap?

Like · Reply · 7h

9(2)(a) Should not be allowed...unfair...brian might think its female..but body still male..so unfair...they need to start own games..transgender games

Like · Reply · 11h

8

9(2)(a) agreed!

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Like · Reply · 11h

1

9(2)(a)

That's actually not a bad idea.

9(2)(a)

Like · Reply · 10h

1

9(2)(a)

Wrong. Quite wrong. A lifetime of male muscle building is not cancelled out by a temporarily low testosterone level.

Like · Reply · 11h

1

9(2)(a)

But "women and men are equals with no great advantage over one another"? Obviously not the case

Like · Reply · 11h

2

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

She still got a mans brain can perv on all the tits an pussies it likes ...

Like · Reply · 10h

2

9(2)(a)

utterly stupid statement. Gender equality, has nothing to do with physical attributes. It's about status. They'll never be physically equal and thank god for that.

Like · Reply · 9h

2

View 5 more replies

9(2)(a)

Equality?

Like · Reply · 10h

1

9(2)(a)

Lol Straight up cheaters doesn't matter if he changed him self to a chick that mah fucker still a man

Like · Reply · 9h

8

9(2)(a)

me personally would categorize this shit, in the same thinking as taking of illegal steroids in sports.

Like · Reply · 9h

11

9(2)(a)

👋 My thoughts..... I'm totally offended by this. Ffs

Like · Reply · 8h

3

9(2)(a)

that shit's not fair

Like · Reply · 7h

4

9(2)(a)

Rules need to be changed. Transgender would have a different strength. Have to start transgender sports too

Like · Reply · 6h

2

9(2)(a)

It should be illegal for transgender people to compete with normal women. Of course they're going to win. They have a different muscle structure to women

Like · Reply · 6h

3

9(2)(a)

Not fair

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THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

9(2)(a)

Like · Reply · 6h

2

9(2)(a)

It shouldn't matter if she's trans u r who u feel u r we should all b treated equally

Like · Reply · 4h

2

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

haha i feel like a millionaire but it doesnt make me one now does it! Lets stop being silly aka PC its getting beyond a joke haha

Like · Reply · 4h

1

9(2)(a)

just saying hating on a trans that's doing a women's sports ain't right ya shallow jerk

Like · Reply · 4h

View 5 more replies

9(2)(a)

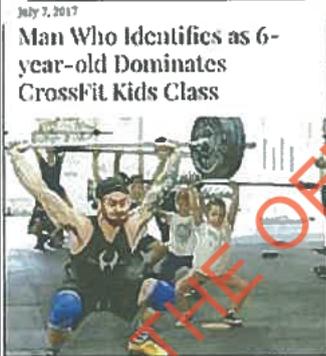
I see this shit a lot, you want to be accepted as a woman fine in general but biological fact you're born male so have an unfair advantage. OK with trans men wanting to do men's sport.

Like · Reply · 4h

1

9(2)(a)

There was a whole crackup article on this but now it's privately hidden away.



👍👍👍 imfao

Like · Reply · 4h

4

9(2)(a)

Give them a category of there own. Unfair advantage.

Like · Reply · 4h

2

9(2)(a)

should compete in a trans category not fair on those who have trained hard in their sport .to have someone like that having to compete against unfair

Like · Reply · 4h

1

9(2)(a)

Why have men's and woman's race's. Let's all compete together.....

Like · Reply · 4h

1

9(2)(a)

it seems that they don't lol

Like · Reply · 4h

2

9(2)(a)

lol

1

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9(2)(a)

Reply · 3h

Shouldn't be Allowed He is a man by birth not a Female.....Not right unfair Advantage.

2

9(2)(a)

Like · Reply · 4h

9(2)(a)

Wrong !!

1

Like · Reply · 3h

9(2)(a)

Not fair strength of a man body of a woman

Like · Reply · 2h

2

9(2)(a)

kick him in da nuts

Like · Reply · 2h

2

9(2)(a)

EQUAL RIGHTS CUUUUZ

Like · Reply · 1h

9(2)(a)

Yes I believe in equal rights too,,, but that lady would be stronger than most women,, good on her

Like · Reply · 1h

9(2)(a)

Wtf happy with more woman getting hurt

buy this thing
Just wrong

Like · Reply · 1h

9(2)(a)

What are they trying to prove?

Like · Reply · 1h

9(2)(a)

Not a woman.. is a man.. how is this even an issue?

Like · Reply · 1h

2

9(2)(a)

Pumpkin eater

Like · Reply · 1h

1

9(2)(a)

Identify as a woman all you want but when it comes to things like this your male genetics are an unfair advantage in women's sports.... You can't just magically turn your Y chromosome into an X just saying...

Like · Reply · 58m · Edited

3

9(2)(a)

U are a fucking Man U pussy man up

Like · Reply · 55m

1

Write a comment...

RELEAS

THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 18 January 2019 9:40 AM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: I support amending the Births Deaths & Marriages law

Tēnā koe Hon. Tracey Martin,

I just wanted to email you as the Minister of Internal Affairs to say that I strongly support amending the Births Deaths & Marriages law to let trans people change their birth certificates without the need to go to the family court. Over the last few years I have had the privilege to work with many of our local trans, non-binary, and takatāpui community members while I was a research assistant on a project about trans experiences of the healthcare system. From my experiences during this work, I believe that this simple change to the Births Deaths & Marriages law would mean a lot to the trans, non-binary, and takatāpui community with no negative repercussions for cisgender folks like myself.

In your role as Minister of Internal Affairs, I impress upon you to speak on the behalf of the trans, non-binary, and takatāpui community to ensure this change goes through.

Please note: This email does not require a response, I send it merely to affirm my support and to explicitly counter the noise of a small but vocal group of people who are viciously transphobic and grossly overstate the negative implication of this law change on themselves (from my experience this narrative is largely coming from a small group of cisgender women but I will admit there is a chance I live in a bubble). My priors are that, if trans people are saying that this small group is expounding narratives that are hurting them, then I should listen very closely to them and do my part to support them. Context, framing, emphasis are so powerful in politics, and it is important not to lose that when diving into detail.

I am certain you will ultimately make the right decision.

All the best,

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 18 January 2019 1:37 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: BDMR Registration Bill

Tēnā koe,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on 10 August 2018.

Specifically the amendments in clause 22 that deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate. In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations made to move to a self identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. By replacing the existing requirements with clause 22B an eligible adult or eligible 16- or 17- year-old will be able to make a statutory declaration directly to the Registrar-General. Also clause 22C which allows for a child's gender to be changed with parental consent along with its accompanying clause 22E allowing the child to confirm the change on their 18th birthday.

I urge you to create more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary individuals and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex). And finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill. An individual should not need to undergo expensive and lengthy medical processes (many of which have an unacceptably long waiting list here in Aotearoa) to live and be recognised for who they are.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium, and most recently California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. Indeed, [a study by the Williams institute at UCLA](#) found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted.

As a queer woman and long time sexual rights advocate, it is important to me that my representatives in government affirm everyone's right to a life free of discrimination and undue hardship. I first became involved in activism in the context of access to abortion and contraception, where we believe that a person's genitals are not their destiny, and I carry this into my wider activism today. As the treasurer of ALRANZ Abortion Rights Aotearoa, I [co-authored our statement in support of trans and non-binary people](#), which sums up why I feel so strongly about this issue.

"The pro-choice position is predicated on the idea that a pregnant person knows the most about their individual situation and knows what is best for them, when/if to involve others, and whom to involve. We reject the idea that the state (or a doctor, politician, priest, or whoever) understands someone's lived experience better than they do, and is therefore more qualified to make decisions for them.

We also apply this principle to people's gender identity; no one has the right to police the validity of another person's experience.

Abortion is just one aspect of choice and doesn't exist in a vacuum. We advocate for everyone to be free to choose whether and when to become a parent, but more fundamentally, to also freely and safely express their sexuality. To be defined by our beliefs, ideas, and actions instead of our bodies. This is a human right, no matter what's in your pants."

The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

The objective of this Bill is to future-proof the way government registers significant life events, including "sexual assignment and reassignment". Streamlining this process, removing bureaucratic barriers and aligning birth certificates, driver's licences and passports would achieve this objective, as would providing options for people whom M&F simply do not fit.

Recently, there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas-based individuals in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy making and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the [National Council of Women](#) or [ALRANZ Abortion Rights Aotearoa](#), who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society, and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments. I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

[Redacted signature block]

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 22 January 2019 6:10 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Tēnā koe Hon Tracey Martin

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018.

Specifically the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate. In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations made to move to a self identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. By replacing the existing requirements with clause 22B an eligible adult or eligible 16- or 17- year-old will be able to make a statutory declaration directly to the Registrar-General. Also clause 22C which allows for a child's gender to be changed with parental consent along with its accompanying clause 22E allowing the child to confirm the change on their 18th birthday. I urge you to create more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex). And finally I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. Indeed a study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted

<https://link.springer.com/artic.../10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

I've always been proud of New Zealand's progressive history and the willingness to overcome prejudices which has made the country a better place for all who live in it. It is important for me to see my representatives supporting the right for people to express their gender identity without prejudice.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter.

In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

The objective of this Bill is to future-proof the way government registers significant life events, including "sexual assignment and reassignment". Streamlining this process, removing bureaucratic barriers and aligning birth certificates, driver's licences and passports would achieve this objective, as would providing options for people whom M & F simply do not fit.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy making and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-h.../> and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 22 January 2019 5:39 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Tēnā koe Hon Tracey Martin

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on 10 August 2018.

Specifically I support the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate. In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations made to move to a self-identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. By replacing the existing requirements with clause 22B an eligible adult or eligible 16- or 17- year-old will be able to make a statutory declaration directly to the Registrar-General. Also clause 22C, which allows for a child's gender to be changed with parental consent along with its accompanying clause 22E allowing the child to confirm the change on their 18th birthday. I urge you to create more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex). And finally I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently California, and have been met with very positive outcomes.

9(2)(a)

I interviewed a number of transgender people, and heard about the barriers and difficulties they had faced in their lives, simply to live as the person that they knew they were. These very brave people deserve the support of society.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter.

In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

The objective of this Bill is to future-proof the way government registers significant life events, including "sexual assignment and reassignment". Streamlining this

process, removing bureaucratic barriers and aligning birth certificates, driver's licences and passports would achieve this objective, as would providing options for people whom M & F simply do not fit.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas-based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policymaking and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women, who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society, and the Human Rights Commission, whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

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9(2)(a)

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

RELEASED UNDER

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 23 January 2019 10:14 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: BDM Act

23/1/2019

Kia ora Hon Grant Robertson

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

As a student in wellington I love how diverse this city is and I see no point in protecting laws that hinder anyone from self-expression.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill

(despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 23 January 2019 8:21 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Support the right to self-ID

23 January 2019

Kia ora Grant,

Anti-trans rhetoric, from both the left and right wing, makes me incredibly scared. From the horrendously Nazi Dominion Movement, through to the so-called “feminists” Speak Up For Women, trans people like myself are under attack from all corners. It makes me feel that nowhere is safe.

When I moved to Wellington four years ago, I had envisioned some kind of queer paradise. I mean, you had Carmen on your lightposts, for God’s sake! I was in awe. But, after all that I have experienced in this city which I have come to love dearly, I can no longer, despite my love for this place, feel at home. I get verbally harassed on the street, I get asked invasive and dehumanising questions, I have been beaten up, and feared for my life. And, I’m one of the lucky ones! I’m white and mostly male-passing! I fear that trans people are one of new popular scapegoats, and the minute things turn pear-shaped, we’ll be one of the first groups to go. Please stand up for me and my trans siblings now, before it is too late.

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person’s birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to “medical treatment”, “medical evidence”, “physical conformation”, “sexual assignment”, and “sexual reassignment” from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 7:50 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The Right to Self Identify

24 January 2019

Kia ora Hon Tracey Martin,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

I am a transgender man living in Wellington and this issue affects not only myself but some of my dearest friends. Going through family court is unnecessary and confronting. For those with mental health issues it can be hard to take this step. I have close friends who have been putting off this step. I myself have undergone hormones and surgery and even so am still putting off the step because of anxiety. The process should not be so complicated.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is

ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 10:48 AM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The Right to Self-ID- Support for the BDM amendments

24/01/19

Kia ora Hon Roberston,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

I am currently a student at Victoria University of Wellington, and a member of the LGBTQ+ community. As such, I am friends with a lot of other LGBTQ+ community members and feel passionate that I need to stand up to help my trans* whanau on this matter.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women

who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 1:18 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: BDM Bill

24/01/19

Kia ora Grant,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

9(2)(a). During my time here I have been exposed to so many new ideas by Wellington's vibrant culture and have learned a lot about the importance of diversity. This issue is important to me because Trans rights are human rights.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 10:08 AM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill.

Kia ora Grant Robertson.

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create an identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams Institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Although most of this email is a template that I did not write myself, I agree with every word of it wholeheartedly. The following paragraph is my own words. I have lived in 9(2)(a)

I thought it was the most progressive city in NZ. Unfortunately, even in our most progressive city, transgender people suffer at the hands of prejudice. My heart bleeds for my trans whānau, and the injustices they experience in today's society. I listen to the stories of 9(2)(a) and my trans friends and it hurts hearing what they go through on a day to day basis - tasks that cis people like you and me have never had to think twice about. This bill is an opportunity to begin making the lives of trans people a little bit easier in New Zealand. I believe there are a select few individuals who oppose this bill and although they are few, they have the loudest voices. The opposition to it is founded on ignorance, hate and fear mongering, which often uses unlikely scenarios to garner support. Most of the arguments hinge on the incorrect idea that transwomen are not real women. I am a cis woman that welcomes all trans women into every women's space. Because trans women are women. Apparently, 20% of trans people attempt suicide [2,3]. Although this is a shocking figure, I believe it to be very conservative. Most trans people I know, and know of, have attempted suicide. This includes my own brother, an event that broke my heart. This is an example of how inequalities experienced by transgender people affects the wider community. It affects those who love them as well. I implore you to support this bill for the people I love. And

I ask you that you continue to investigate what else can be done to make the lives of our trans whānau easier.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's license is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas-based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [4] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

- [1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>
- [2] https://www.vice.com/en_nz/article/7xxjaz/trans-youth-in-nz-have-shockingly-high-rates-of-suicide-mental-illness
- [3] <http://psychotherapy.org.nz/why-are-new-zealands-suicide-rates-so-high-among-transgender-youth/>
- [4] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 10:19 AM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Ammendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriage, and Relationships Registration Bill

24/01/2019

Kia ora Grant,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

The medical options available for Transgender people are incredibly limited within Aotearoa, which makes the current means of gender determination a very stressful and highly restrictive process. Although I know many Transgender people, very few of them have had the opportunity to self identify. This is something that has a huge impact on mental health, and as we all know Aotearoa already has an abysmal history with this aspect of health and well being.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>



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RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 8:03 AM
To: Hon Chris Hipkins <Chris.Hipkins@parliament.govt.nz>; Ginny Andersen <Virginia.Andersen@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

24 January 2019

Kia ora Ginny and Chris

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of

overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 7:12 PM
To: Hon. Dr David Clark <David.Clark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Clare Curran <Clare.Curran@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: BDM Act

24/1/2019

Kia ora,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

9(2)(a)

and have many friends in a similar situation. I am contacting you to urge you to make a choice that would help both your Aotearoa whanau on the gender spectrum feel more accepted in society.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an

organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0389-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 10:16 AM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Feedback on proposed changes to the Birth, Deaths and Marriages Act

January 24 2019

Tēnā koe Minister Robertson,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

I believe that the right to choose ones gender identity is very important. As a progressive nation, New Zealand should proceed with these amendments.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is

ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE

FICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 7:29 PM
To: Christopher Bishop <Christopher.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz>; Ginny Andersen <Virginia.Andersen@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Support for changes to Births Deaths and Marriages Act

Both

I am resident of Hutt South, and would like you both to support the changes to this bill.

Instead of sending you a template email which you (hopefully) have already seen, which outlines all the reasons why this change is good and necessary, I simply wish to state that I see no moral reason to object to this change.

Passing this legislation will have no impact at all on my life, as I identify with my assigned gender. However, I believe that anything that promotes equal human rights is good for all of NZ.

Therefore, I hope that you will support equal human rights, and vote in favour of this legislation change.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

More info on reasons to support the bill here :<https://www.righttoselfid.nz/write-to-your-mp>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 8:11 PM
To: Hon Nikki Kaye <Nikki.Kaye@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Please support amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora Ms. Kaye (and members of NZ First in Parliament)

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

New Zealand has always been a place where Human rights and equality have guided our decisions. I am a straight male, but I understand that granting the rights of my trans whanau, and guaranteeing they feel safe, respected and free can only improve the lives of myself and my family. This matters to me because I believe we are only as good as the worst off of us is. So let's lift enshrine into law the respect of their self determination. Let's really give them a opportunity to be all they can and want to be.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring

court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 8:18 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The Right to Self Identify

24. 01

Kia ora

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate. In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance). I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

9(2)(a). This issue matters to me personally because I feel it's important for our community to have the right to allow us to easily change our identity documentation as the current process is so complicated. Simple things like showing our I.Ds can be harmful to us especially if we have transitioned because we have to face our dead name and biological gender.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand

policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0535-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 8:34 PM
To: Hon Chris Hipkins <Chris.Hipkins@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The right to self ID

Kia ora Chris,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Friday, 25 January 2019 11:31 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Right to self ID, Births Deaths and Marriages Act amendments

25/01/2019

Kia ora Grant Robertson

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

9(2)(a)

and as such this bill is

extremely important to me because someday I would like to have my birth certificate changed both with my gender marker and my legal name to bring them more in line with how I personally identify.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Saturday, 26 January 2019 5:04 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill.

Kia ora Grant

I am one of your constituents, writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill.

These changes will remove a complicated, intrusive and expensive legislative burden on people who wish to have their birth certificate recognise their gender, making it easier for them to live their lives.

I endorse the submission made by Rainbow Wellington to the Governance and Administration Committee and encourage you to read it.

I also ask you to recognise that opposition to these changes are being driven by a small group of people backed by overseas social media accounts. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

Transphobic individuals claim that supporting trans people hurts cis women, but as we have recently seen in Utah with the introduction of the Vital Statistics Act Amendment (HB 153) anti-trans legislation hurts all women. The Utah amendment appallingly seeks to define women as:

"an individual with ovaries who is confirmed before or at birth to have external anatomical characteristics that appear to have the purpose of performing the natural reproductive function of providing eggs and receiving sperm from a male donor."

All people - no matter whether they are trans, cis, non-binary or intersex - should have the right to determine how their own gender is recognised.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

RELEA

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 28 January 2019 3:30 PM
To: D Clark (MIN) <D.Clark@ministers.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Review of the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act

28 January 2019

Kia ora David,

(CC: Hon Tracey Martin, Rt Hon Winston Peters, Hon Shane Jones, Hon Ron Mark, Darroch Ball, Jenny Marcroft, Clayton Mitchell, Mark Patterson and Fletcher Tabuteau)

I am contacting you in your capacity both as my electorate MP and as the Minister of Health in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex). Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

As the Minister of Health, I would hope you are aware of the impact exclusion and discrimination can have on the mental health of transgender people. Young people can be particularly vulnerable: [2]

- Half of trans students have been hit or harmed by another person at school.

- Trans students are five times more likely to have attempted suicide in the past 12 months.
- Trans students are twice as likely to be unable to access healthcare as fellow students.

They deserve to have their identity upheld, and to have every opportunity to live life to its fullest. These circumstances along with a lack of legal recognition of their gender can only be to their detriment.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [3] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2, 3] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 29 January 2019 12:12 AM
To: Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill

Dear Ms Ardern

I am writing regarding the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill. I am a lawyer and a Labour voter.

I support the right of trans people to live freely and without suffering hatred or discrimination. However, I am not sure that sex self-ID is the right way to achieve this. It seems to me to be a radical change to the legal concept of 'male' and 'female' which is important in a number of areas in society.

I am concerned that the bill will affect the government's ability to compile statistics on matters such as crime, and in particular sexual and violent crimes. Studies show that, as a group, people who were born male retain male patterns of violence even after they have transitioned to female. In other words, they remain more likely to commit violent crime than to fall victim to it. This is illustrated by the British case of Karen White, born male, who continued to sexually assault women after adopting a female identity and being transferred to a women's prison. Like most males who choose to live as women, Karen White retained her male genitalia and her sexuality remained heterosexual i.e. she wanted to have penetrative (nonconsensual) sex with women using what the news media referred to as 'her' penis. We therefore now have news reports about women raping women.

If sex self-ID is adopted, crime statistics will indeed reflect this bizarre idea. Women will be recorded as having committed crimes in accordance with male patterns of criminal behaviour.

I note that even some trans people are against sex self-ID. Debbie Hayton and Miranda Yardley are prominent trans writers who are concerned that sex self-ID removes legitimacy from trans women's claim to live as women, since it allows anyone to transition without any objective evidence. These writers point out that the whole point of sex self-ID is that it is based purely on feelings.

Renee Richards – a trans woman athlete, has stated that biological males should not be allowed to compete in women's sports. She regrets having done so herself.

Issues also arise in relation to spaces created to protect women's privacy, dignity and safety, such as girls' changing rooms, single-sex organisations such as Girl Guides, women's refuges and women's prisons.

I ask that the government conduct a thorough review of the impact that the bill might have on women, particularly vulnerable women and girls, before voting for sex self-ID.

I am happy to provide you with evidence of everything I have said in this letter.

Yours sincerely

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 30 January 2019 11:06 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Support for BDMRR Bill

Kia ora Tracey

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

Sent from my iPhone

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 30 January 2019 4:24 PM
Subject: [Maybe Spam] Right to Self Identify

Kia ora Hon Dr David Clark,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

I grew up in a small town with a strong conservative contingent and slow adaptation to that which is considered 'other'. While I was privileged to grow up cis-gender in a loving, accepting family and have been taught these values, I know many who fell outside of societies rigid ideas about gender (as well as sexuality) and were not afforded the same experience. This issue is important to me as someone who has had their horizons broadened by travel and experience, and come back to find that their home isn't always as welcoming for those who are different to myself. Around the world NZ is seen as a progressive, welcoming country and I see this legislative change as a step towards living up to that reputation, and a step to broadening people's horizons: to have empathy and compassion for those who are different from themselves.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to

influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 30 January 2019 9:04 PM
To: A Sio (MIN) <A.Sio@ministers.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The Right to Self ID

30th January 2019

Tēnā koe Minister Sio,

I have lived in 9(2)(a) for a long time and one of the things I most love about this wonderful area is the diverse range of people who live here. I am a 9(2)(a)

As my electorate MP I hope that you will take my views into account when you are considering the amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. [A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted.](#)

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of [support for trans people and their inclusion within society](#) and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Noho ora mai,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 31 January 2019 10:51 AM
To: Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: No self sex ID

Tena koe,

I oppose these changes.
Don't be so 'woke'.
Dangerous path to go down.
No one gets to deny their past.
It is not a human right to alter birth certificates.
Transwomen are transwomen.
Women should not have to cede safe places for men.
New Zealand has a terrible domestic violence problem perpetrated by men.
Look to overseas where it has become a problem and learn from this free for all.
Tracey Martin, engage in debate with Ani O'Brien.
I fear a return to the 'tranny bashing days'
We all know trans exist. We enter into a level of pretence when we accept them. Not once have I ever thought that trans women are women.
Placing transwomen in women only spaces can and will lead to the deviant fringe accessing these spaces.
Why do women have to be in a jail with male rapists and other violent males.
Why do women have to be in women's refuge and be exposed to men.

You need to some thorough research before you decide to unleash this
Madness
Misogyny in drag

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Thursday, 31 January 2019 7:00 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Concerns about proposed changes to BDMRR Bill

I'm writing to express my objection to the proposed changes to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill.

You'll be aware that the changes proposed to this act include a move to allow the process of changing the registered sex on a birth certificate to a one step declaration (Self- ID).

There has been no consultation, risk assessment, or consideration of the following:

- What are the implications for women's dignity and safety on losing sex-segregated spaces? What are the implications of growing numbers of male-bodied people present in women's prisons, women's refuges, changing rooms, rape crisis centres?

- What are the implications for women's representative political and civic positions, which have been established through the hard work of women, to counterbalance women's historic under-representation in those areas?

What about women's sport? Should women have to compete against male-bodied people on the basis of "identity"?

- What are the implications for reliable statistics, upon which government policy is created? What are the implications for health, crime statistics, and sex differentiation in employment & pay, if self-ID is introduced?

- What happens to the definition of biological sex, which is a protected category? How can this be reconciled with self-ID?

- What are the implications for women's sex based protections under the Human Rights Act?

The wider public must be made broadly aware of these changes, and appropriate risk assessment must be carried out before any changes are made – not as a 'review' in five years time, as has been recommended.

I urge you to raise this issue with your party caucus, with a view to reconsidering your party's voting stance.

Yours sincerely,

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 31 January 2019 10:11 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Self-ID

I'm writing to express my objection to the proposed changes to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill.

You'll be aware that the changes proposed to this act include a move to allow the process of changing the registered sex on a birth certificate to a one step declaration (Self- ID).

There has been no consultation, risk assessment, or consideration of the following:

- What are the implications for women's dignity and safety on losing sex-segregated spaces? What are the implications of growing numbers of male-bodied people present in women's prisons, women's refuges, changing rooms, rape crisis centres?
- What are the implications for women's representative political and civic positions, which have been established through the hard work of women, to counterbalance women's historic under-representation in those areas?
- What about women's sport? Should women have to compete against male-bodied people on the basis of "identity"?
- What are the implications for reliable statistics, upon which government policy is created? What are the implications for health, crime statistics, and sex differentiation in employment & pay, if self-ID is introduced?
- What happens to the definition of biological sex, which is a protected category? How can this be reconciled with self-ID?
- What are the implications for women's sex based protections under the Human Rights Act?

The wider public must be made broadly aware of these changes, and appropriate risk assessment must be carried out before any changes are made – not as a 'review' in five years time, as has been recommended.

I urge you to raise this issue with your party caucus, with a view to reconsidering your party's voting stance.

Yours sincerely,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Thursday, 31 January 2019 4:40 PM
To: Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births Deaths and Marriages Act.

31/1/2019

Tēnā koutou

Shane Jones - I doubt you'll remember me but we met in 9(2)(a)]
You seem to be a thoughtful person and your education at the Harkness School at Harvard always led me to believe that you are capable of academic integrity. So what I am now asking of you is social integrity in dealing with our friends and families

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Everyone deserves to live in a world where they are loved, respected and can go about their lives without being subjected to hate and barriers. To love and be loved

are the most basic experiences. Many LGBTQI people don't have that. Everyone should have the right to be who they are, provided their choices don't impact on those we need to protect.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

9(2)(ba)

[REDACTED]

RELEASE UNDER THE INFORMATION ACT 1982

9(2)(ba)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Thursday, 31 January 2019 8:46 AM
To: Hon Phil Twyford <Philip.Twyford@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Please support the proposed amendments to the Births Deaths and Marriages Act

Kia ora Tracey, Phil, and New Zealand First Members of Parliament,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create an identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate and ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

This issue matters to me because trans rights are human rights; we must all have the right to self-determination and control over our own bodies, and we must all be free to live a life without discrimination.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of

support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Friday, 1 February 2019 8:50 AM
To: Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: BDMRR Bill

I'm writing to express my objection to the proposed changes to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill.

You'll be aware that the changes proposed to this act include a move to allow the process of changing the registered sex on a birth certificate to a one step declaration (Self- ID).

There has been no consultation, risk assessment, or consideration of the following:

- What are the implications for women's dignity and safety on losing sex-segregated spaces?
- What are the implications of growing numbers of male-bodied people present in women's prisons, women's refuges, changing rooms, rape crisis centres?
- What are the implications for women's representative political and civic positions, which have been established through the hard work of women, to counterbalance women's historic under-representation in those areas?
- What about women's sport? Should women have to compete against male-bodied people on the basis of "identity"?
- What are the implications for reliable statistics, upon which government policy is created? What are the implications for health, crime statistics, and sex differentiation in employment & pay, if self-ID is introduced?
- What happens to the definition of biological sex, which is a protected category? How can this be reconciled with self-ID?
- What are the implications for women's sex based protections under the Human Rights Act?

The wider public must be made broadly aware of these changes, and appropriate risk assessment must be carried out before any changes are made – not as a 'review' in five years time, as has been recommended.

I urge you to raise this issue with your party caucus, with a view to reconsidering your party's voting stance.

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 1 February 2019 2:55 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: In Support of amendments to Births Deaths and Marriages Act

01 February 2019

Kia ora Grant,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

I am 9(2)(a)

My involvement in the LGBT+ community has been largely personal, and I count most of my friends as belonging to that community. Many of my friends are trans/nonbinary, and I have witnessed and offered support to them over the years as they have struggled with what this means in terms of existing as a part of New Zealand society today. One particular thing I have observed, from talking to non-LGBT friends versus my queer friends, is that there is far more emphasis on medical transition / validation through physical gender conformity in the heterosexual/cisgender community, than there is in the actual lived experience of my friends. While yes, for some, medical gender confirmation (including hormones and surgery) has been a hugely empowering and vital part of their well-being, for others is either out of reach financially or not something that they see as vital to their gender or experience. On the other hand, having a birth certificate that

accurately represents your gender is transformative for people, both in a social sense and a safety sense.

I have watched first-hand as a friend who is a trans woman struggled to get work colleagues, police, even her own GP to gender her correctly, despite her obvious presentation as a woman, because her identifying documents gave them contradictory information. This had an impact not only on her mental health, but on the way she was treated by these otherwise professional people. When she was finally able to change her gender on her birth certificate, it opened up doors - she had more success in applying for jobs (which meant she was able to support herself instead of relying on Work and Income), she was treated better by Police when reporting violence against her, she received less interrogation and harassment when filling out official forms and other documents, and she was given the confidence to challenge her GP (and his practice's) constant misgendering. This friend had to fight tooth and nail to get this key change in her life, which exacerbated her existing mental health conditions. If the process was easier, it would have made her life a lot easier a lot sooner, and taken away a key point of anxiety and source of harassment. At that point in her life, she was not able to afford the gender confirmation surgery she required, so having her official documentation reflect her gender accurately was also something that held a lot of deep meaning for her. Having watched this experience closely (I attended several of her meetings with Police, and GP appointments), I can attest to the hugely positive significance these amendments will have on the emotional, mental and physical well-being of many, many New Zealanders. I think that is something which should be considered deeply by lawmakers.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

E

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document 45:

From: Secretary LRAA [<mailto:lesbianrightsalliance.aotearoa@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, 1 February 2019 3:48 PM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>; Hon Julie Anne Genter <JulieAnne.Genter@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: BDMRRA Alterations & Impact Assessment

Tēnā korua Hon Tracey Martin and Hon Julie Anne Genter,

We are a nationwide collective of lesbian women advocating for the rights and wellbeing of lesbians in New Zealand. We assert our right to be an exclusively female, exclusively lesbian organisation under Section 19 of the Bill of Rights Act 1990.

The proposed changes to the BDMRRA represent risks to all New Zealand women, particularly lesbians.

We are writing to you both as we understand no women's groups have been approached for consultation on the proposed changes to the Act in favour of implementing 'one step' self declaration of legal sex on birth certificates. The National Council of Women NZ have not consulted their membership base about sex self-ID or carried out an independent impact assessment.

We were advised in 2018 by Hon Tracey Martin's staff to submit our views regarding the change to the law via this report, however we have recently found out Hon Tracey Martin's office never received our report.

Hon Julie Anne Genter, we hope you can help advocate for us as Minister for Women and ensure Hon Tracey Martin sees our report before the Bill moves on to Second Reading.

Sincerely,

The Lesbian Rights Alliance Aotearoa

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 1 February 2019 1:08 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths Marriages and Relationships Bill

I'm writing to express my objection to the proposed changes to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill.

You'll be aware that the changes proposed to this act include a move to allow the process of changing the registered sex on a birth certificate to a one step declaration (Self- ID).

There has been no consultation, risk assessment, or consideration of the following:

- What are the implications for women's dignity and safety on losing sex-segregated spaces? What are the implications of growing numbers of male-bodied people present in women's prisons, women's refuges, changing rooms, rape crisis centres?
- What are the implications for women's representative political and civic positions, which have been established through the hard work of women, to counterbalance women's historic under-representation in those areas?
- What about women's sport? Should women have to compete against male-bodied people on the basis of "identity"?
- What are the implications for reliable statistics, upon which government policy is created? What are the implications for health, crime statistics, and sex differentiation in employment & pay, if self-ID is introduced?
- What happens to the definition of biological sex, which is a protected category? How can this be reconciled with self-ID?
- What are the implications for women's sex based protections under the Human Rights Act?

The wider public must be made broadly aware of these changes, and appropriate risk assessment must be carried out before any changes

are made – not as a ‘review’ in five years time, as has been recommended.

I urge you to raise this issue with your party caucus, with a view to reconsidering your party's voting stance.

Yours faithfully,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 1 February 2019 5:51 PM

To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: Amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

01/02/19

Kia ora Grant

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

I have many transgender friends and this bill is very important to them and therefore to me. They see this bill as a step in the direction towards legitimising their identity within society.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Friday, 1 February 2019 3:15 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Support for Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora Grant and Tracey,

I am writing to you as, respectively, my local MP for Wellington Central and as the member responsible for the Bill, to support the changes proposed in the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill.

I have read the section of the bill relating to provisions to alter records of birth sex, requiring a statutory declaration by the applicant. This seems to me to be a very sensible approach, in line with human rights standards for transgender and intersex people.

This is a small change in administrative process, but one that will make a significant positive difference in the lives of the individuals concerned. I'd like to congratulate you on this initiative.

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)
[Redacted signature]

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Friday, 1 February 2019 12:23 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Your Proposed Changes to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

I'm writing to express my objection to the proposed changes being pushed through without consultation by the govt you are a part of, and by you especially Tracey Martin, to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill - and am struggling to believe this is something NZ First would support.

I only became aware this was happening after listening to the radio yesterday and believe most of the public are entirely ignorant of these changes, and the implications of them. They need to be publicised and debated, and the appropriate risk assessment carried out before any changes are made – not as a 'review' in five years time, which has been recommended. This is NOT about excluding the trans community but about ensuring that if the law is changed, it protects ALL of us, not just a few, who we fully recognise have been marginalised for years and need a solution that works for them too. We need a respectful debate if we are to have laws that balance the rights of everyone.

You'll be aware that the changes proposed to this act include a move to allow the process of changing the registered sex on a birth certificate to a one step declaration (Self- ID).

There has been no consultation, risk assessment, or consideration of the following:

- What are the implications for women's dignity and safety on losing sex-segregated spaces? What are the implications of growing numbers of male-bodied people present in women's prisons, women's refuges, changing rooms, rape crisis centres?
- What are the implications for women's representative political and civic positions, which have been established through the hard work of women, to counterbalance women's historic under-representation in those areas?
- What about women's sport? Should women have to compete against male-bodied people on the basis of "identity"?
- What are the implications for reliable statistics, upon which government policy is created? What are the implications for health, crime statistics, and sex differentiation in employment & pay, if self-ID is introduced?
- What happens to the definition of biological sex, which is a protected category? How can this be reconciled with self-ID?
- What are the implications for women's sex based protections under the Human Rights Act?

I urge you to reconsider both your party's support and voting stance on this, and be brave enough to do the right thing and consult - for a party that who pushes binding referendums that let the public have their say, this lack of consultation is appalling.

Regards

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 1 February 2019 3:33 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora Mr Robertson,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

9(2)(a). I have only recently struggled my way back to the working world in a part-time role after heavy depression set in when I was managed out of my job because I needed to live my authentic life. Being able to self identify my gender on my birth certificate with a statutory declaration will remove one barrier which is currently an arduous process creating unnecessary stress, anxieties, time consuming and unnecessary costs when all I want to do is move forward with living my life.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is.

These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

9(2)(a)

Stay Beautiful and Be Amazing

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Friday, 1 February 2019 11:31 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Proposed changes to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

I'm writing to express my objection to the proposed changes to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill.

You'll be aware that the changes proposed to this act include a move to allow the process of changing the registered sex on a birth certificate to a one step declaration (Self- ID).

There has been no consultation, risk assessment, or consideration of the following:

- What are the implications for women's dignity and safety on losing sex-segregated spaces? What are the implications of growing numbers of male-bodied people present in women's prisons, women's refuges, changing rooms, rape crisis centres?
- What are the implications for women's representative political and civic positions, which have been established through the hard work of women, to counterbalance women's historic under-representation in those areas?
- What about women's sport? Should women have to compete against male-bodied people on the basis of "identity"?
- What are the implications for reliable statistics, upon which government policy is created? What are the implications for health, crime statistics, and sex differentiation in employment & pay, if self-ID is introduced?
- What happens to the definition of biological sex, which is a protected category? How can this be reconciled with self-ID?
- What are the implications for women's sex based protections under the Human Rights Act?

The wider public must be made broadly aware of these changes, and appropriate risk assessment must be carried out before any changes are made – not as a 'review' in five years time, as has been recommended.

I urge you to raise this issue with your party caucus, with a view to reconsidering your party's voting stance.

Constanter in Caelum

Kind regards,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Saturday, 2 February 2019 3:02 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora Grant

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

I am a cis woman - that is, I identify as a woman and that's how I was born - but I have trans friends and I want to use my relative privilege to stand up for them and their rights. It also makes me deeply uncomfortable to see the small but vocal groups of people trying to vilify trans people - saying trans women aren't "real women" and generally scaremongering. As a queer woman and a feminist, I've seen so much change for the better in my short lifetime alone and this is not the first time I've written to the government to try and make a change, but it saddens and even frightens me that people are trying to exclude trans people and doing it in the name of queer rights or womens' rights. This is a small step in the right direction.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is.

These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Saturday, 2 February 2019 1:57 PM
To: Hon Chris Hipkins <Chris.Hipkins@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

2/2/19

Kia ora Mr Hipkins

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create an identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

I am an able-bodied, straight, white, cis male and I enjoy a lot of privileges just based on these facts. I would like it if others enjoyed the same freedoms and options as I do, and I will use my vote to make this happen.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is.

These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 6 February 2019 10:24 PM
Subject: BDMRR Bill Amendments

Dear Ministers and MPs,

I have heard, to my great concern, that the Births, Deaths, Marriages, Relationships Registration Act; is undergoing significant change behind closed doors. If all the proposed amendments are passed, people will be able to change the sex recorded on their Birth Certificate simply by making a Statutory Declaration witnessed by a Justice of the Peace. This is not acceptable and as you are representing New Zealand, I expect you to listen to the concerns of your citizens, and act accordingly.

Firstly, changing the sex of a person on their birth certificate is actually falsifying an historic record. It doesn't matter whether the person feels or thinks they are 'trapped in the wrong body'. The fact is, they were born male or female, and that is what the birth certificate records - the facts of their birth. It is a very important document which should not be changed on a whim.

Secondly, allowing people to self-identify as the opposite sex poses grave problems for medical staff involved in their care. Men and women require different health services and check ups from one another due to their different anatomy, physiology, and hormonal balance. Women are offered breast and cervical checks to ensure they don't have cancer. Men don't have breasts or cervixes, but if they self-ID as women, and have their birth certificate changed - how will medical staff from their local practice be able to tell that from looking at their official records? Men need prostate checks, not cervical smears etc! And vice versa for the women who decide to self-ID as men.

Also, medical prescriptions can, and must differ according to people's biological sex. Men and women react differently to prescribed drugs, require different dosages, and may have different underlying issues which must be treated accordingly. If a woman self-IDs as a man for example, (s)he may present to the doctor with a sickness, get a prescription for the amount a **man** of that weight would need, but then suffer an overdose because he(r) metabolism cannot cope with the dose! Our medical staff are already under a lot of stress, and have been striking over their pay and working conditions. Allowing self-ID and forcing doctors and nurses to treat their patients as belonging to the opposite of their birth sex may be the final straw. Imagine the outcry if some malpractice occurred because of a mistake made by a doctor due to a misrepresenting patient?! Please don't legislate to allow this confusion to add to the stress our medical staff are already under.

As much as a transsexual may wish to live as the opposite sex, their bodies are still as they were made, unless they have had the sex-specific parts removed, and this is the current level of change required for a change of their birth certificate. Allowing birth certificates to be falsified to satisfy the feelings of the person will not be helpful in promoting their health and wellbeing - it will have the opposite effect.

Thirdly, allowing people to self-ID as the opposite sex will put many others in situations of unnecessary stress and danger. This is particularly true for women and children, the weaker members of our population. Current law allows for the protection of all people by dividing them according to sex when using changing rooms, bathrooms, prisons, and sex-specific services such as women's refuges. This simple, easy to understand division has served us well for many years. If a man is found in a ladies changing room or toilet (or vice versa) - they can be immediately identified and told to leave forthwith to allow the safety and privacy of the

sex who belong there. Allowing easy access to self-ID would be terribly confusing and intimidating to the majority of the population who prefer the status quo.

If people are allowed to self-ID as the opposite sex without any actual change to their bodies, this will lead to great difficulty in keeping people safe. It would be very easy for a man to self-ID as a woman, allowing him access to women's changing rooms, toilets, and refuges. This would be disturbing to women and girls using such spaces **even if** he doesn't harm or annoy them. But such men who would decide to self-ID as a woman without any surgery, may easily do so for nefarious purposes. We need to protect our women and girls from sexual harassment and abuse - not make it easier for disturbed and dangerous men to change their identities to 'female' so they can invade their safe spaces and do whatever they like there! I think the reverse is less likely to happen, but it would still be disturbing for a self-identifying 'man' with a woman's body to go into a male changing room or toilet. Men and boys like their privacy too, and it wouldn't be good for them to have the temptation to lust when they are supposed to be in a male only area. Also, young boys could be at risk if a particularly predatory female decided to self-ID as male so she could have easier access to them. I'm not making this stuff up, we do have people in prison for such crimes already. Why make it easier for them?!

Also, vulnerable people like young children in daycare, elderly and the disabled rely on caregivers to provide intimate cares such as help with showering, bathing, and toileting. They need to have the security of knowing that such services will be provided by a caregiver who is safe and trustworthy, and for the adults if requested, of the same sex as them. Allowing self-ID would make it very easy for our already vulnerable people to be abused by caregivers masquerading as the opposite sex. We already have had some absolutely dreadful cases of abuse of our children, and the elderly and disabled without this added difficulty.

Do you have an elderly relative being cared for in a rest home or in their own home? Would you want your great-aunt or grandma facing the embarrassment of a 'female' caregiver with stubble on his face doing their intimate care? Would you want your great-uncle or granddad blushing with embarrassment as a 'male' caregiver they requested actually turns out to be a woman in disguise? And worse, would you want those relatives facing intimidation, coercion, or abuse if those caregivers were confused and disturbed individuals? [I'm not being rude, transsexuals have a far higher rate of mental health problems even if allowed to self-ID] The elderly patient would be at a grave disadvantage in such a situation, and the strident lobbyists who are pushing for self-ID would not allow justice to be done properly either, because they would make it out to be all about protecting transsexual's rights. Never mind the victim's rights, which justice is supposed to be serving.

Another problem with allowing easy access to self-ID is in sports. Most physical sports contests are divided by sex to allow fair competition without unfair advantage. Men are on average stronger, faster, and more agile than women. This is a good thing when they are competing amongst themselves, but it confers an unfair advantage when they compete against women. Self-ID in the USA has **already** been allowing boys and men to compete and win events supposed to be solely for girls or women.

I thought that our Ministry of Health was encouraging physical activity and exercise? I doubt many girls or women will be keen to compete in sports, especially professionally, if they have to compete against boys or men self-identifying as girls or women. And I very much doubt that it would go the other way. Even if a girl or women did self-ID as a boy or man, they would be likely to lose any sports contests if they try to join the male side.

To summarise, self-ID of sex is an absurdity, and allowing people's subjective opinion to decide what sex is recorded on their birth certificate is confusing, unhelpful, and downright dangerous. We need historic records kept intact. That is the only way that all people (including transsexuals) can access appropriate healthcare; and the only way to objectively decide which sports teams and other sex-specific services are appropriate for each individual. Please don't be swayed by all the emotion and rhetoric of the LGBTQIA+ lobbyists. We need to keep sex divisions intact, not blur the lines with self-ID backed up by falsified official documents.

Please apply wisdom, not emotion to your decision making. May you be granted the wisdom and courage you need to make decisions that are best for our **nation** not just certain **individuals**.

Kind Regards,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 7 February 2019 9:02 PM
To: Dan Bidois <Dan.Bidois@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: I support amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora Dan,

I am one of your constituents, a resident of Northcote for nearly 10 years, and involved in the local schools and community here.

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018 - specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate, and ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups.

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill. These options are not always available or suitable for every transgender person and they are not necessary for us as a society to compassionately recognise people's identities.

I feel strongly that we must provide everyone with the opportunity to obtain accurate documents without having to take these difficult steps, and that such identification helps to protect the safety of our transgender and intersex families, friends and neighbours. These changes are in line with international movements in legislation and United Nations recommendations.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes which you are undoubtedly also receiving comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 7 February 2019 7:17 PM
To: Greg O'Connor <greg.oconnor@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births Deaths and Marriages bill

Kia ora Greg

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create an identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

9(2)(a) and I think it sucks that he has to have the wrong gender on his certificate. Please change the law so he can be happier and have accurate identification! I believe people should be able to do whatever they want, and this law would help them keep agency over their lives.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Thursday, 7 February 2019 11:51 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Regarding the BDMRR Bill

Hi Tracey,

I hope you had a restful Waitangi Day, and that you have a moment to consider the following.

I am very concerned to hear that the controversial proposed BDMRR Bill changes, which you have responsibility for, are being brought to Parliament next month without wider consultation, as is appropriate in a democracy, or consideration for long term implications.

New Zealand has just celebrated 125 years of women's rights being enshrined in law - a campaign that you directly benefit from as a woman MP. We are such a privileged country! But by allowing the BDMRR Bill changes to go through, you would in essence remove the value of this hard fought right by blurring the lines between men and women. If a man can register as a woman, what value is the unique perspective of a biological woman? How does "his" opinion differ from hers? And why do we care? How does she reconcile the reality of the gender pay gap when he can become her and she can become him? If a transgender woman acquires a top job at a powerful company does this count towards the "women in top jobs" tally? Does the significance of being alumni of a girls' school disappear?

Then there is the destruction of accurate public records, statistics, medical treatment, educational grants and research, maternity leave allowances and employment opportunities. All of these are open to misuse and exploitation given the allowances of this bill.

The point is not that those who identify as transgender can be granted certain protections. The point is recognising what those allowances will bring upon the country as a whole and as a Member of Parliament, I respectfully suggest that your job is not to represent one group's interests but to balance them against the needs of our whole population. Therefore I am asking you to bring this bill into the public sphere and speak to those most affected - NOT just the transgender community. Speak to women, doctors, midwives, cleaners, lawyers, mothers, Boards of Trustees - everyone who has the potential to be affected - and then act accordingly.

I look forward to seeing action taken.

Kind Regards,

9(2)(a)

RELEASE UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Friday, 8 February 2019 5:48 PM
To: Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Subject: Support of BDM Ammendments

Hi Carmel

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

I am not transgender myself, but I believe that people need to be able to self identify their gender and have that change reflected in their sex on their birth certificate. I don't see why they shouldn't have this right. It has nothing to do with me, and is their business how they identify themselves and they deserve to have these rights. They aren't hurting anyone.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the

movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Thank you

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0935-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Sunday, 10 February 2019 9:05 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Changes to births deaths and marriage bill

I'm writing to express my objection to the proposed changes to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill.

You'll be aware that the changes proposed to this act include a move to allow the process of changing the registered sex on a birth certificate to a one step declaration (Self- ID).

There has been no consultation, risk assessment, or consideration of the following:

- What are the implications for women's dignity and safety on losing sex-segregated spaces? What are the implications of growing numbers of male-bodied people present in women's prisons, women's refuges, changing rooms, rape crisis centres?
- What are the implications for women's representative political and civic positions, which have been established through the hard work of women, to counterbalance women's historic under-representation in those areas?
- What about women's sport? Should women have to compete against male-bodied people on the basis of "identity"?
- What are the implications for reliable statistics, upon which government policy is created? What are the implications for health, crime statistics, and sex differentiation in employment & pay, if self-ID is introduced?
- What happens to the definition of biological sex, which is a protected category? How can this be reconciled with self-ID?
- What are the implications for women's sex based protections under the Human Rights Act?

The wider public must be made broadly aware of these changes, and appropriate risk assessment must be carried out before any changes are made – not as a 'review' in five years time, as has been recommended.

I urge you to raise this issue with your party caucus, with a view to reconsidering your party's voting stance.

Sent from my iPhone

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 February 2019 1:07 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Kris Faafoi <kris.faafoi@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The right to self id.

12 February 2019

Tena Korua,

I live in the Mana electorate and I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Please support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

This is important to me, even as a cis-heterosexual woman, that all people deserve to be themselves, that life is not fair and it is already very hard, why are we making it harder. We are becoming a nation of people who care, who want fairness and equality. This is how we do it. This is how we become change makers. This is how we do the right thing by all people. I want to see barriers removed, that processes are seamless, fair and harmless. I cannot imagine how hard it must be for people who find

themselves needing to transition so that they become their best selves. Please help them, please remove the unnecessary red tape to do so.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

Please recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority.

Please vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 12 February 2019 5:29 PM

To: J Ardern (MIN) <j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz>; W Peters (MIN) <W.Peters@ministers.govt.nz>; A Little Office (MIN) <a.little@ministers.govt.nz>; C Sepuloni (MIN) <C.Sepuloni@ministers.govt.nz>; D Clark (MIN) <D.Clark@ministers.govt.nz>; N Mahuta (MIN) <n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz>; T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>; P Henare (MIN) <p.henare@ministers.govt.nz>; J Genter (MIN) <j.genter@ministers.govt.nz>; E Sage (MIN) <E.Sage@ministers.govt.nz>; Jan Logie <Jan.Logie@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: transgender right to self id

a special mention to mr Stuart nash its a i know what you did last summer comment when you distanced yourself from young labour that endorsed transgender rights then you bagged them and i called you out on it do you remember you said in mprivate you do support us but in public they would hang you up for it

12/02/2019

Kia ora to Everybody

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Apparently this is the bit where i can talk about my own stuff but im not going to im old at 48 and if i can't deal with my own crap at this age there is something wrong with me what i am here to do is speak on the behalf of the youth who so often don't have a voice i can't tell you how many times i have spent the evening on the computer or phone talking down a trans youth who is struggling a common thread is acceptance of name and pronouns such a simple thing but in some ways so unattainable due to the restrictive system that we are forced to work in and just as heartbreaking is listening to a parent outlining their struggles.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 14 February 2019 11:02 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: BDMRR Bill: A Concerned Citizen

14/02/19

Kia ora Tracey,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

My name is 9(2)(a)

The ability to have undergone this procedure really saved my life, and I have you to thank. New Zealand's progressive and fair government is one of the major reasons 9(2)(a)

At the heart of this violence are transgender women (mtf) who face severe threats 9(2)(a), both physical and psychological.

Unfortunately, there is a similar issue in New Zealand with a small group of people not accepting or respecting trans people's human rights, specifically the rights of trans women. All we ask is to exist in peace. To not be scrutinised or prevented from carrying out reasonable lives as our preferred gender.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

As a citizen who trusts in your leadership to make the right choices that will carry Aotearoa into the future, I ever faithfully await your action.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 14 February 2019 10:37 AM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Trans rights are human rights

Tracey. I know this.

THEY DO NOT GET MORE.

Please reconsider changing the Births, Deaths, Marriages etc law to allow self-ID. Who else gets to deny their entire existence and past?

Men are not women. The TRAs who claim men with penises in dresses are women is risible: it is not 'girdick' as TRAs blithely tell you. It's a penis, Tracey. Men have penises. Put a dress on, makeup, sing it a little song, give it a nickname, worship it, however, until you transition and make it into a neo-vagina, you're a man. NO amount of hatred, calling by TRAs for me to be raped to death, beheaded, killed, stabbed or attacked will make men suddenly women.

So.... a man can call himself a woman, under this law, if changed. He then has access to our spaces, our scholarships, public money, services. All because he says so. And don't think for a minute that predators and paedos won't use this law - they already are, overseas. Our women prisoners will be at risk (UK is providing separate transgender wings now, because of this) and all women will be at risk of losing out to men in dresses.

Again, if you have a penis, you're a man. I didn't make the rules of biology. Quick question: if these men get prostate cancer, are they magically men again for treatment? Or will the TRAs insist on calling it a new name, the way they're trying to jam their ideology and new words down our necks? I will never kowtow to the delusion that males with penises are women. Cis, chest-feeding (what a joke), girdick - my personal bugbear. To have women claiming men in dresses are 'lesbians' and if a woman doesn't want to date them they're transphobic, wake me the fuck up. That is ridiculous, risible and you know it, surely?

To call any of this into question labels you transphobic.

I'm a proud TERF if it means men don't get access to our money, our spaces, our time and rights, simply by putting on a dress. Remember, if you don't transition, you can pop a suit on and go back to being Michael anytime you like and take up all the male privilege that comes with it

Let alone the fact that JUST 53 people signed this petition to get a law change. Fuck that - that is not democracy, being held to ransom by 53 deeply unhappy and conflicted people.
#Forshame

Yet if I try to raise any of my concerns at our rangitahi being preyed on (autistic, Asperger's, depressed, all being targeted by TRAs saying 'you're a boy/girl, silly!' and guess who benefits? Big Pharma and their puberty blockers, fake penises and so forth. Children who are merely challenged are being told they're trans; this ideology is being forced on our youth.
#Noton

Also, consider: if men become women, they're women now, trans rights are redundant - why not just ask for women's rights, cos they're women? Seems they want to be that little bit special-er than everyone else... though why anyone would WANT to be a woman in this ugly man's world - less pay, beaten raped and battered with impunity. THIS is what they need to be fighting for: women's rights. Not men in dresses rights as this is simply #MisogynyInDrag

Sincerely

9(2)(a)

SAY NO TO THIS MUMMERY.

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From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Friday, 15 February 2019 3:22 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

15/02/2019

Kia ora,

I am writing to you in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on 10/08/2018, specifically the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create an identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate, and ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium, and most recently the state of California in the USA, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams Institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes, driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas-based social media accounts in an

attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women, who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human Rights Commission, whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Nga mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

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From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Saturday, 16 February 2019 10:19 PM
To: Hon Carmel Sepuloni <Carmel.Sepuloni@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill - clause 22

Kia ora,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

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From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Sunday, 17 February 2019 6:52 PM
To: Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Community Consultation and OIA questions.

Kia Ora Mr Peters,

I am writing regarding the lack of consultation on the far reaching changes made to the BDMRR Bill at the select committee stage. I have three questions to ask under the OIA.

In regard to changing sex on birth certificates, the new amendments remove all checks and balances and allow instead a statutory declaration and a small fee to be all that is required of any adult to change their sex.

My concern is in regard to men having an easy and purely administrative pathway into the female sex and from there, a legally supported open door into all and every female space.

I don't believe this is the intended purpose of the amendment, but even unintentionally allowing predatory men such an easy entree into sensitive female space is not acceptable- and especially not with such clear legal authority.

1) Have you as leader of NZ First received any reports, advice or opinions on the amendments made to the bill at select committee stage regarding the changes and how women and the protection afforded women in human rights law could be unintentionally effected, from NZ First or from Government and if so could I have a copy?

2) Do you believe such a far reaching change in law should be carried out behind closed doors without public consultation?

3) Do you support the bill as is or in its original form where change to sex requires an application and process through the family court?

3) I notice that clause 74 as follows has been removed. Could you please explain the significance of this and if the bill is passed, how will sex determination then relate to the general law of NZ?

~~74 New information not to affect general law~~

~~Despite this Part, the sex of every person must continue to be determined by reference to the general law of New Zealand.~~

~~Compare: 1995 No 16 s 33~~

Thank you for taking the time to consider these concerns and I await any information you can provide.

Warm regards,

9(2)(a)

[Redacted signature]

| (3)

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Document 67:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 18 February 2019 3:35 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Proposed Self ID legislation.

Dear Tracey

I am concerned to hear of proposed changes to the current law. It seems to me, from the reading and research I have done, that the implications of such a change have not been well considered and that they have been mooted in response to pressure from a group who hold an ideological viewpoint rather than one founded on solid scientific evidence. Please note my objection to any relaxation of current law.

Yours faithfully

9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

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Document68:

Sent: Wed 20/02/2019 9:52 AM
To: T Martin (MIN)
Cc: Erica Mangin
Attachments: 9(2)(a) Letter to Minister re BDMRRB 20 February 2019.pdf

Dear Minister,

Please find attached a letter regarding the current debates concerning aspects of this Bill.

My apologies for the lack of signature on the letter – I am on sabbatical and do not currently have access to a scanner.

With kind regards,

9(2)(a)

IAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

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9(2)(a)

Hon Tracey Martin
Minister of Internal Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

By email: t.martin@ministers.govt.nz

Dear Minister,

Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

9(2)(a)

Firstly, I would like to note my strong support for proposals in the Birth, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill, that will align the process for amending gender markers on birth certificates more closely to New Zealand's existing passports policy. While there are some changes that would better align the process for both documents, improve the clarity of the Bill's provisions, and address some outstanding gaps, the Bill, in my view, is a long overdue improvement to the human rights of trans people in New Zealand.

I am writing to you, along with the editor of the New Zealand Law Journal, in order to provide a counter point to the views expressed in an article written by a ^{9(2)(a)} 9(2)(a) Annabel Markham, and published in the December issue of the New Zealand Law Journal (NZLJ). My concerns about aspects of her writing stem from my knowledge of relevant law, as explained in 9(2)(a)

. I am particularly concerned that you are made aware of competing feminist voices with regard to the issue of self-declaration of one's gender in advance of making decisions about the progression of this Bill into law.

In her article, Ms Markham relies on the historical English decision of *Corbett v Corbett*, a decision that is no longer followed in New Zealand, nor in other jurisdictions – see for example *Re Kevin: Validity of Marriage of Transsexual* [2001] 28 Fam LR 158. In my view, Ms Markham also neglects to give sufficient

9(2)(a)

coverage of the Human Rights Commission's change in position following the publication of its Transgender Inquiry report 11 years ago. As you will be aware, international human rights standards have evolved significantly over this period of time, with a multitude of reports published domestically and at UN level which have focussed on the pressing need to offer protection to members of trans and intersex communities worldwide. In particular, there is internationally a growing move away from a medically based model for gender identity purposes.

The article also fails to reflect accurately the New Zealand context and debates about meeting international human rights obligations. For example, there is no mention of the 2004 Human Rights (Gender Identity) Amendment Bill, to add gender identity as a prohibited ground of discrimination in the Human Rights Act 1993 (HRA), or the withdrawal of the Bill in light of a 2006 opinion from the Solicitor General concluding that transgender people are already protected under the HRA. You will know that opinion, authored by Crown Law counsel, concluded that the New Zealand courts would likely follow the approaches of the UK, European and Canadian courts, and construe the existing sex discrimination provisions in the Human Rights Act in a way that would protect against discrimination on the grounds of gender identity.

I have previously argued that trans people's right to freedom from discrimination would be more explicitly protected if gender identity and expression were listed as specific prohibited grounds of discrimination **9(2)(a)**

However, until such a change is made, which has current support from the Minister of Justice, it has not been legally contested that trans people *are* protected under the Human Rights Act, whether or not they have undergone any form of medical transition (see Deputy Solicitor General Cheryl Gwyn, letter dated 2 August 2006 to Attorney-General, *re Human Rights (Gender Identity) Amendment Bill: Ref ATT395/9 and Brookers Human Rights Law* at [HRA21.10(2)]).

The NZLJ article's repeated focus on the surgical status of transgender people is an unfortunate relic of historic case law, particularly from the United Kingdom. That it does so in a discussion about proposals to amend the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act, is in marked and unfortunate contrast with the extensive human rights jurisprudence outlining that requiring any surgical steps as a pre-requisite for legal gender recognition amounts to coerced sterilisation. A summary of this jurisprudence can be found in this recent detailed analysis of relevant international human rights standards in relation to legal gender recognition: (see *Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity*, 12 July 2018, A/73/152 at [28]–[30]). This report to the UN General Assembly also refers to international good practice, citing New Zealand's current policies for amending gender markers on passports and driver licence records (at [73]).

I understand that the author of this report, Independent Expert Mr Madrigal-Borloz, will be in New Zealand in a month's time, at the invitation of the New Zealand Government. This provides an important opportunity to confirm that decisions about legal gender recognition proposals in New Zealand are built on a solid evidence base, grounded in New Zealand's domestic and international human rights obligations. I would encourage you to seek a meeting with the Independent Expert to discuss lessons learnt from other jurisdictions and to test any concerns you might have, prior to making final decisions concerning the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Wednesday, 20 February 2019 10:27 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Self Identification in the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Bill

I'm writing to express my objection to the proposed changes to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill.

You'll be aware that the changes proposed to this act include a move to allow the process of changing the registered sex on a birth certificate to a one step declaration (Self- ID).

Unfortunately some men will inevitably use this simple process with potentially disastrous consequences, causing issues and risks in otherwise 'safe' spaces...such as single sex changing rooms, women's prisons, changing rooms, rape crisis centres?

I'm also concerned for such issues as women's sport, where women should not have to compete against male-bodied people on the basis of "self-identification".

There are certain areas where biology really matters, such as health treatments. And changing one's identity, particularly a simple self-identification will lead to potentially unreliable treatments and future policies.

This policy seems to be introduced by stealth and yet it is fundamental enough to warrant wide consultation at the very least.

I cannot understand how this relates to NZ First Policies generally and am confused why your party would be championing the bill.

Note: My comments only apply to the low threshold of self-identification.

For more information on this issue, visit www.speakupforwomen.nz

9(2)(a)

Keep e-mails short...<http://emailcharter.org>

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Document 70:

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Thursday, 21 February 2019 12:18 PM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Cc: Erica Mangin <Erica.Mangin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: 9(2)(a)

Dear Minister Martin,

Please find attached a letter regarding an early release of specific research findings inform current government deliberations about proposed changes to the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Act 1995.

Yours sincerely,

9(2)(a)

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9(2)(a)

Document 70B:

21 February 2019

Hon Tracey Martin
Minister of Internal Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

By email: t.martin@ministers.govt.nz

Dear Minister Martin,

9(2)(a) [Redacted]

9(2)(a) [Redacted]

9(2)(a) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

9(2)(a) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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9(2)(a)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Yours sincerely,

T 1982

9(2)(a)

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From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 21 February 2019 4:01 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The Births Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill & Gender Self-ID

Kia ora Tracey,

Happy New Year. I hope you have had a good break.

I wanted to raise my concerns about the proposed changes to this bill which will permit self-id for transgender people. As the person steering the Bill I am concerned to hear that you have not met with Speak Up For Women who are raising concerns. I would be keen to meet either as an individual, who is part of the Speak Up For Women campaign. More usefully you might respond to the standing invitation from that organisation to be briefed properly about their concerns on this important matter. I've been supporting the [Speak Up For Women](#) campaign that is seeking a proper consultation process and a review of the impacts including on recording crime and health statistics and the likely impact on women's safe spaces & sex related services before the legislation is introduced for its second reading.

Here are my reasons:

I have worked on various political campaigns but when I saw what was happening with Self-Id and looked more deeply into the ramifications of transactivist ideology I came to understand that there are some legitimate and serious concerns about creating a class of people who are able to change their recorded sex identity at will irrespective of whether they make any other medical changes or receive any counselling. As you know the provisions were added to the legislation after the Select Committee that were not signalled in the draft, otherwise solely administrative, bill and so not open for public debate. That the unanticipated impacts, which were warned of by a DIA paper, but not taken account of, is of concern.

Self-id will allow anyone to change their birth sex on their birth certificate by a simple declaration. The current process is laborious and time consuming and I would like to see it made easier (– even though as a science graduate and a feminist I don't actually believe that people can actually change sex.) But I think that a wholesale change allowing someone to self-declare their gender will create an irrevocable change that has many potential unexamined downsides. These include to women's spaces (like changing rooms and toilets) and services (like sexual abuse counselling) as well as serious impacts on [women's sport](#) & on statistical reporting. Analysis of the UK prison system indicates that women's prisons will have significant numbers of transwomen – and mostly physically male – if the UK legislation is passed and [research by Speak Up For Women's sister organisation](#) there has outlined the many risks. Similar impacts are likely here and even without self-id an OIA reported that 6 transwomen (male people) on women assaults were recorded in two years

Most people are unaware that most men who call themselves women – something like 80% - remain physically intact males. And the best available evidence is that transwomen retain the same offending patterns as men in general.

A similar consultation in the UK resulted in more than 100,000 submissions and much adverse publicity & opposition has meant that the [Select Committee head has effectively withdrawn her support for the Bill](#). Even academic and former UK Human Rights Commissioner Trevor Philipps who introduced the original UK Gender Recognition Act has said that [self-id is a risk to the broader equality work of the government](#).

I've also [written about the UK experience](#) contrasting it with NZ and linked to a number of articles from both sides of the debate. Also I believe trans ideology (which includes mandating language about female biology, replacing sex with gender in official data and in law, [and shutting down people who doubt that people can actually change sex](#)) has the power to damage the government and our democracy. The UK Green Party [has been torn apart](#) by the ramifications of enthusiastic support for all aspects of trans ideology. There are echoes of the same issues here. It's a difficult issue because of the anger it generates amongst trans people and especially their supporters, but I do encourage you to take a critical look, and to seek more information, before introducing the bill without a proper consultation and impact analysis for its Second Reading.

With best wishes for the year ahead.

9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Document72:

From: 9(2)(a) [mailto:nzparentsoftransgenderchildren@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, 21 February 2019 3:45 PM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>; Erica Mangin <Erica.Mangin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Letter regarding proposed changes to BDMRRA

Good afternoon

Please find my letter attached, on behalf of the group Parents of Transgender and Gender Diverse Children in New Zealand.

Kind regards

9(2)(a)

>

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Parents and Caregivers of Transgender and Gender Diverse Children in New Zealand.

nzparentsoftransgenderchildren@gmail.com

Dear Hon Tracey Martin,

Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill (the Bill) – response to letter written by Speak up for Women (SUFW)

Introduction

We are writing directly to you in response to a letter you will have received from a group calling itself "Speak up for Women" (the letter). The letter contains a number of inaccuracies and is deeply upsetting for us as parents of transgender children and young people. It saddens us that there is such bitterness towards transgender people in the community. We are writing to you to summarise some key points which we think have been overlooked by SUFW.

About Us

We are a group of over 320 parents and supporters of transgender young people, ranging from all ages up to 30. We have had considerable growth in our membership in recent years, as parents and medical professionals have become more aware of gender dysphoria and the concept of being transgender, and as our children have grown in confidence to talk with us about who they are.

At one time or other each one of us has had to contend and grapple with the jaw-dropping news our children are transgender or gender diverse. In many cases, our children have held onto this information for years, only coming out to us in their mid to late teens. The news that our children are transgender is often a total shock and is very difficult to take and deal with, at the same time trying to figure out how to provide support to our children. We can't emphasise enough that no parent would ever want to have a transgender child, given the hostility they face, and certainly no parent that we are aware of would ever push gender diversity or being transgender on their children.

Like all parents, all we want is for our children to grow up safe, happy, well-adjusted and free from the difficulty and abuse in their lives caused by people who do not accept or understand transgender people.

Our concerns about the letter

It goes without saying we were horrified to see the letter and, having spent many hours now researching the content of the letter, including a considerable amount of legal research by our legal membership, we have formed the view that the letter presents a grossly inaccurate, unbalanced perspective which does not sit well with a modern Human Rights approach towards transgender people in New Zealand. We believe debate on any topic affecting New Zealanders is certainly healthy but where representations are made to Ministers of Parliament in written form which are inaccurate and misleading, we feel the need to step in and respond, particularly where the ultimate happiness and well-being of our children is concerned.

Without a doubt, transgender and intersex people are one of the more marginalised groups in New Zealand.¹ If simplifying the process for changing a gender marker on a birth certificate will help alleviate the impacts of minority stress, then it is an investment in the health and wellbeing of transgender people specifically, and in overall community wellbeing.

We wish to thank you in advance for your time in reading this letter.

Particular areas of concern arising out of the letter

The areas of concern we have as follows:

1. The letter makes inadequate mention of the relevance of the concerns and plight of transgender people and does not address how the harm currently experienced by transgender people can be addressed.

1.1 The letter is strikingly lacking in any compassion towards transgender people or any perspective of the distress that transgender youth and people suffer when they cannot easily and cheaply change their gender marker on a birth certificate. Indeed, the letter simply doesn't acknowledge any problem exists at all, much less address it.

1.2 The simple fact is that transgender people, and in particular youth, suffer in ways that other New Zealanders don't. Their mental well-being suffers as a consequence of all of the impediments and issues they need to deal with on a daily basis and that many develop depression and suicidal thoughts should come as no surprise.

¹ See the Human Rights commission 2004 report on the status of Human Rights in New Zealand

1.3 In 2012 a health survey was undertaken of 8,500 New Zealand secondary school students.² The survey discovered that 40% of those students who identified as transgender or gender questioning indicated significant depressive symptoms and one in five had attempted suicide in the last year³. The report further found that approximately half of the transgender students had wondered about being transgender before the age of 12, but only a third (34.8%) had disclosed that they were transgender to someone close to them.

1.4 This is a worldwide issue. A survey from Australia⁴ also confirmed transgender youth struggle with serious mental health issues at a much higher rate than their cisgender peers. It found that trans youth are ten times more likely to be diagnosed with depression or anxiety and have a much higher risk of experiencing bullying and rejection by their peers. As a result, four out of five transgender youth reported that they had self-harmed, and almost half of those surveyed said they had attempted suicide⁵.

1.5 In the USA, the percentage of suicide attempts among respondents to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey⁶, was found to be 41 percent, which vastly exceeded the 4.6 percent of the overall U.S. population who report a lifetime suicide attempt, and is also higher than the 10-20 percent of lesbian, gay and bisexual adults who report ever attempting suicide⁷.

1.6 When supported, the emotional well-being of transgender children improves. A study undertaken by Washington University⁸ found that 73 prepubescent children aged 3 to 12 who had socially transitioned with parental support, changing the names, pronouns and the way they dressed had no higher rates of depression than their siblings or sister and children. Similar research published in 2018 in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*, also showed that allowing young transgender people to use their chosen name drastically reduces the likelihood they will attempt suicide, suffer depression or have suicidal thoughts.⁹

² Youth'12: Fact Sheet about Transgender Young People, from Clark, T. C., Lucassen, M. F. G., Bullen, P., Denny, S. J., Fleming, T. M., Robinson, E. M., & Rossen, F. V. (2014). The health and well-being of transgender high school students: Results from the New Zealand Adolescent Health Survey (Youth'12). *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 55, 93–99

³ Youth'12: Fact Sheet about Transgender Young People, from Clark, T. C., Lucassen, M. F. G., Bullen, P., Denny, S. J., Fleming, T. M., Robinson, E. M., & Rossen, F. V. (2014). The health and well-being of transgender high school students: Results from the New Zealand Adolescent Health Survey (Youth'12). *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 55, 93–99

⁴ conducted by the Telethon Kids Institute

⁵ https://www.vice.com/en_nz/article/7xxjaz/trans-youth-in-nz-have-shockingly-high-rates-of-suicide-mental-illness

⁶ conducted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and National Center for Transgender Equality

⁷ <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/AFSP-Williams-Suicide-Report-Final.pdf>

⁸ and published in the *Paediatrics Journal* on 29 February 2016

⁹ the researchers, led by a team at the University of Texas at Austin, conducted a study of 129 trans-youth across the country.

1.7 In the course of our research, we have collected numerous articles and survey results which confirm strong links between gender dysphoria, being transgender and depression/suicide risks.¹⁰ Without a doubt, New Zealanders, and in particular children who suffer from gender dysphoria and who are transgender, are more likely than not to have suicidal thoughts and to suffer from depressive symptoms.

1.8 All of the foregoing research we have collected of course only confirms what we as parents already know and deal with on a daily basis. We are constantly witnessing, first-hand, the anxieties and depression our children suffer as a result of fear of being "outed" at school, fear of bullying and fear of being different and not being accepted in society. You can only imagine what the first day of any school year is like for a lot of our children, particularly those who have chosen to socially transition over the Christmas break. Those children face the start of their school year in utter dread. Many end up having to move schools simply to make a new start. With all of this upheaval, it goes without saying that it is very hard for our children to learn. Many end up being taken out of school and have to be home schooled as they simply can't cope.

1.9 For young children and teens, a birth certificate is often the only identifying document they will have which proves their identity. They won't have a drivers licence and they won't necessarily yet have a passport. The worry of being outed at a school when a birth certificate has to be produced is a constant. A birth certificate is required for enrolment at schools. Currently, gender on a birth certificate can't be changed unless a medical process has commenced. This doesn't happen before puberty. This means that any transgender child under puberty (and science tells us that gender identity is formed from the age of three) has no choice but to have their transgender identity known. Our children's gender identity then becomes the primary focus of the school – rather than simply focusing on how best to support our young ones to become happy and productive members of society. For our older children, the current legal requirements mean that they must start down a medical route in order to be affirmed in their identity. We would like them to be able to maintain their privacy and choices for a longer period of time.

2. The letter gives no consideration to United Nations conventions to which NZ is a party or to the position of transgender people under New Zealand Human rights law or the need to ensure that their human rights are protected. We will address this further below.

¹⁰ see for example: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/m/pubmed/29463478/>; <https://www.hrc.org/resources/2018-lgbtq-youth-report>; <https://thegavoice.com/news/calling-trans-youth-by-preferred-name-can-dramatically-reduce-chance-of-suicide/>; <https://secretlyfabulous.wordpress.com/2014/12/31/its-not-about-you/>

2.1 There is no particular mention or discussion in the letter of New Zealand's obligations to comply with international conventions, which we find unusual. New Zealand has a strong and proud history of upholding basic human rights. The Hon Andrew Little recently spoke admirably of New Zealand's track record in this regard and ongoing attempts to ensure basic human rights for all New Zealanders.

2.2 The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which New Zealand is a party, provide:

"All people have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development."

2.3 The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that the freedom to determine one's gender is essential to the right of self-determination,¹¹ and the right to personal development, physical and moral security, and personal autonomy.¹² These covenants also provide for equality before the law and freedom from discrimination, including on the grounds of sex or any other status.¹³ The prohibition against discrimination in the covenants is incorporated into New Zealand law under section 19 (1) of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act which affirms the right to be free from discrimination on the prohibited grounds set out in the Human Rights Act 1993, including on the ground of sex. Sex discrimination is interpreted by the Human Rights Commission and in legal commentaries as including discrimination on the grounds of gender identity.

2.4 Principle 31 of the Yogyakarta Principles on sexual orientation and gender identity, developed by a group of Human Rights experts based on international human rights standards, states:

Ensure a quick, transparent, and accessible mechanism that legally recognises and affirms each person's self defined gender identity;

Ensure that no eligibility criteria, such as medical or psychological interventions, a psycho medical diagnosis, minimum or maximum age, economic status, health, marital or parental status or any other third party opinion, shall be a prerequisite to change one's name, legal sex or gender.

2.5 In New Zealand, the process for amending one's gender marker on a passport or driver's licence record is a very straightforward administrative procedure, simply requiring a statutory declaration, with no

¹¹ *YY v Turkey*, European Court of human rights (application no 14793/08), 10 March 2015

¹² *Goodwin and I v United Kingdom*, European Court of human rights (application no 28957/95, July 2002

¹³ article 2

expert medical evidence required. A similar process is used for individuals to change their gender marker on the New Zealand citizenship certificate.

2.6 A number of other jurisdictions have now removed the requirement for compulsory surgical or other medical procedures or expert medical advice when an individual applies to change the gender on the birth certificate.¹⁴ New Zealand, a country that is always embraced diversity and human rights, is falling out of line with some of those other forward thinking jurisdictions.

2.7 The UN Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women¹⁵ specifically mentioned the need to ensure protection of transgender women and students in its Concluding Observations at the end of its most recent review of NZ, in July 2018.

2.8 The New Zealand Herald recently reported¹⁶ that at New Zealand's third United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR), UN member states made recommendations for specific areas where New Zealand needs to improve human rights for transgender people.¹⁷

3. The letter erroneously claims there will be "unforeseen consequences of self ID, particularly in regard to existing sex-based exemptions under the Human Rights Act.

3.1 This is a misplaced concern and indeed, in our view, *not* changing the procedure to simply the process is discriminatory against transgender people, on the grounds of sex. We note that the letter provides nothing credible to confirm or support that such elusive "unforeseen consequences" will in fact occur and in our view the argument smacks of hysteria, speculation and grasping at straws.

4. The letter draws upon references to legal authorities and cases which are irrelevant, have not been followed and therefore

¹⁴ The first country to make such changes was Argentina in 2012, with other countries in Latin America following suit more recently including Colombia and Chile. In Europe the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe passed a resolution in 2015 welcoming the emergence of a right to gender identity and calling for European member states to ensure that gender recognition procedures were quick transparent and accessible. In response country such as Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Ireland and Malta have amended or introduced laws to facilitate self-declaration. In all provinces in Canada there is no longer any requirement to have had sex reassignment surgery in order to change gender on a birth certificate. In the United States, the process changes from state to state. In 10 states and one district it is possible to obtain a birth certificate and change gender marker without requiring sex reassignment surgery.

¹⁵ https://ilga.org/downloads/Treaty_Bodies_session_report_CEDAW70_72PSWG.pdf

¹⁶ <https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/political/380687/nz-told-to-improve-human-rights-of-lgbtqi-people>

¹⁷ Iceland recommended New Zealand "add gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics as specifically prohibited grounds of discrimination in Article 21 of the Human Rights Act of 1993".

Along the same lines, Australia "recommends New Zealand amend the Human Rights Act of 1993 to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity and intersex status".

do not apply in New Zealand¹⁸, are outdated and are therefore of no consequence in New Zealand law. It is misleading to refer to them in a vacuum without referring to the New Zealand authorities and those from other forward thinking jurisdictions which have taken a different view.

5. The letter ignores the need for consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act and other legislation

5.1 it is axiomatic in New Zealand law that statutes are consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (the act). Crown Law has already given an opinion¹⁹ that the provisions of the Bill as originally drafted constituted intra-ground discrimination on the ground of sex.

5.2 Subsequent advice from Crown Law²⁰ reviewed whether or not the Bill as reported back by the Government Administration Committee was consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. It found that the proposed amendments, in so far as they recommended removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical confirmation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the Bill, no longer appear to create the potential for intra-ground discrimination. The opinion concluded "furthermore the administrative process appears to make the process for individuals to request a change to the registered sex simpler than in the bill as introduced..".

6. The letter refers to inherently improbable scenarios as being a reason against allowing a simplified process.

6.1 For example, the letter points to possible violence which might be perpetrated in prisons when male prisoners, looking to "game" the system, might go about deliberately transitioning. Once again, little evidential support is provided and we simply comment that the hypothesis is once again inherently far-fetched, speculative and bordering on hysteria. It fails to take into account considerable counter arguments provided in advice from the Departments of Corrections and Internal Affairs.

In closing, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our concerns further. Our focus is on ensuring that are children are

¹⁸ *Bellinger v Bellinger* [2001] EWCA Civ 1140 was a UK case which applied and followed another UK case, *Corbett v Corbett* [1971] P 83, which has expressly been considered in New Zealand and other jurisdictions and expressly not been followed. See for instance *M v M* [1991] NZFLR 337 *Attorney General v Otahuhu Family Court*¹⁸ [1995] 1 NZLR 603; *Mt v JT*; *Harris and McGuiness*¹⁸ (1999) 35 A Crim R 146

6

¹⁹ To Hon Christopher Finlayson QC dated 26 July 2017 at para 28

²⁰ Dated 18 October 2018

supported to live their lives to their full potential, and this proposal is a key step in allowing that to happen.

Yours faithfully,

9(2)(a)

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From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 25 February 2019 9:45 PM
To: Hon Damien O'Connor <Damien.O'Connor@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora [name]

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

[Share a bit about yourself: where you're from, why this issue matters to you personally]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

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9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 25 February 2019 6:13 PM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Gender

People are born Male/Female,those who think they are in the wrong body are mentally ill,have to be. I will NOT want forms changed because some one arbitrarily decides they want to be a cross dresser and get into female toilets,.

These and homosexuals have a mental problem. If homosexuality is natural, how do they breed and what sane male would engage in sodomy. Read over seas papers and see the degeneracy that has been unleashed by the accepting homosexuality as normal. Would you want your five year old taught about these people, by these people as is happening over seas?????there is also,no counter teaching such as christianity to balance the scales

.Regards

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Monday, 25 February 2019 6:03 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: A thank you for deferring the BDMRRB!

Dear Tracey,

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for deferring the BDMRRB until there has been reasonable public consultation, and a more in depth look into how these changes will effect other NZ laws and data (especially around measuring sex-based discrimination).

There are so many tricky questions that we first need to answer first. I know that there are many ways that we will be able to legislate to protect both women's rights and trans rights, and deferring the bill until we have had a chance to explore all possibilities is an excellent first step.

Again, thank you so much!

Regards,

9(2)(a)

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From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 25 February 2019 11:36 PM
To: tracey.martin@parliament.govt.nz
Cc: 9(2)(a)
Subject: Thank you and a suggestion

Dear Minister Martin,

Thank you for your decision announced today to withdraw the BDMRR Bill pending further research and consultation and congratulations on your effective fielding of Corin Dann's rather one-sided questions just now. Although I have been involved in the campaign from the point of view of Speak Up For Women – it is a campaign that recognises the need for the concerns of all sides in the issue to be addressed. It strikes me that there may be a way through the coming consultation process that may be able to create a durable and agreeable solution which is better than the usual Select Committee process. It may even be possible to wrap up some of the many public policy issues that the work requires in a consultation process.

As you will be aware government officials and civil society participants alike recognise the sometimes poor use of the public voice in policy making. Open ended consultation with citizens both as consumers of services and shapers of policy and legislation are a key part of ensuring outcomes that are widely acceptable, stable and enduring. As you have mentioned the UK had almost four months for their consultation.

As in the UK the debate on the transgender self-id issue in NZ has caused a great deal of heat and very little light. The issues are controversial with both sides of the debate feeling strongly that their 'existence is under threat'. Trans people feel invalidated by their rights to self-assessment and therefore self-determination being put aside. Many women like those in Speak Up For Women are concerned that trans gender people's rights are supplanting the rights of women to the protections of sex-based protections of the Human Rights Act Legislation and see the downsides including a sense of appropriation of the category of woman by trans people. The issues are complex and highly emotional for many involved.

The issue might be an ideal one on which to take a consultation approach that is different from the usual collection of submissions from either side and to delve deeper into the underlying issues of invalidation from both sides to try and create an enduring solution that can be encoded legally. As Julian Norman, one of the speakers at tomorrow night's Speak up For Women public meeting has said -

“Failure to share someone's belief is not the same as mockery or disdain for it. It cannot be beyond the wit of the legislature to protect the beliefs of those who believe they have an innate gender, protect the rights of others to agnosticism on the point, whilst also maintaining sex based protections.”

I would like to suggest that the Open Government Partnership Action Plan run from the State Services Commission may have just the window to create such an enduring solution. NZ is in its third cycle of two year plans and the 2018-20 plan was launched in late 2018. Commitment Five is titled Public Participation in Policy Development of the recently released plan is to take the consultation on 1 issue beyond the 'consult' stage. See the [National Action Plan](#) page 23 et seq. Specifically commitment 5: Public participation in policy development involves the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet "identifying a 'live' policy issue in which to trial public engagement in policy development that is higher on the public participation spectrum than inform or consult, as a demonstration project. The approach is based on the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2 model). It may be that the DPMC proposed deeper consultation topic has not been decided on and I would like to suggest that this consultation be put forward as a possible option.

Of course you may be some way down the track with decision making process for this. But in case there is some flexibility I have cc'ed 9(2)(a) who is I think 9(2)(a). The panel advise the State Services Commission from a civil society perspective - and I am sure that she could readily advise the prospects of including this consultation as part of the OGP process.

I would be keen to elaborate on these ideas and also to explain some of the work I did with 9(2)(a) (respectively) who were 9(2)(a). We carried out some consultations on complex multi-faceted issues using a machine learning software tool pol.is. (9(2)(a) experience is of course much broader than this.) We involved hundreds of people in a process that came up with fresh perspectives and identified policy approaches on issues that were as diverse as [tax policy](#), affordable housing and options for [policy around dietary sugar](#). The approach was a great way of encouraging people to engage with ideas rather than raising the emotional temperature as twitter and the other social media do. I am sure they would be keen to meet you to discuss how a really effective consultation process could be designed that might act as a model for other complex multi-dimensional issues.

Yours sincerely

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Monday, 25 February 2019 11:02 PM

To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: Women have grown up as girls who are an oppressed group because of their sex.

I'm writing to express my objection to the proposed changes to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill.

You'll be aware that the changes proposed to this act include a move to allow the process of changing the registered sex on a birth certificate to a one step declaration (Self- ID).

There has been no consultation, risk assessment, or consideration of the following:

What are the implications for women's dignity and safety on losing sex-segregated spaces? What are the implications of growing numbers of male-bodied people present in women's prisons, women's refuges, changing rooms, rape crisis centres?

- What are the implications for women's representative political and civic positions, which have been established through the hard work of women, to counterbalance women's historic under-representation in those areas?
- What about women's sport? Should women have to compete against male-bodied people on the basis of "identity"?
- What are the implications for reliable statistics, upon which government policy is created? What are the implications for health, crime statistics, and sex differentiation in employment & pay, if self-ID is introduced?
- What happens to the definition of biological sex, which is a protected category? How can this be reconciled with self-ID?
- What are the implications for women's sex based protections under the Human Rights Act?

The wider public must be made broadly aware of these changes, and appropriate risk assessment must be carried out before any changes are made – not as a 'review' in five years time, as has been recommended.

I urge you to raise this issue with your party caucus, with a view to reconsidering your party's voting stance.

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 25 February 2019 8:01 PM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Deferment of Births, Deaths and Marriages Bill

Kia ora Minister Martin,

I am writing to express my sadness and fear at your announcement today that the Births, Deaths and Marriages Bill will be deferred. I am not going to argue minutae about the process, I'm sure others will do that better and more eloquently than I ever could.

I am frightened by this announcement. Frightened at the backlash that will follow against those in my community who want nothing more than the right to identify themselves. What may seem like a point of order to you will be seen as a green light to abuse, degrade and demean some of the most vulnerable in our society. I am deeply concerned at the impact this announcement will have on the rights and well being of trans and gender non-conforming folk, at a time when our rights already seem to precarious.

Unfortunately, your announcement cannot be rescinded and the damage has been done. It is my fond hope that the bill passes, and that this is not the beginning of the poisonous and divisive public transphobia that was seen when this happened in the UK.

Yours sincerely,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document79:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 25 February 2019 5:43 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Thank you for listening, Minister!

Dear Tracey Martin

I'm one of the women who wrote to you to ask that we have time for proper public consultation on the self-ID clause in the BDM bill. I am absolutely thrilled that you have listened, and are postponing the bill. All we want is that the time is taken to think through the implications, and to come up with solutions that are going to honour the rights - and the safety - of everyone in our communities.

Bless you, Tracey.

In sisterhood

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 11:26 AM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject:

Kia ora,

This email is to do with birth certificate the sex change bill.

The idea to make the complications of this bill simpler by changing the physical identification to one's sex to one's chromosomes, for example XX or XY as opposed to female or male.

A persons chromosomes would be identified the same way as one's sex is today but the difference is that no one would ever need to change it on their birth certificate as it will always be them regardless of shifts in sex. Chromosomes are determined from one's physical reproductive parts but even if those parts are changed they will still have the same chromosomes so there would be no issue of it not identifying with someone.

Birth certificates could now on have chromosomes instead of the person's sex & the ones who already have a birth certificate with their sex would be able to change it to their chromosomes - no need for any medical proof as it correlates with their original sex.

People who are uncomfortable with this will not be directly affected as those people would still have their original birth certificate and not need to change theirs - just for the next generations.

Chromosomes can never be changed and will always be the person. Also people who are intersex can finally be identified as such by their extra chromosome letter (they wouldn't have to be - just something extra to include).

Tēnā koe for taking the time to read this.

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)

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DER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

9(2)(ba)

9(2)(ba)

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 9:34 AM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Tēnā koe,

The news that the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill is being deferred for public consultation is really disappointing.

We don't need to live through another few years of "debate" about the human rights of transpeople, opening us up to the levels of transphobia the UK media for instance has fallen into. This is the 50th anniversary year of Stonewall, an event led by transwomen of colour that has shaped both LGBTQ+ rights and women's rights in the West for the better, without ever being properly acknowledged.

Can you imagine living through every day knowing that how other people see you is more important - both by our society's narrow, gendered expectations and by law - than how you see yourself?

Can you imagine the horror of waking up every morning still in a body that feels foreign to you, only to have this feeling reinforced constantly by being misgendered, having to fight legal battles for the recognition of your very humanity and going through a decades-long, financially ruinous and incredibly painful process of physical transformation, just to be told at every step of the way that you are somehow wrong, don't know yourself or what you want and that you should just ignore what every fibre of you being tells you is right?

This is the kind of half-life our genderqueer and trans-sisters and brothers are living every day.

Public debate won't change that. Public consultation won't either. How can it when the vast majority of people have absolutely no understanding of what it's like to be genderqueer or trans and have an already proven track record of being unable and unwilling to step back and listen?

None of us are actually going to be affected by the ability of genderqueer and transpeople to express their genders on their personal legal documents. Just like not a single heterosexual couple is being affected by the right of homosexual couples to get married.

How many of our trans-sisters and brothers are we going to lose during this process of consulting the wrong people? How many of them are going to suffer irreparable harm or death while those not affected by this bill publicly and loudly debate its merit?

Please do not let us descend into transphobic ugliness, especially not one that is fought in the name of feminism. It's 2019 and it is high time that feminism became intersectional - always and not just selectively. The rights of trans- and genderqueer people do not threaten my place as a women in this country. In fact, recognising the inherent humanity in trans- and genderqueer folk is an important step in furthering our understanding of humanity itself, of human rights and equality.

If this public debate is indeed to go ahead, this government must ensure that the voices of those affected by the bill are also the voices who are heard above all others.

Thank you for your time.
Nga mihi ki a koe,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 8:09 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Support the proposed amendments to the Births Deaths and Marriages Act

26-2-19

Kia ora Tracey

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

I urge you to vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

RELEASE UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document 84:

From: 9(2)(a)
Date: Tuesday, 26 Feb 2019, 9:58 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Concerned NZ citizen - Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Amendment Bill

Kia Ora Tracey,

I've just learned about your involvement on holding up the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Amendment Bill.

I'm disgusted that politicians think they have the authority to remove the rights of every citizen in New Zealand to identify who they are easily and without red tape. You full well know the right parties, community groups and committees have been consulted to put this bill to parliament in the first place.

Plus, your excuse that this violates Women's Rights is the poorest excuse I've ever heard - including all of the excuses that have come from politicians! As a female, I want to confirm that my rights are not violated or impacted by the intentions of this bill, nor will they be violated when this bill gets passed. So I'd be grateful if you could remove this one from your list of excuses.

I'd also be grateful if you could get out of the way of passing this bill and think about the humans you are impacting by holding this up.

Yours sincerely,
9(2)(a)
A concerned NZ citizen

Sent from my iPhone

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 12:37 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Deferralment of Births, Deaths and Marriages Bill

Kia ora Mr. Robertson,

I am incredibly disappointed and hurt to hear about the decision to defer the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration bill. It appears that the group 'Speak Up For Women', known for their anti-trans right activities in New Zealand have had undue input into this matter and this is not okay. Similarly, it is distressing to note that groups overseas with the same reactionary and bigoted rhetoric against trans men and women also appear to have held sway over the deferralment.

As a straight, cisgender, white woman whose voice in this country, while not powerful, is certainly louder than many minority groups, I feel it is my duty to speak up on this. To not sit back and allow the likes of Speak Up For Women to tarnish decent men and women with their bile. This country has an horrific culture of violence against women, but I can say with all certainty that trans men are *not* the problem. Any man who wishes to harm a woman, child, or another man is not going to go to the trouble of posing as a woman to do so. Statistics show this in black and white.

Statistics show too, the frankly alarming rates of violence against trans men and women, as well as the high number of suicide attempts in the group, within the past 12 months. One in five. Worse still, half of all people identifying as transgender have either self-harmed in the past year, or have shown/continue to show classic symptoms of major depressive disorders. We as a society, and you as a government committed to health and wellbeing for Kiwis, owe our trans friends, family, neighbours, our every effort to accomodate and accept them.

Our trans whānau deserve accurate birth certificates. Human rights should NOT be up for public debate.

Kind regards,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 9:50 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The right to self ID

Tuesday 26 February

Kia ora Tracey

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document 87:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 4:50 PM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Deferral of amendment to administrative process for changing gender on birth certificates

Dear Tracey,

I am very disappointed that the Bill to change the process for amending the gender on birth certificate has been deferred. A visible, and apparently effective, campaign has been run in opposition to the Bill, using the plight of women to support the marginalisation of trans people. This is devastating and frustrating; as a women and a feminist I am appalled.

9(2)(a) Simplifying the process is integral to achieving that. Only 18% of NZ'ers understand what non-binary means which makes allowing him to legally identify as non-binary very important.

Please advise under the official information act:

- Do you, as Minister, support the simplification of the process for amending the gender on birth certificates in principle?
- Does the Labour caucus support this in principle?
- Does Cabinet support this in principle?
- Is there an estimated time period for the deferral? If so, what is it?

Kind regards,

9(2)(a)

, Sent from my iPhone

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT
CT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 11:36 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Tēnā koe Tracey,

I am writing to express my dismay at your decision to defer the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill. It seems to me that this decision has been unduly influenced by overseas anti-trans-rights activists, who have no stake in New Zealand legislation and should not be allowed to have a say in our politics.

Speak Up For Women also seems to have had an impact on this decision. They are a hate group that spreads extremely inaccurate and very hurtful rhetoric about transgender New Zealanders, and I urge you to treat them with the same contempt that you would any other hate group in New Zealand.

I am a cisgender lesbian woman, and I'm well aware that the rights that I have gained to become an equal member of New Zealand society were fought very hard for over decades. It seems incomprehensible today that people like me were not allowed to marry six years ago, have their relationships legally recognised 15 years ago, or even legally exist 33 years ago. The same can be said for the struggle for the rights of indigenous peoples and people of colour all over the world. In 10 or 20 years, we are going to look back on the debate on trans rights as equally ridiculous as all of these historical debates about whether or not a certain minority group should have the same human rights as any other. I urge you to put yourself on the right side of history, and act to secure full equality and human rights for my transgender whānau, right now.

Lastly, I want to tell you about my work with LGBT youth. 9(2)(a)

. Time and time again, I see trans rangatahi in my group who are suffering from depression, who self-harm, who are bullied by their peers or rejected by their family, who think about committing suicide. It breaks my heart to see them in so much pain. There is plenty of scientific research that shows that transgender people experience such distress at an alarmingly disproportionate rate, and the cause can usually be attributed to dysphoria and lack of acceptance of trans identities.

I went through something similar as a teenager in the 2000s. 9(2)(a), where it wasn't acceptable to be gay. I was bullied and ostracised by my peers, I starved myself and self-harmed, and I made many attempts at suicide, two of which were very nearly successful. It wasn't until I was 20 that I met another openly lesbian woman who was happy in her identity, and who showed me that it wasn't shameful to be gay. It took a lot longer than that for me to accept who I was, and to start telling other people that I was gay.

This is the experience of trans youth today. A [2012 study](#) found that 1 in 5 transgender youth in NZ had attempted suicide in the past year, and nearly half of them had self-harmed in the past year. These are appalling statistics, and a great deal of good could be done by allowing the BDMRR to pass so that trans people are able to easily update their birth certificates to reflect their true gender.

There is no evidence that such a bill would be harmful to women or children in any way, as Speak Up For Women would have you believe. Men who would harm women or children

would not go to the trouble of changing their gender markers on all official records so that they can enter a women's changing room - they rely on far easier methods of hurting women and children. Transgender women just want to be able to change privately in the changing room that reflects their gender. These things will happen regardless of whether the BDMRR is passed or not - nobody is on the door checking birth certificates, and trans people are already able to change the gender markers on their passports and drivers licences. This bill requires no more public consultation, as it won't have any effect on the lives of people who are not transgender.

I urge you, again, as a member of a government that wishes to see positive change for our nation and which champions the rights of minorities, to reconsider your decision to defer, and allow the BDMRR to pass.

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 11:12 AM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: [Maybe Spam] Deferral of Amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora, Minister Martin,

I am writing to express my anger at your unreasonable deferral of this amendment.

The impression your comments in the media appear to suggest that you to have been influenced by a concerted foreign disinformation campaign against this amendment by lobbyist groups who target transgender and non-binary individuals in regular hate campaigns.

It is important to note that this campaign is fighting the amendment on the grounds that they believe people should not be allowed to change their sex on their birth certificate. However in New Zealand this change has been possible for years. The amendment isn't adding this ability, it is simply improving the administrative process to make it less costly for the country and for individuals seeking the change.

Under the current law, making the change is a needlessly expensive and troublesome procedure that penalises any transgender folk who don't have large disposable incomes. The change would allow less paperwork, and less cost to applicants. This is a vital change that will improve the quality of life for transgender folk.

What these lobbyists are claiming in regards to the risks to women is not supported by any evidence to date. They are presenting a fallacy driven by their bias to punish and hurt transgender people. This amendment is not going to put other women at risk. It is a fallacy to claim otherwise and it is frustrating to hear you repeat these fallacies in the news.

You mentioned in the media that there were complex issues and gave an example about a transgender youth going to a single sex school. This is not a complex issue. Many schools have already had transgender boys and girls go to them without drama. The issue with a transgender student is not one of birth certificate, but of education about why transgender girls are the same as cisgender girls.

To claim that this is a risk to other students is to present a slippery slope argument that is not supported by the facts. Continued consultation only succeeds in legitimising a group who use misinformation and outright falsehoods to target and harm the transgender and queer community.

There is no risk to other women, and by agreeing to this deferral you have put additional pressure on a group that has been under sustained attack in social media for years. Thereby raising the mental health risk to a lot of these men and women who are now facing a renewed attack campaign from an organisation that actively encourages assaults on transgender folk.

I ask that you let reason and fairness prevail, and drop this deferral. The extra consultation will not bring any new revelations and will simply cost taxpayers more money due to the misinformation campaign of a British based lobby group whose only goal is to deny NZ citizens of their human rights.

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 8:04 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: A submission

Hello Hon Tracey Martin my name is Dakota Hemmingson I am contacting you today as I have read you're in charge of the Bill which will help Transgender and Non-Binary people to change their gender marker on their birth certificate.

I want to share with you my experience as a trans women and dealing with this situation I'll try keep it brief. 9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am so very proud of this but as a result it lead me to some very dark places, my mental health was at it's lowest I tried to commit suicide by taking an overdose 3 times the fatal limit and thankfully somehow I survived.

Today I am blessed to say I live a very normal and healthy lifestyle 9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

I have changed my gender marker on everything apart from my birth certificate because as a result of everything I've already had to go through the last thing I want to have to is prove who I am all over again. I have all the supporting documents to change my gender marker I have friends who are lawyers who can help me with the process but the process on itself right now is too much for me to want to go through again.

I know that may sound silly and it probably is but nothing about transitioning is easy and being able to do this and have it be alot easier would be life changing for me. I would go out and do it the day the bill was passed if I could.

I want to thank you for your time and for even giving this bill a chance.

If you would like to look further into my legal battle with my ex employer you can do so by googling my name.

Kindest regards

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 9:21 AM
To: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

26 February 2019

Kia ora

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

[Share a bit about yourself: where you're from, why this issue matters to you personally]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 7:50 AM
To: Deborah Russell <Deborah.Russell@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The right to self ID - support the BDM Act amendment

26 February

Kia ora Deborah

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 8:41 AM
To: David Seymour <David.Seymour@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: BDM

Kia Ora David

You know I don't write you much, but this is too important, for a small group of Kiwis, not to write to you.

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular David, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create an identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

You know that I'm gay. I know quite a few transgendered people. They have it hard, way harder than gays or lesbians do, and that's saying something. I don't think that this bill will threaten gays or lesbians at all. It does not mean that trans men or trans women will suddenly be present in spaces where gays and lesbians are – in fact, trans men and women are already present in those spaces. I don't think that this bill will suddenly entitle trans women or men to force their way into exclusively gay or lesbian spaces – trans people tend to, like all groups, want to socialise within their own groups. It does not threaten the identity of a gay man or lesbian women. We are still gay men or lesbian women before this bill, and will still be gay men and lesbian woman after this bill. I don't think that this bill will result in any negative outcomes, and in fact is likely to make lives easier and more secure for the trans men and women in our communities.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 9:57 AM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: BDMRR deferral

Minister Tracey Martin,

Yesterdays decision to defer the BDMRR Bill has caused immediate harm to trans people, particularly the trans youth who were engaged with and watching this decision expectantly.

By requiring further consultation with the public, you are bringing basic human rights in to the middle of political debate. It is important, as a democratic institution that we do not put minority rights to majority vote - we all know those votes never support those who most need it.

Your decision has emboldened those who oppose trans people, and made their rhetoric louder. They cheerfully share misinformation on what is a well documented and normal process - transitioning gender. The only way transgender people and processes will harm our youth, is to make sweeping fear mongering statements about them as you did in last nights interview. Saying that this change raises more questions around bathrooms and womens only spaces is basic fear mongering around trans people. It is the same rhetoric that was used around gay men and lesbian women when their rights were just beginning to be upheld by law. We should be on the right side of history and push through this small change, which merely aligns the process for passports and drivers licence changes with birth certifications. There is nothing to fear in this one piece of paperwork matching the rest, but there is a lot for trans people to fear when they have one document that they cannot afford (through time or money) to make align with their gender.

I fear for the number of trans youth who will look at the news today and see no hope for their future. Who will hear the same hateful rhetoric that should have disappeared when the Homosexual Law Reform Act came along in 1986. The same trans youth who are committing suicide at 4x the rate of everyone else in our country.

We need to show them that we care, we need to stand up and extend their human rights to them. We need to let trans kids in to whatever school they choose, and not punish them for being born. They are our mokopuna, our children and we must protect them without delay.

Please do whatever is in your power to reverse last nights decision. Be on the right side of history with us, I'm begging you. We just want to live our lives as we are.

Kind Regards,

9(2)(a)

RELEASE

UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document 95:

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 12:31 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: View from a member of the public

Dear Tracey

It surprises me that you would want to seek to consult me for my view about someone else's gender identification.

As a member of the public, I can't fathom why you think this private matter would be any of my business.

But, now you have my view.

I'd be grateful if it can be recorded.

Best regards

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 4:13 PM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships registration Bill

Kia ora Minister,

I am really disappointed to hear about the decision to defer the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration bill. Our trans whānau deserve accurate birth certificates. Human rights can not and should not be up for public debate.

Please do all you that can to get this bill back on track.

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document 97:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 8:08 PM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Birth certificates

Dear Tracey

Re Changing gender on birth certificates

Birth certificates are a document which registers an event.
Just like a marriage certificate.

If you divorce you don't change the Marriage Certificate – you have a subsequent document changing your status.

So it is for the Birth Certificate – it registers a moment in time – subsequent events should be recorded in subsequent documents.

Regards
Theresa

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 9:22 AM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: BDM bill

Hello Minister Martin

I'm very disappointed to hear that this bill has been deferred because of the actions of groups opposed to granting human rights to vulnerable people. Trans, intersex, and other groups of people will benefit greatly from the proposed simple system of changing their birth marker. The fears being peddled by groups such as Speak up for Women are based on an irrational fear and hatred of transgender people and should not prevent citizens of this country from being afforded the human rights they need and deserve.

I sincerely hope the bill makes it through Parliament as it would be a significant milestone in our human rights progress.

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 4:55 PM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: BDMRR Bill Amendments

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to ask you to support the proposed amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill which would make it simpler and less stressful for transgender people to change the sex on their birth certificate to match their gender identity. I am extremely disappointed at the deferral of the changes - allowing the majority to vote on the rights of a minority is seldom a fair process, and that appears to be what has occurred in this case. Having identity documents which are inconsistent with one's identity is upsetting and frequently humiliating. I know this personally, as a non-binary transgender person who has been able to update my passport but not my birth certificate. When I need to update my name with my bank, for example, I need to produce two pieces of ID with different information on them. Not only is this embarrassing, it also seems absurd that two government issued forms of identification have such different burdens of proof required to update them.

I would like to be able to move through my day to day life with dignity and privacy, I do not want my medical history to be inadvertently made plain to anyone who needs to see my birth certificate.

Regards,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document 100:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 8:12 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Grant Robertson
<Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Hullo,

I am writing in support of the amendments suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

I believe that making it easier for people to change their birth certificate's gender is kind and good, it may well reduce suicides and will certainly take a load off some New Zealanders who have it hard.

Best wishes,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document 101:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 12:39 PM
To: Hon. Dr David Clark <David.Clark@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill

Tēnā koe Mr Clark,

I was saddened to hear about the deferral of the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill. I would hope you are in support of this bill going through as soon as possible, given your role in health. There are so many kiwis who will be benefited by the ability to more easily have their documents match their identity, and who are harmed by the system as it is. As I understand it, one of the main purposes of the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill was to update old laws. That is really all the self-identification amendment is, an update. One that is urgently needed, that harms no one (despite what some conservative scaremongers might say), and benefits many. Please do your best to see that it gets through.

Ngā mihi nui,
9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 12:14 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora Hon Tracey Martin,

I am writing to you as the Minister responsible for this Bill, to express my support for amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

While this is something that might not affect me personally, as a cisgender woman, being bisexual I am nonetheless a member of the Rainbow community and stand in solidarity with our trans and intersex whānau.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Nga mihi nui,

9(2)(a)
[Redacted signature]

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 4:44 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Self ID

Kia ora Tracey,

I am writing to express my sadness and anger at your decision to defer the amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill which would allow people to more easily alter the gender marker on their birth certificates.

For me, as a cisgender woman, this bill has absolutely no effect upon my rights, freedoms, or any aspect of my life (no matter what a vocal few might claim), however for transgender and non-binary people, having a birth certificate which accurately portrays who they are would offer protection from discrimination, and make life easier in many ways, both large and small. This is a matter of human rights for a group of people who frequently face discrimination and abuse, and as such should not be a matter for public discussion.

Yours sincerely
9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 8:01 AM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Do not defer the births, deaths, and marriages bill

Good morning Minister,

I am writing because I have seen in the news today that you have made the decision to defer the bill which would allow trans people to change the sex on their birth certificate through an administrative process.

Your decision is deeply troubling, because it appears from the outside that the decision to defer has been brought about entirely by pressure from conservative groups whose voices are consistently amplified by New Zealand media. This is especially frustrating given that the groups arguing against the change in process would in fact never interact it, and are arguing against it purely out of spite, but it is nonetheless an enormous milestone for the trans community and for us as a country that has helped lead the world in LGBT+ acceptance in the past.

Please do not allow pressure groups to disrupt a democratic process; I have seen the argument that some people were not given the opportunity for consultation, but that is simply not true. They had their chance to participate during the select committee process, and their failure to do so is their fault alone. Much like the shameful displays we have seen from opposition ministers as they walk out of Parliament and disrupt meetings, their refusal to participate in the proceedings of government only wastes time and creates frustration for the communities invested in the work you are doing.

As you well know, the current process that a trans person faces is not only daunting, but an archaic hangover from a time when this country saw people trying to transition as a dangerous risk to society. We have grown as a nation since then, and have made outstanding progress in our civil rights.

Help bring an end to the stigmatization and ostrization of the trans members of our society. Please resubmit the bill for it's final reading - do not defer the decision to massively improve the lives of our trans whanau.

Kind regards,

9(2)(a)

RELEASE

NOT THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Date: Tuesday, 26 Feb 2019, 10:55 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Amendments to the Birth, Deaths and Marriages Act

Dear Minister

I am appalled by your decision to withdraw this bill.

As a non-binary person, I stand with my transgender brethren and support their desire to be able to have a birth certificate that matches their passport & drivers licence, using the same statutory process.

Not to mention that your decision quashes other necessary changes to this legislation.

The bill has been through due process, including the Select Committee process which allows for public submissions. I am unsure why further consultation would be needed.

I was proud of you for sponsoring this bill and supporting much needed updates to our legislation. Now I am ashamed.

I have to assume that you have caved to pressure from British exclusionary feminists who have sought to interfere in New Zealand's democratic processes and thus further complicate the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

It is my hope that you will change your decision and let this bill continue through the usual parliamentary process.

Kind regards

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document 106:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 8:13 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Please progress the right to self identify

Morning this is a basic right and the Crown law opinion is in favourite please do the right thing. Thanks 9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 11:45 AM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: In support of birth certificate amendment

26 February 2019

Kia ora Grant Robertson

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

I am not transgender and identify as cis, but believe that this would be a positive step for all New Zealanders.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Date: Tuesday, 26 Feb 2019, 6:19 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages & Relationships Bill

Dear Minister Martin,

I write to you in support of this Bill, which is under consideration in the House.

I would also like to bring to your attention that a petition you have received, initiated by Charlie Montague, has been signed by trans exclusionary radical feminists from outside NZ; broadly speaking, a collection of people who support Germaine Greer's 1970's assertion that all trans women aren't just rapists in frocks. This has been debunked so many times that I shudder at the academic incredulity of anyone who is taken in by that argument.

It is not current thinking among feminists, apart from a small, vocal minority who want to do inestimable harm to a very vulnerable group - trans youth. I personally knew a 30-something trans woman, who was hounded to suicide by bigoted staff in WINZ frontline in 2012.

When 9(2)(a)

a closure desired by men who did not want to see feminist or queer academics persist.

We as a society shut down opportunities for our young. Queer people to thrive at our peril. I live in the Waikato, where the rainbow youth suicide rate is proportionally worse than our horrific youth suicide rate.

Bigots in positions of power, gating assistance and public services, drive that suicide rate. Being told that your life is null, that your gender identity is abhorrent, is not something many young people can stand on the daily.

Please do not give the bigots more time to yell their foul abuse. The consultation on this Bill was properly advertised, the TERF's just want to create barriers to services, and cause the deaths of as many trans youth as possible.

Finally, I would direct you to look at the underfunded NGO's who are struggling to stem the tide of queer & trans youth suicide.

<http://evolveyouth.org.nz/what-we-do/gender-sexuality-support/>

<https://www.ry.org.nz/>

<http://www.righttoselfid.nz>

Sincerely,

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 10:51 AM
To: Hon Kris Faafoi <kris.faafoi@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

26/02/2019

Kia ora Kris Faafoi

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

9(2)(a)

Much of this thanks to living in a colonised country with a large history of queer and gender erasure. Much of my childhood was spent in a mixture of confusion and fear, and I feel that the inclusion of more gender markers in our birth certificates are the beginning of an open dialogue with our countries queer and trans youth.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to

influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

- [1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-2>
[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

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From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 12:38 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: [Maybe Spam] Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora Tracey,

I understand that the amendments to this bill which streamline the process for changing sex on a person's birth certificate have been delayed.

I really want to urge you to put these amendments back on the agenda. This is an important change which will significantly improve the lives of a marginalised group in New Zealand, with tremendously high rates of sexual and physical assault, abuse, mental health problems, and suicide. There is no credible evidence that the change has negative impacts for wider society. Their wellbeing should be core to any government which is seeking to lift New Zealanders up.

I know that there is public pressure not to put this change through. Like gay marriage, I am confident that this change is one that will feel totally natural within a few years of it passing and we will ever wonder why it was an issue. At some stage we need to accept that civil rights are just that – rights. They should not be subject to the approval of others, they should come with membership of society.

I really want to encourage you to put these changes to the bill back on the agenda.

Best wishes,

9(2)(a)

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From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 9:36 AM
To: Hon. Dr David Clark <David.Clark@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: [Maybe Spam] The right to self ID

Mōrena Dr Clark,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium, and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams Institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

As someone with a number of transgender and non-binary friends, this is an issue that is very important to me.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society and the Human Rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments. It angers and annoys me that this group purports to speak on behalf of women, and say that they are defending the rights of women, when they are only representing a small number with a particular axe to grind, and are causing so much hurt.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui, nā

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 7:58 PM

Subject: The Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance). I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 11:30 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; mark.patterson@parliament.govt.nz; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: BDMRR Bill

Kia ora koutou

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

I am dismayed to hear that you will be delaying the progress of this bill, which will have detrimental effects to the quality of life for an already heavily discriminated on section of the population. I urge you to reconsider this delay.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 12:16 PM
To: Hon Stuart Nash <Stuart.Nash@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

26th February 2018

Kia ora Stuart and colleagues,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document 115:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 10:59 AM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora Grant,

I am really disappointed to hear about the decision to defer the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill. Our trans whānau deserve accurate birth certificates. Human rights should NOT be up for public debate.

As my MP, I hope you will do all you can to get this bill back on track.

Thanks,

9(2)(a)

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9(2)(a)
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From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 4:37 PM
To: Hon Phil Twyford <Philip.Twyford@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The right to self ID

Kia ora Phil,

As a resident of the Te Atatū electoral ward, I am writing to you to show my support for the amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create an identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Kia pai tō rā,
9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 3:47 PM
To: Paul Eagle <Paul.Eagle@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Right to Self-Identify

Kia ora

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document 118:

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 11:16 AM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora Grant,

I'm disappointed to hear that the decision about the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill has been deferred.

The resistance to the changes have been driven by a small group of people claiming there was insufficient consultation on the Bill. This group has been backed by a large number of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy. The amendments are supported by mainstream New Zealand organisations including the Human Rights Commission in their submission.

Our trans and gender non conforming whanau deserve accurate birth certificates and their identities should not be up for debate. Many of my trans whanau are New Zealanders living overseas because they have found New Zealand is not a friendly place to be trans, and these amendments will make it easier for them to exist in their home country without prejudice.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the changes to the BDMRR come from a place of prejudice within a vocal minority, and to get the amendments back on track.

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 9:10 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Amendments to Births Deaths Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora Tracey,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

I am a middle class, middle aged white woman, so live a life of relative privilege. Within my reasonably sheltered life and social network, I have friends who are transitioning, and I know from them the challenges this involves. They have supportive family and friends, they are well educated and have good incomes. I can only imagine the difficulties and challenges and impossible hurdles others transitioning must face, where none of these supports are available.

9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]. I despair at the thought that we as a nation cannot remove a barrier to simplify the path for all our people. Please help give people the joy and dignity to which they are entitled.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 7:40 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: BDM legislation

Dear Minister

Your announcement yesterday of the deferment of your BDM legislation has ensured I have to put into writing my support for this bill as it stood.

I can find no reasons to negate it unless they are religion based or the holder has a distinctly 19th century mind set.

The men who some say will enter women's bathrooms with protection of this legislation are likely to anyway.

The few people I know who will sincerely benefit from this legislation are all inherently gentle people. They have climbed mountains to reach their current position that I can't imagine surmounting so I am obliged to support them all. Please don't avoid the legislations original intent of making it easier for so many good people to attain what I believe is their true gender.

Thank you for your time
Regards

9(2)(a)

c.c. Prime Ministers office
c.c. M Wood

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From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 11:14 AM
To: Greg O'Connor <greg.oconnor@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora Greg

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10th August 2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create an identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted (<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>).

9(2)(a)
A more inclusive society I thought, one where people were accepted for who they were and that the types of discrimination 9(2)(a) were very much in the minority. Yesterday, my security in the knowledge that this type of discrimination and bigotry were in the minority was badly shaken when Hon Tracey Martin caved into the demands of a very vocal minority originating from the UK, to the amendments proposed in this bill. I fear that this will embolden certain elements within our society to be more brazen in their bigotry and I feel this puts members of the trans community at great risk.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand

policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society (<https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>) and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 3:46 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill amendments

26/2/19

Dear Hon Tracey Martin

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation" "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

9(2)(a). Knowing them, and hearing and sharing some of the battles they have had to be recognised as who they see themselves as by our society and wider communities still stays with me. I must speak up for them and I urge you to use your position and power to speak up for them also.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>



ReplyForward

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 10:05 PM
To: Hon. Dr David Clark <David.Clark@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Support for the proposed amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora David,

I am really disappointed to hear about the decision to defer the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration bill. Our trans whānau deserve accurate birth certificates. Human rights should NOT be up for public debate.

It is doubly disappointing for this to have gone thru the select committee process, with all the requisite consultation and expert input, only to be derailed twelve months later by a group who are not satisfied with the select committee recommendations. It makes our parliamentary system into a farce to allow this to happen, and only perpetuates the harm that the bill seeks to remedy.

As an MP, I hope you will do all you can to get this bill back on track.

Thanks,

9(2)(a)

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From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 11:23 AM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Response to BDMRRB clause 22

26/02/2019

Hi there Grant (and by extension the Labour Party)

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

Specifically, I feel like anything going on in someones' pants is between them and their doctor. If they would like to be treated in a particular way, then not allowing this change means that people who never have to deal with the kind of prejudice the person who would want this change are allowed to press that prejudice on them. I would love for people to be able to live as themselves without outside intrusion.

Thank you kindly for the time.
Please support the change.

Kindly
9(2)(a)

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From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 12:11 PM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Question re: international influence on BDMRR submissions

Dear Hon. Tracey Martin,

First, thank you for being in charge for the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill. I'm thrilled to see it in parliament, I fully support the progress of the bill, the outcome of the select committee, and I believe the outcomes will be strongly beneficial for a small, but significantly marginalised, community of people in New Zealand. If implemented correctly, the bill will save lives.

As a community leader, I am aware that there has been a global, coordinated effort to try and derail this Bill, mostly through social media. I was disappointed to hear that you have decided to defer the bill back to public consultation, and I was wondering if this deferment was due to an influx of international messages?

My key question is this: If the bill returns to public consultation, what safeguards and checks are there in place to ensure that the submission process is not overwhelmed or distracted by another global, coordinated effort to derail the bill – which I am certain would happen? When I checked the Parliament website, it seems I could make a submission without specifying my address or even country.

Thank you again for leading this bill. I'm sure that your inbox is swamped!

Sincerely

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 1:44 PM
To: G Robertson (MIN) <G.Robertson@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: proposed amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

26/02/2019

Kia ora Grant Robertson,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill. Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

9(2)(a)
The ability to state what my gender truthfully is and be believed would be very important to me and considerably improve my mental health and quality of life. It would make it harder for bigoted or transphobic people to discriminate against me or refuse me the rights all NZ citizens and residents are entitled to, and harder for them to commit microaggressions like using a name that is not my name.

Many of the trans and nonbinary people in New Zealand suffer from mental illness and poverty, and this is due in large degree to how we are treated by society and by current legislation. We are citizens and being able to self-determine our gender would not hurt anyone and would be extremely useful for mental health, physical health and our standing in society. Many of my friends' lives would be changed by this bill positively, and I know mine would be.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document 127:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 7:55 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Gender ID Bill / clause 22 - I support

Hello

9(2)(a)

I'm disappointed about the planning to withdraw the bill. I consider the right for people to more easily change their self-identified gender as important for their rights, and as a threat to no one.

Please do not let a scaremongering campaign led by overseas pressure groups and transphobic individuals tell you otherwise.

Regards

9(2)(a)

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

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From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 3:43 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Changes to the BDMRRA

To the Honourable Tracey Martin
New Zealand First Party MP

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you about the delay to the second reading of the proposed amendment to the Births, Deaths, Marriages & Relationships Registration Act (1995).

Thank you for sponsoring this bill. I have read your statement saying that you support the amendment which will transform the process for changing birth markers on BDM identification.

I'm writing because I'm aware of the movement against this amendment & I want you & your colleagues to see how much support the coalition government have for this amendment. I'm really grateful parliament is taking the time to address this issue. I'm disappointed that the second reading of the bill has been delayed, but I accept that you need to make sure the process is completed fully & legally.

Because you have called for further consultation on the bill I want to let you know that I support trans gender people, non binary people & takatāpui & their families on this change. I am a cis, heterosexual woman but like most people, I believe in minimising discrimination across the board, and the right to self identification.

I know you already know the difference the right to self ID will make to trans gender people, non binary people & takatāpui, so I'm not going to teach you to suck eggs, & will just add my thanks for your work on this bill.

Thank you & best wishes,

9(2)(a)

[Redacted signature]

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From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 7:27 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The right to self-ID

Kia ora Tracey

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

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Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 12:00 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject:

Kia ora Tracey

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create an identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate; and ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams Institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

While I'm a privileged white cis woman I cannot abide the fact that our legislation is harmful to a group of people who are marginalised in so many ways to the extent that it costs lives. I see this as a human right and something that the current government of New Zealand should be supporting and actively pursuing.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas-based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

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From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 10:45 AM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: FW: My support for the amendment to the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Act

Tēnā koe Tracey

Thank you for your recent reply to my email in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill to streamline the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

I particularly note that in your email you stated that the "Committee's consultation process has closed. The Bill is now waiting its second reading before it is considered by the Committee of the Whole House. Parliament will then consider the Committee's report and any further changes to the Bill".

I am extremely disappointed to see that, in response to the bigoted outcry of a small, uneducated minority of people who have no personal interest in this process, you have now reneged on your commitment for this bill to go before the house following the thorough consultation process.

Now that you have unnecessarily reopened consultation on this bill, I would like my email to be considered as part of that consultation in strong support of recommendations to enable a self-identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate.

I urge you to do the right thing.

Nāku noa, nā,
9(2)(a)

On Tue, Jan 29, 2019 at 4:16 PM T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz> wrote:

TMC119

9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email.

I note your comments on the Bill and the change to self-identification of gender on birth certificates. The Government recognises that gender self-identification is an important issue. This was reflected by the large number of people, including women and women's groups, who made their views known through submissions at the select committee stage.

The Governance and Administration Select Committee received views from a broad range of people and organisations about how to achieve greater equality for people of all genders, and the possible implications of gender self-identification. The submissions and other evidence considered by the Committee, as well as the Committee's final report can be found at: https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_74854/births-deaths-marriages-and-relationships-registration

The Committee's consultation process has closed. The Bill is now waiting its second reading before it is considered by the Committee of the Whole House. Parliament will then consider the Committee's report and any further changes to the Bill.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Annika

Annika Rodstrom | Private Secretary – Executive Support | Office of Hon Tracey Martin

Minister for Children | Minister for Seniors | Minister of Internal Affairs | Associate Minister of Education

From: 9(2)(a) [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 17 January 2019 2:18 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: My support for the amendment to the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Act

Kia ora Tracey

I hope that your summer break has been a rejuvenating one for you and your family.

This is a brief email to let you know that I strongly support your proposed amendment to the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Act to allow the self-declaration of gender on birth certificates.

All the best for 2019.

Nāku noa, nā,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 9:45 AM
To: Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The right to self ID

26 February 2019

Kia ora Jacinda,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 5:45 PM
To: Hon Chris Hipkins <Chris.Hipkins@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: BDM Amendment Act - Sex Self ID amendment

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to you regarding the BDMAA, and specifically the proposal that would have allowed people to change the gender on their birth certificate once by statutory declaration. I learned today this amendment has been indefinitely delayed and I am incredibly disappointed in the government for making this decision.

The right to self identification has been supported by the Human Rights Commission and the National Council of Women. This change would bring requirements around birth certificates in line with those around passports and drivers' licenses and bring NZ into line with other progressive countries around the world. Implementing it would harm no one. Yes, no one.

Despite the protests of a vocal minority, this amendment would not lead to a lack of safety for women (a term those opposed to this amendment expressly define to exclude trans and intersex individuals). It wouldn't make bathrooms unsafe - no one needs a birth certificate to enter one. It wouldn't make changing rooms unsafe - again, no one needs a birth certificate to enter one. It wouldn't encourage "men" to go into women's only spaces and flash their junk around - the key things preventing that are societal norms around acceptable behaviour and the sure knowledge that if someone did it the Police would be called to enforce our already-extant laws around sexual harassment and indecent public behaviour. It wouldn't materially change things for prisoners - Corrections already has a requirement to ensure prisoner safety and anyone can be a threat to that regardless of the genitals in their pants.

Cis women are more likely to hurt other women than trans women are. Cis men are more likely to hurt other men than trans men are. Most trans people have spent their whole lives trying to fit in and feel accepted. Suddenly being able to more easily change the gender marker on their birth certificate won't send them out in public with their pants around their ankles looking for attention. To imply they'd behave in any way like this is just dog whistling to a queerphobic minority.

Despite what a columnist in the Herald would have you believe, pharmaceutical companies and LGBT individuals aren't trying to sexually confuse and alter the genders of children around the world, either.

It baffles and astounds me that these accusations and claims even need to be responded to. This is common sense! But the fact this Bill has stalled leads me to believe there are people lending credence to these ridiculous and unfounded concerns.

We allow gay men in men's bathrooms and changing rooms and we allow lesbian women in women's changing rooms and bathrooms. We put gay men in men's prisons and lesbian

women in women's prisons and we do not quibble about this and imply they're all sexual predators. There was a time people did, a less progressive time, but we've moved forward as a world since then and proven those fears unfounded. This is no different.

We have never expressly prevented trans and intersex people from choosing to use the facilities they feel safest and most comfortable in so how does this change anything? It doesn't! It is purely a matter of human rights - letting people's legal documents show the world who they know they are inside.

Allowing a marginalised minority to have their birth certificate reflect their self-identification won't suddenly spur mass assaults on women. It might, however, help reduce youth suicides and suicide rates among trans and intersex people. It might make our queer and takatāpui youth feel more comfortable in their own skins. It might make their experiences with medical professionals less awkward, less embarrassing. It might mean they don't have to out themselves as other, call themselves by words that don't describe them, be constantly reminded of their status as a misunderstood and sometimes maligned minority when engaging in their day to day life.

How can a law that harms no one but benefits some of the most marginalised and vulnerable members of our society possibly be bad? This government has repeatedly asserted they are about kindness and empathy. I'd ask you show those values now and immediately recommence progressing this amendment.

Minister Martin, this is not my first dealing with Parliament. I ask that you please not reply to me quibbling about the status of the amendment or providing a summary of the history of the Bill so far. I have received these sorts of replies from Ministers before and find them wholly insufficient. Instead, I want to hear why this Bill has been stalled and what the government will be doing to get it going again. And failing that, I want to hear why you don't sufficiently value the rights of trans, genderqueer and intersex New Zealanders. Because that is what you are saying in ceasing progression of this Bill, whether you intend to say it or not.

Mr Hipkins, I address my next comment specifically to you: 9(2)(a)

This will be my first real engagement with you as an MP and I truly hope that through it I find that you live up to your reputation locally as someone who listens to your constituents and values their concerns.

Kind regards,

9(2)(a)

**

Sent from my iPhone (excuse the typos)

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 12:39 PM
To: Greg O'Connor <greg.oconnor@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Hi Greg

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

These issues are a significant factor in the lives of many teens who ultimately take their own lives. Passing this Bill will save lives.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Cheers

9(2)(a)

--

...let us be heard from red core to black sky

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 7:39 PM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Right to Self ID Bill Consultation

26.2.2019

Kia ora Tracey,

You would like more consultation?

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Tracey, I highly admire you. You use think things through with a level head, yet somehow have fallen short by deferring this bill. The right to Self ID directly affects children in our Primary and Secondary Schools and their mental and social well-being; things the government ask me to nurture as a Teacher. How can I nurture these student if they are denied the right to their identity, yet their peers gain it automatically? Where is the justice in that?

Aside from my 9(2)(a) this bill does not affect me. But for others, it will positively change lives, and maybe even save them.

Please reconsider your decision on this bill.

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED] .com]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 8:30 AM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Shane Jones <Shane.Jones@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>; Mark Patterson <Mark.Patterson@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Fletcher Tabuteau <Fletcher.Tabuteau@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The right to self ID

26 February 2019

Kia ora Grant Robertson

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 9:20 AM
To: jacinda.ardern@parliament.govt.nz
Cc: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Amendments to the BDMRR bill

Kia ora Ms Ardern,

I'm writing in support of the proposed amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration bill, specifically the changes that would streamline changes to a person's listed sex on their birth certificate.

There was a time when I would have thought that this issue doesn't affect me because I'm a cis woman. I'm ashamed of that version of myself now. Within the last few years I've had a career change into early childhood education, and spending my days working to ensure children get the best start possible in education has made me think more about how it's my duty to do what I can to ensure those children go on to have the best life they can once they leave my care. Just from a purely statistical point of view, I'm going to be caring for children who will fall under the umbrella term LGBTQ+. I want to know that when those children grow up they're not going to fall prey to the myriad mental health issues that can befall trans people who aren't supported. If I don't fight for the things that will help ALL of the tamariki I teach have a good life once they leave my care, then anything I do for them now is just posturing - I want to know that I'm doing everything I can to make sure they don't end up in the care of my auntie the nurse, my mother the residential mental health care provider, or worst case scenario, an undertaker.

I've always been proud to be a Kiwi. While I connect to my 9(2)(a), I've always been proud that NZ is willing to stand up for what's right. We were the first to give women the vote, and in 9(2)(a) - Kiwis came out in droves to stand against apartheid during the Springbok tour. In my lifetime we've introduced legal same-sex marriage, and I'm proud of that too. I want the next moment I'm proud of to be NZ standing up and saying hey, we know trans people have a hard time and we don't think we should be making it any harder. I want it to be the fact that when an overseas hate group realized they'd missed a chance to interfere and started trying to whip people into a frenzy to get that chance back, we took the Kiwi route and said "yeah, nah" and stayed true to ourselves.

The sex on a person's birth certificate is nobody's business but that person. Making sure the sex on a person's birth certificate can reflect that person's identity and be made to do so in a way that preserves their dignity instead of making them jump through demeaning hoops? That's the business of every right-minded Kiwi with a shred of compassion in themselves.

Please don't give in to hate. That's not us.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Document 138:

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 12:35 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Delay to the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships and Registration Bill

Kia ora Grant,

It pains me to have to write to you again regarding this bill, which is so important for our trans and nonbinary communities. It might not seem like a local issue, but central Wellington has a long history of welcoming the LGBTIQ community, at least compared to most of New Zealand, so it's likely that a significant proportion of your constituents will be affected to this. Being told that their rights and existence are once again up for "further debate" is horrifying and dangerous for them. Trans rights are human rights, and it would be wonderful if you could lend your public support to this bill.

Regards,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 4:25 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

26th February 2019

Kia ora Ms Martin

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

9(2)(a), and I feel very strongly that this issue and the rights of our transgender and non-binary whanau be supported by our government, as we cannot justify this ongoing and unnecessary bureaucratic distress.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] [Gender Identity Nondiscrimination Laws in Public Accommodations: a Review of Evidence Regarding Safety and Privacy in Public Restrooms, Locker Rooms, and Changing Rooms](#)

Gender Identity Nondiscrimination Laws in Public Accommodations: a Revie...

Legislation, regulations, litigation, and ballot propositions affecting public restroom access for transgender p...

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/Births, Deaths, Marr>

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 27 February 2019 11:30 AM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia Ora Tracey,

I'm writing to ask you to share with you my disappoint in the deferral of the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill.

As a cishet woman, I'm very fortunate and aware that my comfort in my own body and identity is a privilege that isn't afforded to many. I can't give you a statistic on how many, as our NZ Census doesn't currently offer an option for non-binary genders.

From my understanding, this bill is a step towards fostering societal acceptance and support for the vulnerable, and we must always be doing what we can with our power to uplift the vulnerable. As a cishet woman with democratic access to you as the Internal Affairs Minister, I'm asking you to exercise your power as an MP to support the bill and ensure that it reaches legislation. It is up to us to do the mahi to ensure that we are creating a safe Aotearoa for ALL citizens.

Instead of further enabling the bureaucratic red tape that is pandering to the most vocal, we need to be cutting that tape to support the most vulnerable. The loudest voices aren't always the right ones, but we need to use ours to make sure they are heard. We must amplify the vulnerable instead of further alienating and degrading them.

The idea that the bill is being deferred for public consultation is unacceptable. The only public that should be consulted are the ones directly affected by this bill, who will have a tangible positive outcome by this bill being passed. Public consultation that includes cisgender opinions is not necessary or relevant. We do not ask mechanics for their opinions on carpentry, because they have nothing of value or relevance to add. We ask the people who will be directly affected, which is what we must do here and now. If there is public consultation, I expect it to be accessible and inclusive conversations and surveys of gender diverse New Zealanders in safe spaces curated by people they're comfortable with. For those who have not yet shared that they're gender non-binary publicly, I expect these conversations to also include digital safe spaces where they can contribute without fear of repercussions on their safety.

The delay of the bill is a marker of the othering and constant dehumanisation the LGBTIQI community constantly faces in our country, which is incredibly embarrassing. The countless stories of assault upon their community on Karangahape Road is a testament to the fact that society isn't remotely close to being in a point of tolerance and acceptance and much less support.

This process isn't something you or I ever have to consider, and we need to ensure that those who are undertaking the process to feel comfortable in their identity are supported from a legislative to a societal level, and this bill will contribute to that. This won't affect our lives at all, and that is even more reason to support it.

The fact that this is an Internal Affairs issue and not a Health or Social Development issue further highlights that we need to be campaigning for better treatment for our LGBTIQI friends.

Please do all in your power to ensure this bill is read, heard, and pushed through for the safety of our gender non-binary citizens.

Nga Mihi Nui,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document 141:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 27 February 2019 2:32 PM
To: Hon Chris Hipkins <Chris.Hipkins@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: BDM act amendment delays

Kia Ora Chris Hipkins,

My name's 9(2)(a) 9(2)(a). I'm a party member and have knocked on the odd door for you in the 2017 GOTV efforts. I'm writing about the disappointing news that the amendments to the Births Deaths and Marriages act, in particular the changes to allow self identification of gender on birth certificates, has been delayed. I am fearful that Minister Martin has been swayed in her decision by concerted efforts of pressure groups who do not have the best interests at heart of those greatest affected by this law. You may have seen controversy in the UK as movements set out to delay, roll back and attack the rights of transgender and nonbinary peoples have employed dodgy science and at times criminal harassment (see the sad case of Graham Lineham). Such groups were openly out to interfere with the passage of this bill, signing petitions from overseas and the like. Martin's delay of this bill, if it is in response to pressures from these actors, exposes vulnerable people to harm because of who they are and is an act of administrative bigotry.

I hope the amendments can proceed without unreasonable delay and that the additional public feedback, as called for, is managed in a way that does not subject the human rights of a minority to the whims of a mob.

Many thanks,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Date: Wednesday, 27 Feb 2019, 12:46 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>, Duncan Webb <Duncan.Webb@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: re: the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill

Dear Minister and Dr Webb

I am writing to you in your capacities as bill sponsor and my local MP respectively to voice my upset at the deferral of the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill. I am writing in a personal capacity, as a woman who in no way believes that the rights of trans, intersex and non-binary individuals impinge upon my own safety and well-being. I am also writing as someone 9(2)(a)

I have the pleasure and privilege of being able to work with, teach and support gender diverse students, to work with some very impressive gender diverse colleagues, 9(2)(a)

One of the joys of my job is in seeing young people come into their own as adults – especially when some of them, who have spent much of their lives feeling confused and marginalised, if not outright abused or excluded, realise that there are words available to them that describe their identities and sexualities.

One of the great challenges facing you, I suspect, is the fact that we live in a world of near infinite expressions and experiences of identity and sexuality, but also in a world where administration runs our lives – where boxes needed to be ticked, and categories filled, and documents filed, for a variety of reasons both practical and frustrating. For some individuals there is a huge disjuncture between their lived experience and the official ‘boxes’ available to them, and this has a profoundly disabling effect upon them. For my students, it might range from being unable to have their chosen name or identity available on documents. For others, it results in exceptionally difficult, dehumanising and invasive experiences, such as being unable to access governmental or healthcare services reasonably or at all, or being exposed to humiliating or even dangerous situations.

9(2)(a), and their tears of relief and happiness at being able to have an ‘X’ on their passport instead of ‘M’ or ‘F’, which made life significantly easier for them – not just emotionally, but, practically, such as when accessing health care and when travelling internationally to attend conferences. For a trans student, it was the joy and relief of being addressed by the name that she had chosen for herself, and not being repeatedly (and accidentally) outed by other staff and students. For an intersex student, it was being able to express their identity in a way that wasn’t defined by what doctors thought of their genitals at birth. And so on. These are simple, basic things – issues of dignity, and fairness.

This bill, by my reading of it, works to simplify this – to make easier the lives of people who face daily struggles that you nor I can really comprehend without experiencing them ourselves. I am therefore profoundly dismayed at the way that those opposing this bill have leaned on everything from well-meaning anxiety and misunderstandings, to cynical and manipulative acts of discrimination. This has included personal attacks and in some cases outright hate speech. I have read much of the supporting documentation provided by groups like Speak Up For Women, from testimonials to research articles published by individuals, and it is so frustrating 9(2)(a) to see a handful of spurious and poorly supported claims regurgitated again and again as ‘evidence’ of the dangers of this bill – especially when these articles only ever seem to reference each other. These include the suggestions that ‘queerness’ was cooked up in humanities departments in the 1990s, that transwomen are just violent men in drag, and that a trans rights groups have clamped, like parasites, on the back of gay rights organisations that needed something to support and raise money for. These arguments also lean on issues of biological essentialism that in many other areas of life we are working to move past. We wouldn’t accept these arguments anywhere else – so why here?

There is also, paradoxically, a profound misogyny at play. Much has been said about the social legitimacy of trans women, but almost nothing about nonbinary and intersex individuals, or trans men. This is, perversely, just another instance of women being attacked and denigrated – something that, unfortunately, we women are all too quick to do to ourselves. This trickles down at all levels, and here's a tiny example: as UC is being rebuilt and remediated, the university has undertake small gestures, such as introducing gender specific bathrooms. There is such hate in the air, though - some have been quickly, and repeatedly graffitied with slurs and graphic images of genitals. It takes just one person doing this to make entire portions of our community feel rightfully denigrated and threatened. I use Taiki Waititi's Human Rights Commission 'Give Nothing to Racism' campaign with my students, but we need to push it further - give nothing to sexism, and transphobia, and misogyny either.

We like to think of New Zealand as a place that is fair-minded and accepting. Gender diverse individuals deserve better, and they certainly don’t deserve to have their identities, lives and legitimacy as human beings questioned and attacked on a national stage. I hope that you are able to support this bill and see it through so that a particularly vulnerable segment of our community – a segment who already are over-represented in violence, sexual violence and suicide related statistics – are able to just get on with the business of being people.

I don’t expect a reply, but I do thank you for your attention.

Kind regards – ngā mhi

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Wednesday, 27 February 2019 7:36 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The Birth Deaths and Marriages Amendment

Kia ora Mr. Robertson

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Both of my parents raised me to recognize and respect the struggles others go through and empathise with them: this is an opportunity to be something we can be proud of, another landmark, rather than a shameful blot in our history.

Many of my friends are transgender; I identify as genderqueer. The ability to choose our gender is as important as the ability to choose our path in life.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

Sent from my HUAWEI P20 Pro

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Date: Wednesday, 27 Feb 2019, 10:36 AM
To: Hon Scott Simpson <Scott.Simpson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Mōrena Mr Simpson,

The deferral is why I'm getting in touch, as it seems the decision to halt the amendments has been influenced by the views of a small, ill-informed minority who oppose them. Worryingly, much of those opposed to the changes employ a rhetoric grounded in harmful stereotypes rather than fact, or the lived realities of those the changes stand to benefit.

I hope to see the proposed changes implemented (as they have been successfully overseas), rather than have a small but vocal group put a roadblock in the road to a fairer, more inclusive society. We should all share the same basic rights to express who we are, and be respected and safe in doing so.

Thank you for your response.

Best,
9(2)(a)

On Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 4:05 PM Hon Scott Simpson <Scott.Simpson@parliament.govt.nz> wrote:

Hello and thanks for your email 9(2)(a). I appreciate having the benefit of your views on this legislation.

No doubt you will have seen that Minister Tracey Martin has placed a handbrake on the bill proceeding and it's not clear at this time how she plans to proceed or even if she plans to proceed at all.

Thanks again for your email.

Kind regards

Scott

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 11:17 AM
To: Hon Scott Simpson <Scott.Simpson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: [Maybe Spam] Amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

25.02.2018

Dear Mr Simpson,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to “medical treatment”, “medical evidence”, “physical conformation”, “sexual assignment”, and “sexual reassignment” from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. Seeing people around me feeling disheartened and excluded by the bill's deferral has proven just how much it means for them to have the same right so many others take for granted. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Regards,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 27 February 2019 10:03 AM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: The decision to defer to BDMRR Bill

Tēnā koe Tracey,

I'm writing to let you know how incredibly disappointed I am to hear that the BDMRR Bill has been deferred. The changes in this bill will bring about a fairer more equitable society for our transgender community and I don't see any need for further consultation. The Bill has already had ample opportunity for consultation and input from the public. It was supported by basically every LGBTQIA organisation as well as all our key human rights organisations (including the HRC). I'm very concerned that a few loud voices from trans hate groups and conservatives would affect this bill at all and as a voter I'm very disappointed in you personally for the job that you have failed to do in supporting some of our most vulnerable members of society.

Can you please explain what the new consultation process will be and where and how it will take place?

Yours sincerely,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 27 February 2019 9:44 AM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Jenny Marcroft <Jennifer.Marcroft@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The right to self id

Kia ora Grant,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a self-identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance). I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex). Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. 9(2)(a)

It sounds like a small thing, but I cannot tell you how much this meant to me.

The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. There are so many small and large challenges in this world for a queer person that can erode one's sense of dignity and self-worth. You have the opportunity here to remove one of these challenges and help restore dignity to a group of already vulnerable people.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments. These views are also not shared by my queer community in Wellington.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a) >
Date: Wednesday, 27 Feb 2019, 1:50 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Trans self identification Bill.

Dear Tracey,

We would like to commend you for action in deferring this law change.

In our view, the system for gender identification as it stands is much more sensible/common sense, and enables those who have had changes made to their physical attributes a way to have their gender changed. Perhaps it would be possible to expedite the process for such people.

It would be a non sensical move to allow anybody at any time to change their gender on their birth certificate, when it is patently obvious that they are not the sex they wish to change into.

The idea of this reminds us of the story of The Emperor With No Clothes where people were fearful to state the obvious due to peer pressure of those around them.

Surely trans people don't need to change the sex on their birth certificate in order to live as they want to live.

Kind Regards,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Date: Wednesday, 27 Feb 2019, 4:27 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>, Hon Carmel Sepuloni <Carmel.Sepuloni@parliament.govt.nz>, Deborah Russell <Deborah.Russell@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Kia ora Carmel, Deborah and Tracey,

I write to you Carmel as my MP, 9(2)(a), as Tracey as the Minister for this Bill

Below I have reproduced the text from the the right to self ID website. I reproduce it because I strongly stand behind the substance of the text that they have written. I was deeply saddened and outraged that you would delay the decision on the amendment in response to vitriolic hate speech towards transgender and intersex people. Delaying the decision for further consultation only traumatises (and retraumatises) vulnerable members of our community, providing a spotlight and amplification of the hate speech. This is similar to when Australia conducted its referendum on same-sex marriage leading to a quantifiable spike in lgtbi people needing mental health support (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-18/same-sex-marriage-survey-lgbtqi-mental-health-support/8955956>).

The arguments that there will be negative outcomes from extending the statutory declaration process to birth certificates are fallacious. Evidence from other countries does not support this and in most situations trans and intersex people already access spaces that align to their gender identification without any harms coming to people of that gender. The proposed amendment simplifies a burdensome process and removes an administrative problem – that differing pieces of legal ID do not provide the same gender.

As a woman and as a feminist I stand with our trans community and trans women and state clearly I do not fear them. I welcome them in women's spaces and consider them women. These transphobic people do not speak for me.

—Text from <https://www.righttoselfid.nz/write-to-your-mp>—

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to “medical treatment”, “medical evidence”, “physical conformation”, “sexual assignment”, and “sexual reassignment” from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one’s birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one’s passport or driver’s licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

9(2)(a)

RELEASE

UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Wednesday, 27 February 2019 10:45 AM
To: Hon Chris Hipkins <Chris.Hipkins@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Support for the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

Chris,

I am writing in strong support of the amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee; in particular those which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

I would also like to express my disappointment that parliamentary process has been allowed to be disrupted by a group of bigots backed by overseas interests. Will every bill where the select committee makes amendments after hearing submissions now being deferred due to "inadequate public consultation"? Or just the ones where prejudiced groups throw a tantrum because things didn't go their way?

As my MP I hope you will do all you can to get this bill back on track. Allowing this extension for continued propaganda and attacks against our trans whānau is unconscionable.

Thanks,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Date: Wednesday, 27 Feb 2019, 11:21 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: The right to self ID

27-02-2019

Kia ora Tracey,

Recently I found out that my sister's teenaged child is transgender. It is out of care and concern for my nephew that I write to you - the capitulation to UK-based lobbying is deeply concerning and hurtful, and strikes a personal note for me. I urge you to reconsider.

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

I urge you to reconsider and act on the recommendations which would create an identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 28 February 2019 8:40 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Urgent concern

Kia ora Tracey,

My name is 9(2)(a), I 9(2)(a). This is my identity, my dignity, who I am - and makes up a significant aspect of what I stand for. I would be very interested in having a conversation with you regarding the lack of timeline for the BDMRB, and how this affects our identity and our dignity as a minority group.

You can contact me at this email, or at 9(2)(a). It would mean very much to myself and other members of my community if you were to get in contact, even for five, ten minutes.

Nga mini mahana

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 28 February 2019 7:58 PM
To: Hon Grant Robertson <Grant.Robertson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: BDM Bill

Thursday 28th February, 2019

Kia ora Grant,

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted [1]

9(2)(a) have taught and continue to teach people including my own children about equality for all, and this is something I feel very strongly about. A young adult I've had the privilege of knowing is having TOP surgery this year, in a step towards becoming outwardly more like the gender he aligns with. He shouldn't be made to jump through hoops to have his gender recognised. I support him, and anyone else in identifying as they feel, wholeheartedly.

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to

influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document 153:

From: Gender-Minorities Aotearoa [<mailto:genderminorities@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, 28 February 2019 4:59 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Jan Logie <Jan.Logie@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: BDMRR Consultation

Dear Minister Martin,

I write to you as the National Coordinator of Gender Minorities Aotearoa, the national transgender organisation.

We would like to know the details of the future consultation process regarding the BDMRR Bill, and a time-frame for those consultations to take place, so that trans people and their whanau, marae, sports clubs, schools, organisations, and wider communities can be actively involved in this historic decision that will affect their lives for many years to come.

Please forward details to us at your earliest convenience.

Nga mihi,

Ahi Wi-Hongi
National Coordinator
Gender Minorities Aotearoa
128 Abel Smith Street
Te Aro
Wellington, 6021
9(2)(a)
genderminorities@gmail.com
genderminorities.com



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Document 154:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 28 February 2019 8:35 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Transgender self identification

Dear Minister for Children etc

Thank you for retaining biological sex on birth records. Please do not proceed with adult self identification. Ahi Wi-Hongi has been misled about health dangers including suicide. Have you read the information which I posted to you at the beginning of the month? Also 'Children Transitioning: CHILDHOOD GENDER DYSPHORIA A paediatrician's warning to New Zealand' by Dr John Whitehall October 2018 and 'When Harry Became Sally Responding to the Transgender Moment' by Ryan T Anderson? 2018 Thank you for taking time to investigate fully and scientifically.

Kind regards

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a) >
Date: Thursday, 28 Feb 2019, 8:43 AM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>, Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>, Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>, Jan Logie <Jan.Logie@parliament.govt.nz>, Denise Lee <Denise.Lee@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Consultation on the BDMRR Bill

28 February 2019

Kia ora Ministers,

It was with deep sadness that I read that the BDMRR Bill has been quashed at the last minute. Therefore, I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018. Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

While this bill does not affect me directly, as a CIS gendered woman I fully support people being able to self-identify on their birth certificate. I have no hesitation at all with this change to the law. I strongly feel that to not make this change undermines people's sense of self and in doing so raises their vulnerabilities. I do not at all agree with the arguments against this bill. I am not concerned that I am going to be attacked, threatened or otherwise harmed by "men dressed as women" in the bathroom. The requirement to use a bathroom has never included showing a birth certificate. Passports and drivers licences are the mainstay of identification in New Zealand, and they use self-identification as a gender marker. I urge you to let people who are marginalized in so many other ways be allowed the dignity and respect of showing their gender on their birth certificate. In New Zealand we strive for empowerment, equality and a fair go - so I encourage you to support this Bill.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Ngā mihi nui,

9(2)(a)

Sources:

[1] <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13178-018-0335-z>

[2] <https://genderequal.nz/feminism-and-trans-rights-must-go-hand-in-hand/>

9(2)(ba)

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 28 February 2019 11:51 AM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Thank you

Tēnā koe Hon Tracey Martin,

I am writing to thank your office for choosing to pause the BDMRR Bill to analyse impacts on other laws more closely. The recent Crown Law advice is a welcome relief to my tamariki and I.

It is with utmost importance the impact on the rights on all wahine, but especially wahine māori, is assessed with the greatest professionalism. I am relieved to know your office will ensure that happens.

Some myths abound! Ahi Wi-Hongi has stated without these changes children can't attend school, and trans folks cannot open bank accounts. This is untrue. Trans folk should be reminded they are protected under the Human Rights Act, so if they are denied services for being trans they can contact the Human Rights Commission.

Perhaps New Zealand banks could be encouraged to openly state their trans-inclusion policies, and come up with work-arounds so they better accept trans people. I am surprised that if trans people are being turned away from certain banks, that pro-queer groups have not started public campaigns against those banks. Being trans means that the sex you identify as changes from birth. That variation is normal and okay. Trans folks should be able to be open about their trans status and still be treated with dignity and respect.

Somehow the message that it's okay to be different has been lost.

The final point I wish to raise is the Human Rights Commission appears to be hostile towards the assessment of the impacts on women and girls human rights taking place. What are we to do if the Human Rights Commission themselves does not support democratic due process, including the process of ensuring women and girls human rights are protected?

Your Party should be proud of the effort you are putting in to balancing the human rights of all parties involved in this law change, including women and girls.

Sincerely,

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 28 February 2019 3:32 PM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: Concerning the Births, Deaths & Marriages Registration Bill

Dear Minister,

I was deeply disappointed to hear that the efforts of a deeply bigoted, fringe group of transphobic "gender critical" feminists have managed to derail the proposed amendments to the Births, Deaths & Marriages Registration Bill. These changes simply bring changing the gender on birth certificates in line with the current statutory declarations to change gender on driver's licenses and passports. The right to self ID is an incredibly affirming action for the transgender community, giving them protection and the right to simply live in peace, as any New Zealander should be able to.

Much of the scaremongering around the right to self ID, such as from the "Speak Up For Women" group, focuses on access to sex-segregated spaces, and the unfounded belief that men will suddenly use the ability to self-ID to gain access to these spaces. However, adults have been free to change the gender on their drivers licenses and passports with a statutory declaration since 2013. This has not caused a sudden influx of predatory men into women only spaces. It is simply thinly veiled transphobia, with no base in reality.

As the Minister for Children, I feel you have a unique responsibility to protect the most vulnerable group affected by this bill - transgender children. Those most likely to use a birth certificate as identification are children and teenagers, who do not have access to other forms of ID. Transgender children are at risk of discrimination and harm if forced to use proof of identity that does not match the gender they live as. Not being able to change the gender on their birth certificate causes their private medical information to be disclosed without their consent, putting them at risk. Every child deserves the right to live with dignity, to be protected from harm, to grow and to flourish.

I urge you to put aside the circus of debate around this issue, and instead put the health and well-being of our tamariki first.

Ngā mihi,

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)
Date: Thursday, 28 Feb 2019, 2:10 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Deferral of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill

Hon Tracey Martin, Minister of Internal Affairs

Dear Minister,

RE: Deferral of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill

9(2)(a)

I've worked in and around information security for most of my life, and in my spare time I study hate groups, mapping their communication networks and charting their online influence in New Zealand.

I have no special expertise regarding the bill and I believe that as Minister you are the most qualified person to determine the appropriate course of action. However, I'm concerned by the disinformation campaign against it, driven by a small local group of less than ten people, many of them with previous involvement in hate speech and fringe politics.

This group is receiving considerable support from UK-based networks with a long history of co-opting feminist language to disguise the origin of their funding and ideology. These networks provide an endless supply of talking points and scaremongering anecdotes, and the growing mainstream coverage in New Zealand is due in part to the polished and manipulative messaging they supply.

This type of international interference and misrepresentation can be difficult to detect, but there are a lot of people taking an active role, signing petitions and writing letters despite not being citizens or qualified electors. I worry that this activity may give you an inaccurate impression of public opinion, and I'm horrified that it's being used to grant a small group of deeply unwell New Zealanders such a disproportionate influence on our nation's laws and the dignity of our children.

I hope you will examine the bill's opponents with a critical eye and act on what you find. As Minister for Internal Affairs and for Children, you're uniquely placed to both recognise the tremendous harm their bigotry inflicts on our youth, and to also progress a bill that most New Zealanders believe simply resolves a clerical oversight.

Thank you for reading.

Yours sincerely,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 28 February 2019 6:12 PM
To: Hon Tracey Martin <Tracey.Martin@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Darroch Ball <Darroch.Ball@parliament.govt.nz>; Hon Ron Mark <Ron.Mark@parliament.govt.nz>; Rt. Hon. Winston Peters <Winston.Peters@parliament.govt.nz>; Clayton Mitchell <Clayton.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill

28/02/2019

Kia ora

I am writing in support of amendments to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, as suggested by the Governance and Administration select committee in the report published on the 10/8/2018.

Specifically, the amendments contained within clause 22 which deal with streamlining the process for changing the sex listed on a person's birth certificate.

In particular, I urge you to consider and act on the recommendations which would create a identification process and remove the existing requirement for an individual to obtain a Family Court declaration to change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. And ensure that the process can be applied to people from all age groups (including people under 18 with parental or guardian assistance).

I also urge you to support creating more inclusive legislation by providing alternative gender markers for non-binary and persons born with variations of sex characteristics (intersex).

Finally, I ask that you support the recommendation to move to a self-identification process by removing all references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", "sexual assignment", and "sexual reassignment" from the bill.

Similar changes have been successfully implemented in Malta, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and most recently the state of California, and have been met with very positive outcomes. A study by the Williams institute at UCLA found that none of the claimed negative safety outcomes could be proven in areas where Transgender non-discrimination laws had been adopted. [1]

Gender identity can be seen as a complicated issue, but it is also a deeply personal one. The current process for changing the sex on one's birth certificate, requiring court declarations and medical intervention, creates unnecessary barriers to what is ultimately a personal matter. In contrast, changing one's passport or driver's licence is a simple matter of making a statutory declaration.

Recently there has been a rise in resistance to these changes driven by a small group of people claiming that there was insufficient consultation on this bill (despite all making submissions to the committee, some twice under the guise of being an organisation). This local group has been backed by large numbers of overseas based social media accounts in an attempt to influence New Zealand policy and make the movement seem much larger than it really is. These views are not shared by mainstream organisations like the National Council of Women who have issued statements of support for trans people and their inclusion within society [2] and the Human rights Commission whose submission supported these amendments.

I urge you to recognise that the opposition to the proposed changes comes from a place of the deepest prejudice within a vocal minority, and vote to support the proposed amendments.

Thank you,

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Document 161:

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 28 February 2019 12:57 PM
To: T Martin (MIN) <t.martin@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: transgender issue

Dear Ms Martin

Recently I saw your interview with Corin Dann on the TV and you were talking about your decision to defer your bill on gender registration.

I want to say that you presented your argument very well, that I agree completely with the position you have taken, to defer.

Full support.

9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982