MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS

A mandatory mental health diagnosis for legal gender recognition violates trans people’s human rights and dignity.

It promotes stigma, social exclusion and discrimination. No gender identity is disordered.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) proposes to end classification of gender identity related diagnoses as mental illnesses in the next version of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD11).

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) advises against any mandatory mental health treatment or diagnosis for legal gender recognition.

States should take immediate steps and remove any mental health treatment or diagnosis from legal gender recognition procedures.

Data provided is as correct as possible on 21 April 2017, however we cannot guarantee complete accuracy.

FACTS

Legal Gender Recognition
Procedures for legal gender recognition exist in 41 countries. Of these, 20 countries demand sterilisation. 36 require a mental health diagnosis, and 23 require divorce. In 34 countries, young people under 18 cannot access legal gender change.

Asylum
16 countries offer international protection on grounds of gender identity. 15 EU member states offer no international protection for trans refugees and are violating EU law.

Bias-motivated Crime
Only 12 countries have explicit laws on bias-motivated crime, and only 7 countries have positive measures in place to combat bias-motivated crime and hate speech against trans people.

Non-discrimination
26 countries protect against discrimination in employment. 11 EU member states do not provide protection against employment discrimination and are violating EU law. 22 countries protect against discrimination in access to goods & services, however 14 EU Member States are violating EU law as they do not provide for explicit protection on this ground. Only 7 countries provide protection related to the gender expression of a person. This is particularly important for cross-dressers and other trans people not intending to undergo gender reassignment.

Conversion Therapy
Only 2 countries prohibit conversion therapy on grounds of gender identity.