The Trans Rights Europe Map reflects the requirement of sterilisation in laws and administrative practices for gender recognition legislation in Europe. The Trans Rights Europe Index provides detailed country information in 23 legal categories, such as legal gender recognition, asylum, bias speech/violence, non-discrimination, and family rights. Using a simple format, the Trans Rights Map & Index does not claim to reflect the complex realities trans people might face.

Forced Sterilisation

Identity documents reflecting a person's gender identity are important for the recognition and protection of trans people's dignity and safety. Many European states impose conditions before allowing a change of documents, including requiring sterilisation.

Legal text can explicitly or implicitly require forced sterilisation. Implicit laws may necessitate proof of medical gender reassignment, or mandatory medical expertise that is usually only provided after genital surgery. Often, gender recognition procedures are not transparent in this regard, and medical and legal aspects are intertwined.

"Sterilisation Required" states in red where sterilisation is either explicitly or implicitly routinely required in gender recognition procedures. "Brown" states do not offer any reliable procedures. "Blue" states have established procedures and do not require sterilisation.

Learn more about legal gender recognition and what you can do: tgeu.org/issues/legal-gender-recognition/

The Trans Rights Europe Map & Index has been developed in cooperation with ILGA-Europe.

20 Countries in Europe Require Sterilisation for Legal Gender Recognition

In April 2017, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that requiring sterilisation for legal gender recognition violates human rights.

All Council of Europe Member States must bring their legislation and practice into line with this new legal principle.