

Do you believe a man is a woman if he says he is?

The Scottish Government does.

And they want to make it law by amending the Gender Recognition Act.

What is the Gender Recognition Act?

This law allows adults who have a diagnosis of gender dysphoria (severe distress with their sexed body) and a proven commitment of living in the role of their acquired gender to apply for a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) and get a new birth certificate showing them as the opposite sex.

The Act represents best international practice for this small group of people and works exactly as intended, with 95% of all applications succeeding.

What do the Scottish Government want to do?

They are proposing to:

- remove the need for a medical diagnosis,
- reduce the living in role period from 2 years to 3 months (with a 3 month reflection period), and
- reduce the minimum age from 18 to 16 years old.



Instead, an applicant will sign a form, self-declaring themselves to be the opposite sex.

What's the problem?

Removing the medical diagnosis means opening up eligibility from less than 1% of the population who have a medical need, to 100% of Scottish residents aged 16 and over. Anyone can apply, from school children to convicted sex offenders. All checks and balances will be removed and it will have a negative impact on women's and children's rights.

The Government has ignored a 2017 ruling by the European Court of Human Rights, which held that requiring a medical diagnosis before issuing a GRC strikes the correct balance between the rights of people who identify as trans and the state's obligations to the rest of society.

Those obligations include the rights of women to be defined in law with protections and rights as a sex-class, distinct and separate from men - rights that will now be completely undermined.