

Agenda Item 16h

AGENDA ITEM 16 (h) - Reform of the Gender Recognition Act and Support for our Trans Community

Amendment:

Add fourth point to this council therefore resolves

"The council stands with the education directorate in light of recent events which threaten the removal of their trans inclusion guidance/toolkit. The removal of this document threatens the safety of trans teenagers, who we must protect".

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Claire Udy

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Jeanette Smith

Motion to therefore read:

This council notes

The UK Government consultation on reforming the 2004 Gender Recognition Act (GRA) took place nearly two years ago, and the results of the consultation have not yet been released.

In April 2020, Minister for Women and Equalities Liz Truss MP said in evidence to the Women and Equalities Select Committee that she will be guided by the following important principles:

- the protection of single-sex spaces.
- that transgender adults are free to live their lives as they wish without fear of persecution, whilst maintaining the proper checks and balances in the system.
- ensuring that the under 18s are protected from decisions that they could make, that are irreversible in the future.

However since then, there have been concerns that the Government are rowing back on their commitments.

Portsmouth City Council has promoted LGBT+ rights and welcomed the creation of councillor champions in fighting for equality for all since.

At present, trans people face significant disadvantage in society - one in four trans people report being discriminated against in work, over a third avoid expressing their gender through physical appearance in fear of being assaulted or harassed, and almost 50% of trans people have attempted suicide at some point in their lives.

It is our duty as community leaders who seek to create an open Portsmouth to speak out against transphobia and make clear it will not be tolerated under the guise of 'legitimate concerns' over someone's basic humanity

This council therefore resolves

- That all Group Leaders be requested to write to the Minister for Women and Equalities in support of reforms to the GRA as per the 70% of respondents to the consultation regarding the principle of legal gender self-identification for trans people living in the UK
- That the Administration, as political leaders of this council, step up and be visible in challenging transphobia in our community
- The council continues to work actively with the LGBT+ champions in fighting against any other form of LGBTQ+ hatred in this city, and continue to help communities through relevant LGBTQ+ services within the council.
- The council stands with the education directorate in light of recent events which threaten the removal of their trans inclusion guidance/toolkit. The removal of this document threatens the safety of trans teenagers, who we must protect.