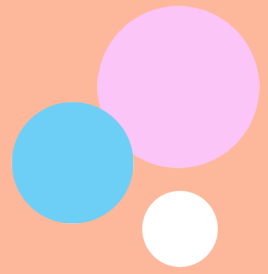


# Responding to the GRA Consultation



**Switchboard, MindOut and Allsorts** have teamed up to support the Brighton & Hove trans community and allies to help reform the Gender Recognition Act (GRA) and speak up for trans rights.

This is a rare and hugely important opportunity for progress on trans rights, but it will only happen if the government sees trans people and allies coming out in support, so make sure your voice is heard!

## **What is the GRA?**

The Gender Recognition Act is a piece of legislation that allows people to legally change their gender and receive a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC). In July the Government launched a consultation to learn how they can make the process easier for trans people to achieve legal recognition of their gender.

## **What do we want to change?**

### **Recognise non-binary identity**

The GRA doesn't currently recognise non-binary identity. We believe non-binary people deserve the same standard of legal recognition, rights and protections as binary-gendered people – no ifs, no buts.

### **Reduce the minimum age limit down from 18**

We believe 16 and 17 year-olds should have the same access to legal recognition as 18 year olds so they can go into work and further education recognised in their true gender. There also needs to be some form of recognition process for under-16s based on parental consent.

### **De-medicalise the process**

Right now trans people need a diagnosis of 'gender dysphoria' to access the GRA process, even though the World Health Organisation recently removed this from its list of medical disorders. We believe a trans person should not need to be diagnosed with a medical condition or prove themselves as 'trans enough'.

## End the 'spousal veto'

In practice, the spousal veto means that a married trans person must get their spouse's permission to obtain a GRC. This undermines trans peoples' rights to self-determination, and needs to stop.

## Remove the fees

At the moment it costs around £140 to apply for a GRC, plus fees for medical letters and more. This is money that many people simply do not have and makes the process less accessible for those facing financial hardship.

## Tips for completing the consultation.

Use your own words and your own experiences, giving the reasons for your answers – that's what will be most powerful. Your perspective and experience really does count!

Take care of yourself. If answering the questions brings up difficult feelings, take a break and get support before deciding if you want to return to it – whether that's talking to a friend or calling the Switchboard Helpline on 01273 204050.

Spread the word with your friends! Consider getting together while you complete the questionnaire—you can support each other, talk your responses through and have fun while you do it!

Don't be put off by the length of the consultation. If you don't have much time, Stonewall has a shorter version that just covers the most important issues for trans rights.

Don't cut-and-paste copy others' submissions – the key is consistently getting the key messages across but duplicated responses will probably not be taken into account

Don't feel you have to answer any questions you don't want to or don't know how to. The important thing is to make your voice heard as best you can on the key issues.

Most importantly, don't forget to respond! The deadline is **11pm on Friday 19th October**, but there's no need to wait until then.

