

Committee Secretary  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000



**Fair Go for  
Queensland  
Women**

Submission pertaining to Human Rights Bill 2018

Fair Go for Queensland Women call on the Queensland Parliament to note and attend to the specific sex-based needs of women<sup>1</sup> in the wording and discharge of any Human Rights legislation.

November 25 is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Queensland women and girls are subjected to violence in their homes, workplaces and communities due to their sex. It is imperative that the Qld Govt recognise this issue within any Human Rights legislation. Violence against women is noted internationally as a human rights issue and Fair Go for Queensland Women seeks a commitment from all parties and members to ensure that any Human Rights legislation attends adequately to our specific, sex-based needs and rights.

The lived experiences of women and men in our society are vastly different with many women being exposed to male violence in their lifetimes. This is particularly so for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Women and girls require single sex spaces, facilities and service provision as a basic human right for a variety of reasons, some of which include:

- To redress sex-based oppression and discrimination
- Privacy - most males exhibit 'male pattern sexuality', i.e. heterosexuality<sup>2</sup>. Women and girls should not be forced to be in stages of undress in shared spaces with male persons. In order to preserve dignity and afford privacy, this is a basic right, particularly during menses. Research has found that relaxing sex segregated spaces in change rooms and bathrooms leads to increased negative outcomes for women and girls<sup>2</sup>;
- Safety and safeguarding – The overwhelming majority of violence and sexual violence is perpetrated by males. Women and girls need and deserve spaces without males present in order to be safe, recover and heal. Correctional facilities, bathrooms and change rooms, homeless and DFV refuges are examples of where single sex services are vital<sup>3</sup>;
- Religious or cultural reasons – Some women and girls do not wish or are not permitted for religious or cultural reasons to share some spaces at some times with males, including during menses. These women and girls have a basic human right to live a full and enriched life and to do so requires male free spaces, services and facilities;

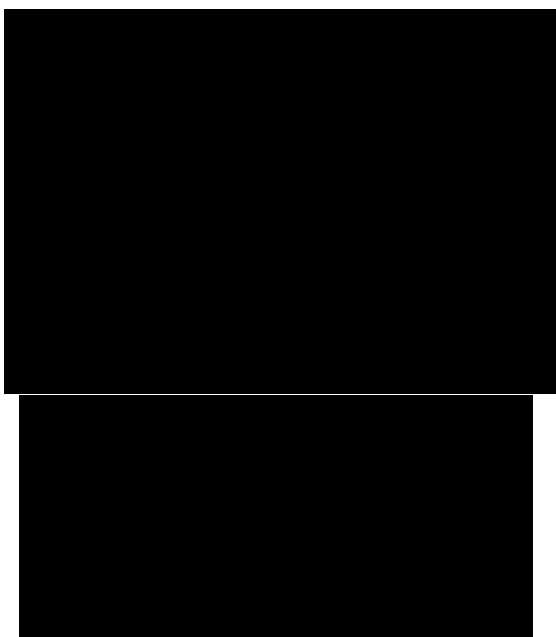
- Trauma – Many women in the Queensland community have experienced male violence. These women can and should be afforded space to heal from male violence in spaces that are solely for women and girls. As the statistics regarding male violence against women in Queensland show, this group of women is not a small one and we submit that the Queensland Government has a responsibility to ensure these women have every opportunity to avoid re-traumatisation.

It is necessary that women and girls have reasonable boundaries (for example: the ability to name ourselves and not be referred to in dehumanising ways such as ‘menstruators’, ‘uterus bearers’ or ‘non-men’; in ways that seek to degrade, humiliate or silence, such as ‘two-hole’, ‘slut’ or ‘terf’; or ways that suggest women and girls ‘accept’ sexist gender roles such as ‘cis’), have spaces free of males and have services that address our needs for the above reasons and to be able to freely create, attend and use services that support these needs.

It has become increasingly apparent that the needs of women and girls, which should be upheld in legislation like the Human Rights Bill, are being neglected in the desire to attend to trans women’s stated rights. We contend that gender identity MUST be held beneath considerations of the needs of women and girls, i.e. female Queenslanders. Sex-based protections for women and girls is essential for a fair and just Queensland.

The proposed Bill and debate surrounding this are essential for the Queensland government to effectively fulfil its responsibility to ensure all Queenslanders can lead safe, full and enriched lives, women and girls included. This Bill and possible impacts on women and girls are inextricably linked to the ongoing discussions regarding changes to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill and the Anti-Discrimination Amendment Bill. We encourage you to consider the needs of women and girls in future discussions and include women and women’s services in those discussions.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this discussion.



## Endnotes

- 1 Terms used throughout this document adhere to the following terminology:  
Woman/girl: sex phenotype, observed at birth, female human being. Does/did or has the expected capacity to create ovum. XX.  
Female: Of or denoting the sex that can bear offspring or produce eggs, distinguished biologically by the production of gametes (ova) which can be fertilized by male gametes.  
Men/boy: sex phenotype, observed at birth, male human being. Does or has the expected capacity to create sperm. XY.  
Male: Of or denoting the sex that produces gametes, especially spermatozoa, with which a female may be fertilized or inseminated to produce offspring.  
Heterosexuality refers to attraction to the opposite sex, ie male/female.  
Lesbian: Same sex attracted female human being.  
Trans women: Male people who identify as Transgender.  
'Terf': ostensibly an acronym for 'trans exclusionary radical feminist' but has been used by transactivists in order to seek to silence any person who does not adhere to trans ideology and is often linked to abuse, rape and death threats. <https://terfisaslur.com/> details examples of this use.

FGQW recognise that biological sex is not and cannot be altered via any means, including declaration, attire, cosmetics, hormonal intervention or surgical procedure.

- 2 <http://womanmeanssomething.com/targetstudy/>  
<https://thetimes.co.uk/article/sex-pests-target-women-in-mixed-changing-rooms-x3vw2lnv8?fbclid=IwAR35nuyC2MZy9ImzVYKVqqaPUmnavtj03rPLNlf6EEzQjo6E8o0PYmWbBpc>  
<http://womanmeanssomething.com/male-pattern-sexuality-in-transwomen-in-ontario-study/>
- In addition to the mentioned issues, there are also significant attacks being made upon lesbians who assert their same sex preference. Trans ideology holds that male persons who are attracted to females are lesbians if they identify as trans women. This has been described by some lesbians as deeply homophobic, akin to conversion therapy and coercive: <https://lesbianvoices.wordpress.com/> ; <https://lesbian-rights-nz.org/shame-receipts/?fbclid=IwAR1vbtufgTEYWOJOy1Cvy8hpfdziiiXGC73Hs4zDTDM5tN3kpUikdBNhQ3M>

- 3 [https://fairplayforwomen.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/FPFW\\_report\\_19SEPT2018.pdf](https://fairplayforwomen.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/FPFW_report_19SEPT2018.pdf)  
[https://kareningalasmith.com/2018/09/30/our-fore-sisters-built-a-movement-to-support-women-subjected-to-mens-violence/?fbclid=IwAR3O8naJCJ97fZxm5lbqv5tCDg6uQnkQzGHpt7oXsfNCi57OW\\_VJeGzPsAA](https://kareningalasmith.com/2018/09/30/our-fore-sisters-built-a-movement-to-support-women-subjected-to-mens-violence/?fbclid=IwAR3O8naJCJ97fZxm5lbqv5tCDg6uQnkQzGHpt7oXsfNCi57OW_VJeGzPsAA)

There is extensive coverage regarding the failure to ensure the safety of female prisoners from male sex offender Karen White in the UK, this is but one article: <https://telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/09/06/transgender-person-accused-rape-remanded-female-prison-sexually/>

Also Paris Green: <http://transcrimeuk.com/2017/10/30/paris-green/>

Review of numbers of trans women in UK prisons with sexual offending histories: <https://fairplayforwomen.com/transgender-prisoners/>

A related issue is the media reporting and future skewing of crime statistics if male offenders who identify as transgender are reported as and referred in crime statistics as 'female'.