
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 January 2023 9:33 AM
To: Legal Affairs and Safety Committee
Subject: Gender Identification Bill

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

I would like to express my deep concerns about the proposed law that will allow men to change the sex on their birth certificate and self-identity. This means that men will be able to identify as women and access women's only spaces such as bathrooms, shelters, sexual assault services; women's groups, prisons for women only. This means that the rights women have to have their own spaces will be abolished. Women have fought very hard for many years to have their own spaces for a reason. It will be hard for women to lose these rights.

I would like to refer to the issue of sport. I have nieces who compete in sport. They compete in girls' only sport and they want to advance in the area. If men who identify as men begin to compete with women, it will be wrong. Biology matters and it will be obvious in sport competitions. Biological men will start winning competitions and take women's trophies. Female athletes prepare hard to give themselves the best chance and it is disheartening to see men, in other countries, take their positions. This can discourage young women from practicing sport and will discourage people from attending sport event because there is no playing-even field, we know who is going to win. On the other hand, men are stronger than women physically and can seriously hurt them. In the name of fairness, transgender people should have their own sports and respect women's spaces.

It also worries me female-identified men accessing women's only spaces such as dressing rooms, bathrooms, shelters and sexual assault services. These spaces are women-only for a reason. Violence against women in this country is a reality, and it is on the increase. We know most perpetrators are men. Even when these men say they are women, they are still biological men and women will lose the right to feel safe in their own spaces. Overseas, women and girls are being attacked by men who have identified as women. I am sure many men will take advantage of these laws to access women's spaces. It is already happening in the United States and England.

I believe transgender people have rights but they should not erase women's rights. Women need to be given a voice and be consulted about this. It will bring very serious consequences.

I hope this Bill will not be passed in the name of fairness and justice for women.

Thank you for your attention.

Regards
Adela Brent

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