

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

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write in opposition to the new births deaths and marriages registration bill 2022 in its current form. The bill gives permission to men to change their birth certificate to say female , legally allowing the man to enter any women's safe spaces. For a woman's safe space to function, it is single sex for multiple reasons. I present my personal explanation. I am a rape survivor. After it happened I couldn't leave my house for many months. It took many sessions of 1 to 1 therapy with a female psychologist to build the strength to walk around in the world again. At that point I would still panick if someone came near me particularly if they were male. In this case I needed a female therapist. I was also provided with female lawyer and barrister. I was lucky enough to be sent to a woman's assault therapy group. For 6 weeks, about 8 women came to the circle run by therapists and share the stories of what happened. We did a number of activities to process the traumatic events. On the last day of the group to address my not being able to have people near me , I was sat in the middle of the circle and held out my hands . One by one the women came towards me and placed a stone in my hands. That was my first step to allow people near me again. This was a case I needed single sex services. It took me two years to be able to be a functioning member of society, I got a job in a nursing home, locked away from the rest of the world. There were many small steps to returning to full ability. Decades later I am walking about like a regular person, I doubt anyone would know I was so broken . I wear shorts or trousers in neutral colours because I still feel safe if i am unseen and unnoticed. Those days of pretty dresses and floral skirts ended the night I Was raped. I do feel healed. At first I couldn't even stand to be near my own father or brother. The males I trusted and loved were even too triggering to me .If I saw a man in the street I would walk the other direction. That night the man overpowered me with more than his male physic he grabbed the very ghost of me with his male power. My legs were running in the air , I stood no chance of escape. That was his male power and it was in my gay male flatmate and it's in my gay male friends. If men are allowed to enter women's healing circles I understand it's pleasant for the men , but it will negatively effect vulnerable women. Thank you for reading this .