Issues In Brief

TRANS RIGHTS

INFORMATION SERVICES TEAM

TRANS PEOPLE MUST BE TREATED WITH RESPECT

People with one or more identity disorders like age dysphoria (transage), body integrity dysphoria (transabled), gender dysphoria (transgender), race dysphoria (transrace) and species dysphoria (transspecies) typically suffer discrimination and abuse if their trans identity is transgressive of social norms.

Trans people need assistance to overcome outdated social norms that fuel transphobia, including policies that help normalize these identities. They must be recognized by governments and allowed to amend legal documents to note their trans identity, while it must be a hate crime to harm people due to their trans identity or expression.

Laws must be crafted to help trans people without undermining hard won protections for children, females, racial minorities and people with a disability. For example, should an adult male with AD who identifies as a transage boy participate in boy's sports or be sent to a boy's prison if convicted of a crime? Should an adult male



Stefonknee Wolscht (transage/transgender) with her parents.

with GD who identifies as a transgender woman participate in women's sports, use women's public toilets, be sent to a women's prison if convicted of a crime, or benefit from affirmative action laws designed to help women? Should a nonaboriginal with RD who identifies as an aboriginal be allowed to benefit from affirmative action laws designed to help aboriginals? Should an able bodied person with BID who identifies as a transabled paraplegic be allowed to benefit from laws designed to help paraplegics?

Identity documents must not disappear characteristics needed to maintain protections for vulnerable groups. Thus a driver's licence would record the age and sex of the licence holder and (optionally) their trans identity, such as 'transgender woman' in the case of a male adult with GD, who must not be allowed to access single-sex facilities, services or sporting events set aside for females on safety and fairness grounds, but must have access to comparable trans inclusive facilities, services and sporting events such as male, open, mixed-sex and trans sports. Likewise, public toilets, change rooms and prisons must be divided into female and trans inclusive sections to protect vulnerable females like rape victims from male predators.

Rachel Dolezal (transrace), Chloe Jennings-White (transabled) and Stalking Cat (transspecies).

DECEMBER 2022

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Many trans people suffer discrimination and abuse due to outdated social norms, which can cause substantial mental suffering and increase the incidence of self-harm.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Make it a hate crime to harm people due to their trans identity or expression.

2. Introduce policies that help normalize trans identities and promote [ethical] inclusion.

3. Allow people to add their trans identity to legal documents while retaining key indicators of their biological reality to maintain age, sex, race and disability based protections.

4. Stigmatize individuals and groups that exploit trans people to harm minors, females, racial minorities or the disabled.

PRIMARY **S**OURCES

Ignoring differences between men and women is the wrong way to address gender dysphoria, Kathleen Stock, Quillette, 2019.

Transforming Prejudice: Identity, Fear, and Transgender Rights, Melissa R. Michelson & Brian F. Harrison, Oxford University Press, 2020.

