Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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The United Kingdom must allow trans people to live their lives with dignity

Written declaration No. 760

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

The Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill, passed in December 2022 by democratically elected members of the Scottish Parliament from across every political party, was the most consulted-on piece of legislation in the history of the Scottish Parliament.

It is fully in line with international human rights standards, which call for legal gender recognition to be quick, transparent, accessible, and based on self-determination. The World Health Organisation is also clear that requiring a diagnosis of gender dysphoria is both outdated and discriminatory and that legislation and healthcare should be modernised to better represent and support the trans community.

Many European and Commonwealth nations, including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal and Switzerland, have already passed legislation similar to Scotland's, and the UK Government had also made clear commitments to reform the Gender Recognition Act.

It is deeply regrettable that the UK Government has now chosen to stand in the way of equality, human rights and progress.

We therefore urge the UK Government to reverse its decision to invoke section 35 of the Scotland Act to block the Scottish Government's legislation designed to ensure trans people can live their lives with dignity.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

BARDELL Hannah, United Kingdom, NR
ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thórhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC
ARSENIS Kriton-Ilias, Greece, UEL
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BOER Margreet, De, Netherlands, SOC
BULAI Iulian, Romania, ALDE
CALVET François, France, EPP/CD
CASTEL Laura, Spain, UEL
CEGONHO Pedro, Portugal, SOC
CORBYN Jeremy, United Kingdom, SOC
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL
KATROUGALOS George, Greece, UEL
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC
PRINGLE Thomas, Ireland, UEL
RUSSELL Simon, United Kingdom, EC/DA
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SHEPPARD Tommy, United Kingdom, NR
STIENEN Petra, Netherlands, ALDE
TROY Robert, Ireland, ALDE

Total = 20

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group