

Friday 26 July 2019

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street,
Westminster,
London,
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to you today as LGBT organisations and community leaders from across England and Wales to congratulate you on your new role. We would also like to publicly welcome your commitment that your Government won't consider it "job done" for LGBT equality, and we ask you to put those words into action to address the discrimination, health inequalities, and legal barriers still affecting the lives of lesbian, gay, bi and trans (LGBT) people today.

Thousands of trans and non-binary people across the country still wait in limbo for the announcement of reforms to the Gender Recognition Act (2004) following the public consultation that took place last year. The GRA was a ground-breaking piece of legislation when first introduced, but is now outdated and in urgent need of reform to ensure it's fully accessible. As our new Prime Minister, you must ensure trans and non-binary people across the UK have the rights they need and deserve.

The UK is lagging behind countries including Ireland, Denmark and Norway in terms of legal equality for trans and non-binary people. Reforming the GRA would help the UK reclaim our spot as the most LGBT-inclusive country in Europe - we've recently dropped to ninth place - while transforming the lives of trans and non-binary people.

You've stated your guiding principle is "who you love, who you are, how you choose to live should not and will not stand in your way." Unfortunately, the current GRA process stands in the way of many trans and non-binary people being fully accepted in law. The Government estimates only 12 percent of trans people have secured a Gender Recognition Certificate, despite 92 percent stating in the National LGBT Survey (2018) they would want one.

We welcomed the Government's previous commitment to "streamline and demedicalise" the process, a commitment which we would hope is carried through to your administration. This must now be reflected in the new legislation, along with self-determination, recognition of non-binary identities, and inclusion of young trans people. This is based on the needs of trans and non-binary people, who already experience marginalisation on a daily basis. Reforming the GRA demonstrates that trans and non-binary people have not been forgotten, that their voices have been heard and are being acted on.

We strongly welcome your commitment to ensure “trans rights are protected”, and that trans people can “live their lives with dignity and respect”. Reforming the GRA is a vital step to ensure this happens – without reform, trans people will continue to face inequalities and marginalisation in law.

We will work with yourself, Amber Rudd in her reinstated role as Minister for Women and Equalities, and the rest of the Government towards making much-needed progress on this and other issues which greatly impact the lives of LGBT people across the UK.

Together we can ensure a safe, healthy and equal future where all lesbian, gay, bi and trans people can achieve their full potential.

Signed,

Tolu Ajayi, Operational Lead - Rainbow Noir

Pav Akhtar, Director of Strategy - UK Black Pride

Olly Alexander, Singer - Years & Years

Colin Armstead, Joint Interim Executive Director - George House Trust (Signed as a supporting organisation)

Carl Austin-Behan - LGBT Advisor to the Mayor of Greater Manchester

Philip Baldwin, LGBT & HIV Activist

Dr Meg-John Barker, writer and LGBTQ+ activist

Dr Eily Barnes MBE, Chief Executive - Educate & Celebrate

The Revd Dr Christina Beardsley

Munroe Bergdorf, Activist and Model

Jenny-Anne Bishop OBE, Chairperson - Unique Transgender Network North Wales and TransForum Manchester, Member of the Parliamentary Forum on Gender Identity

Lucie Brooke, Director and Co-founder - Free2B Alliance

Chay Brown, Co-Founder - TransActual UK

Christine Burns MBE, Author and retired equality advocate

Sally Carr MBE, Operational Director - The Proud Trust

Chloe Cousins, Strategic Lead - Rainbow Noir

Charlie Craggs, Activist and author

Jay Crawford, Chair of the Board of Trustees - Sparkle, The National Transgender Charity

Juno Dawson, Journalist and Author

Paul Dillane, member of the UK LGBT Advisory Panel

Jonny Dillon, Project Lead - London LGBTQ+ Community Centre

Carla Ecola, Director - The Outside Project

Hugh Fell, Chair of Trustees- FFLAG

Fox Fisher, Co-Director of My Generation and Advisor to All About Trans

Mark Fletcher, Chief Executive - Manchester Pride

Bob Green OBE, Chief Executive - Stonewall Housing

Ian Green, Chief Executive - Terrence Higgins Trust

Suzie Green, Chief Executive - Mermaids
Pippa Hallet, Chair - Amnesty International UK Rainbow Network
Dr Stevie-Jade Hardy, Associate Professor - The Centre of Hate Studies, University of Leicester
Tara Hewitt - Trans Equality Legal Initiative & NHS Trans Staff Network
Daniel Howell - Comedian
Ian Howley - Chief Executive, LGBT HERO
Sara Humphreys, Chair - ELOP
Ruth Hunt, Chief Executive - Stonewall
Kate Hutchinson, Trans Officer - Pride Cymru
Helen Jones, Chief Executive - MindOut LGBTQ Mental Health Service
Steph Keeble, Director - Birmingham LGBT
Shaan Knan, Consortium's Trans Organisations Network
Amelia Lee, Strategic Director - The Proud Trust
Peter Leonard and Anthea Colledge, Chair and Deputy Chair- OneBodyOneFaith
Edward Lord OBE, politician
Revd Jide Macaulay, Founder & CEO- House Of Rainbow CIC
Matt Mahmood-Ogston, Founder and Trustee - Naz and Matt Foundation
Paul Martin OBE, Chief Executive - LGBT Foundation
Lyndsay Macadam, Chief Executive - Switchboard
Adam McCann, Chief Executive - Diversity Role Models
Ian Mehrtens, Co-founder and Chair - Queer Britain Museum
Monty Moncrieff MBE, Chief Executive - London Friend
Maria Munir - Human Rights Defender and Campaigner
Dr. Kate Nambiar, Founder - Clinic-T, Brighton Sexual Health and Contraception Service & Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust
The National LGB&T Partnership
The National Trans Youth Network
Nik Noone, Chief Executive - Galop
Stewart O'Callaghan, Director - Live Through This
Kate O'Donnell, Artistic Director - Trans Creative
Michelle O'Toole, Journalist and Presenter - What the Trans!?
Owl (Ugla Stefanía Kristjónudóttir Jónsdóttir), Co-Director of My Genderation and Advisor to All About Trans
Jayne Ozanne, Director - Ozanne Foundation & member of the Church of England's General Synod
Ash Palmisciano, Actor - Emmerdale
Lisa Power MBE, Co-founder - Stonewall
Prepster
Khakan Qureshi, Founder - Finding A Voice
Bernard Reed OBE, Founder - GIRES (Gender Identity Research and Education Society)
Terry Reed OBE, Founder - GIRES (Gender Identity Research and Education Society)
Paul Roberts OBE, Chief Executive - Consortium

Sebastian Rocca, Founder and CEO - Micro Rainbow
Rebecca Root - Actor
Michelle Ross, Founder - CliniQ
Nicki Ryan, Director and Co-founder - Free2B Alliance
E-J Scott, Curator - Museum of Transology
Tim Sigworth MBE, Chief Executive - akt
Karen Skipper, Chief Executive, Spectra CIC
Jesse Sperling, Executive Director- Kaleidoscope Trust
Terry Stacy, Chair - akt & Former Leader of Islington Council
Dr Jay Stewart, Chief Executive and Co-founder - Gendered Intelligence
Paul Storey, Operations Manager - Yorkshire MESMAC
Ashleigh Talbot, Journalist and Presenter - What the Trans!?
Jade Thirwall, Singer - Little Mix & LGBT Ally
Trans Can Sport
Trans Pride Brighton
Dr Lewis Turner, Chief Executive - Lancashire LGBT
Dr Greg Ussher, Chief Executive - METRO
Marcel Varney, Assistant Director Children's Services - Barnardo's
Ben Vincent, Chair - GIRES (Gender Identity Research and Education Society)
Katie Vincent, Co-director - Allsorts Youth Project
Mia Violet, Author and Public Speaker
Alice Wallace, Director - Opening Doors London
Annie Wallace, Actress, Campaigner and Mermaids Patron
Andrew White, Director - Stonewall Cymru
Jen Yockney MBE, Convenor - BiPhoria