

What is Wrong with the Gender Recognition Bill 2014?

- In Part I, section 2, ‘Interpretation’, there is **no actual definition of ‘transition to preferred gender’** though that is referred to in section 9.(1)(g)(ii)(I), for example; nor is there any precise indication in the Bill of how that ‘transition’ is to be proved. The ‘primary treating medical practitioner’, in the context of an application for a gender recognition certificate, may be either ‘a person’s primary treating endocrinologist or psychiatrist’.

‘Transition to the preferred gender’ involves **mutilation of the male or female body in question, by surgical removal of the sexual organs**, and artificial facilitation of sexual intercourse; such intercourse can’t be procreative in any circumstance. Perhaps our Senators and TDs are too squeamish actually to be told what they are voting for.

- **Section 8 allows a person of at least 18 years of age to apply for the certificate of ‘transition to preferred gender’.** That is qualified by section 11 where a person of 16 or 17 years of age, either with the consent of his/her parents, or failing that, with the permission of the Circuit Family Court, may apply for a gender recognition certificate.

What is wrong with that, you may ask? Apart from the fact that the ‘transition to preferred gender’ involves a mutilation that leaves the person unable to have children in the natural way, allowing persons that young to apply for such a certificate doesn’t take into account the confusion of preferring to be of the gender other than one’s own. Dr Richard Fitzgibbons, MD, the top U.S. psychiatrist, and expert on marriage and sexuality, points out that **preferring to be of the gender other than one’s own is in fact a delusion, and in the vast majority of cases this delusion vanishes when the person leaves the teenage years behind.** The same is true, he says, for same-sex attractions. So it is extremely barbarous and exploitative to permit such operations at all. Dr Fitzgibbons’s opinions may be perused on the Internet in the article ‘Child Healing: Strengthening Families: Same-Sex Attractions in Youth and their Right to Informed Consent [Updated October 30, 2014]’.

- According to section 17 of the Gender Recognition Bill 2014, **if one is granted a gender recognition certificate, one will be permitted to marry a member of the “opposite” sex.**
- But the fun, or rather the lunacy, doesn’t stop there. Sections 19, 20, and 21 deal with **wills and property, where, for example, the “eldest daughter” has become the “eldest daughter” through ‘transition to the preferred gender’.** Wills and property can be mind-bogglingly complex, as things stand. But countenancing ‘transition to the preferred gender’ is going to give rise to all sorts of crazy quandaries.
- Section 22 deals with ‘Gender-specific offences’. This will give a flavour of that section: ‘the common law offence of **rape can only be committed by a man,**’ and ‘**A person whose preferred gender has been recognised may still be physically capable of committing a sexual offence,** or being the victim of a sexual offence, associated with the opposite gender.’ Sanity breaking through the cracks?
- Mercifully there isn’t any reference in the text of the Bill or in the Explanatory Memorandum, to ‘**inter-sex**’, unless, that is, it is hidden in the Bill’s non-definition of ‘transition to the preferred gender’. The concept ‘inter-sex’ appeared in an earlier version. It is **a total confusion to equate that with ‘transition to the preferred gender’.** ‘Inter-sex’ refers to persons who are physically either male or female, but have some of the physical features of the other sex. ‘Inter-sex’ persons can be freed of their extra physical sexual baggage through surgical intervention, and they can have children in the natural way.
- **Please contact your Senators and TDs about this Bill,** and advise them that you won’t be voting for them in a year’s time, if they go along with this madness. You’ll find their contact details in the Eircom Phonebook, or on the website of the Alliance for the Defence of the Family and Marriage, www.adfam.ie . At the time of writing this Bill is moving to Committee Stage in the Seanad on Tuesday, February 3, 2015.

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