

Dear Jay,

Thank you for your letter of 14 July about the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (GRA) and survivor safety. I am replying on behalf of the Minister for Women and Equalities.

We do not comment on any leaked documents from the Government which may appear in the media. However, I want to reassure you that the Government is committed to supporting LGBT people and improving the lives of all citizens. I want to be absolutely clear, we will not be rolling back the rights of transgender people in the UK.

We will be announcing next steps on the GRA in the coming period. This will provide more detail about how we intend to improve the process of applying for a gender recognition certificate as well as more detail on maintaining single-sex spaces. This does not mean that the Government has any intention to ban transgender people from single-sex spaces or services, which we know they have used for many years without issue.

This Government has taken considerable action to help victims of domestic abuse. Specifically, the Government Equalities Office is working across government to ensure that the needs of LGBT survivors of domestic abuse are met. The LGBT Action Plan in 2018 included a series of commitments to address the multiple and complex needs of LGBT survivors of domestic abuse. In March 2020, the Domestic Abuse Bill was reintroduced to Parliament which includes measures to support LGBT survivors' needs.

We recognise that it is vital to ensure that the safeguards which keep vulnerable women safe are maintained. However, we also know that many abuse services offer trans-inclusive services (recognising that transgender people can and do suffer from domestic violence and abuse as well) and they are experienced in undertaking the necessary risk assessments when deciding who should be allowed access to their services. The Government has no interest in curtailing this.

I can assure you that we are listening closely to all contributions and engaging thoroughly with the appropriate stakeholders on the matters you have raised. Our response to the consultation will be published soon and will provide more detail on who responded and what they said.

I hope this information is helpful.

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Government Equalities Office

Correspondence Team

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