



TRANS PEOPLE IN THE UK

What is trans?

Trans is a general term for people whose gender is different from the gender assigned to them at birth. For example, a trans man is someone that transitioned from woman to man. Trans people do not feel comfortable living as the gender that they were born with. They take serious, life-changing steps to change their gender permanently.

What is a gender change?

Changing gender involves social, medical, legal and administrative changes. Trans people can change their name and gender for almost all services without changing their legal gender. This includes passports and driving licences.

How many trans people are there?

We don't know. No robust data on the UK trans population exists. We tentatively estimate that there are approximately **200,000-500,000** trans people in the UK. The Office for National Statistics is researching whether and how to develop a population estimate.

Facts and Figures

41% of trans men and trans women responding to a Stonewall survey said they had experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the last 12 months. They also found that **25%** of trans people had experienced homelessness at some point in their lives. Our national LGBT survey found similar results, with **67%** of trans respondents saying they had avoided being open about their gender identity for fear of a negative reaction from others.

How can you legally change your gender?

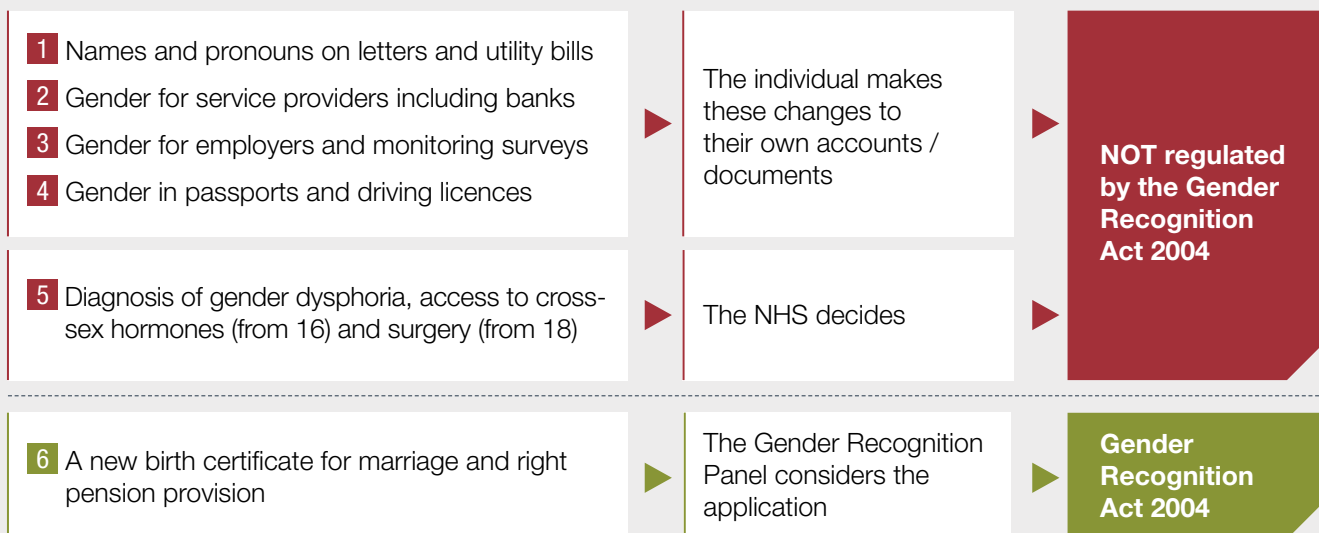
Trans people can change their legal gender by meeting the requirements set out in the Gender Recognition Act 2004. They then receive a Gender Recognition Certificate, by which their birth certificate is changed. The requirements are:

1. A medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria
2. A report from a medical professional detailing any medical treatment
3. Proof of having lived for at least two years in their acquired gender through, for example, bank statements, payslips and a passport
4. A statutory declaration that they intend to live in the acquired gender until death
5. If married, the consent of their spouse
6. Payment of a fee of £140 (or proof of low income for reduction/removal of the fee)
7. Submission of this documentation to a Panel, which the applicant does not meet in person

How many people have changed their legal gender?

Since the Act came into force, **4,910** trans people have been issued a Gender Recognition Certificate. **12%** of trans respondents to the National LGBT survey who had started or completed their transition had successfully obtained one, and **7%** of those who knew about them but did not have or had not applied for one said they would *not* be interested in obtaining one.

What steps are involved in a gender transition?



Consultation on the Gender Recognition Act 2004

The Government is launching a public consultation on how to best reform the Gender Recognition Act 2004. We want to know how to make the legal gender recognition process less bureaucratic and intrusive. No final decisions have been made on what reform will look like but we have made some decisions about what is not within the scope of these reforms. We are also aware that there are some misunderstandings about what reform of the Gender Recognition Act might include. Therefore, we want to provide clarity on some issues that are frequently raised.

1

There will be no change to the provision of women-only spaces and services

The Government is clear that there will be no change to the Equality Act 2010, which allows service providers to offer separate services to males and females, or to one sex only, subject to certain criteria. These services can treat people with the protected characteristic of gender reassignment differently, or exclude them completely, but *only* where the action taken is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. Importantly, a service provider's starting point should be to treat a trans person in the gender they identify with, and to allow them to access services for that gender *unless* by doing so they would be unable to provide that service to other service users. This means it can't be a blanket ban, or done on a whim. It has to be for a real reason, on a case by case basis. For example a female only domestic violence refuge may provide a separate service to a trans woman if it can be shown there is a detriment to other service users from including the trans woman as part of the regular service. If they then have to exclude that trans person, they ought to consider what alternatives they can offer to the trans person. This has been the law since 2010 and will not change.

2

There will be no change to the NHS medical pathways for trans people

Many trans people seek medical treatment provided by the NHS. Trans people require a diagnosis of gender dysphoria before receiving any treatment. The medical pathways are not regulated by the Gender Recognition Act, but by the NHS. As a result, reform of the Act will not influence the medical steps that trans people need to go through for their medical transition under the NHS.

3

Children are not put at risk

Reform to the Gender Recognition Act will not change the **legal** rights of trans children. The minimum age for legal gender recognition is 18, aligned with the full rights and responsibilities of adult citizenship, and the Government has no intention of changing this. We have also said that the Equality Act 2010 provisions will not change. As a result, existing arrangements of separate sex facilities, like toilets, changing rooms, and communal accommodation on school trips will not change. The age for accessing **medical** NHS gender identity treatment is decided on by the NHS, not the Gender Recognition Act. Surgical treatment is not available to people under 18. Cross-sex hormones are available to those aged 16 and above under guidance. Trans minors only receive treatment whilst receiving ongoing psychological support.

4

All views will be heard in the consultation

We acknowledge that there are many different views on reform of the Gender Recognition Act. We are committed to hearing everyone's opinion. The consultation will pose an open set of questions about possible reform. After the views are gathered, we will bring forward proposals. In our pre-consultation, we have met with many women's rights stakeholders.

5

We are committed to making the lives of trans people easier

Trans people face negative reactions to their gender identity in society and can become victims of hate crimes, domestic abuse and harassment simply because of their gender identity. Trans people already have the right to legally change their gender, and there is no suggestion of this right being removed. This consultation simply asks how best Government might make the existing process under the Gender Recognition Act 2004 a better service for those trans and non-binary people who wish to use it. This consultation, therefore, does not consider the question of whether trans people exist or whether they have the right to legally change their gender. Trans and non-binary people are members of our society and should be treated with respect.