

I have brought the documentation that you forwarded on the question of legal gender recognition to the attention of the Secretariat of the Joint Committee on Justice and Equality. I understand that the Committee will meet next week on the 17th January and hopefully they will have an opportunity to consider your request. Having spoken with one of my colleagues in the Secretariat he is of the view that it is highly unlikely that the Committee will provide an opinion on the documents and will probably just "note" the correspondence.

In order to be helpful to you, my colleagues in Dublin have searched through previous Committee's deliberations and the Joint Committee on Justice and Equality has considered gender equality - and their draft 2018 Work Programme includes an examination of the gender pay gap. The only consideration of gender recognition found occurred in May 2012 by the then Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality. The need for gender recognition legislation was debated as part of the '[Combating Homophobia and Transphobia: Discussion](#)'. (There is only one member of the current Committee who was a member of the Committee at that time.)

Subsequently, the [Gender Recognition Act 2015](#) came into force. The Act allows all individuals over the age of 18 to self-declare their gender identity. Young people aged 16-17 can also apply to be legally recognised, though the process is more onerous. The Bill was considered by the then Committee on Education and Social Protection.

There is currently a [Gender Recognition \(Amendment\) Bill 2017](#) before Seanad Éireann. It includes provisions to streamline the process for people aged 16-17 to legally determine their own gender and to open up a route for people under 16 to move towards having their professed gender recognised.

I hope that this is of some assistance to you and if and when the Committee consider your documents I will come back to you if there is further news.

Regards,

Cáit

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