



INITIATIVE „LASST FRAUEN SPRECHEN“ / „LET WOMEN SPEAK!“  
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## **Statement on the “Federal Action Plan for Acceptance and Protection of Sexual and Gender Diversity” of the Federal Government**

Berlin in Nov. 2022

We welcome the fact that the federal government wants to take greater account of the concerns of lesbian and bisexual women in its action plan (paragraph 2.1) and tackle sexual violence among young people (paragraph 3.6). However, we point out that this is an empty promise if sex is not understood biologically and unless this definition is delimited from internalized sex role stereotypes („gender identity“). A woman is an adult human female, a man is an adult human male. The Action Plan, on the other hand, does not define women and men on grounds of their sex. Instead, its content can be seen to adopt and affirm gender identity ideology unquestioningly. In the following, we refer to the most critical points of this action plan.

### **1. No confusion of terms, deceptions and fig leaves!**

Already in the first sentence of the paper it is implicitly assumed that lesbians had the same interests as people who call themselves „transgender“ or „transsexual“ (called „transgeschlechtlich“ in the action plan). Terms like „transgender“ are not defined, neither is the term „queerphobia“. The text speaks of „sex justice“ [Geschlechtergerechtigkeit] and mentions interests of „LGBTIQ\*“ in the same breath - as if these concepts directly were interconnected. At the same time, contradictory plans are mentioned, such as a demanded „non-binary survey of sex“ - as if there was a sex spectrum in a biological sense and as if this idea was compatible with sex-based justice for women and girls. Presumably, the authors are confusing sex with sex role stereotypes throughout the Action Plan.

### **2. No „sexual identity“ into the German constitution!**

We strongly reject adding the undefined construct „sexual identity“ to the German constitution as a characteristic worthy of protection. „Sexual identity“ is a completely ambiguous term. With this addition, the legislation would promote the living out of misogynistic fetishes and paraphilias in public that endanger the safety of children, and would thus have far-reaching consequences for the integrity of women and children. The term „sexual identity“ would consequently mean, in addition to transvestitism, transgenderism or transsexualism, the protection of the open living out of sexual deviations such



as nappy fetishism, exhibitionism or pedo-criminality (euphemistically called „pedophilia“), in many cases paraphilias in which other individuals are forcefully involved in a sexualized way against their will and their boundaries are crossed. Moreover, protecting gender identity ideology would threaten the freedom of expression, assembly, bodily integrity, health, privacy, and dignity of women and girls.

### **3. No reform of the parentage and family law!**

We reject the planned amendment of the law of parentage and family law, as it severely restricts the rights of the mother and the child. We demand that the following continues to apply: Mother is the woman who gave birth to the child. Self-identification of a father as mother discriminates against the biological mother of a child[1] and contradicts the right of the child to know its own parentage. Moreover, the mother's and child's freedom of belief and expression is threatened if they are forced to adopt the worldview of a father's self-defined „gender identity“. In the plans of the agreements on legal parenthood, parental care, right of access and maintenance even before conception and extension of the „small right of custody“ to up to two additional adults, we see a further strengthening of the father's and man's right at the expense of the mother. Already now, for example, mothers can hardly escape abusive relationships because of the father's shared custody and access rights and are exposed to years of disputes with their children in youth welfare offices and family courts. If the mother has to share custody with two other people, her vulnerability is multiplied. We demand a clear strengthening of the mother's rights. Mothers should be able to separate from abusive men at any time and should be supported in this by society as a whole.

### **4. Repeal the current transsexual law [Transsexuellengesetz] - yes! Self-determination law - no!**

We agree with the repeal of a transsexual law, but without replacement by a „self-determination law“. It is not understandable why it should be possible to have the unchangeable characteristic sex legally changed contrary to reality, especially since this violates the rights of third parties. There is no constitutionally protected right to impose one's own fetish, worldview, or psychopathology on others, or to force the community to participate in a deception lived by individuals. Men cannot become women, women cannot become men. Sex - as distinct from sex roles or sex role stereotypes - is immutable. „Gender identity“ laws contradict women's constitutionally protected rights to equality and the obligation, enshrined in the German constitution, to counteract the socially and politically induced inequality of women and men.[2]

### **5. Prohibition of medical „gender reassignment treatments“ and compensation for children instead of compensation for adults!**

That people are convinced to irreversibly damage their bodies by believing in an immaterial „gender identity“ is indeed tragic. However, the current government actively promotes this practice by means of „gender identity“ legislations such as the proposed „self-determination law“ or the already passed „conversion therapy ban“. Laws referring to a supposed „gender identity“ cement the ideas and practices of transgenderism, which are directly linked to physical harm by the gender industry. We call for laws to be enacted instead that prohibit medical interventions on children aimed at „gender reassignment“ (e.g., puberty-suppressing drugs, opposite-sex hormones, surgical procedures), as these are



harmful cultural practices.[3] Children harmed by such practices must have access to legal remedies and to compensation for pain and damages.[4]

## **6. No ideologically riddled „education“!**

We fear in the efforts of the current government for more „education“ about „LGBTIQ\*“ an even stronger financial support of „gender identity“ ideological acting associations and „counseling centers“. In its Action Plan, the traffic light government additionally wants to further push the indoctrination of children in school and in child and youth welfare with transgender ideology. However, children have a right to education based on equal opportunity (UNCRC, Article 28). This includes ensuring that curricula are substantively accurate with regard to human biology and reproduction, and that children are provided with teaching materials that incorporate questioning of sex role stereotypes and homophobia.[5] The dogmas of transgender doctrine, on the other hand, reinforce sex stereotypes and are hostile to the idea of homosexuality in the sense of same-sex love based on sex.

## **7. No men in women's sports!**

In the efforts of the traffic light government to achieve a „discrimination-free environment in sports“, we see an attempt to counter the resistance against men in women's sports that still exists in parts. Instead, we call for a law that prohibits men who claim a female „gender identity“ from participating in women's sports. In order for women to be assured of their right to equal opportunities to actively participate in sport (CEDAW, Article 19(g)), as legitimized by and achieved as being included in international law, it is necessary that participation in sport and physical education be based solely on sex, and that men with a stated female „gender identity“ be excluded from teams, competitions, and locker rooms designated for women and girls.[6]

## **8. Actual protection from violence, assault and hostility!**

Since the Action Plan is not based on a biologically based definition of sex, we also see the planned tightening of punitive sanctions based on sex/gender-specific motives [it is not clear if the authors of the Action Plan relate to sex or sex role stereotypes („gender“) here] as an attempt to silence critics of gender identity ideology under the pretext of „gendered violence“ against men who claim a female „gender identity“. With a redefinition of sex, there will be more men than there already are who gain access to women's shelters because of a claimed female „gender identity.“ This will inevitably increase men's violence against women. The federal government's claim to want to combat violence against women cannot be considered serious until it returns to a sex-based definition of women and men. We demand that women and girls who have experienced violence receive facilities and services specific to them without the presence of men with a stated female „gender identity“. Likewise, no corresponding men should be employed there. The same applies to specialized health care facilities, specialized police stations, women's shelters, prisons, hospital and senior citizens' home rooms, shelters for the homeless, public restrooms or shower and locker rooms.[7] We demand that research and government surveys on violence against women and girls name perpetrators and victims based on their sex, rather than on a stated „gender identity“.[8] Women must be allowed to name the actual sex of perpetrators to police, prosecutors, and courts without any sanctions.[9]



## **9. No promotion of the medical reproduction industry!**

We do not consider reproductive medicine a blessing, but another bastion in which women's bodies are exploited. We oppose extending the coverage of costs for fertility treatments to homosexual couples, as this would lower the inhibition threshold to normalize practices that are harmful to women and (potential) children, such as surrogacy and egg donation. We consider a reconsideration of the coverage of costs by the solidarity community for heterosexual couples to be desirable, not least because of the principle of equality between homosexual and heterosexual couples.

## **10. Removal of „gender identity“ from the conversion therapy ban!**

The German government would like to have the punishment exceptions existing in the valid „law for the protection against conversion treatments“ examined. These refer e.g. to parents and to counseling and psychotherapies of adults, who are convinced to belong to the other sex or reject their sexed body strongly. The current law already prevents children and adolescents with certain psychological problems from receiving adequate help, since they can largely only turn to psychotherapists who confirm the transgender dogmas. Instead of being helped, however, they are reinforced in religious-seeming ideas that are far removed from reality and life. Instead of a softening of the punishment exceptions we demand an immediate removal of the category „gender identity“ from this law!

## **11. No global spreading of gender identity ideology!**

We strictly reject the integration of gender identity ideology into development cooperation and German foreign policy and regard this practice, which has already been carried out, as a form of cultural imperialism that also causes great damage in other countries. We demand that foreign and development politics are free of misogynist ideologies, such as gender identity ideology. At this point, it should be emphasized that lesbians and gay men do not have the same interests as people who define themselves as „transgender“. On the contrary, we recognize in this Action Plan an instrumentalization of lesbians and gay men for the dissemination and social as well as institutional cementing of gender identity ideology on a national and international level.

## **Initiative „Let Women Speak!“**

### **Ressources**

- [1] See Article 2 of the Declaration on Women's Sex Based Rights (WDI, 2019), to which our initiative is a signatory.
- [2] For a detailed description of why gender identity laws are incompatible with women's rights, see the Declaration on Women's Sex Based Rights (WDI, 2019)
- [3] See Article 9(a) and (b), *ibid.* [4] See Article 9(c), *ibid.*
- [5] See Article 9(g), *ibid.*
- [6] See Article 7, *ibid.*
- [7] See Article 8(a) and (b), *ibid.* [8] See Article 8 (c), *ibid.* [9] See Article 8 (c) and (e), *ibid.*