

Dear Chancellor, dear Minister Paus, dear
Minister Buschmann, honored Members of Parliament!

On June 30th, 2022, the government presented key points of the Selbstbestimmungsgesetz ("self determination act", self id) which is set to replace the Transsexuellengesetz (TSG), passed in 1980.

We were shocked to realize the consequences of such a law for the rights of women and girls. According to this law, "Geschlecht" (Geschlecht means both sex and gender in German) will no longer be defined based on the material reality of sex, but as a completely arbitrary notion of gender id.

The provisions of the proposed law mean:

- Every man can legally declare himself a woman.
No diagnosis, no background check and no psychological evaluation required, no hormonal treatments and of course no sex change surgeries.
- Even if fraud is suspected as a motive, officials are not allowed to veto changing sex in law.
- Subsequently, nobody can challenge this change of status, still regard the person as a man, refer to them as a man or use the old name.
- These men are automatically permitted to use facilities for women and girls. Including women's shelters, female saunas, or female only dorms.
- The law makes it easy for abusive men to get access to women and girls and follow them even into places where women are naked and vulnerable.
- Not even convicted sex offenders are exempt from the law. They can also legally declare themselves women just by self id.

Women are betrayed and abandoned by a coalition government made up of parties that claimed to champion women's rights in their election manifesto.

Have you even thought about what a self id law means for women and girls?

How it feels if men show up in spaces where women are naked and particularly vulnerable - and there is nothing we can do to challenge them?

When men turn up next to us in a communal shower?

These laws will not just affect adult women, but also underage girls.

Why should a 12 year old have to overcome her fear and shame in the future and get changed next to a male adult, a complete stranger? What will you tell your own daughters?

The proposed law is an egregious violation of women's boundaries and in breach of the Istanbul convention. You destroy the basis of our equal participation in society.

Publicly owned single sex spaces are particularly important to women; if single sex spaces are only provided by private businesses, privacy will only be available to those who can afford it, which particularly excludes marginalized women.

But also the owners of private establishments (e.g. women's gyms) will be exposed to pressure from trans activists.

Will you consider the needs of:

- women who were raped and never feel safe in the presence of men?
- Muslim or other strictly religious women who particularly depend on single sex spaces due to their beliefs?
- adolescent girls who dread having to share school lavatories with boys and stop drinking during the school day, or attending school during their period ?
- women who are elderly or sick and in need of care in hospitals and nursing homes?
- the many other women who feel their privacy and dignity are compromised when they have to undress in the presence of men?

Are the needs of women in homeless shelters and prisons on your agenda at all?

Women need single sex spaces! Why do you want to sacrifice the safety of women and girls, take away our right to set boundaries?

Don't overlook the economic impact of exposing women to male violence: Increase in mental illness, absence from work, loss of income for spaces like swimming pools.

Why do you trivialize gender based physical differences and create the legal basis to deprioritize women's interests, e.g. in sports and in politics, in favour of a so-called inclusion?

We are also deeply concerned about the growing number of young people, especially young girls and women, who identify as trans. Why do you want to facilitate the medical transition of young people without adequate screening and professional guidance, expose them to irreversible medical interventions, make them sterile and chronically ill?

We say no to self id!

- We demand a broad societal debate
- We demand a thorough legal impact assessment
- We demand that experience gathered in other countries is taken into consideration

Internationally, numerous individual women and women's groups have spoken out against comparable self id legislation. In England, a similar law was prevented.

The UK government even plans to challenge proposed self id legislation in Scotland due to the associated risks for women and as a potential violation of the Equality Act.

We expect from a government that set out to achieve equality of the sexes in this decade to consider the needs of women equally. We expect you to finally make women's rights a priority. We expect you as members of the German Bundestag to take our concerns seriously and do what you can to address our concerns.

Find solutions that ensure the safety and well being of ALL citizens.

Looking forward to your detailed feedback,

AP Schulz and many angry women
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