

To: panel_aajs@legco.gov.hk

From: "Winnie Wong" [REDACTED]

Date: 11/13/2017 02:40PM

Subject: Consultation Paper on Gender Recognition Issued by IWG on Gender Recognition in June 2017

Dear Clerk to Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services Legislative Council Secretariat,

I am the Deputy Principal of a secondary school who has overriding concerns over the Consultation Paper (Part 1) on Gender Recognition that the Group put forward earlier. If this goes ahead, the ramifications of this would be vast; boys who think they are girls would be allowed in girls' bathrooms. The girls in the bathroom may not feel very comfortable with the situation. Students in secondary schools are exploring their identity and sexuality. In the process, there is no guarantee that some boys dress like girls may end up wanting to be boys again, causing more confusion. Who can wear a female uniform and who can wear a male uniform? Who can apply to an all boys' school and who can apply to an all girls' school? What about sports competitions for boys and girls at schools? Legalising same sex recognition would have major repercussions in secondary schools. Christian schools in Hong Kong are an influential sector in the Hong Kong education system. Same sex union and transgender is against God's original design of how He created people. Measures from the government should not lead to conflicts with religious groups in Hong Kong schools or long established unisex schools. Specifically, I oppose gender recognition legislation of any kind based on the following principles:

1. Sex is biological and physiological

An individual's sex is determined by the chromosomes in his or her body. It is inherently biological. Gender, on the other hand, is a sociological term that attempts to describe and categorize males and females based on one's behavior and preferences. "Assigned gender" and "affirmed gender" are relatively new terms coined by LGBT advocates to advance their cause. Men and women have always been differentiated based on their physiological differences, and this practice must continue.

2. Hong Kong is not Britain (or any other Western country)

Despite the Group's claim that there are no preset notions about the issue, the consultation documents are clearly based on the British ordinance on gender recognition, which is in line with the country's same-sex marriage system and self-autonomy over one's "gender". Hong Kong is not Britain. Same sex union is not recognized here nor is sex by self-determination. Hence, it is unnecessary to copy other countries.

3. Love and care is the best medicine

I sympathize with individuals who are suffering from gender dysphoria but sex reassignment surgery is not something to be taken lightly. The procedure is traumatic and irreversible and therefore, should be considered as a last resort. Medical personnel and mental health experts should show extra care and concern throughout the patient's therapy as to help him or her embrace his or her biological sex. That being said, should an individual decide to change his or her sex designation on the HKID card, he or she must go through the aforementioned procedure (approved by a certified surgeon), and NOT through any kind of self-declaration.

4. Respect goes both ways

Even after going under the knife, transgender individuals cannot change their biological sex. That is an undeniable fact. However, it is perfectly understandable that these individuals would have trouble reintegrating into society and I am all for the government implementing measures to help transgender persons acclimate to whatever changes they face. That being said, such measures should not lead to conflicts with or unjust treatment of religious, athletic and social groups, whose

rights and freedoms are just as guaranteed and protected as those of transgender individuals. In other words, all parties must be fully and fairly consulted before any talk on legislation.

As such, I hereby oppose legislation of any kind on gender recognition and I also oppose sex designation change on the HKID card through self-declaration without surgery. Any individual who attempts to change his or her sex must be strictly and stringently monitored pre- and post-reassignment surgery. The government and the Hospital Authority should provide individuals suffering from gender dysphoria extra counseling and assistance. Last but certainly not least, LGBT groups and the majority of the population should strive for mutual understanding and respect so as not to inflict pain and suffering on one another. Same sex union is not and should not be recognized here nor is sex by self-determination.

Sincerely,

Winnie Wong