

Subject: Review of Gender Recognition

Dear Moninne,

Many thanks for your invitation to make a submission to the Review of the Gender Recognition Act. The IGC are in the process of employing a researcher, so I am making a response to your request outlining what is happening at the moment and hoping that in time we will have the opportunity to look at his matter in more detail.

Guidance Counsellors are, in their daily work, meeting students who are dealing with complex gender issues. We want to equip guidance counsellors with knowledge and training so that they can both encourage improvement in the arrangements for students and facilitate an increase in skills and awareness of all staff in all workplaces where there is a Guidance Counsellor. Needless to say, an increase in guidance staff is needed to provide a service and we hope this will happen in the upcoming "Review of Guidance" recently announced by the Minister for Education Mr. Richard Bruton.

The theme of our 2018 annual conference, is "Guidance Counselling –Flourishing in a Diverse Society". Catherine Cross is delivering a workshop on "Supporting Gender Diverse Students". We have also encouraged our various branches to have training at branch level from members of the Belong to Team. A number of guidance counsellors have through their individual organisations already contributed to the submission process.

Guidance Counsellors have reported that the present guidelines from the Department of Education have been of great help to Principals, Pastoral Care Teams and Guidance Counsellors in providing clear and detailed guidelines for all staff.

I will ask all guidance counsellors to make sure that these guidelines are made known to all staff and principals and are if possible part of their in-service in 2018/2019. This will contribute to further knowledge of the review of the 2015 Gender Recognition Act.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help you in your work to represent those struggling with gender issues.

Yours sincerely,

Beatrice Dooley,



President of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors.