

# Women & Equalities Committee: Transgender Inquiry Briefing

## Who has produced this briefing?

This briefing has been produced by LGBT Consortium on behalf of the Trans Organisations Network to help encourage organisations and individuals to respond to this Select Committee call for evidence.

## What is it all about?

A new Select Committee has been established by the House of Commons to look at how the Government Equalities Office (GEO) and other associated bodies spend money, how they operate and the areas of work they focus on.

The first area the committee is focussing on is transgender equality to better understand how issues for trans people and communities can be most effectively addressed.

## When do I have to respond by?

All submissions to the Select Committee must be received by the 21<sup>st</sup> August so time is short!

## Why only 3 weeks?

Evidence is being requested through a Select Committee, so isn't a usual formal Government consultation. This is the first stage of the inquiry but the only time to be able to submit written evidence so we encourage as many people as possible to take advantage of this call for evidence.

## Who should be responding?

The Committee is keen to hear from both organisations and individuals—anyone affected by trans issues.

## What is the committee looking for?

They are looking for evidence to be submitted on a wide range of issues, in particular:

- Terminology and definitions
- Availability and reliability of data on trans population
- How our government has performed in advancing trans equality & comparing this internationally
- How the Gender Recognition Act 2004 operates and questioning if it needs amending
- Information on the “spousal veto”
- How effective the Equality Act 2010 is for trans people
- Employment and work issues that affect trans people
- Hate crime issues and media portrayals of trans people
- How trans people are affected by the criminal justice system (police, prisons, courts, etc.)
- Health issues faced by trans people, including NHS treatment in its broadest sense
- Issues for young trans people including education, NHS, social care services

## Is responding to this complicated?

No, however there are some key things to be aware of:

- They need to be made in Word (must not be a PDF) and submitted as an attachment at <http://tinyurl.com/transinquiry> (shortened link to official government page)
- Responses need to be concise and no more than 3000 words (around 6 pages). Don't worry, it doesn't have to be that long!
- Be a single document that contains as few logos or images as possible

## What should my response look like?

You should lay your response out as follows:

- State clearly who the response is from at the top (i.e. your organisation or as an individual)
- If your submission is lengthy, put a short summary in bullet points at the top, covering the key points you are making
- Include a short summary of yourself/organisation and state why you are submitting evidence
- Only include factual information that the committee can draw conclusions from or can be put to witnesses during the next stage of the process
- Don't waffle—be short, concise, focussed and to the point
- Include recommendations you think Government could action to remedy the issue you mention
- If you want to include a personal story, ensure that you only focus on the key facts in relation to a particular issue faced directly as a trans person

## Is my privacy protected?

Evidence submitted to the Committee will be published unless there is a reason for it not to be. However, we have been assured that the Committee will respect requests for confidentiality. If you want your evidence to be kept private to the Committee, please include a clear statement at the top of your submission. State that you would like to keep the whole submission, or just parts of it where necessary (be clear on what parts), confidential.

## Where can I find out more information about the Inquiry?

More information can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/transinquiryinfo> (shortened link to Government page)

## I am an individual. Who can help me put this together?

We would encourage you to contact a local trans organisation and see if they can help. You can find information about trans resources on the Tranzwiki (<http://www.gires.org.uk/the-wiki>) and on Consortium's Member Directory (<http://www.lgbtconsortium.org.uk/directory>).