

Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt
Minister for Women and Equalities
Sanctuary Buildings
16 – 20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

18 July 2019

Dear Penny

We are pleased to see that you and the Government Equalities Office will soon be announcing the results of last year's public consultation on the Gender Recognition Act (2004), and will be putting forward proposed reforms to update the legislation. We encourage the government to proceed with implementing the desperately-needed reforms as quickly as possible.

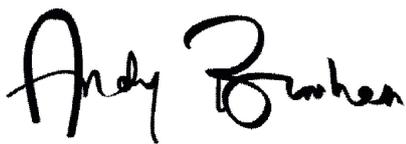
The GRA was a groundbreaking piece of legislation when first introduced which has provided some trans people with the fundamental right for their gender identity to be recognised in the eyes of the law. However, the act is now outdated and in urgent need of reform to ensure that it is accessible and delivers on the promises we made to our trans communities in 2004. The government estimates that just 12 per cent of trans people have a gender recognition certificate, despite 92 per cent stating in the National LGBT Survey (2018) that they would be interesting in getting one. GRA reform is a key step in addressing the marginalisation of trans and non-binary communities, by allowing them to more easily gain legal recognition of their gender identity.

Trans and non-binary people face a number of significant inequalities, and the current GRA process creates unnecessary barriers preventing many of them from achieving recognition in the eyes of the law. The government has made commitments to 'streamline and demedicalise' the gender recognition process, a promise that was welcomed by trans and non-binary people across the country. We hope to see this reflected in the new legislation.

We are currently lagging behind the progress made by countries around the world in terms of legal equality for trans and non-binary people. Changing the law would bring us in line with the standard already set by Ireland, Denmark and Norway, whilst transforming the lives of trans and non-binary people. It is time listen to the voices of our trans and non-binary communities, and proceed with reforming this legislation to ensure that it benefits the communities it was intended to support.

We welcome moves from organisations like LGBT Foundation and others who have been working hard for a number of years to ensure that reform of the GRA remains a top priority. Any reforms made must meet the needs of the communities we serve, and deliver a fairer and more equal society where all trans and non-binary people are able to achieve their full potential.

Yours sincerely



Andy Burnham
Mayor of Greater Manchester



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



Dan Jarvis
Mayor of Sheffield City Region



Steve Rotheram
Mayor of Liverpool City Region