

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly calls on member states to end widespread discrimination of transgender people

Amnesty International welcomes the adoption by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) of a groundbreaking [resolution](#) to uphold the rights of transgender people, based on a [report](#) by Ms Deborah Schembri. On 22 April, the PACE, by overwhelming majority, called on member states to combat discrimination, hate crime and foster procedures for legal gender recognition and gender reassignment: the culmination of a process that Amnesty International has followed closely.

The resolution calls on Council of Europe member states to prohibit explicitly discrimination on the grounds of gender identity, thereby implementing international human rights standards, including the relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

Concerning hate crimes, PACE called for the enactment of hate crime legislation which affords specific protection for transgender people against transphobic crimes and incidents, and for the provision of specific training to sensitise law-enforcement officials and members of the judiciary. With regard to legal gender recognition, PACE urged member states to abolish sterilization and other compulsory medical treatment, including a mental health diagnosis, as requirements for transgender people to change their gender, and to develop quick, transparent, and accessible procedures for all transgender people based on self-determination. Member states were further urged to consider including a third gender option in identity documents. Moreover, the resolution called for an end to the labelling of transgender people as mentally ill in national and international classifications for diseases, and making gender reassignment treatment and healthcare accessible.

Amnesty International welcomes the fact that the PACE resolution reflects our concerns and recommendations notably on legal gender recognition for transgender people. It is time now for European countries to act and translate this resolution into concrete measures to end the discrimination and other human rights abuses suffered by transgender people. Following the examples of Denmark and Malta in making gender recognition procedures quick, transparent, and accessible, [Ireland](#) should ensure that the bill on legal gender recognition under its parliament's consideration does not unduly restrict access for minors, or impose conditions such as a medical certificate as evidence that a transgender person is in transition or has transitioned. Similarly, [Norway](#) should swiftly follow-up its Expert Committee's recommendations of 10 April, calling for comprehensive reform to introduce a quick, accessible, and transparent procedure for legal gender recognition, based on self-determination.

End/

Public Document

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