

BIOLOGY OR IDEOLOGY?

It's a boy! It's a girl! These are biological truths being proclaimed throughout the world every day.



But in our brave new world, a simple statement like this is now under threat. The Government is changing the law around birth certificates, which will deem them meaningless, and which will continue its pushing of confusing 'gender ideology'.

This is all being done under the **Births, Death, Marriages, and Relationships Bill**¹. There are two specific changes which should concern us.

1. Each parent who is notifying the birth of a child can specify whether they wish to appear on the child's birth certificate as the child's "mother", "father", or "parent".

This raises immediate questions. Can the mother choose the label "father" - and why is "parent" deemed necessary?

This new proposal follows on from 2018 when the Department of Internal Affairs removed the need for fathers to be recorded on birth certificates, which ignores biological reality, and already renders birth certificates as manipulated and misleading.²

(Ironically, the select committee who have been considering this latest law change is the same committee who attempted to remove 'husband' and 'wife' from marriage certificates during the same-sex marriage debate in 2013³ - but were forced to backtrack.⁴)



Removing the biological father- or the biological mother- from a document that records biological history is wrong. **Biology tells a story** - but the state seems dead-set to distort that story, and we should be concerned at the direction being taken. A male and a female are required to create a new life.

Biology discriminates, and so should we, if we want to tell the truth.

2. Birth certificates will be based on the 'choice' of the person (self-identification).

Currently, if someone wants to legally change their gender on their birth certificate - (yes, you already can do this!)- they need approval from a doctor or a judge, with medical evidence of a sex change. About 20 people go through this process each year.

But as part of this proposed change to the self-identification process, no medical evidence is required for the change - just 'self-identity'. All references to "medical treatment", "medical evidence", "physical conformation", and "sexual reassignment" which were required previously to prove a physical sex change will be removed.

ADULTS: The bill provides for an adult or someone as young as 16 years old to apply to register their nominated sex, which may be "female", "male", or "any other sex or gender".

[An earlier version of the proposed law⁵ was going to be "female", "male", "X (unspecified)" or "Intersex". **Intersex** is a genuine medical diagnosis - a biological condition applying to a very small number of births - approximately 1 in 2,000. But choosing "any other sex or gender", "female" or "male" based on feelings isn't biological. And "any other sex or gender" is not defined.]

TEENS (16-17): A teen can apply to change the sex on their birth certificate to the opposite sex or to "any other sex or gender" with EITHER the written consent from the person's guardian OR a letter of support from a "suitably qualified third party" (which is undefined).

This means that this process could happen without parental consent, and potentially without a doctor's approval. And what if one parent agrees and one doesn't? A recent case from Canada proves just how disruptive this could become.⁶

CHILDREN: For a child younger than 16, their parent/s can apply for the registration of the child's "nominated" sex i.e. that's any child - 3, 5, 9 years, any child up to 15 - and again it may be "female", "male" or "any other sex or gender" that they "nominate". A letter of support is also required from a "suitably qualified third party" (this is not defined - and therefore may not have to be a doctor, and can be chosen by the parent).

There is no limit to the number of times you can change the gender on your birth certificate. Ironically, **you can reapply to revert to the sex recorded at birth.** Perhaps the doctor or midwife did get it right after all.

Here's the problem. It is well-established today that **the overwhelming majority of such children who experience gender dysphoria grow out of it by the time they reach puberty.** Thus, a growing number of leading clinics seeing such children, such as those in Canada⁷, Netherlands⁸, Finland⁹, Sweden¹⁰ (and a recent significant UK High Court case^{11,12}) do not recommend parents and schools facilitate gender changes in such children.

The push in culture today to embrace and affirm such children's wishes is founded more upon a political and parental ideology than it is in careful science and experience.

This will lock children into transgenderism. And just how many genders will be available to choose from? Facebook got up to 56, and then introduced a freeform field to enter your own gender.¹³

3. What is a birth certificate, and what is its purpose?

The **Department of Internal Affairs** website says¹⁴ – “A New Zealand Birth Certificate is an official document containing registered information about a person's birth as at the date of issue.” (our emphasis added)

The role of the Birth Certificate is also spelt out in the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.**¹⁵

Article 7 states: “The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.”

Article 8 says: “States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference.”

A birth certificate is a historical record based on fact – not a political tool to further an ideology. A government document *should* tell the truth.

Circumstances may change but a historical document should not be able to be changed. **The effect of this proposal would be to insert a biological lie.**

One submitter to the select committee considering this bill said:

“The idea that sex is something immaterial that can be “nominated” undermines all efforts to close a gender pay gap... The same will be true for discussions of violence against women... Women's safety and sovereignty in women's refuges, bathrooms, changing rooms, sports teams, representative positions, quotas, and all-girls schools are undermined by the concept of “sex nomination”. “Sex nomination” also allows

*men to undermine the accomplishments of female athletes, and push back progress women have made in competitive sports. It allows young men to change entire Girls' College and bathroom policies without any affected women or girls being consulted. Most alarmingly, the concept of “sex nomination” has serious potential to enable male sex offenders to gain automatic access to women's prisons upon sentencing.*¹⁶

4. It's just a birth certificate. Does it matter?

These issues matter because they concern our understanding of fundamental human nature, who each of us are as male and female, and the kind of adult direction and support our children require, deserve and receive from us.

Binary is the only gender story there is amongst humanity when it comes to gender and sex-distinction. There simply are not many genders. But of course, there are many different ways to be a healthy male or female without holding to narrow gender stereotypes.

Human sexuality is a dichotomy, not a continuum. **Speak up for biological truth.** Our children deserve it.



Endnotes

- <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/sop/government/2021/0059/latest/LMS496560.html>
- <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2018/05/nz-birth-certificate-makes-history-by-naming-two-parents-as-mother.html>
- <http://protectmarriage.org.nz/archives/bride-bridegroom-removed-from-marriage-certificates>
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- <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2017/0296/latest/DLM7273502.html>
- <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2021/march/canadian-father-jailed-for-speaking-out-against-biological-daughter-rsquo-s-gender-transition>
- <https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2021/05/13/doubts-are-growing-about-therapy-for-gender-dysphoric-children>
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- https://segm.org/Finland_deviates_from_WPATH_prioritizing_psychotherapy_no_surgery_for_minors
- https://segm.org/Sweden_ends_use_of_Dutch_protocol
- <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-lgbt-transgender-trfnidUSKBN-28B3AV>
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