

29th June 2026

Committee Secretariat
Social Services and Community Committee
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Select Committee Members

Submission on Legislation (Definitions of Woman and Man) Amendment Bill

I wholeheartedly support the Legislation (Definitions of Woman and Man) Amendment Bill and strongly urge the members to recommend that this Bill be enacted. The Bill represents a welcome return of objective truth and biological reality to law and public policy in New Zealand. In so doing it will help protect the rights of women and girls and reduce the risk of harm to many vulnerable young New Zealanders of either sex, posed by the promotion of trans-gender ideology.

However, the Bill also creates a tension with other more recent ideologically based legislation and policy such as the Conversion Practices Prohibition Act 2022 and the New Zealand Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2021. Both of these Acts contain provisions which do not reflect objective truth and biological reality. The lack of alignment between the Bill and these Acts may create confusion and legal complexity thus inviting judicial intervention to try and resolve the tension. Parliament should pre-empt this by amending or repealing the problematic provisions in these Acts at the same time as passing this Bill.

A return to truth in the public square

1. The Legislation (Definitions of Woman and Man) Amendment Bill represents a welcome return of objective truth and biological reality to the public square in New Zealand. For millennia it has been accepted as self-evident that sex and gender are binary – male and female, men and women, boys and girls. The modern notion that gender can be dissociated from sex and can be “non-binary” is not self-evident, is not based on any objective science, and is not widely accepted across the wider populace. Whilst we should have compassion for those struggling with issues of gender identity, we should not be expected to reorganise our entire legal, social, and cultural infrastructure around the ideology of gender-fluidity.
2. By returning objective truth and biological reality to the public square in New Zealand, the Bill will help to mitigate the risks to the welfare, rights, and dignity of women and girls, created by the rise of trans-gender ideology in our country. Women and girls should not be expected to accommodate biological males in female only spaces, be they changing rooms, common rooms, conference events, or even prisons. The Bill will help to establish a more robust legal framework to ensure this does not happen. It will also help to reconnect our culture with reality and hence restore the dignity of women and mothers, reducing the likelihood them being insulted by such terms as “chest-feeders” or “pregnant persons”.

3. The Bill will also mitigate the risk of harm to the mental health and wellbeing of many vulnerable young New Zealanders. It is no coincidence that as trans-gender ideology has been aggressively promoted across many western countries over the last decade, there has been a corresponding and substantial rise in gender dysphoria among young people, especially females (British Medical Journal *BMJ* 2023;380:p382). In particular young people with other underlying trauma and psychological or emotional challenges, are demonstrably more susceptible to the confusion, distress and anxiety fostered by this harmful ideology. The Bill pushes back strongly against this ideology by clearly reconnecting New Zealand law with objective truth and giving cultural weight to biological reality.

Parliament also needs to provide further clarity

4. Whilst the Legislation (Definitions of Woman and Man) Amendment Bill represents a welcome return of biological reality to the public square in New Zealand, it also creates a tension with other more recent ideologically based legislation. This includes the Conversion Practices Prohibition Act 2022 and the New Zealand Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2021.
5. The Bill will clearly and sensibly establish in New Zealand law that a man is understood to be a biological adult male and a woman is a biological adult female. However, under Section 9 of the Conversion Practices Act, an individual who helps another to align their gender identity or expression with this biological reality, risks being charged with a criminal offence. Their crime – to simply affirm and act in accordance with what the law will state once this Bill is enacted.
6. Similarly, the New Zealand Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2021 now includes provisions in Sections 23-29 allowing individuals to change their sex on their birth records to align with their nominated gender identity. These changes are legally required to be accepted by the Registrar and no information is allowed on the records noting that any change has been made. Hence whilst this Bill will clearly establish that for the purposes of New Zealand law, men are biological males and women are biological females, individuals will continue to have the right to affirm otherwise on legally mandated public records. And this contradiction must be accepted by the Registrar and anyone else who may rely on these records.
7. The inconsistencies noted above may invite judicial intervention to try and resolve the inherent contradictions between the different pieces of legislation. However, such intervention is not a democratic path for resolving the matter. It would be far better for Parliament to provide clarity and unambiguously express its will on this matter. It can do this by removing all references and clauses relating to gender identity and gender expression in the CPP Act 2022 and the NZBDMR Act 2021.

8. The foundational problem here is a divergence of the world-views underlying, and being expressed through, the Legislation (Definitions of Woman and Man) Amendment Bill and the CPP and NZBDMR Acts. The proposed Bill reflects a world-view based on objective truth, biological reality, and centuries of societal wisdom based on the Judeo-Christian understanding of sex and human sexuality. The other legislation represents an ideology deliberately disconnected from all of that, and reflecting an astounding level of intellectual, cultural and spiritual hubris. Those who promote it offer no new scientific evidence or rational intellectual framework. They simply assume that they know better.
9. A large majority of New Zealanders do not agree with or accept trans-gender ideology. That is why this Bill has found political support and been introduced to Parliament. It is now time for our political leaders to align themselves with the views of ordinary New Zealanders. Attempting to promote these mutually inconsistent world-views in different pieces of legislation or public policy is no longer an option. New Zealanders expect you to affirm what is true. They do not wish to continue on an ideological journey towards cultural psychosis where our society increasingly loses touch with reality on these matters.

Ewen McQueen

29th June 2026