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TRANS RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

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Motion Text

Still in the 21st century, transgender people in Europe and the world are threatened in their daily lives and their rights are attacked. These attacks range from threats to their dignity and safety and escalate to social exclusion, physical violence, and death threats. Police brutality against black trans people is a significant threat in the United States but moreover, Europe has not been protecting trans people either: in 2012 the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights conducted the EU LGBT survey in which they found that 54% of trans people felt discriminated or harassed due to the fact of being perceived as trans, with the indication that the more open the trans person was, the more likely they were to feel discriminated against.

More worryingly, attacks and even the denial of existence from the far-right have multiplied in recent years, finding common ground with the «Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminists (TERFs)» from seemingly more progressive circles, who are actively putting forward transphobic harassment. They are trying to refuse trans people their space in feminist readings and politics - and therefore excluding trans people from the vision on what feminism has always been: an emancipatory fight for those who experience discrimination across intersecting axes of marginalisation. Therefore, as trans people are attacked from various sides of the political spectrum, a call to protect and fight for their rights is thoroughly needed. FYEG is dedicated to make our own community as safe and inclusive for trans people as possible. As a feminist organisation, we declare that if your feminism does not include trans people, we do not want it. We will not tolerate TERF ideology in any FYEG space.

Systemic marginalisation of Trans People

The social marginalisation of trans people is affecting their right to healthcare and hindering their path to recognition. According to the Intersectionality Research for Transgender Health Justice (IRTHJ), social and health inequalities affecting transgender populations are the result of status quo power relations produced within and between oppressive structures, institutional systems, and socio-cultural processes. Additionally, the Transgender Europe Survey analysed that trans people score significantly lower in terms of health and wellbeing indicators than cis people. 50% of the trans respondents reported delays in seeking general healthcare because of their gender identity (receiving prejudice from healthcare providers or because of a lack of confidence in healthcare services). In many European countries, obtaining legal recognition of their gender means undergoing medical treatment. While we argue for an urgent de-medicalisation of the gender recognition process, we note that for the time being, these healthcare systems are discriminatory and oppressive and further add to the issue that transgender people do not receive the appropriate support that they need.

Moreover, in several countries, trans people are often denied their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Including through forced sterilisation requirements to access legal gender recognition, and by being denied access to fertility and contraception services. Fertility services, including egg retrieval, sperm collection, in-vitro fertilisation, should be accessible to trans people through national healthcare systems where they are available to cis people. Further, gynaecologists and

urologists should be trained to work with trans people. Access to these services should be non-discriminatory, and like other healthcare, should be granted via a process of informed consent. Trans parents should not be misgendered on their children's birth certificates.

At the same time, we see that discrimination and marginalisation go far beyond institutions and healthcare - social environments, which include both closer circles like families but also neighbourhoods, work environments, etc - push trans people to the peripheries. This directly harms their capacity to feel as part of the community or even as a person, which pushes around 50% of trans people to live in the closet, forcing some of them to even avoid certain public places.

All of these difficulties increase the lower socio-economic background a trans person comes from. Without being able to seek external help as they don't have the means or the support network, lower income trans people are trapped in a "circle of poverty" that is extremely difficult to escape from: their unemployment rate is three-times as high as that of the general population which, added to their broader discrimination, decreases any social or economic opportunities they may find. Therefore, many trans people are forced to accept exploitation and precarity in their lives.

Taking this into consideration, FYEG calls upon the European Commission, the European Parliament, the governments of EU Member States, and other European state governments to:

- Affirm that Trans Rights are Human Rights
- Recognise the threats to trans rights and call for the protection of those rights in all EU and European states.
- Acknowledge that the patriarchal system oppresses trans and cis women, trans men, and many others whose gender, affections, and sexuality differ from the norm.
- Dedicate health care and social grants for trans people with the aim to help them transition, with grants based on autonomy and informed consent which respect gender identity and foster depathologisation. These grants will also help them in building their own lives, facilitating their job search and make social environments more positive towards trans rights.
- Work on a better representation and understanding of trans people by funding integration policy for a more diverse society and to tackle transphobia but also by working with the education system (Schools, Youth Organisations, Sport clubs and recreation centers) where young trans people do not feel they can be themselves.
- Completely de-medicalise legal gender recognition and reform these procedures to be quick, accessible, and transparent. This can be achieved by getting the right to self-determination of trans people, stopping mentioning the citizen's gender on their ID card, letting them modify their First Name and accepting that transitions are unique to each person and that none can set rigid rules about what everyone is or is not.
- Facilitate legal recognition of trans people in their home countries and their desired living countries, especially when governments and movements in some European countries threaten trans lives.
- Improve the training of psychological and medical specialists on transpeople's realities and the importance of non-continuous pathologization of trans people, and also provide specific mental

health services to people who are transitioning, either medically or otherwise, and who are receiving psychological care without being pathological or discriminatory.

- Respect trans parenthood and the sexual and reproductive health and rights of trans people. By banning forced sterilisation and medicalisation, and ensuring access to fertility and contraception services.