

**CULTURE, TOURISM, EUROPE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**CENSUS (AMENDMENT) (SCOTLAND) BILL**

**SUBMISSION FROM MARION CROMB**

I hear that there is a Scottish Parliament committee currently considering the 2021 Scottish Census questions, that have recently received submissions from transphobic groups calling for the guidance w/r/t sex/gender collection to be changed from that used in 2011 (where guidance stated that trans people should answer with the sex with which they self-identify), and instead for the guidance to be rolled-back to either to force trans people to answer with their "biological sex at birth" or (if the transphobes cannot get that change) with their "legal sex" (i.e. would still require trans people to have a GRC). The idea behind these submission recommendations is to try and erase the existence and validity of trans people in order to push an anti-trans agenda - and in effect to get the census to misrepresent the Scottish population.

I ask that these transphobic changes are not made, and that instead the recommendations from National Records Scotland are followed instead. That is: adding a third answer option (of "other", or ideally, a write in - with explicit guidance that trans people can answer it with how they self identify) to the compulsory sex question so that non-binary people are not forced to answer either male or female, and to better represent the intersex community. NRS also recommends including a new voluntary question asking people if they consider themselves to be trans or to have a trans history. These recommendations would be a brilliant (and world leading) opportunity to finally get accurate information of how large the Scottish trans population is (data that could be extremely useful for many researchers) - as statistics/estimates at the moment are very variable.

It would also mean a lot to me personally to be able to record my sex/gender accurately on the upcoming census.