

Press Release

International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization 2015

STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization

The **International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization** 2015, convened by STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization¹, takes place today, Saturday, October 24, 2015. Over 100 actions for trans depathologization² were organized in 45 cities of different world regions, as well as international activities, throughout today and the entire month of October under the slogan "*Stop Trans Pathologization - Stop Pathologizing Gender Diversity in Childhood*". Furthermore, to this day 397 activist groups and networks, public institutions and political organizations in six continents, as well as numerous individuals, have declared their support to STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization³.

Every October, activist groups worldwide organize activities for trans depathologization to demand the removal of the diagnostic classification of gender transition as a 'mental disorder' and to claim state-funded access to a trans health care of the highest attainable quality. Other relevant demands include the removal of the diagnostic classification of gender diversity in childhood, a shift in trans health care from the current assessment model to one based on informed decision making, the legal recognition of name and gender marker without medical requirements, as well as the protection of trans people against discrimination and transphobic violence.

Currently, trans depathologization activism is focused on the **revision process of the ICD, International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems**, published by the WHO, World Health Organization. The expected approval date of ICD-11 by the World Health Assembly is 2018⁴.

¹ STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization. STP launches the Call to Action for the International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization 2015, July 26, 2015. Available at: http://www.stp2012.info/old/en/news#call_to_action2015

² STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization. Acciones Octubre 2015 / October 2015 Actions. Accesible at: http://stp2012.info/old/en/press#october2015_actions

³ STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization. Support. Accesible at: <http://stp2012.info/old/en/supports>

⁴ WHO, World Health Organization. The International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision is due by 2018. Available at: <http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/revision/en/>

As noted in former press releases^{5,6}, we consider the removal of trans-specific categories from 'Mental and behavioural disorders' Chapter and inclusion of a trans-specific category in the 'Conditions related to sexual health' Chapter in the ICD-11 Beta Draft⁷ to be an important advancement.

However, we are concerned about the continued **diagnostic classification of gender diversity in childhood** in the ICD-11 Beta Draft, by means of the 'Gender incongruence in childhood' category. We believe that children with gender expressions and identities that differ from their gender assigned at birth do not require a diagnostic category, but an environment open to gender diversity, including fluid and non-binary options. In order for children, parents or other community members who need psychological support services to be able to access these, we suggest the use of so-called Z codes (codes in the 'Factors influencing health status and contact with health services' Chapter)^{8,9}.

The Ferrara Report¹⁰, recently published by the European Parliament, recommends the removal of the diagnostic classification of gender diversity in childhood from the ICD.

The European Parliament (...),

90. Welcomes the initiative shown by the Commission in pushing for depathologisation of transgender identities in the review of the World Health Organisation's International Classification of Diseases (ICD); calls on the Commission to intensify efforts to prevent gender variance in childhood from becoming a new ICD diagnosis; (European Parliament 2014: 3, 31)

We demand that the WHO, World Health Organization **removes the 'Gender incongruence of childhood' diagnostic category from ICD-11 Beta Draft.**

⁵ GATE, Global Action for Trans* Equality, STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization. GATE and STP Press Release: New Developments in the ICD Revision Process, August 19, 2014. Available at: http://www.stp2012.info/old/en/news#information_ICD_revision_process

⁶ STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization. STP Press Release: International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization 2014. Available at: http://www.stp2012.info/STP_Press_Release_October_2014.pdf

⁷ World Health Organization. ICD-11 Beta Draft, 'Gender incongruence'. Available at: <http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd11/browse/l-m/en#/http%3a%2f%2fid.who.int%2f%2fid%2f%2f411470068>

⁸ STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization. Reflections from STP regarding the ICD revision process and publication of the DSM-5, August 1, 2013. Available at: http://stp2012.info/STP_Communique_August2013.pdf

⁹ GATE, Global Action for Trans* Equality. Critique and Alternative Proposal to the "Gender Incongruence of Childhood" Category in ICD-11. GATE Civil Society Expert Working Group Buenos Aires, April 4-6, 2013. Available at: <http://globaltransaction.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/critique-and-alternative-proposal-to-the-gender-incongruence-of-childhood-category-in-icd-11.pdf>

¹⁰ European Parliament, Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. Report on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union. A8-0230/2015, 22 July 2015. Available at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bREPORT%2bA8-2015-0230%2b0%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN>

Furthermore, we recommend that the WHO continues working on the terminology and approach used in the new category '*Gender incongruence in adolescence and adulthood*' in order to avoid the implied psychopathological bias of the term '*Gender incongruence*'. As mentioned in previous reflection documents and press releases^{11,12}, we strongly suggest the use of a descriptive terminology for the diagnostic category addressing adolescents and adults who wish to engage in gender-affirming body modification processes, such as '*Trans Health Care*' or '*Health Care related to Gender Transition*'.

Finally, we would like to highlight the recent advancements that have taken place regarding **legal gender recognition processes**. Following the Argentinian Gender Identity Law¹³ precedent, in the last year and a half gender recognition laws without medical requirements have been approved in Denmark¹⁴, Malta¹⁵, Colombia¹⁶ and Ireland¹⁷. These laws establish a new standard to be followed in terms of legal gender recognition. However, in most countries throughout the world, legal name and gender marker changes are still illegal, pending on Court processes or subject to requirements such as diagnosis, hormonal therapy, genital surgery, sterilization and/or divorce, thus violating the right to recognition before the law and the right to bodily integrity.

¹¹ STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization. Reflections from STP regarding the ICD revision process and publication of the DSM-5, August 1, 2013. Available at:

http://stp2012.info/STP_Communique_August2013.pdf

¹² STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization. STP Press Release: International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization 2014.

Available at: http://www.stp2012.info/STP_Press_Release_October_2014.pdf

¹³ Congreso Argentino. Identidad de Género. Ley 26.743. Boletín Oficial de la República Argentina Nº 32.404, 24 de mayo de 2012. Available at:

<http://www4.hcdn.gov.ar/BO/boletin12/2012-05/BO24-05-2012leg.pdf>

¹⁴ Government of Denmark. Forslag til Lov om ændring af lov om Det Centrale Personregister (Tideling af nyt personnummer til personer, der oplever sig som tilhørende det andet køn) L 182. Vedtaget af Folketinget ved 3. behandling den 11. juni 2014. Available at:

http://www.ft.dk/RIpdf/samling/20131/lovforslag/L182/20131_L182_som_vedtaget.pdf

¹⁵ Government of Malta. ACT No. XI of 2015. Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics Act, 2015. Available at:

<http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lp&itemid=26805&l=1>

¹⁶ Ministerio de Justicia y del Derecho, República de Colombia. Decreto 1227, Por el cual se adiciona una sección al Decreto 1069 de 2015, Único Reglamentario del Sector Justicia y del Derecho, relacionada con el trámite para corregir el componente sexo en el Registro del Estado Civil, 4 de junio de 2015. Available at:

<http://www.minjusticia.gov.co/Portals/0/Ministerio/decreto%20unico/%23%20decretos/1.%20DECRETO%202015-1227%20sexo%20c%C3%A9dula.pdf>

¹⁷ Houses of the Oireachtas. Gender Recognition Act 2015, 22nd July, 2015.

Available at: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/25/enacted/en/pdf>



For this reason, we demand the **modification of existing gender identity laws** and the **approval of new laws** in order to facilitate **gender recognition processes without medical requirements** or **civil status requisites**.

This year, activities for trans depathologization have been celebrated worldwide once again. We would like to express our deepest **gratitude to the groups, networks and organizations** in different world regions that have participated in the International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization 2015.

Stop Trans Pathologization! Stop Pathologizing Gender Diversity in Childhood!

**Coordination Team of STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization,
October 24, 2015.**

www.stp2012.info