

Press Release

International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization 2016

STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization

The **International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization** 2016, convened by STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization¹, takes place today, on Saturday, October 22, 2016. Over 120 actions for trans depathologization² were organized today and throughout the entire month of October in 47 cities of different world regions, including international activities, under the slogan "*Stop Pathologizing Gender and Bodily Diversity*". This year, we observe the participation of many new groups, as well as the ongoing support of groups, organizations and networks that have participated for years in the call to action for the International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization. Furthermore, to this day 410 activist groups and networks, public institutions and political organizations in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America and Oceania, as well as numerous individuals, have declared their support for STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization³.

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

As noted in previous press releases^{5,6,7}, we believe that the removal of trans-specific categories from the '*Mental and behavioural disorders*' Chapter and the inclusion of a trans-specific

¹ STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization. STP launches the Call to Action for the International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization 2016, August 9, 2016. Available at: http://www.stp2012.info/old/en/news#call_to_action2016

² STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization. Acciones Octubre 2016 / October 2016 Actions. Available at: http://stp2012.info/old/en/press#october2016_actions

³ STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization. Support. Available 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/>

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 STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization. STP Press Release: International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization 2015. Available at: http://www.stp2012.info/STP_Press_Release_October2015.pdf

category in the 'Conditions related to sexual health' Chapter in the ICD-11 Beta Draft⁸ is 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 of childhood*' code. 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 to ensure access to psychological support services for children, parents and other community members, we suggest the use of so-called Z codes (codes in the 'Factors influencing health status and contact with health services' Chapter)^{9,10}. Over the last few years, several international^{11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19} and

⁸ World Health Organization. ICD-11 Beta Draft, 'Gender incongruence'. Available at:

<http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd11/browse/lm/en#/http%3a%2f%2fid.who.int%2fcd%2fentit%2f411470068>

⁹ 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

¹⁰ 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>

¹¹ 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>

¹² GATE, Global Action for Trans* Equality. GATE Statement on the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, 2013. Accessible de:

<http://transactivists.org/2013/05/17/idahot2013/>

¹³ 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

¹⁴ 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

¹⁵ GATE, Global Action for Trans* Equality. GATE Statement on the International Day of Action for Trans* Depathologization, 2013. Available at:

<http://transactivists.org/2013/10/19/gate-statement-on-the-international-day-of-action-for-trans-depathologization/>

¹⁶ GATE, Global Action for Trans* Equality. We Are Unstoppable! GATE Statement on the International Day of Action for Trans* Depathologization, October 24, 2015. Available at:

<http://transactivists.org/2015/10/24/we-are-unstoppable-gate-statement-on-the-international-day-of-action-for-trans-depathologization/>

¹⁷ STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization. STP Press Release: International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization 2015. Available at:

http://www.stp2012.info/STP_Press_Release_October2015.pdf

¹⁸ GATE, Global Action for Trans* Equality. GATE Statement on the International Trans Day of Visibility 2016. March 31, 2016. Available at:

<https://transactivists.org/2016/03/31/gate-statement-on-the-international-trans-day-of-visibility-2016/>

¹⁹ ILGA World, Statement on Gender Incongruence in Childhood, 10 May 2016. Available at:

<http://ilga.org/what-we-do/gender-identity-and-gender-expression-program/gender-incongruence-childhood/>

regional^{20,21,22,23} activist networks, as well as individual authors^{24,25,26,27} have contributed arguments against the diagnostic classification of gender diversity in childhood in various declarations, reports and papers. To this day, 227 health professionals and researchers have signed a declaration supporting the removal of the diagnostic code '*Gender incongruence of childhood*'²⁸. The European Parliament recommends its removal in recent strategic documents^{29,30}.

Furthermore, we recommend that the WHO continues working on the **terminology and approach** used in the new code '*Gender incongruence of 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^{31,32,33}, we strongly suggest the use of a descriptive terminology for the code related to gender transition-related body modification processes in adolescents and adults, such as '*Health care related to gender transition*'.

²⁰ TGEU, Transgender Europe. A step in the right direction: WHO proposes to remove F64 "gender identity disorders" from the mental and behavioural disorders". TGEU Statement, August 22, 2014. Available at: http://www.tgeu.org/sites/default/files/2014-08-21_TGEU_ICD11-beta_final.pdf

²¹ Gender Dynamix. Cape Town Declaration Gender Incongruence in Childhood, 2014. Available at: http://www.genderdynamix.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Cape-Town-Declaration_29-July-2014.doc

²² TGEU, Transgender Europe. TGEU calls upon WHO to support gender variant children, not label them as "sick", October 24, 2015. Available at: <http://tgeu.org/support-gender-variant-children/>

²³ ILGA-Asia. Statement on Gender Incongruence in Childhood, October 27, 2015. Available at: <http://ilga.org/the-ilga-asia-trans-pre-conference-statement-on-gender-incongruence-in-childhood/>

²⁴ Winter S, Ehrensaft D, Pickstone-Taylor S, De Cuypere G, Tando D. The psycho-medical case against a gender incongruence of childhood diagnosis. *Lancet Psychiatry* 2016;3(5):404-405.

²⁵ Cabral M, Suess A, Ehrt J, Seehole TJ, Wong J. Removal of a gender incongruence of childhood diagnostic category: a human rights perspective. *Lancet Psychiatry* 2016;3(5):405-406.

²⁶ Winter S, Diamond M, Green J, Karasic D, Reed T, Whittle S, Wylie K. Transgender people: health at the margins of society. *The Lancet* 2016, Jun 17;367. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(16\)00683-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(16)00683-8)

²⁷ Winter S, Settle E, Wylie K, Reisner S, Cabral M, Knudson G, Baral S. Synergies in health and human rights: a call to action to improve transgender health. *The Lancet* 2016, June 17. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(16\)30653-5](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(16)30653-5)

²⁸ Winter S, Riley E, Pickstone-Taylor S, Suess A, Winters K, Griffins L, et al. The "Gender Incongruence of Childhood" diagnosis revisited: A statement from clinicians and researchers, May 7, 2016. Available at: gicrevisited.org

²⁹ 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=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A8-2015-0230+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

³⁰ European Parliament. European Parliament resolution of 8 September 2015 on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union (2013-2014). Brussels: European Parliament, 2015. Available from: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+TA+P8-TA-2015-0286+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

³¹ 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

³² 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

³³ STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization. STP Press Release: International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization 2015. Available at: http://www.stp2012.info/STP_Press_Release_October2015.pdf

Therefore, we demand that the WHO **removes the 'Gender incongruence of childhood' code from the ICD-11 Beta Draft** and works on a **non-pathologizing and descriptive terminology** for the code related to gender transition-related body modification processes in adolescents and adults.

We celebrate recent advancements that have taken place regarding **legal gender recognition processes**. Following the precedent of the Argentinian Gender Identity Law³⁴, gender recognition laws without medical requirements have been approved in Denmark³⁵, Malta³⁶, Colombia³⁷, Ireland³⁸ and Norway³⁹. These laws establish a new standard to be followed in terms of legal gender recognition. However, in many 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.

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**.

Finally, we remain concerned with the **ongoing situation of transphobic violence** directed towards trans people in different world regions. We are immensely saddened by the continuous news of transphobic hate crimes. In addition to street violence, we note **institutional violence, mistreatment, pathologization and discrimination** directed at trans people in the administrative, educational, health care and legal contexts.

³⁴ 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>

³⁵ 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

³⁶ 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>

³⁷ 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>

³⁸ Houses of the Oireachtas. Gender Recognition Act 2015, 22nd July, 2015.

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

³⁹ Helse-og omsorgsdepartement. Lov om endring av juridisk kjønn, LOV-2016-06-17-46, 17/06/2016. Available at: <https://lovdata.no/dokument/LTI/lov/2016-06-17-46>



These violations of the trans people’s human rights speak to the **urgent need for protection laws** and **deep social change** towards a society in which gender and bodily diversity are valued and grounds for celebration.

Once again, activities for trans depathologization have been celebrated worldwide. 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 2016.

Stop Pathologizing Bodily and Gender Diversity!

**Coordination Team of STP, International Campaign Stop Trans Pathologization,
October 22, 2016.**

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