



STATEMENT REGARDING GENDER REFORM

Frontline Feminists Scotland are extremely concerned at the First Minister's statement yesterday, (8th Sept 2021) that Gender Recognition Reform will progress through the first year of this Parliament.

We continue to support the position that women require single sex services, not only to support their privacy and dignity, but also to ensure that male bodied people are excluded from women's services to prevent violent perpetrators accessing already traumatised women and children. Single sex spaces and services benefit all women but are vital to traumatised, disabled, women and girls affected by cultural and / or religious practices.

The violence against women sector has been built on a range of models and theories that allows them to provide support that responds effectively to the needs of women and children oppressed through male violence and abuse. This requires a female focussed environment.

We believe that women, and many men, in Scotland recognise the importance of women only spaces due to biological need. Toilet areas, wards and leisure facilities all require privacy that allows women and girls engage in public activities such as sport, education and employment. Without such facilities we believe women and girl's participation will be reduced.

We do not understand why Scotland's First Minister is failing grasp this reality.

We do not believe that the public have been fully informed about the implications of gender reform and that one year will not be enough time to ensure this is achieved. We do not believe this is democratic.

Where women have tried to raise concerns and resolve these issues there has been attempts to silence us. We have raised concerns around gender neutral toilets, changing rooms, hospital wards and leisure facilities as well as single sex service provision in the male violence against women's sector. Some of us have had our jobs threatened, employment investigations launched, memberships of groups threatened and in some cases been verbally and physically assaulted. We will not however be silenced.

We call on all women in Scotland to raise your voice. If not for you for our daughters and granddaughters.