

If the campaign to prevent trans people from properly recording their sex in the Census is successful, that campaign will go on to try to restrict trans people's recognition in other ways, for example restricting their use of toilets and other facilities.

This is the most significant threat to LGBTI rights since section 28, and we must stand up against it.

help us **#defendtransrights...!**

Email your MSP and let them know you support trans equality: [equalrecognition.scot/email-your-msp](https://www.equalrecognition.scot/email-your-msp)

Take a selfie of yourself with a trans flag and post it with **#defendtransrights**

Challenge transphobia and misinformation about trans rights when you hear it

If you have further questions about trans people and trans equality, visit [equalrecognition.scot](https://www.equalrecognition.scot)



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trans rights are under threat!

What's going on?

Over the past year and a half, we've seen an increasing campaign against the existing rights of trans people. It all comes down to one main argument: trans people aren't really the women, men and non-binary people that we say we are. That our identities and the way we live our lives don't matter – only the bodies we were born with.

This is not okay!

We are women, men and non-binary people. Our lives are real. **And our rights need to be defended.**



help us
#defendtransrights

Creating change together
LGBTI equality in Scotland



Where is this campaign happening?

There are attempts being made to undermine trans inclusion in a wide range of areas, including education, single-sex services and the justice sector. There are even attempts to reduce access to NHS gender reassignment healthcare services.

At the minute, a key focus of the campaign against trans equality is on the next Scottish Census. The arrangements for this are being considered by MSPs now.

Since the Census began, it has asked everyone the question “What is your sex?” and trans people have been answering with how they live for many decades. In the last Census in 2011, National Records of Scotland, who run the Census, produced guidance telling trans people to answer the sex question in line with how they are living (e.g. trans men should select male, and trans women should select female).

This reflects how Censuses in English-speaking countries around the world approach their sex question – including the rest of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Opponents of trans equality are trying to make the Census, for the first time ever, insist that the sex question refers to your biological sex at birth. This would deny trans people’s lived sex.

To change the sex question in that way would be the first time that LGBT equality in legislation has gone backwards anywhere in the UK since the introduction of section 28 under Margaret Thatcher in 1988.

It would be trans people’s section 28. Section 28 labelled same-sex relationships as “pretended”. Likewise, the proposed change to the Census would mean the state saying that trans people’s lived sex is not real.

To make such a change would place Scotland in a small group of countries where trans equality is being actively rolled back, alongside the USA, where Donald Trump’s government is using the same rhetoric to attempt to bar trans people from using single sex services and from receiving medical care.

It is vital to be clear that this proposed change to the basis of the sex question is not a technical issue about how best to collect data in the Census. Data collection has worked perfectly well in previous Censuses with trans people declaring their lived sex. The proposed change is actually about undermining trans rights.

Trans rights are underpinned by an understanding that where a trans woman has started living as a woman, or a trans man has started living as a man, then their lived gender identity, rather than their birth physical characteristics, is how service providers and employers regard and record their sex.

Trying to restrict how trans people can answer the Census is one part of a wider attempt to undermine these rights, and instead say that trans people always are, and must always be counted as, their biological sex at birth. »