

From: [REDACTED]
To: JS Passports Business Support
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: new passport gender change law.

Sent: Wed 4/07/2012 6:52 p.

hi, my name is [REDACTED]. i am a trans man living in [REDACTED]. i immigrated from [REDACTED] four years ago. two years ago i started the transition from female to male. i am a new zealand resident and because of this i have to live with a female passport, drivers license etc. this means every time i need proof of id, to rent a house, to enrol on a course, employment, going into a club, buying a pack of smokes, or a bottle of wine. i get aquised of using a fake drivers licence, because i dont look the photo anymore...i have a beard etc. nz transport wont change it. i fully support the change of law to support new zealand citizens to be able to change their passport id to which ever gender they prefer by submitting an application with reasons etc and signed by justice of the peace.

go new zealand! wat a break through!

Released under the Official Information Act 2002

From:

IS Passports Business Support

To:

Proposed passport changes feedback

Cc:

Hi

The proposed passport changes are a good step in my opinion. It would be great to show no gender details as the default option on passports - the same as our drivers licence (which I mainly use for ID). I will be renewing my passport soon and not having to get a new birth certificate will make it alot easier (& avoid lawyers fees).

Kia ora

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Sent: Thu 5/07/2012 11:37 a

From:

[REDACTED]
IS Passport's Business Support

Sent: Sat 7/07/2012 12:49 a.

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Third gender option

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I identify as genderqueer.

The inclusion of a third gender option on passports would greatly please me as it is an inclusive option.

Currently, I do not feel catered to by either gender option. The inclusion of a third gender marker (X) would rectify this and make my passport a document more reflective of my identity and self.

Thanks for your time.

[REDACTED]

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Sent: Sun 8/07/2012 11:19 am.
To: IS Passports Business Support

Hi there,

I have recently heard about the proposed changes to the procedures enabling transgender and intersex people to change the gender on their passports and am emailing to say this is a great step forward! I really hope that these procedures come into effect as soon as possible. I am FTM, male identified, living in Christchurch and planning a trip to the USA at the end of the year. I really didn't want to have to get an X on my passport as I am worried it could cause more trouble than it's worth with it not being understood by customs computers around the world, but I don't want to have to travel with an F on my passport when I have an obviously male appearance! This type of easy change has been necessary for a long time and I'm glad to see that there is finally something being done about it!

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From:

To: [REDACTED]
IS Passport Business Support

CC

Subject: **third gender options**

 Message  letter to NZ government.doc (39 KB)

Please find attached my views on your proposals to change the passport information.

Whilst I am not a citizen of your country, any such changes will have implications beyond your shores, and I feel it is necessary to respond to the proposals.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Sent: Sun 3/07/2012 12:59 p

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

A personal opinion.

I had heard and read a recent article in the "Gay Star News", which stated as follows :-

"New Zealand proposes third gender option for passports

Kiwis might be able to describe themselves as M, F or X on passports, if proposed changes go through in September

05 July 2012 | By Anna Leach

A New Zealand passport application could soon have options for M, F or X

The New Zealand government is reviewing gender options on passports and looking into more flexibility for transgender citizens.

The Department of Internal Affairs suggests that New Zealanders can chose M, F or X to describe their gender, with only a statutory witness declaration needed as confirmation, not a medical certificate.

If a transgender person changes identity on the passport, it would be shown on that document only and not on birth certificates or citizenship records.

Currently the Births, Deaths and Marriages Act 1995 legislates that an adult or guardian of a child can apply to have their birth certificate changed to a different gender.

The Department is asking for views about these proposals from those affected and expects to implement a new policy in September 2012."

Whilst I am not a citizen of your country, I view this proposal as part of a further global attempt to attain certain rights which should not be accorded to a section of the community, just because they consider themselves to be transgender or trans.

I, along with many others throughout this planet, are vehemently opposed to changes being made to the law of the country, solely due to a political aim, based on the assumption that a human right has been breached.

To explain my argument, I would take the whole subject matter back to the basics, and perhaps then you will understand how your government is being duped.

Firstly, the word "transgender" was manufactured by a person called Arnold Lowman who used the name Virginia Charles Prince, principally as he hated transsexuals, and published a magazine called "Transvestia". This person also ran and built up the cross-dressing organisation Tri-Ess, used transgender to distinguish cross-dressers from gay, bisexual and transsexual people.

From the above, you can now understand why many, many transsexuals refuse to use the word transgender.

Since those early days, the term transgender has been used to incorporate many other gender identities, and this was supported by the medical professions, who began to explore and use terms such as Gender Disorder, Gender Identity Dysphoria, Gender Variant and now the latest edition, Gender Incongruence. The reality when looking at this "condition" is that it is false. There are those individuals who do not feel that they are either male or female, others feel as if they are both, to varying fluidic degrees, or some who feel they are neither, or third gender etc. The argument is not how a person believes themselves to be, it is to what impact that belief has on your legislation, and should it be validated by the use of an "X" or similar marking on a document which is used by people going beyond your boundaries.

Perhaps you are unaware that the word “transgender” incorporates some 100+ names by which people personally identify, and no-one has ownership of the word, so any identity can be added by anyone. How can your government be sufficiently proactive in defining these identities, and the new ones which continue to manifest, if you have no definition of the word.

Incorporated, wrongly, under the transgender term, are those who are transsexual and intersex. Whilst the two are not mutually exclusive, they are different conditions.

From my perspective, an intersex person, may have the physical characteristics of both sexes, to some lesser or greater degree. This creates an ambiguity which the medical professions now do not treat until the child can demonstrate their own brain sex identity. At this point the condition can be treated to suit the person, and may or may not include surgery, hormones, counselling etc. It does not follow that an intersex child is transsexual, as they may have a male brain, along with a male body, which has some female parts. In contrast, a female child may present as female with some male parts.

It is due to this type of inconsistency, that the Intersex Organisations wish to be removed from the transgender label, as many do not fall under any dysphoria or incongruence.

Speaking as a person who is fully transitioned, and has the legal identity of a female, albeit with a trans history, a transsexual is defined in the UK as :- *those who intend to undergo, are undergoing or have undergone a process of gender reassignment to live permanently in their acquired gender.* Gender Reassignment (sometimes referred to as “transition”) is defined as :- *including some or all of the following cultural, legal, and medical adjustments: telling one's family, friends, and/or co-workers; changing one's name and/or sex on legal documents; hormone therapy; and possibly some form of chest and/or genital alteration.*

More importantly, a transsexual does not have any dysphoria or incongruence as they know within themselves which sex they should have been, and with medical intervention, a physical form which is acceptable within our society, can be achieved, in many cases. It has to be recognised that transsexualism has a defined cause, can be medically diagnosed, and a treatment plan followed, which will effectively eliminate any internal conflict. In lay terms, the condition can be cured.

Unfortunately, this cannot be said for those who truly identify as transgender, since there is no known cause, no proper medical diagnoses other than giving the condition a label, and therefore little possibility of a treatment plan which will rid the person of the condition. Some may gain an “ease” with some treatments, but the problem is never fully dispelled.

Similarly, there is no such thing as a third gender. There are people who have differing genders, but that is applicable to 7+billion people on the planet, as we all have separate gender identities. Neither is there a third sex, as no-one has ever produced any physical attributes which are different from the existing male or female sex. Even those who are intersex, have a mixture of male & female parts, with not the slightest hint of any third sex. It is a figment of an imagination to believe there is any more than the binary sexes. You cannot afford to buy in to this illusion as it does not exist.

This is why there is a world wide movement to have the word transsexualism removed from the transgender spectrum, and the recent WPATH guidelines, issued in Sept. 2011 distinctly separate the words transsexual and transgender, as well as gender non-conforming people.

It is the principal foundation for those who wish to change such things as a passport, that the opaqueness of the labels be maintained, to the extent that many believe the word transgender means transsexual. The reality is that they are entirely different conditions, as I have demonstrated, above, and whilst those who are medically diagnosed as transsexual, and have declared an intent to undergo gender reassignment, need protection within the law, it does not preclude that those who identify as transgender, require that protection.

With direct regard to the inclusion of any item which may, or may not denote a difference in a person's gender identity, surely the New Zealand government cannot be so naive as to think that a box will make any difference, as most who come under the transgender banner will not publicly identify. To include any type of marker in an official document will only be used by a very small proportion of the population, and I would go so far to suggest that this would not even reach 3 figures, maximum. There is no purpose for this box other than to appease some transgender activists who use the transsexual condition as a lever. Any transsexual who has undertaken and completed the procedure will identify as male or female, so the reality is that they will not tick any such box.

For those who do actually tick the box, then they will be open to question or amusement by some authorities over whom the NZ government has no control. In some circumstances, the marker may initiate negative responses from some countries, and could result in untoward responses. Is your government prepared to undertake to resolve every issue that may arise, with hostile authorities, just to allow an "X" in a box on a passport.

Has your government not wondered why there are no other countries allowing this to happen. To be the only government to be pressurised on the grounds of equality, fairness etc. or to be "the first" will not have the effect you believe it may have.

Consider if the person who originally put the "x" in the box, but subsequently wants it changed because of some problem, then wants it changed back again. At who's expense will all this admin. be undertaken, as the person may intimate that it's the governments fault for not fully explaining the consequences.

If this is allowed, then where will such requests end. The next step will be to allow some transgender people to have multiple passports as they have fluid identities, and wish to be seen as the identity on the passport, at that point. However, as the identity is fluid, then could there be restrictions without imposing on that person's rights to identify as they wish, irrespective of how many identities that person may wish. In such a case, if someone identifies as schizophrenic, would they be granted similar rights to multiple passports. You may believe this to be a ludicrous analogy, but in both situations you have a person who self identifies, without any medical diagnosis, and what is the correct procedure for one person, cannot be reasonably withheld from another.

I suspect the next stage, should this be allowed, is for the same people to want all official documents, including drivers licenses, National Health documentation, birth certificates etc. to be "adjusted" with similar markers. After that, it's a downhill slope to having useless information on any official document as it can be changed on a whim, depending on the persons mood or mental state.

Please do not succumb to the idiotic suggestion as it only panders to a few individuals. You diminish the vast majority of the population of your country by allowing a question mark to be put over the definition of sex, especially when the majority of the transgender community is composed of transvestites / cross dressers, who have absolutely no issues with their identity, nor do the transsexual community or intersex community. It is a very minor few who have an agenda.

I leave this to yourselves and trust you will have the good judgement and common sense to prevent this from becoming a requirement as it serves no real purpose

With best regards



Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: [REDACTED]
To: IS Passports Business Support
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Passport and Gender options

Message | NZ doc [36 KB]

I have become aware that you are considering making changes to the gender details on your passports.

I attach my own views on this matter and would be grateful if you could give them serious consideration as the implications of your decision could impact on many people across the globe.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Dear Sir/Madam,

It has come to my attention that you, the New Zealand Government, are considering a third gender for passport as per the following article I discovered on the website stuff.co.nz

New Zealand could soon follow in Argentina's footsteps by making it easier for transgender and transsexual people to change their gender on their passports.

But some in the trans community say gender shouldn't even appear on passports, which is something the United Kingdom's Home Office is looking into.

Instead of F or M under "gender", they argue that it should instead be left blank.

The New Zealand Passport Office is looking at changing its policy, which dictates that transsexuals and transgender people can have an X instead of an F or M on a passport.

The gender can also be changed following a Family Court declaration, which allows a birth certificate to be altered. A declaration is only made if the person has medical evidence showing that they are in transition from one gender to another, such as undergoing hormone replacement therapy, or have had gender reassignment surgery.

But from September, those in the trans community might be able to change their gender on their passport without the declaration or medical evidence, something only Argentina has allowed its citizens to do.

The move would only relate to passports and was only in its consultation phase, a Department of Internal Affairs spokesman said.

Agendernz president Cherise Whitehira said the move would make it easier for trans people to travel internationally without being discriminated against.

The department decided to look into its policy after it was approached by the trans community. It is consulting with the Human Rights Commission, which supports the proposed change, and is hoping to implement the new flexible policy in September.

The office was not looking into completely removing gender from passports, but Whitehira said it should.

"Border control are not gender police, " she said.

Racheal McGonigal was able to change her gender on her passport after receiving a Family Court declaration, following gender reassignment surgery in 2006.

The Auckland, 56, supported the move, but also said that modern security technology at airports should be sufficient enough to make gender irrelevant.

Although I do not live in New Zealand, I would like you to consider my views on this matter.

Over the last twenty years, or even less in some countries, there has been a serious amount of misinformation being spread by the transgender community with the intent of discrediting the evolution of the human species and at the same time trying to ridicule an internationally accepted medical condition i.e. transsexuality. To expand further on my allegations I need to start at the very basics of the human species.

Any baby born in the world today is either born as male, female or in some rare cases with intersex conditions with different configurations of male and female reproductive organs and chromosomes. The words male and female are used to describe the sex of a human being, not the gender which is where I believe you are making a mistake in considering using male, female or x as gender on your passports.

The World Health Organisation, along with many other countries and institutions, use the following definitions

- Sex refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women.
- Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women.

The World Health Organisation goes further to explain that Male and Female are (biological) sex categories, while "masculine" and "feminine" are gender categories.

Aspects of biological sex will not vary substantially between different human societies. It is well documented that there are two main characteristics. There are the

- Primary sex characteristics which involve the sexual organs and the reproductive system.
- Secondary sex characteristics, which develop during/after puberty due to the influence of hormones.

Gender however, have aspects that may wildly vary. Gender, can, in broad terms be defined as how someone feels about themselves and how they want to express that through their behaviour, mannerisms, interactions with others, how they dress etc. In society we have very masculine males and very feminine females. We also have very feminine males and very masculine females but they are still males and females and have not changed their sexual characteristics.

These definitions are well established and most societies recognise them, and have done so for many years. Confusion may come into these definitions because of the misinformation about transsexuals and transsexuality. Transgender activists insist that transsexuals are part of the transgender umbrella because they both have a gender issue. However this argument is deliberately misleading as they try to justify their claims that there are hundreds of gender identities.

Transsexuals do not change gender, they change their anatomical sex. Anyone who is transsexual will tell you they feel trapped in the wrong body. I, and all true transsexuals who were born male, would have preferred to have been born with ovaries, fallopian tubes, a uterus and vagina etc. We would have wanted to experience the menstrual cycle, become pregnant and experience childbirth because every part of our being screams we are females. Sadly modern medical surgical techniques cannot provide male to female transsexuals with fully functioning female reproductive organs but surgery does allow us to change them to reasonably accurate looking female genitalia. We do of course have to change our wardrobe, behaviour and mannerisms but changing our anatomical sex is what defines a transsexual.

A transgender individual would never consider changing their sexual organs as the ones they are born with are too important to them. What transgender individuals actually do is they chose to dress and adopt behaviour of the opposite sex on a temporary or permanent basis. However as they have not undergone reassignment surgery then they have not changed sex, they have just expressed the personality in a way more akin to the opposite sex. I would suggest a more appropriate definition could be a masculine female or a feminine male.

Transgender is all about self-expression and individuality because it has no chromosomal, hormonal, anatomical or biological basis. It is about what makes an individual feel good about themselves and says "this is who I am". Society is full of people who express themselves by

- having a tattoo, or many tattoos
- having body piercings
- the clothes they wear, e.g. denim, leather, pvc, sports tops showing allegiance to their favourite sports teams, women only shopping at Gucci/Chanel/Prada
- a particular fashion e.g. Goths, Punks, Mods, hoodie, New Romantics in early 80's,
- their hobbies/lifestyles e.g. historical enactments, train spotters, car enthusiast
- their religion/ beliefs e.g. druid, pagan, Wicca or any mainstream religious faith
- their different cultures and tribes

yet none of these are categorised as transgender but are they really any different?

In recent years we have seen "Men giving birth" and have "Women with penises" in our societies. However what we really have are "masculine looking females giving birth" and "feminine looking males" in society. Transgender activists by blurring the differences between sex and gender are making a mockery of both sexes. It would seem that transgender rights now outweigh the rights of others especially females who do not want these feminine males in female only places because it makes them feel very unsafe and vulnerable. This in turn affects the transsexual community, especially male to female transsexuals, who, when they have completed all their surgical reassignment procedures, want to integrate, and be accepted, into society as females. However many females, especially feminists, see transsexuality as a choice and not a recognised medical condition because of the transgender insistence that transsexuals are part of their transgender umbrella. This has resulted in demands for the cessation of our treatment, especially by public funded health schemes.

To come back to the issue of your passports if you are going to use male or female on them then it needs to be under the category of sex, not gender. Transsexuals, i.e. those diagnosed with the medical condition and who will undergo reassignment surgery, should be allowed to change their passports to the sex they are changing to as some may need to travel out-with your country possibly for reassignment surgery.

As for using the letter X then please do not adopt this farcical option as in reality the numbers who might use that are minimal to say the least. Most transgender individuals, e.g. transvestites, crossdresser, etc., are under no illusion what sex they are and most accept that what they do is purely an expression of their personality. The majority will have no need, or desire, to travel as the opposite sex. What you have is a very small minority who have got carried away with fantasies and whilst Government should try and accommodate the needs of its citizens as much as possible, pandering to fantasies is not something you should be doing.

I trust you will take my views seriously and give them proper due consideration.

Regards

██████████

NON-GENDERED

Fighting for legal and social recognition outside the gendered societal structure

I am writing in response to the DIA proposals for policy revision in respect of issuing passports to New Zealand's trans* citizens.

A system that would allow trans* applicants to return a signed and witnessed Statutory Declaration outlining their circumstances along with their passport application is an extremely straightforward approach, and is the most humane approach through a process of self-identification that would eliminate the personal distress associated with being unable to acquire the correct documentation without encountering numerous barriers and hurdles.

I am engaged in an ongoing campaign to achieve legal recognition and the 'right' to have my non-gendered identity correctly represented on both my personal identification documents (such as a passport) and on all records held by government departments and organisations. For me, the correct representation of my core identity entails the removal of all gendered references from my documentation and records. Gendered classification is inappropriate for me on a personal level and gendered references are frequently unnecessary on a general level for the purpose of identification of an individual.

I am therefore greatly encouraged that the DIA has made provision (in accordance with accepted standards as outlined in CAO Document 9303) that enables trans* citizens of NZ to acquire a passport with non gender-specific 'X' (sex: "unspecified") reference.

This is thoroughly commendable and I hope the leadership taken by the DIA (along with recent policy revision in Australia) will reflect on the outcome of a policy review currently taking place in the United Kingdom.

I have argued specifically that the Identity and Passport Service of the UK must amend their highly discriminatory policy that makes no provision for trans* passport holders whose core identities are not recognised within the gendered societal structure (neither male nor female), and who are at present forced to accept gendered classification in order to obtain a United Kingdom passport.

I understand the DIA revised policy would result in situation where any New Zealand citizen can amend the classification ('M', 'F' or 'X') on their passport with Statutory Declaration and it is foreseeable therefore that citizens who are neither trans* nor intersex could request the removal of gendered reference in preference of 'X'.

A wider availability (of 'X' passports) should reduce the unfortunate risks purported to be associated with travelling on a passport that identifies the holder as trans* or intersex. On a personal level, I regret the loss of visibility of trans* and intersex that 'X' might otherwise have offered - because there can be no equality without visibility - but, on a purely pragmatic level, I understand the reasoning that in certain circumstances it is better that a travel document does not always specifically indicate the holder is trans* or intersex.

Sincerely

[Redacted signature]

NON-GENDERED - Fighting for Legal Recognition

The denial of existence is the worst act of discrimination by the gendered majority against the non-gendered

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: [REDACTED]
To: IS Passports Business Support
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Policy for Changing Sex on Passports

Sent: Fri 13/07/2012 1:59 p

Hello [REDACTED]

I just wanted to say thank you for the recent presentation at the HRC meeting in Wellington.

Though a number of points were discussed at the meeting, I don't have any specific feedback apart from to say it really seems like a great initiative and also making sure that the DIA website is updated to contain all the relevant details on how to apply for a new passport under this policy (including other points such as name change) will obviously be important.

However I just wanted to raise a point that could impact this operational policy change.

The Electronic Identity Verification Bill

Currently I am working at one of the government ministries to manage the delivery of a Identity and Access Management Service and we have been looking at the 'Real Me' service the DIA is expecting to deliver of the back of the EV Bill. So as part of my work, I have been reviewing the service, the bill and associated submissions.

The Real Me offering does provide a great vehicle to simplify service delivery in the identity space but I admit after reading the HRC submission and then re-reading the Bill I am concerned that how a core identity is derived could create a number of barriers for Trans people. Not least that the intention of the Real Me service is to be used by private agencies such as Banks, etc.

In fact in many ways the passing of this Bill could create a de-facto cross government standard for identity – which could leave the recent passport policy revision in a difficult position, especially as a future use of the Real Me service could be identity assertion in gaining a new passport.

Do you know if the DIA responded to the HRC submission? Also has the impact of the EV Bill be considered as part of the Passport Office policy change?

Thanks again for your work in this space and look forward to hearing from you.

Regards
[REDACTED]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 24 July 2012 2:35 a.m.
To: IS Passports Business Support
Subject: Passport Changes Inquiry

To whom it may concern,
I'm writing on behalf of [REDACTED] national LGBT human rights organization. I was forwarded an email by a colleague of mine recently regarding the proposed changes to the issuance of passports for transgender applicants. In particular, it was suggested that applicants would only need to provide a witnessed Statutory Declaration to change their gender identity on their passport (as opposed to having to go through a family court). I was hoping you could provide me an updated on the status of this change, and whether you think the change will be formalized soon.

Thanks in advance,

Best,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] LGBT human rights organization: advancing equality, diversity, education, and justice

Support our work: become a member or renew your membership for 2012.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: IS Passports Business Support
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Passport Change Inquiry

Sent: Fri, 27/07/2012 10:02 A.M.

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

The Department of Internal Affairs is still in the process of reviewing its operational policies regarding the issuance of passports for transgender applicants, where they wish to record a change in gender identity in their passport.

The Department has been consulting with communities across New Zealand with an expectation of being able to implement a new flexible policy in September 2012.

Regards

Lesley Tse
Business Support Officer
Passports Urūwhenua
Service Delivery and Operations
The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taūwhenua
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120 Victoria Street
PO Box 10-526, Wellington
New Zealand
www.dia.govt.nz

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: [REDACTED]
To: IS Passports Business Support
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: NZ passport proposals

Sent: Fri 27/07/2012 3:04 p

To whom it may concern

On behalf of Transgender [REDACTED], I wish to offer our experience in relation to changes relating to passports announced last year (mid September) for people of diverse sex and gender (DSG). First, the outcome has been fantastic. People who were born overseas and who thought they would never be able to see their families again can be re-united - simply because DSG people can travel as their true identity. Basic human dignity and rights, the rights of families to be together and the rights to true freedom of movement have been restored.

This is a huge contrast to the previous scenario which saw innocent people end up in overseas detention centres for having the "wrong" passport. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials here were highly professional in arranging the new process prior to mid-September. If needed I would be happy to pass on contact details. We ultimately would like to achieve similar progress in relation to birth certificates and are working wherever possible with our State and Territory governments to achieve this.

If we can help you and our New Zealand siblings in any way to achieve similar results please contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Spokesperson

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 25 June 2012 4:14 p.m.
To: Helen Jamison
Subject: TG passports

Hi Helen

I presume this is your email address. You were mentioned in an email from [REDACTED] as being involved in policy changes regarding passport gender markers. First, let me say that this is a great policy and kudos should go to all those involved in developing and implementing it.

I'd be very grateful if you'd put me on your mailing list. I run a little Facebook page which, with over 300 fans is probably the biggest group in New Zealand. The FB page is really just used as an e-zine, but is the most heavily subscribed 'publication' or site for trans people in NZ. [REDACTED] is a private trust which supports and encourages advocacy work in NZ. As a lawyer, my contribution is trying to advance trans issues through the courts, doing s28 declarations and criminal/parole hearings.

So if you'd be kind enough to keep me in the loop, I'd be very grateful. If at all possible, I'd also like to know if there has been any shift in policy regarding transgender marriage rights. Currently the state of the law is confused with the Oranuhu Family Court case laying down guidelines which don't accord with the BDMRRA. It seems that some trans people are simply not allowed to marry. A s28 declaration and amendment of birth certificate precludes marriage to a person whose sex is opposite to their nominated one and yet they may not have had sufficient surgery to get past the hurdles outlined by Ellis J in the Oranuhu case. It seems to me that a new declaratory judgment should probably be sought, reflecting current societal mores and, of course the statute and case law which allows transgender people who haven't had surgery to still acquire a declaration as to sex.

Thanks in advance for your help. I'm really keen to publicise the advances DIA is making and, as I said, the [REDACTED] FB page is the most read local e-zine. Here's the link

[REDACTED]
Regards

[REDACTED]
Barrister

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: Lesley Tse
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: TG passports

Sent: Thu 9/09/2012 1:50 p

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your feedback. I have noted your request for updates on the review of operational policies regarding the issuance of passports for transgender applicants.

As the second half of your email relates to the BDMQR Act, I have forwarded your email to Birth, Deaths and Marriages for a response.

Should you have any further queries, please feel free to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Tse
Business Support Officer
Passports Unwhanua
Service Delivery and Operations
The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua
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query - for more details

Sent: Mon 2/07/2012 11:32 p.m.

To: IS Passports Business Support

Hi

I have recently been made aware that the passport business support unit appears to have started seeking information with the purpose of updating their policy in regards issuing passports for intersex people is this correct?

If so can you forward more details of the proposed policy and contact details for comment

regards [REDACTED]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: [REDACTED]
To: IS Passports Business Support
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: gender change on NZ passports

Message | Argentina - Gender Identity Law.pdf (2 MB)

Dear sir and or madam,

We would like to congratulate the New Zealand government on the proposed changes to the rules for gender marker changes. The proposal to use a statutory declaration as only requirement is commendable, as is the possibility to have an undetermined gender and the possibility to change gender multiple times. This is a wonderful and important step in the right direction, and will hopefully facilitate a change in the rules around birth certificate changes in the future. We are sure you are aware of the recent change in law in Argentina, for your convenience we have attached our translation of the new law there, which you can also find on our [website](#) under 'documents'. Please let us know if we can support your efforts in any way.

Best,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

"Vision without action is a daydream;
action without vision is a nightmare."
- Japanese Proverb on a Linnaede bottle

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