



Women's Human Rights Campaign

Dear Gov. Abbott:

We are writing to thank you and stand in solidarity with you for determining that so-called “sex-reassignment surgery” on a child constitutes genital mutilation and child abuse; and for proceeding immediately to enforce that determination under Texas law.

The Women's Human Rights Campaign (WHRC) is a global, politically nonpartisan group of volunteer women dedicated to protecting women's sex-based rights; and we are its USA chapter. Our volunteers include academics, writers, organizers, activists, lawyers, and health practitioners. [The Declaration on Women's Sex Based Rights](#) (The Declaration) was created by the founders of WHRC to lobby nations to maintain language protecting women and girls on the basis of sex rather than “gender” or “gender identity.”

Article 9 of The Declaration reaffirms the need for protecting the rights of the child: “States should recognize that medical interventions aimed at the ‘gender reassignment’ of children by the use of puberty suppressing drugs, cross-sex hormones and surgery do not serve the best interests of children. Children are not developmentally competent to give full, free and informed consent to such medical interventions, which carry a high risk of long-term adverse consequences to the physical and psychological health of the child, and which may result in permanent adverse consequences, such as sterility. States should prohibit the use of such medical interventions upon children.”

It is [estimated](#) that there are presently 1000 so-called “gender clinics” in the United States, of which some 300 “treat” children.

As the UK High Court recently ruled in the well-publicized case of Keira Bell, a survivor of childhood medical harm for the purpose of “gender reassignment,” children cannot consent to such permanently damaging treatments. This type of medical harm to children is contrary not only to WHRC's Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights and to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, but also to the core values of any decent society. It is central to any concept of human rights that children be allowed to grow to natural, healthy adulthood.

Thanks to you, Governor Abbott, Texas has now taken an important step in protecting children's right to grow naturally to healthy adulthood.

WHRC USA encourages other states to follow your courageous example, and take immediate steps to eliminate the mutilation of American children, including the genital mutilation disingenuously called "sex-reassignment surgery"; as well as the permanently harmful use of wrong-sex hormones and so-called "puberty blockers."

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