

Kazakhstan must respect the right to health and sexual health for transgender people

The World Association for Sexual Health (WAS) joins TGEU, ILGA-Europe and IGLYO in calling on the Parliament of Kazakhstan to remove the age limit in the proposed amendment (539) to the law concerning access to health services. The proposed age limit would deny trans-specific health care for persons under 21.

The WAS Declaration of Sexual Rights (2014) is based on the principles of equality and non-discrimination including transgender and gender diverse persons (Preamble and Article 1).

The proposed age limit would violate the spirit and letter of the WAS Declaration of Sexual Rights as well as other important rights documented in the international human rights law and the Constitution of Kazakhstan.

The WAS Declaration of Sexual Rights explicitly states that everyone has “the right to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual health” (Article 7), which includes trans-specific healthcare without any arbitrary restrictions of access. Legislation concerning transgender healthcare should be always based on scientific evidence, human and sexual rights, and the dignity of the patients.

WAS urges the Parliament of Kazakhstan to respect the human and sexual rights of transgender persons, especially young transgender and gender diverse persons, and to repel the proposed amendment (539). Every trans person should have full access to health services and trans-specific care, which includes, for example, social and therapeutic support starting from early childhood, treatment of gender dysphoria and all necessary medical treatments in puberty and adulthood (see WPATH Standards of Care, 2012).

WAS supports the following requests to the Parliament of Kazakhstan by TGEU:

Withdraw age restriction and “behavioural disorder” restriction;

revise the terms used in the draft Code such as the “sex change” and “persons with sexual identity disorder” and replace them with “gender-affirming care” and “persons with gender incongruence” respectively, in line with ICD-11, Kazakhstani legislation, and international standards; and



increase support to the trans community with legal protections in terms of healthcare and legal gender recognition without discrimination.

WAS is an international organization, with more than one hundred member organizations across the globe, that promotes and advocates for sexual health and sexual rights throughout the lifespan and across the world by advancing sexuality research, comprehensive sexuality education, and clinical care and services for everyone.

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