E1 Opposition to recent High Court decision and working towards improving access to transitioning

Proposer: Joshua Farrell (Ipswich)
Agenda item: E Emergency Motions

Summary

On the 1st of December the High Court made a ruling against the Tavistock and Portman NHS foundation trust, that will significantly impact the accessibility of transitioning for transgender youth under the age of 16. This ruling will be caused increased inequality in the ability to transition, as well as increasing the barriers to transitioning, causing a more stressful and time-consuming process that may involve court battles.

Notes:

- On the 1st of December the High court of England ruled that they were "doubtful that a child aged 14 or 15 could understand the long-term effect" of puberty blocking drugs.

- Individuals aged under 16 who wish to have puberty blockers through the NHS Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS) will have to go through a lengthy consultation process as well as a court appearance.

- This in effect causes transgender youth aged 13 - 15 to face an uphill battle to access the ability to transition.

- Puberty blockers have been shown to reduce lifelong suicidality in trans individuals as they provide time for trans individuals with gender dysphoria time to fully understand their identity so they know how to proceed in society as well as preventing the development of secondary sex characteristics which many trans youth can find distressing. (see study Pubertal Suppression for Transgender Youth and Risk of Suicidal Ideation (nih.gov))

Believes:

- That the court's decision is wrong and must be appealed.

- That this will create a barrier to transitioning and further the already existing inequality in access to services associated with transitioning.

- That this will cause mental harm and uncertainty to transgender youth under the age of 16 and potentially increase the rates of depression, anxiety and suicidality in transgender youth.

Resolves:

- To fully support any appeal submitted by The Tavistock and Portman NHS foundation trust.

- To instruct the Young Greens executive committee to campaign for increased accessibility for transgender youth to transition.

- To push back against further and future threats to transgender healthcare.

Supporters

Isabel Woolgar (West norfolk); Nannette Youssef (Norwich Green Party); Lollie Melton (East Mendip)