

**From:** Ciska H  
**Sent:** Fri, 11 Jun 2021 13:24:23 +0930  
**To:** T9PublicHearing  
**Subject:** Re - The proposed Equality Act

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The proposed Equality Act - I have serious concerns about this hastily constructed bill as it is currently written. It has become obvious that Women's groups were not consulted at all.

President Biden promised to deliver public policy that is non-discriminatory and science-based. This bill is neither. It prioritises "gender identity," a vague and constantly shifting term which has no place in the law, over sex and sexual orientation.

The bill states: "The bill prohibits an individual from being denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, locker room, and dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual's gender identity." In practice, this means that women will no longer be able to expect any single-sex facilities when using or being required to stay in:

Shared hospital rooms or wards

Locker rooms and public or group showers

Multi-stall bathrooms

Jails, prisons, or juvenile detention facilities

Homeless shelters, domestic violence, or rape crisis/sexual assault referral shelters

The bill will also effectively end sports programs and scholarships set aside for biological women and girls.

As you may be aware, there have already been documented harms occurring to women and girls here and in other countries where similar policies have been adopted. Women and girls cannot be allowed to become collateral damage in the effort to assure the safety and dignity of transgender individuals. We can protect the rights of both groups without destroying many decades of human/civil rights won by women.

This issue is a **men's** problem, and men must resolve it amongst themselves. Women are not human shields that should be placed between two warring factions of males. If the two male groups choose not to get along and share spaces civilly, then the male individuals who identify as women must fight for their own facilities – just as women once fought and won sex-specific facilities."

It is not a 'harmless lie' to accept/state that it is safe, healthy, a human right - for biological Men to enter Women's spaces.

The answer -

Males must be able to compete on male teams without discrimination.

Males must be able to access male-spaces without discrimination.

Everybody must be able to access gender-neutral space at their own discretion.

Trans and Gay prisoners must be able to get safe, appropriate, and sex-segregated housing.

\*\* A proposed amendment to the Equality Act, called the Equality for All Act, DOES preserve crucial access to single-sex spaces while also prohibiting discrimination against LGBT individuals

Anne Agostini