

WPATH

WORLD PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSGENDER HEALTH

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July 1, 2020

Executive Office of the President
Republic of Kazakhstan
Nur-Sultan city
Mangilik Yel St. 6
Government House

Dear President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Parliamentary Committee Members:

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) is the only international, interdisciplinary professional association dedicated to transgender health. We are a non-profit association with over 2200 members in the fields of medicine, mental health, law and ethics, and scientific research. Formed in 1979 for the purpose of bringing scientists and medical providers together to exchange knowledge about the field, we are the creators of the internationally accepted Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender-nonconforming People, now in its 7th edition (SOC v7), and available in English, Russian and 20 additional languages on our website: www.wpath.org. We have also advised governments around the world with respect to transgender health and human and civil rights. Our mission is to encourage education and research to ensure that the highest possible standards of health, social services, and justice are available to transgender people around the world.

The Board of Directors of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) affirms the medical necessity of gender-affirming treatments and procedures for those individuals whose lives are impacted by gender incongruity and for whom such care is deemed appropriate by their health care providers in concert with the patients and their families whenever possible, according to the latest edition of the Standards of Care (Version 7). Gender-affirming care including medical treatment and surgical procedures, properly indicated, and performed as provided by the Standards of Care, have proven to be beneficial and effective in the treatment of individuals with gender dysphoria or gender incongruence. Gender-affirming surgery plays an undisputed role in contributing toward favorable outcomes. Treatment includes legal name and sex or gender change on identity. Moving the age to accessing care from 18 to 21 years of age would significantly decrease access to care for the transgender communities and place this population at increased risk of violence, medical and mental health issues.

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

WPATH supports the following requests to the Parliament of Kazakhstan:

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

Sincerely,



Vin Tangpricha, MD, PhD

President

On behalf of the WPATH Board of Directors

Sent via email:

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