



WPATH WORLD PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATION for
TRANSGENDER HEALTH

www.wpath.org
wpath@wpath.org

phone: 1+(847) 752-5328
fax: 1+(224) 633-2166

1061 E Main Street Ste 300
East Dundee, IL 60118

STAFF

Executive Director
Sue O'Sullivan
sue@wpath.org

**Executive Director of Global
Education & Development**
Donna Kelly
donna@wpath.org

Associate Director
Blaine Vella
blaine@wpath.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President
Gail Knudson, MD, FRCP

President-Elect
Vin Tangpricha, MD, PhD

Secretary
Randi Ettner, PhD

Treasurer
Walter Pierre Bouman, MD, PhD

Past-President
Jamison Green, PhD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tamara Adrian, JD
Tone Marie Hansen
Dan Karasic, MD
Baudewijntje Kreukels, PhD
Katherine Rachlin, PhD
Loren Schechter, MD
Sam Winter, PhD

Ex-Officio
Lin Fraser, EdD

Student Representative
Luke Allen, MA

EPATH Representative
Griet De Cuyper, MD

May 3, 2018

To: President of the Portuguese Republic
Prof. Marcello Rebelo de Sousa

Palácio de Belém
Calçada da Ajuda, nº 11
1349-022 Lisboa
Portugal

Dear Mr. President of the Portuguese Republic,
Professor Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa,

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), founded in 1979, is a global organization composed of medical professionals, medical and social science researchers, attorneys at law, and clinical providers and administrators whose work impacts the lives of transgender people. WPATH is the source of the internationally accepted *Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender-Nonconforming People*, currently in its seventh edition. WPATH educates healthcare providers, the judiciary, policymakers, and researchers, and provides contexts for these professionals to engage in knowledge exchange. 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.

We were elated when we learned that the Portuguese Parliament had approved a law establishing self-determination in legal gender recognition processes. This is an important step toward non-discrimination and full respect for the Human Rights of transgender people in Portugal.

Transgender people are often professionally and socially disadvantaged, and experience direct and indirect discrimination, as well as physical violence. Experiencing disadvantage and discrimination is highly likely to exert a negative



www.wpath.org
wpath@wpath.org

phone: 1+(847) 752-5328
fax: 1+(224) 633-2166

1061 E Main Street Ste 300
East Dundee, IL 60118

STAFF

Executive Director
Sue O'Sullivan
sue@wpath.org

**Executive Director of Global
Education & Development**
Donna Kelly
donna@wpath.org

Associate Director
Blaine Vella
blaine@wpath.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President
Gail Knudson, MD, FRCP

President-Elect
Vin Tangpricha, MD, PhD

Secretary
Randi Ettner, PhD

Treasurer
Walter Pierre Bouman, MD, PhD

Past-President
Jamison Green, PhD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tamara Adrian, JD
Tone Marie Hansen
Dan Karasic, MD
Baudewijntje Kreukels, PhD
Katherine Rachlin, PhD
Loren Schechter, MD
Sam Winter, PhD

Ex-Officio
Lin Fraser, EdD

Student Representative
Luke Allen, MA

EPATH Representative
Griet De Cuyper, MD

impact on any person's physical and mental health. WPATH condemns all forms of discrimination, segregation, stigmatization, and violence against transgender people and calls for appropriate legal measures to protect their equal civil and human rights.

Without this new proposal, the Portuguese Law still demands a diagnosis of "Gender Identity Disorder" in gender recognition processes. Medical knowledge and clinical understanding of transgender people's reality are rapidly evolving, which has led to the abolition of that diagnosis by the American Psychiatric Association in 2013. Today we know that gender incongruence (between the body and one's self-perception) does not in itself imply any mental impairment and therefore no burden of proof of judgment, capacity or reliability should be placed upon transgender individuals greater than that imposed on any other persons. For this reason, WPATH emphasizes that everyone has the right to determine their own gender and calls for physicians, healthcare systems, and government agencies to uphold each individual's right to self-identification with regard to gender.

As such, the WPATH Executive Committee, on behalf of the WPATH Board of Directors, hereby expresses its congratulations to the Portuguese Parliament for the approval of this new law and urges its endorsement by the President of the Portuguese Republic.

Sincerely yours,

Gail Knudson, MD, President