

## **Motion from Student Council to University of Aberdeen regarding safe name changes for trans students**

**Proposer:** Isabel del Pilar Arce Zelada, Communities Committee; Rose Lakatos, LGBTQ+ Convener; Lewis MacLeod, Communities Officer

**Seconders:** Amelia Winter Estabrook, Welfare Committee; Niko Johansson, Education Committee; Laura Smith, Welfare Committee; Sandra Palpathu, LGBTQ+ Co-Convener; Mie Astrup Jensen, Education Committee; Lina Nass, International Students Convener; Lughaidh Scully, Communities Committee; Louise Henrard, Environment and Ethics Committee; Joseph Hüttich, Environment and Ethics Committee

### **Council notes:**

1. Currently LGBTQ+ students who fall under various identities throughout the gender spectrum must disclose their identities to a general advisor in the university when changing their details.
2. The University currently does not have easily accessible information on how to change your name.
3. Currently students changing their details face staff that are not always well informed on the process, and lack of a clear policy can result in unfair treatment, as students can be required to disclose their gender identity unnecessarily.

### **Council believes:**

1. This option is not clearly offered to the students which often results in them going to departments where staff have not been trained to deal with these issues. Thus, students can be denied a name change, resulting in constant dead naming.
2. The process is invasive, as having to disclose your identity to various strangers is a possibility for identity negation, creating emotional distress.
3. Dealing with staff who have not been trained in creating an LGBTQ+ friendly environment results in several bureaucratic steps which interrupts the student's academic life. Both in having to reschedule a meeting but also in the constant fear of being outed to people they do not wish to share their identities with.

**Council resolves:**

1. For AUSA to work with the University to create a clear policy and process for name change that is inclusive for LGBTQ+ students.
2. To make information about the process easily accessible on the university and AUSA website.
3. Work with the LGBTQ+ forum and LGBTQ+ staff network to educate staff on dealing with bureaucratic/technical issues regarding LGBTQ+ needs to make the process as safe for the students as possible.