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As a concerned permanent resident of Canada, I am writing regarding the erosion of female women and girls' rights in Canada. This is primarily due to the conflation of gender with sex at the expense of biological women and girls

Before applying for a permanent residence permit, I checked Canada's human rights legislation and was pleased to see that Canada has a Charter of Rights and Freedoms which protects women and girls based on sex and that Canada is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

After moving to Canada, I was also pleased to find that Canada added gender identity and gender expression to the Canadian Human Rights Act and the criminal code.

Unfortunately, it has become clear to me that the Canadian federal government and most provincial and territorial governments and many publicly funded organizations misconstrue Canada's laws and are discriminating against women as a biological sex:

- Trans-identified males (most with fully intact male bodies, few taking cross-sex hormones and very few having some form of surgery) are placed in women's prisons without regard to female prisoners' comfort, privacy, well-being, and safety. (note trans-identified females are not placed in male prisons because this is deemed unsafe for them). (Halley) (Mason)
- Trans-identified males are placed in previously female-only women shelters. Those shelters like Vancouver Rape Relief that wish to stay female-only are denied public funding. (VRR)
- Sports have sex categories to ensure fairness, dignity, and safety because male and female bodies differ. Yet trans-identified males are participating in the sex category of their choosing. (U Sports) (Canadian centre for Ethics in Sports) and are competing in the 2020 Olympic games as women. (Callaghan)
- For varying reasons (comfort, privacy, historical trauma from male violence, religion, safety, etc.), many women and girls are uncomfortable sharing small enclosed spaces, like changing rooms with males (trans-identified or not).

For generations, Canada has had sex-segregated spaces like bathrooms, which has helped ensure women can participate in society. This is now being eroded by provincial human rights commissions like the New Brunswick human rights commission advising employers and public service providers. While safety and privacy concerns of trans persons are deemed valid, the comfort, privacy and safety of women are considered irrelevant:

"A trans person may seek accommodation with respect to a washroom or change facility if they are not comfortable using one of the available men's or women's washrooms (e.g. due to safety or privacy concerns, or because they are going through the transitioning process). Possible accommodations could include providing access to a single-stall washroom that may not normally be available (e.g. a washroom reserved for management staff). However, a trans person cannot be required to use a separate washroom or change facility from everyone else if they wish to use the one that corresponds with their gender identity. To provide an inclusive environment for everyone, businesses and organizations

are encouraged to explore providing unisex washrooms, and privacy curtains or barriers in locker rooms and change rooms for all employees, customers and others on site. Concerns that others will be uncomfortable sharing facilities with a trans person is insufficient to amount to undue hardship. As noted above, the employer, service provider, housing provider or association bears the burden of establishing that accommodation is not possible without incurring undue hardship. Sufficient information must be provided to demonstrate that undue hardship would result from the accommodation.” (NBHRC)

My family and I have experienced the following sex discrimination:

- When my daughter moved to her university residence, we were led to believe that she, although in co-ed residence accommodation, would have access to female-only bathrooms. When we got there, we found residence bathrooms had new handmade signs to say they are gender-neutral, with the only privacy being a see-through shower curtain and not fully enclosed toilet cubicles
- I want to swim and attend a fitness centre for my physical and mental health. Still, I cannot do so as I can not find a facility near me that offers the sex-segregated changing rooms I need (due to past male sexual violence) for my comfort, privacy and safety. Although many have male and female changing rooms, all of them adhere to the advice of the New Brunswick Human rights commission, as above including fully intact male-bodied trans-identified males in the female changing rooms. This effectively closes many parts of society to me.
- As I can no longer trust that when requesting a women health care provider this to be a female, I no longer access women-specific health care like smear tests and breast cancer screening
- For international women’s day, I attended an online summit organized by a new federal Canadian Government department set up after abolishing the Status of Women Canada department on 13 December 2018, Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada. WAGE is no longer a women’s equality department and now includes all genders; their website states:

“Women and Gender Equality Canada works to advance equality with respect to sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression through the inclusion of people of all genders, including women, in Canada’s economic, social, and political life.” (WAGE)

The summit was on International Women’s day and was called “Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery summit”, so I was expecting this to be a summit about women’s challenges (including trans-identified and Non-binary females). I was removed from the summit for asking for clarification if it is hateful to talk about female issues and sex-based rights for women. WAGE did not respond to my complaint (which I have attached), and as you can see from the article by Barbara Kay, I was not the only woman censored and silenced by the Canadian government. (Kay)

<https://thepostmillennial.com/government-sponsored-erasure-of-womens-rights-advances-with-the-word-female-being-banned-on-international-womens-day>

Women are being silenced, censored and sidelined from debates that matter for women to achieve equality and equity. Many women reject regressive stereotypical gender roles that oppress women on account of their sex. Female fetuses are aborted, women are raped, trafficked, prostituted, mutilated, forced into child marriage or motherhood, etc., because of their sex, not their gender feelings.

Women can not identify out of their oppression.

The Canadian government (WAGE), defining women as a gender, is offensive to women by

reinforcing regressive gender roles. Denies women and girls oppression because of their sex; this is state sex discrimination against women.

Trans-identified males and trans-identified females deserve the same equality as non-trans identified people. However, trans-identified males are not women. Their rights should not come at the expense of women and girls who cannot escape the reality of being discriminated against because of their sex.

I appreciate your consideration

A woman in Canada

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