

## PRESENTATION KEY POINTS

### Law on legal gender recognition

- Law on legal gender recognition
- Current law came into action in 2002
- Individual needs to be over 18 years old, be sterile, have a psychiatric diagnosis and multiple doctor's statements. Process may take years
- Violates human rights. Finland has received several recommendations to change the law. For example in 2019 during the UN:s Universal Periodic Review process Finland received several recommendations to renew the law. The same year, the European human rights court stated that requiring sterility is a human rights violation. Additionally, in 2016 the UN committee against torture stated that coercing people to undergo medical interventions and psychiatric evaluation can be compared to torture

### Why is this important

- Wrong marker puts at risk for discrimination and violence
- Rights of self-determination, family, reproductive rights, bodily autonomy, privacy
- It would be technically easy to change the law but it appears that there has not been enough political will

### Where are we now

- the current government has stated that their goal is to renew the law to respect self-recognition as well as separate medical and legal pathways and abolish the sterility requirement
- the ministry of health is currently reviewing different legislative options and drafting a new law. The aim was to present the new law to the parliament in December 2021 but it seems like it will be delayed
- a big problem is that it's probable that the new law will not protect minors. The task force reviewing several legislative options recommended minors to be included, but the government may disagree

### Obstacles

- right wing populism
- Anti gender rhetoric
- Human rights are seen as opinions instead of universal rights
- Worrisome trends throughout Europe where we are taking steps back in legislation and human rights protection instead of forward