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**Comments Received :**

The executive order refusing gender marker changes is a cruel and inhumane regression of human rights. The current presidential administration is turning a blind eye to those people who they are supposed to be protecting and representing. "The American people" did not vote for cruelty. The fact that around half of the country voted for Trump, does not invalidate the fact that the other half also needs representation and support.

Updating gender markers provides people with the means to live and express themselves in a way that is true to how they experience themselves. Categorically refusing to permit this change restricts that freedom. This is a problem for the small number of people who do not subscribe to the gender restrictions imposed on them by society, and the White House does not have the right to tell us that we must live how Donald Trump tells us to. This policy has no justification beyond the ideological argument over sex and gender. The President's place is not to enforce an ideology, but to enforce the law, without moving to bend, reinterpret, or recreate that law.

Considering also that the public was not given sufficient notice to consider or comment on this policy before it was enforced is also highly problematic. Donald Trump has equivocated his political victory with a duty to punish those who are not a part of his voter base, which is manifest in the enactment of this policy. This is a flagrant dereliction of his responsibilities to the American people (responsibilities he has, for the record, always childishly ignored or refused to love up to, for which reason he should never have been permitted to pursue a second term in the first place).

It is the duty and responsibility of the government to preserve and protect the rights of the people. The Supreme Court has already ruled that discrimination on the basis of transgender status is inseparable from discrimination on the basis of sex, which is a violation of rights enshrined by federal law. Therefore, it is the duty and responsibility of the State Department (and incidentally that of the President) to uphold and protect those rights, regardless of how certain individuals of varying beliefs may feel about those rights.

If Donald Trump cannot be trusted to abide by, or indeed show any regard at all for the law, we must call upon Secretary of State Marco Rubio to uphold the law, to act with courage to defend our rights. We the people demand that you uphold your duty and reverse this needlessly cruel policy, and reinstate the option of changing our gender markers on our federal documents.

Thank you.