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I am a 32 year old American of Greek ancestry, and I am also a transgender man. I look like a man, sound like a man, and my legal documents all identify me as a man. My birth name, which I have never changed and comes from Ancient Greek, sounds gender neutral in English, but Greek is a gendered language, and in Greek my names (both first and last) are female-gendered. Here is where these changes to the U.S. passport forms put me in danger.

Greece, despite being in the European Union, is a much less free and tolerant society than America. I want to travel there soon, to visit my extended family. It could be dangerous for me to arrive in Greece with documents that indicate (because of my name) that I am female, when I clearly do not present like one. As a result, I have been considering change my first and last name to be male-gendered.

But this puts me in a catch-22: if I change my name and try to update my passport, it will arrive with a (to Greeks) male-looking name, and a Female gender marker, having been reverted according to these new rules. If I don't change my name, my passport has a female-looking name, and a Male gender marker.

Due to these new rules, there is no way for me to have documents that match my reality. I present and live like a man, and there is now no way for my documents to consistently reflect this truth. With these changes, my own country, the United States, is putting my safety at risk when I travel abroad.