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Hello,

I am a transgender individual. Back before I knew I was transgender, I used to use my passport to travel all across the world. The information matched who I, at the time, thought of myself as and kept me safe as I journeyed far away from home. Since transitioning, I have not left the country. I often fear that because of ignorance and prejudice, I may expose myself to danger as a visible, targeted minority.

Recently, it has been policy that transgender people may not update their gender marker on their passports. I disagree with this choice and I think it puts an already vulnerable population in danger. Traveling with an official document that lines up with how I present myself to the world would add a layer of protection to a situation that can already be anxiety inducing for trans people. We have the right to be legally recognized as who we actually are.

A passport with the correct gender marker on it will not end bigotry or fully stop violence against trans people, but it will protect people. It may make the difference between life and death for some people. It is a very unsafe world for trans people, please don't make it any harder.