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Comments Received:

Not including gender on the passport application form is detrimental to the trans and queer community. This administration wants to include only sex, the biological characteristics assigned at birth, as binary male or female options. However, that excludes people born intersex with biological traits of both sexes in the binary (thus making them inapplicable for either binary option under the administration's definition) or people who identify as either non-binary or a different gender from their biologically assigned sex from birth. Gender is a social construct of characteristics that is not reliant on biological characteristics assigned at birth. Using only sex is reductive, exclusionary, and hatefully discriminatory. This is not "Defending Women", as the Executive Order claims, but is in fact harming the Trans and Queer Community, and I'm sure negatively impacts other marginalized people or groups I am inadvertantly forgetting to include here. As mentioned above, it already doesn't account for people born intersex, which does occur naturally and biologically at birth, but that sex is not available to be assigned at birth under this change. Are those individuals expected to choose a sex based on gender presentation characteristics? I thought we weren't supposed to rely on gender anymore, per this Executive Order. This change is harmful and unnecessary. Gender and Sex are two different categorizations and gender, which is a construct of our current modern socio-cultural norms, better encapsulates the diversity of our society's people. Using only sex is blatently reductive. Our trans and queer communities deserve protection, just like women who were biologically assigned Female at birth and also have Female gender characteristics and choose to present themselves as Female. Do not insist that the world is binary by forcibly reducing it to a binary.