## **Public Comments for ICR 202502-1405-002**

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## **Comments Received:**

I recognize that this forum is about passport gender identity markers, but the only reason why this is even in question is due to the topics below. So I'm gonna go for it.

As someone who only recently came out as being on the trans spectrum, as someone who has lived as a woman for decades, as someone who was once a child who needed affirming care, I felt like I needed to share this perspective.

To claim that restricting autonomy, identity, and correct legal paperwork of one marginalized group is necessary for the protection and liberation of other victims within the same system: that's what we call gaslighting and misdirection.

Somehow people in power would rather attack people for existing truthfully in their identity. Trans folks, women, children.... they're all getting attacked by the same systems. But those systems want to divide and conquer and the easiest way is to create scapegoats.

Abusers aren't nice, kind or well-intentioned. If you think they are, they just haven't started on you yet. Give it time.

When organizations would rather take away more peoples' body autonomy instead of working to end cycles of violence and autonomy, this isn't about protection.

Children are rapidly losing any vestiges of legal protection if they want body autonomy, and protection for their identity and personhood.

But

In 18 years (2000-2018) somewhere around 300,000 minors [children below the LEGAL age of consent] in the US were "entered into legal marriage."

Child marriage is still legal in more than half the states. Child marriage is pedophilia and automatically sexual abuse. As of summer 2024, more states had legal child marriage than had laws around trans minors.

How does increasing the threat of violence and enabling abusers to be able to excuse their violence based on the victims gender presentation or identity keep women and children safe?

1 in every 6 US women (at least) has been the victim of completed or attempted rape in her lifetime. 82% of juvenile victims are female, 90% of adult rape victims are female. And nothing is being done to improve any of these situations.

## And

Trans folks are FOUR TIMES (4x) as likely to be the victim of violence than their cisgender counterparts....

"Is it really a choice when you don't get to select the options you are given to begin with?".... What people see and how people see it has everything to do with power." -Beyond the Gender Binary.

Our identity, our safety matters more than an inaccurate view of biology, religious or political ideology. Women and children and trans folks all equally deserve protection, safety and body autonomy.