

Meeting date: 15/05/2025

GLADD Representative in attendance: Dr Duncan McGregor

## **GLADD Statement at General Medical Council (GMC) Strategic Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Forum (SEDIAF), May 2025**

I would like to start with a quick request for an update on previous work. In this forum some time ago I discussed the need for the GMC to consider removal of gender as the only publicly viewable protected characteristic from the online medical register. I was later informed that a consultation on this was to be undertaken, and I would appreciate if you would be able to provide an update on this.

I am grateful for the update regarding GMC work on so-called 'conversion therapy' and appreciate that the government are assuring that a ban will be brought about. I will follow up in the next 6-12 months if no action is forthcoming from government.

I would like to raise concerns on behalf of a GLADD member, a GP, who is worried about the implications of the recent Supreme Court ruling on the definition of Sex in the Equality Act 2010 on transgender colleagues and students; and the role that the GMC may need to play in supporting and protecting them.

He asks:

- If a patient asks for a practitioner of a specific gender, e.g. a woman; is the provider obliged to act based on the biological sex as defined by the supreme court?
- If a patient directly asks a doctor if they are transgender, is the doctor *obliged* to tell them, such as in the previous question?

He shares that there is currently little to no guidance on this and existing guidance on intimate examinations is too broad to provide adequate reassurance. He informs me that colleagues are feeling suicidal at the possibility of being outed as transgender and forced to lose their right to privacy for fear of repercussions.

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So I would like to request that the GMC support our transgender colleagues by producing guidance that will reassure them that they will not be investigated or sanctioned by the GMC for maintaining their own right to privacy in such situations. It is imperative to their wellbeing that adequate assurance is readily available to enable them to navigate this difficult period safely and with dignity.