

PRESS RELEASE

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THE GOVERNMENT FORWARDS THE DRAFT BILL FOR GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS TO THE LEGAL SERVICES

A delegation from Accept – LGBT Cyprus met today with the President of Cyprus Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, where he announced that the Government immediately forwards the draft bill on Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics to the Legal Service for technical examination.

This important step was made possible following lengthy discussions between the organisation and the Government, as well as the parliamentary parties, and aims to solve a big part of everyday problems faced by trans and intersex people in our country.

The organisation, which presented the draft bill to all the main Presidential Candidates, and who all pledged support to it, expects that the technical examination will be completed within the coming two months and that the bill will then be forwarded shortly after to the Parliament for discussion, regardless of the outcome of the elections.

The draft bill has been prepared by international and Cypriot lawyers and experts with the active support of the Council of Europe, based on international practices and decisions by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

With the impending law, trans people will be given the right to self-determine the gender they feel they belong to, using quick and transparent procedures. This will be made possible without the need for any surgical procedures, as required by the ECHR, and will be allowing the correction of any official documents of the holder to their correct gender. The proposed law also recognises the right of everyone to have their gender identity, physical integrity and their natural autonomy respected, regardless of their gender expression or their sex characteristics.

In a statement made by the President of the Accept – LGBT Cyprus, Nicolas Tryfon, he welcomed this important step by the Government and thanked the President for the immediate actions taken, fulfilling a commitment that the organisation received during the last meeting it held with President Anastasiades last November.

Accept – LGBT Cyprus



Accept – LGBT Cyprus, P.O. 25561, 1310 Nicosia, Cyprus
www.acceptcy.org
info@acceptcy.org
+357 - 99812343