R14 Let Trans People Play!

Proposer: Jong Groen, DWARS
Agenda item: 4. Resolutions

Motion text

During its General Assembly in 2020, the FYEG unanimously adopted the resolution “Trans Rights Are Human Rights.” As a complement, this present resolution wishes to tackle an area where trans people are gradually discriminated against, and where (uninformed) prejudices against them still prevail: sports.

In sports, the category of women is defined as people with certain physical & physiological characteristics, so as to maintain fair competition. However, this does not justify the discrimination against trans women who want to take part in sports. Australia’s Laura Hubbard and the USA’s Lia Thomas are at the forefront of the current struggle of trans athletes to be able to participate in high-level sports events.

It is a grave misconception that people would go through a fundamental transition like gender affirmation for any other reason than their gender identification. It is plain false to claim that trans women are dominating women’s sports or trans women have undergone their transition to win and dominate women’s sports. This is simply transphobia and it has no place in our society.

A recent literature study shows that there is no conclusive evidence for trans athletes who have undergone or are undergoing hormone replacement therapy, especially trans women athletes, to have a significant, let alone disproportionate advantage over their cisgender counterparts in the same discipline. Moreover, every person has a different body type and thus there exists a wide physiological diversity even among trans athletes, much as there is of the same among cis athletes. Therefore, it is absolutely not justified to ban transgender athletes from sports.

Genuine concern for women in sports entails that issues concerning equal treatment of women in sports clubs, organisations, leagues, and federations should be addressed, such as but not limited to unequal pay between men and women in the same sports discipline whether elite, professional or amateur, and equally meaningful participation of women athletes in sports governing bodies starting from the sports clubs going up. Women athletes and women’s clubs should

be set on equal footing with their male counterparts.

Furthermore, a societal shift with regards to the perception of trans people in sports is necessary – for example, better education about trans issues in schools and sports organisations, and consistent punishment of transphobic behaviour within sports (for both fans and athletes).

We, the Federation of Young European Greens, reaffirming our commitment to uphold transgender rights as human rights and to end discrimination against transgenders, while recognising the limits within the realm of sports:

- stand by the International Olympic Committee’s policy of allowing all trans women who have undergone or are undergoing hormone replacement therapy, who meet the required hormone levels, to participate in women’s sports, sports federations and lower-level competitions, taking into consideration physical safety concerns upon exercising a certain sport discipline, until a more comprehensive policy is made based on scientific evidence;

- reiterate our call for (better) education on transgender issues to clear up misconceptions on and promote the inclusion of transgender people, not only in sports but also in our society as a whole;

- call on the European Union, its Member States, and international sports federations to promote and facilitate more research into transgender people in sports, so as to better balance inclusivity and fairness in sports policies;

- call on sports organisations to treat women athletes on equal footing with their male counterparts, including but not limited to paying women athletes and teams equally as their men counterparts on the same discipline and level;

- call on sport organisations to react properly on transphobic behaviour in sports, by fans, athletes, staff and anyone else involved, through specific codes of conduct and regulations, with appropriate sanctions such as stadium bans, disqualifications etc.