

The Gender/Sex Self-Identification Dilemma

In Spain, a spat between two trans women highlights the problems with the recently passed self-ID laws. Elizabeth Duval, a trans woman and Spanish politician, has accused Francisco Javier, a trans woman and Spanish soldier, of acting in bad faith.



Trans woman Elizabeth Duval



Trans woman Francisco Javier

Francisco Javier, who is officially recognised as a woman on her ID card, says she* feels discriminated against because she cannot access the women's locker rooms alongside her unit members.

Javier, a 42-year-old resident of Carmona, who is over 6 feet tall and has facial hair, has not undergone any surgery or hormones and does not intend to. She explains that she likes women and she is a lesbian, "I'm not transexual, because I like my sex. I'm not going to amputate or have surgery. I'm happy with my body and I like women."

What has changed is her gender.

Under Spain's new self-identification laws, individuals wishing to change their gender can do so by visiting any Civil Registry office. This process requires no evidence or witnesses.

The administrative procedure is completed within a maximum of four months. Initially, the individual fills out a form at the Civil Registry, requesting a change of gender. After a period of three months, they are required to return to the Registry to reaffirm their decision. Following this, the gender change is registered within one month.

Spain's new law abolishes the obligation to provide medical reports accrediting gender dysphoria and proof of two years of hormone treatment, as was the case before.

* We've used 'she/her' pronouns deliberately to make a point