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**From:** WomensActionGroup@mail.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, 13 July 2019 9:50 PM  
**To:** SARC  
**Subject:** Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill 2019

TO: Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee

ATTENTION: Executive Officer - Helen Mason

Dear Ms Mason

We write to you to express our concerns regarding the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill 2019.

We believe that the consequences of this bill being passed will trespass unduly upon the rights and freedoms of women. If men can change their sex identity on their birth certificates, we believe that this will prevent women from excluding men from women's single sex spaces. The Equal Opportunity Act 1995 Part 2 Section 12 allows exceptions and exemptions that include the right to discriminate against individuals based upon their sex.

Further, we believe that allowing male bodied people free access to women's single sex spaces breaches the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006. To compel women to accommodate men in facilities that are understood by the community to be single sex compromises the dignity, privacy and safety of women and children.

We believe that the Government of Victoria has failed to consider how this Amendment will impact upon women and girls, and the particular detrimental affect it will have on all communities of women. For example, Muslim women are not permitted under their religious beliefs to share some spaces with males; women and children who have been victims of violent crime are especially vulnerable to the adverse affects of sharing intimate spaces with male bodied people.

We urgently require reassurance and proof that no women or children will be put in danger from male patterned violence by those who would seek to enter women's ( and girls' and children's ) safe places, due to this Bill.

We ask you to please listen to the concerns of a large number of female constituents and women's groups on this important matter, in relation to safety, fairness and health.

Please look after the safety of women citizens.

Women's Action Group, SW Vic

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