

FINLAND

SAKRIS KUPILA

Denied legal gender recognition



Sakris Kupila is being denied legal gender recognition because he refuses to undergo a humiliating process that involves a mental disorder diagnosis and enforced sterilisation. The 21-year-old medical student and activist is calling for reform of Finland's gender recognition procedures, which violate the rights of transgender people to be free from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, to the highest attainable standard of health, to privacy, and to recognition as a person before the law.

Sakris has suffered harassment, intimidation, violent threats and open hostility because of his work defending the rights of transgender people. It got so bad that he was forced to take a year away from his university education. But Sakris remains determined to continue his campaign.

'All my adult life I have tried to achieve the right to change and live as myself, and an easy and normal life with everyday problems feels like a dream.'

Sakris Kupila

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Sakris Kupila
c/o Amnesty International Finnish Section
Hietaniemenkatu 7 A
00100 Helsinki
Finland

- » **Language:** Finnish or English
- » **Suggested message:** I support you in your fight for transgender rights.

CAN I

- » Send a religious card or message? **Yes**
- » Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **Yes**
- » Include my name and address? **Yes**

Use the pronoun 'he' for Sakris and neutral terms like 'transgender person', rather than terms like 'transgender man'.

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge Prime Minister Juha Sipilä to reform the humiliating process for obtaining legal gender recognition in Finland.

- » **Write to:**
Prime Minister Juha Sipilä
Finnish Government
PL 23, 00023 Valtioneuvosto
Finland
- » **Salutation:** Dear Prime Minister
- » **In your letter:** Tell him the legal gender recognition procedure is humiliating and violates the human rights of transgender people. Urge him to revise the Trans Act, and abolish the sterilisation, other medical treatment, and mental health diagnosis requirements. Call for a new process that is quick, transparent, based on self-determination, and available irrespective of age, medical or legal status. Finally, call for greater support for transgender rights defenders.



Illustration by Rebecca Hendin: rebeccahendin.com

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