

Sakris Kupila solidarity action

Blow a kiss for Sakris

Sakris Kupila, a transgender rights defender from Finland, was one of the cases you wrote to during Write for Rights 2017. Sakris has spoken openly about how important solidarity from groups like yours has been for him. You can read a blog he wrote [here](#).



We want to keep this solidarity for Sakris going throughout Prides season, starting on 17th May: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

Who is Sakris?

Sakris Kupila is a 22-year-old medical student, youth activist and a defender of transgender rights. Sakris is being denied legal gender recognition because he refuses to fulfil the requirements of Finland's current, humiliating process – which requires a diagnosis of mental disorder and enforced sterilisation.

Because of his work advocating for the rights of trans people, Sakris has faced harassment, intimidation, threats of violent beatings and open hostility, forcing him to take a year away from his education. Without brave people like him, the debate around transgender rights in Finland would not be on the table.

Amnesty International is calling for Sakris Kupila to be legally recognised as male by the Finnish state without having to go through an irreversible sterilisation.

Take action now:

Show solidarity with Sakris in his fights for transgender rights this Pride season and blow a kiss for Sakris.

1. Share on social media:

Take a photo or video of your group blowing a kiss in support of Sakris. Post it on your social media using #kissforSakris and tag Amnesty UK. If you share it on Twitter, you could even tag Sakris into your post: @sakriskupila.

2. Write to Sakris:

Let Sakris know that the Amnesty movement is still behind him after Write for Rights, and send him a letter of support to:

Sakris Kupila
Amnesty International Finnish Section
Hietaniemenkatu 7 A, 00100 Helsinki
Finland.

3. Write to the Finnish government:

Use the hook of Pride season and the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (17th May) to write to the Prime Minister and remind him that the current procedure to obtain legal gender recognition in Finland is humiliating and violates the rights of transgender persons 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.

Ask the Prim Minister to revise the Trans Act by abolishing the need for sterilisation, other medical treatment and a mental health diagnosis, as requirements for a person's legal recognition of their gender identity; develop a gender recognition procedure that is quick, transparent, based on self-determination and available irrespective of age, medical or financial statement.

Prime Minister Juha Sipilä
Finnish Government
PL23, 00023 Valtioneuvosto
Finland

Let us know you've taken action: email activism@amnesty.org.uk