

Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. – Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Sakris Kupila does not identify as a woman. Yet the 21-year-old medical student must endure daily embarrassment because his identity documents say he is female. To reassign your gender in Finland, you must be diagnosed with a “mental disorder” and be sterilized. Sakris wants to be accepted for who he is without submitting to those requirements. He is demanding a change to the law.

Sakris was a teenager when he realized that the gender he was assigned at birth didn't express who he is. He chose a new name, Sakris, which reflects his male identity. But under Finnish law, people are not allowed names of another gender. To have his gender changed and his new name legally recognized, Sakris would have to be diagnosed with a “mental disorder” and undergo sterilization. Such requirements are a stain on Finland's reputation for openness and tolerance.

For Sakris, the choice is clear. He opposes the humiliating requirements and is insisting that the government change the law. “The basic human rights of transgender people are currently violated in Finland,” he says. “Not only do we face discrimination within society itself, but also by the state.”

His struggle has created threats and open hostility. But Sakris won't give in. “I'll stop when the fight is over,” he says.

Sakris defends transgender rights. We defend his rights.

Tell Finland to change the law and support transgender rights.

*Human rights defenders like Sakris Kupila are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.
www.amnesty.ca/wedefend #WeDefend*