WPATH
WORLD PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSGENDER HEALTH

May 17, 2019

WPATH Board Responds to Health Care Policies and Practices Imposed by Certain Religious Institutions

The Board of Directors of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) affirms the medical necessity of gender affirming treatments and procedures for those individuals whose lives are impacted by gender incongruity and for whom such care is deemed appropriate by their health care providers in concert with the patients and their families whenever possible, according to the latest edition of the Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender-Nonconforming People. WPATH is joined in this opinion by the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

In the face of health care policies and practices imposed by certain religious institutions, the WPATH Board of Directors opposes the practice of denying gender-affirming care, or any health care that is generally available to other individuals, on the basis of religious objection to the services needed or the people who need them. We do not oppose religious freedom of belief as guaranteed to all persons under human rights conventions and civil constitutions, and we support the respectful treatment of all persons in any health care context where all persons are treated equally and transgender and gender-nonconforming people are not discriminated against on the basis of their gender or their medical history.

WPATH's educational mission and efforts to increase access to competent and respectful care must not be withheld from institutions where the need to expand awareness and humility is clear, nor restricted only to those areas where we are already welcome.

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