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Gender Dysphoria: The Widespread "Social" Disease of the 21st Century

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Gender Dysphoria: The Widespread “Social” Disease of the 21st Century

By: A.B. Spencer Advisor: Dr. Rob Wilson, Ph.D

Introduction

- Gender dysphoria is discomfort with one’s birth gender.
- Transgenderism has been a prominent topic in media in the recent years.
- Some media presents it as a social disease that corrupts youth and encourages bodily mutilations.
- Transphobic groups have begun referring to it as ‘Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria’ or “ROGD”, which implies that gender dysphoria is something that spontaneously appears, instead of a condition that is present from birth.



Figure 1: Depiction of the amount of anti transgender bills as of March 15th 2022. 238 bills in 2022.

Conclusion

- Gender dysphoria cannot be the result of media influence, since trans individuals have been present in all of history.
- Refusing proper care to transgender individuals causes unnecessary suffering and the loss of human life.
- Creating laws against transgender people does not remove them from existence, but it causes suicide, pain, and fuels the stigma around gender dysphoria.
- Gender dysphoria is historically and scientifically backed as a legitimate disorder.

Research and Statistics

- 41% of people with gender dysphoria will attempt suicide at least once in their lives.
- Lack of care can lead to anxiety, depression, and other mental disorders.
- Inaccessibility to healthcare has led to cases of self mutilation and death.
- Studies show that gender incongruencies appear at a young age and stay present throughout an individual's entire life.
- Countless bills have been introduced to remove transgender people from sports, schools and bathrooms. Some bills work to criminalize getting transgender youth gender affirming care.
- As of 2018, 0.005% AMAB adults and 0.003% AFAB were diagnosed with gender dysphoria. This number may not reflect the entire trans population.
- This disorder cannot be caught or spread, nor can one choose to have it.



Pictured above is a protest from the beginning of 2022 against the anti transgender bills in Texas

Methodology

Florence Ashley. “A Critical Commentary on ‘Rapid-Onset Gender Dysphoria.’” *The Sociological Review* 68, no. 4 (2020), 779.
 Kevin Donnelly-Boylan, “Gender Dysphoria, Serious Mental Illness, and Genital Self-Mutilation: A Case Report,” *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health* 20, no. 4 (2016), 376.
 Marta R. Bizic et al., “Gender Dysphoria: Bioethical Aspects of Medical Treatment,” *BioMed Research International* (2018), 2.
 Thomas, Wesley & Jacobs, Sue-Ellen. “... And We Are Still Here”: From Berdache to Two-Spirit People.” *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 232, (1999), 99.

Research and Statistics

- The first case of gender dysphoria was recorded in 600 AD.
- 5 different genders were used by Native Americans, and these were recorded in history starting in the 1500s.
- Gender dysphoria is an accepted and acknowledged disorder in medicine.



Depicted to the left is Charley Parkhurst, a transgender man and rancher in the 1500’s