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**SCOTLAND: PRIDE BRIEFING JUNE 2019**

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**Trans Rights/ Gender Recognition Act**

- Amnesty 2019 Pride resources focussed on Trans rights.
- Both the UK and Scottish Governments have proposed reform of the 2004 Gender Recognition Act to allow trans people to obtain a gender recognition certificate (GRC) without undergoing psychiatric assessment, or requiring the person to live in the gender congruent with their gender identity for two years before being able to obtain a GRC.
- The current requirements to obtain a GRC are a potential breach of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR), particularly Article 8 which sets out a right to a private and family life.
- The Scottish Government held a public consultation on their manifesto promise of GRA reform in 2017. Over 60 % of respondents were in favour of the proposals.
- After a campaign from opponents of GRA reform the SG have now announced it won't introduce a draft bill before a second consultation is carried out, to the disappointment of LGBT+ and human rights organisations and activists.
- AmnestyUK is running a Trans Rights campaign aimed at advocating more broadly for the rights of trans people beyond just GRA reform. The context for this is the toxic debate that has been stoked around the GRA in recent months by those who not only do not want to advance rights, but roll back existing ones.

**Actions**

**Mariella Franco**

Marielle Franco stood up for black women, LGBTI people and young people in Rio de Janeiro. On 14 March 2018, she was shot and killed. She was born and raised in a favela in Rio, Brazil. An elected councillor, she worked tirelessly to promote the rights of black women, LGBTI and young people. She refused to stay silent about police killings and continued to speak out against injustice right up until hours before her brutal killing in March. A car pulled up beside hers, and Marielle was shot four times in the head. People who defend human rights in Brazil are often attacked or threatened. The authorities do not respond adequately - and most of these crimes go completely unpunished. The Brazilian authorities are failing to conclude an investigation into who killed her - but we will not let them drop this case. If enough people speak out for Marielle, we can get the justice she deserves. Sign your name to demand an answer – together, we will bring her killers to justice.

**Action: Sign now - call on Brazilian President to ensure an immediate, impartial and independent investigation, to identify everyone who was involved in Marielle's killing and bring them to justice.** <https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/w4r-2018-brazil-marielle-franco/>

## Zak Kostopoulos

Zak Kostopoulos, a queer activist and human rights defender in Greece, died on 21 September 2018 following a violent attack. Zak, also known by his drag stage name Zackie Oh, was a tireless defender of the rights of LGBTI people and HIV-positive persons. Video footage by eye witnesses shows that Zak was brutally beaten up by two men after entering a jewellery shop in central Athens. Footage then shows Zak lying on the ground seriously injured and unable to move, surrounded by police officers. In the video, police officers are seen to violently attempt to arrest Zak and one officer is seen kicking him. According to the forensic report, Zak died from the multiple injuries he sustained. Zak's tragic death has devastated his family, friends and the wider human rights community in Greece and beyond. Demonstrations calling for justice for his death have taken place in many European countries. The criminal investigation into the attack on Zak has now been completed. Two civilians and four police officers have been charged with deadly bodily harm. Zak's family filed a criminal complaint asking for the two civilians and nine police officers involved in Zak's arrest to be charged with the higher charge of homicide and four of the officers with torture. Many are concerned about serious flaws in the investigation in a context of persistent systemic failings in investigations concerning cases of police violence in Greece. Zak's killing and the initial reporting of the case, filled with stigmatizing remarks and reproduction of fake news revealed the deep prejudice that exists in parts of society. This must not be tolerated.

**Action: Sign the petition to the Greek Minister of Justice and Minister of Citizen's Protection urging them to, ensure that all perpetrators of the attacks against Zak and those that contributed to his death are brought to justice, and ensure that in the process of delivering justice, the relevant authorities take into consideration whether there was a hate motive, discrimination or any other prejudice. #Justice4ZakZackie**

## Alejandra update

Alejandra is a transgender activist who has forced to flee El Salvador, only to be locked in a detention centre in the USA. Amnesty was told in April that she would be deported any moment within 48 hours of that time. Since then, US immigration authorities have been bombarded with emails and letters from Amnesty members from all over the world. The IS has sent Alejandra hundreds of solidarity letters, and worked with AIUSA to mobilize several members of the US Congress to step in on Alejandra's behalf, telling immigration authorities not to deport her. As a result, she has not yet been deported. When she was originally detained in 2018 the assessment was that she would not be detained more than a couple months. She has now been in detention for well over one year, simply for requesting safety in the United States. Alejandra recently received a pile of letters which significantly lifted her spirits. Now, it seems she is doing much better mentally and emotionally, despite a difficult year away from her family and loved ones. Please continue to send her letters. We are part of a strong coalition working on her behalf, led by a group of Latina trans women who are amazing organizers. They speak with Alejandra all the time and she told them that every solidarity letter counts.