

Paivi Räsänen, Finland - facing six years imprisonment for allegedly committing three crimes, including “hate speech,” for sharing her opinion on [Biblical] marriage and human sexuality on social media, on television and in a pamphlet.

About the pamphlet, ADF International (Alliance Defending Freedom) explained that Räsänen wrote it more than 16 years earlier to outline the official teaching of her own church on human sexuality. “Despite the police previously concluding that no crime had been committed, the Prosecutor General re-opened the file,”

The court dropped all charges Wednesday (3/30/22), ruling that "it is not for the district court to interpret biblical concepts."

The representative of Pakistan introduced the resolution “International Day to Combat Islamophobia” (document A/76/L.41). Islamophobia is a reality, he stressed, noting that his country’s President [Arif Alvi] has repeatedly called for efforts to address the phenomenon. Hate speech, discrimination and violence are proliferating in several parts of world, causing great anguish in the Islamic world. The Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief has noted that since 9/11, terrorist attacks and other violations have escalated to epidemic proportions.

Muslims often experience stigma, negative stereotyping and shame, feeling like suspect communities bearing collective responsibility for the actions of a fringe minority.

Islamophobia has emerged as a new form of racism, with an added gender aspect, as girls and women are targeted due to their dress and the notion that they are oppressed, he continued.

Islamophobia is also finding purchase in the political sphere, including discriminatory travel bans and visa restrictions, and discourse among far-right groups for electoral gains. The situation remains poorly understood, he affirmed, with numerous United Nations officials and world leaders underscoring the need to address it.

By the text, the General Assembly, among other things, decided to proclaim 15 March the International Day to Combat Islamophobia and called for strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue on the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and the diversity of religions and beliefs.

The General Assembly adopted the resolution by consensus.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/ga12408.doc.htm>

The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Population Affairs released a document Thursday titled "Gender Affirming Care and Young People."

The same day, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Child Traumatic Stress Network – another subset of the HHS – released a parallel document titled, "Gender-Affirming Care Is Trauma-Informed Care."

<https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/gender-affirming-care-young-people-march-2022.pdf>

<https://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/resources/fact-sheet/gender-affirming-care-is-trauma-informed-care.pdf>

Affirming Care	What is it?	When is it used?	Reversible or not
Social Affirmation	Adopting gender-affirming hairstyles, clothing, name, gender pronouns, and restrooms and other facilities	At any age or stage	Reversible
Puberty Blockers	Using certain types of hormones to pause pubertal development	During puberty	Reversible
Hormone Therapy	<p>Testosterone hormones for those who were assigned female at birth</p> <p>Estrogen hormones for those who were assigned male at birth</p>	Early adolescence onward	Partially reversible
Gender-Affirming Surgeries	<p>“Top” surgery – to create male-typical chest shape or enhance breasts</p> <p>“Bottom” surgery – surgery on genitals or reproductive organs</p> <p>Facial feminization or other procedures</p>	Typically used in adulthood or case-by-case in adolescence	Not reversible

Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Population Affairs –
 "Gender Affirming Care and Young People."

<https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/gender-affirming-care-young-people-march-2022.pdf>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Child Traumatic Stress Network – another subset of the HHS –

"Gender-Affirming Care Is Trauma-Informed Care."

“care for transgender, gender diverse, and intersex (TGI) youth”

“Many children are aware of their own gender identity as early as 3-5 years old, although it is also common for children to explore gender identity at later ages.”

The Department of State has reached another milestone in our work to better serve all U.S. citizens, regardless of their gender identity. In June, I [Blinken] announced that U.S. passport applicants could self-select their gender and were no longer required to submit any medical documentation, even if their selected gender differed from their other citizenship or identity documents. Starting on April 11, U.S. citizens will be able to select an **X as their gender marker** on their U.S. passport application, and the option will become available for other forms of documentation next year.

<https://www.state.gov/x-gender-marker-available-on-u-s-passports-starting-april-11/>