DOCTORS MUTILATE PEOPLE IN PAIN

The Feminist Front (400 associations from 7 countries) calls on the Secretary of Health

Mr. Secretary of Health,

In France, not so long ago, it was impossible to obtain sterilization by tubal ligation, as the law forbade any mutilation. Yet today, doctors are removing healthy organs from people who request it.

Teenage girls and young women who declare that they "feel like a man" have their breasts removed by surgeons, who also perform uterine and ovarian ablations, as well as phalloplasty (creation of a "penis" using skin taken from the forearm). Penis amputations and the creation of artificial orifices called "vaginas" are performed on men who request them.

Doctors, whose names are exchanged on social networks, prescribe or renew, sometimes by teleconsultation, hormone treatments that lead to lifelong dependence and after-effects. However, these treatments have not been validated by any scientific, health or medical authority, and have not received any marketing authorization for this indication. To circumvent the prohibition contained in the code of ethics, these practitioners are abusing the exception provided for, known as the "compassionate framework".

Hormones and surgery cause irreversible damage to people in pain, who above all need psychotherapeutic help.

Since December 2022, neither follow-up nor even consultation with a psychiatrist has been compulsory for people who are unable to accept their gender, as determined at birth, and claim self-determination. Yet, according to international data, in addition to lesbians and gays (the majority among these young people "in transition"), the proportion of autistic teenagers (over a third) is much higher than in the general population; these particularly fragile young people suffer from social anxiety or depression; some reject femininity and the feminine gender as signs of inferiority in our society; they equate their neuro-atypism with transidentity. In several European countries (UK, Sweden, Finland, Norway), political leaders have recognized the danger and adopted essential measures. What are the United States waiting for?

At a time when the number of people requesting sex reassignment has risen enormously over the last ten years, and their profile has changed radically (previously mostly adult men, now mainly teenage girls), the inaction of the Ministry of Health and the silence of the French Medical Association (Conseil de l'ordre) are tantamount to failing to assist people in danger.

Doctors must respect their obligations of prudence and respect for the integrity of the body. The French Public Health Code (article R. 4127-33) stipulates that all medical acts must be based on a rigorous diagnostic approach.

A decision as fraught with consequences as hormone treatment or surgery should only be taken **by a college of doctors, in a hospital setting, with an imposed cooling-off period.** What's more, to support these young people in their suffering, it is essential to develop training for psychotherapists and psychiatrists.

Tomorrow, when complications arise from these abusive medical interventions, when it is recognized that consent to these hormone treatments and operations was neither free nor informed, when lawsuits for abuse of weakness are brought against doctors ¹, it will be too late.

Mr. Minister, in the face of this health scandal, which is growing every day, we ask you to act, as neighboring countries have already done. Thousands of vulnerable people are at risk, thousands of families are suffering.

Faced with the malaise of so many young people who believe that these mutilations and hormone treatments are the solution to their problems, and who are sacrificing their health with the complicity of doctors, **the Feminist Front expects you to provide a response that is equal to this public health issue.**

¹ Such as those at the Tavistock Hospital in London, against which hundreds of families have filed complaints.