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I strongly oppose removing consideration of gender identity from the Maine Human Rights Act.

The inclusion of those whose identity may vary from our past cultural norms is absolutely necessary so that they are recognized and treated with dignity as human beings, just like the rest of our population. Long the victims of discrimination and often times violence, these members of our community must receive the same protections as all other people in Maine. They are our friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors and deserve to be treated respectfully. The Maine Human Rights Act was passed to protect human rights and should therefore include the rights of all humans. Taking away their rights should not even be considered. Period.