

Hi, my name is Max and I am a detransitioned woman who transitioned underage. I have a statement to read.

My parents and doctors facilitated me transitioning from female to male when I was underage and it was an extremely destructive force in my life. I started medical transition at 16 and I stopped transition and went back to being a lesbian at 19, years ago. I grieve the loss of my breasts at 17 and I now experience PTSD in medical settings. I see what was done to me as medical malpractice, specifically homophobic normalization of me as a gender non-compliant lesbian child.

I know many other adult women like myself who detransitioned in adulthood after transitioning underage who are just as horrified that adults believed medical transition was their best option in childhood. I performed the grateful pediatric patient whose life was saved by transition for 3 years. I know other women who portrayed themselves as grateful patients for much longer. The reality is that a woman whose body has been irreversibly modified is invested in convincing herself that she's better off this way. It's painful to admit we were harmed. That doesn't mean we weren't harmed.

I feel for these children because I was one of them. I know how it feels. I am not distinguishable from a trans person in any way except how I describe myself. I care about these kids and that's why I'm here, to make sure people aren't talking about us without us. A child cannot consent, and a child's needs are not always the same as their desires.

Many parents agree to support early transition out of a fear that their kids will grow up looking visibly gender nonconforming, whether through dress or physical appearance, and out of a failure to understand that trouble identifying with our sex is an ordinary part of childhood for gay and lesbian people, something we tend to overcome gradually as people outside our family introduce us to the idea that our sex doesn't mean we have to look or act a certain way, and that life as a same-sex attracted adult is not only possible but also something to treasure.

All parents say they didn't pressure their kids not to be nonconforming. I have never met such a parent and certainly my own liberal, relatively accepting parents still made it very clear it would be much better to be heterosexual and gender conforming. And even a parent who didn't communicate this to their children can't shield their kids entirely from a homophobic world. In a homophobic world, all gay and lesbian children grow up thinking there is something wrong with us, and hoping it's fixable. Transition confirms this and offers the cure.

As much as myself and anyone else who feels positively about transitioning had a right to their story, I do still have a right to my story now. I have a right to make sense of my life, and it is not unreasonable to expect others to either be able to fit my existence into their views or else change their views.