

# FINLAND

## Sakris Kupila demands the right to be who he is

**Sakris Kupila does not identify as a woman. Yet the 21-year-old medical student must endure daily embarrassment because his identity documents say he is female. To reassign your gender in Finland, you must be diagnosed with a “mental disorder” and be sterilized. Sakris wants to be accepted for who he is without submitting to those requirements. He is demanding a change to the law.**



Artwork © Rebecca Hendin

Sakris was a teenager when he realized that the gender he was assigned at birth didn't express who he is. He chose a new name, Sakris, which reflects his male identity. But under Finnish law, people are not allowed names of another gender. To have his gender changed and his new name legally recognized, Sakris would have to be diagnosed with a “mental disorder” and undergo sterilization. Such requirements are a stain on Finland's reputation for openness and tolerance.

For Sakris, the choice is clear. He opposes the humiliating requirements and is insisting that the government change the law. “The basic human rights of transgender people are currently violated in Finland,” he says. “Not only do we face discrimination within society itself, but also by the state.”

His struggle has created threats and open hostility. But Sakris won't give in. “I'll stop when the fight is over,” he says.

**Sakris defends transgender rights. We defend his rights.**

**Tell Finland to change the law and support transgender rights.**

**To take action, go to the next page.**

*Everyone has the right to  
freedom of ... expression.*

*Article 19,  
Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights*

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



## Unleash your pens and keyboards!

### Please write to the Prime Minister.

- ◆ Start with Dear Prime Minister.
- ◆ Describe who you are.
- ◆ Say that you support Sakris Kupila's right to legally change his gender without having to submit to humiliating requirements.
- ◆ Ask the Prime Minister to change the law and support transgender rights.

### Send your message to

Prime Minister Juha Sipilä  
Finnish Government  
PL 23, 00023 Valtioneuvosto  
Finland

Postage: \$2.50  
Facebook: <http://amn.st/60028tb22>  
Email: [juha.sipila@vnk.fi](mailto:juha.sipila@vnk.fi)  
Twitter: @juhasipila

### Please send a copy to

His Excellency Vesa Ilmari Lehtonen  
Ambassador for the Republic of Finland  
55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 850  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L5

Postage: \$.85  
Fax: (613) 288-2244  
E-mail: [embassy@finland.ca](mailto:embassy@finland.ca)



### Sample Tweets

.@juhasipila Please respect #transgender rights by dropping humiliating requirements to legally change gender #LGBTI #Finland

Ask @juhasipila to ensure Finland's government supports #transgender rights through legislation. #W4R17 #Write4Rights #LGBTI



Sakris Kupila in March 2017 © Amnesty International

### Support Sakris!

Send him a message of courage. He would appreciate greetings that carry the colours of the Trans flag: white, pink and light blue. You may use any card and mention Amnesty International if you wish. You may include your return address.

### Send your greeting to

Sakris Kupila  
Amnesty International Finnish Section  
Hietaniemenkatu 7 A  
00100 Helsinki, Finland

*Human rights defenders like Sakris are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.*

CANADA

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