On 29 March 2019, the University of Bristol – in partnership with Policy Bristol, the Trans Equality Legal Initiative (TELI) and Mermaids – will organise a one-day inter-disciplinary conference to address healthcare provision for transgender (trans) and non-binary populations in the United Kingdom. The conference, entitled (Re)Thinking Trans Healthcare: Bridging the Gap between Policy, Practitioner and Patient, will bring together policy-makers, practitioners, academics and service users. The conference has two core aims:

- **To bridge the gap between academics, policy-makers and practitioners working in the field of trans healthcare:** The conference seeks to create a space where individuals with a particular specialty and interest in trans healthcare can share ‘best practice’ knowledge (and think about what that knowledge is) for the provision of healthcare (both general and specialised) to trans populations.

- **To identify key gaps in existing knowledge surrounding trans health care, and to think about ways in which relevant stakeholders – trans communities, academics, policy-makers and practitioners – can work together to fill those gaps:** A second core aim of the conference is to identify key gaps in existing knowledge which impede or prevent the optimal delivery of healthcare (both general and specialised) to trans communities.

### Conference Structure

The conference is structured into four sessions:

**Session 1  Children’s Access to Medical Transition Pathways through a Model of Informed Consent?**

Session 1 offer a moderated conversation with four participants, preceded by two presentations on models of clinical care for trans children. In Part I, the organisers will invite two speakers to offer short (ten minute) presentations about clinical models of care for trans youth. The speakers will set the scene for the subsequent discussion, providing an oversight of existing protocols in the United Kingdom and the United States. In Part II, there will be a moderated discussion (with four intervenors) to consider existing conversations around the best model by which children should access gender confirming healthcare. During Session 1, members of the audience will be invited to post questions online, and these questions will be filtered into the discussion by the moderator. Confirmed contributors include: Dr Polly Carmichael, Dr Bernadette Wren, Professor Johanna Olson-Kennedy, Dr Jay Stewart and Susie Green.

**Session 2  Secondary Care: The Difficulties which Trans Individuals Experience Accessing Health Care**

During Session 2, four invited speakers (drawn from academia, policy-making and practice) will make prepared presentations on different aspects of trans access to general healthcare. The panel will: (a) identify whether trans persons experience difficulties in accessing general healthcare, and what those difficulties are; (b) suggest how policy-makers and practitioners can develop enhanced strategies to facilitate trans access to general healthcare; and (c) explore what knowledge/research gaps exist in terms...
of being able to formulate appropriate/meaningful policies to facilitate access. Confirmed speakers include: Professor Julie Fish, Dr Ben Vincent and Tara Hewitt.

Session 3  
Trans Healthcare Inequalities: Presentation Fair

As part of Session 3, conference participants will be divided into six groups. There will be three 20-minute discussion slots where invited presenters will move between different groups and will engage attendees with a short presentation on an emerging/unexplored area of trans health inequality. The purpose of the presentation is to offer a snapshot into an area of policy/research, and to encourage participants to think about healthcare from new, novel perspectives. Issues to be discussed include male pregnancy, trans ageing and trans experiences of HIV. Confirmed speakers include Professor Sally Hines, Dr Ruth Pearce, Dr Paul Willis, Dr Christine Dobbs, Dr Michelle Raithby, Dr Amel Alghrani, Dr Matson Lawrence, Aimee Linfield and Dr Kate Nambiar.

Session 4  
Intersections of Law, Medicine and Trans Identities.

This session will explore the legal rules which surround and affect trans lives in the United Kingdom. Our aim is to facilitate a discussion, which, in practical terms, helps attendees to understand some of the difficulties, which trans individuals (and their legal representatives) experience in trying to use existing legal frameworks. Session 4 will address domestic legislation, as well as European and international legal standards. Overall, this session will explore the many ways in which legal norms can both enhance, and obstruct, trans wellbeing, particularly access to medical care. Confirmed speakers include Jane Ryan, Dr Maria Moscati, Ruari McAlister, Bex Stinson, and Sue Breen.

**Conference Itinerary**

9.30 am – 10 am:  
Registration/Tea and Coffee

10.00 am - 10.15 am:  
Welcome

10.15 am – 11.25am:  
Session 1

11.30 am – 12.45 pm:  
Session 2

12.45 pm – 2 pm:  
Lunch

*Please note that attendees will begin to move towards the venue for Session 3 at 1.40 pm.*

2 pm – 3.15 pm:  
Session 3

3.30 pm – 4.45 pm:  
Session 4

4.45 pm – 5 pm:  
Concluding Remarks

The Conference Organising Team is indebted to our generous sponsors and supporters: PolicyBristol, the Centre for Health, Law and Society and the Bioethics, Biolaw and Biosociety Research Strand of the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute, Natalie Gamble Law Associates and Brilliant Beginnings.