

Humza Yousaf says trans rapist Isla Bryson should have right to self-identify as female

Description

During a series of interviews at a leadership campaign stop in Leith, the Scottish Health Secretary suggested that Bryson only pretended to identify as female but referred to the rapist as "her" and "they".

Bryson has been jailed for eight years for two rapes, which were committed when the sex offender was using the name Adam Graham. The predator only started to transition after appearing in court on rape charges.

Court chiefs had wanted to send Bryson to Glasgow's men-only Barlinnie prison but the rapist was instead diverted to Cornton Vale women's jail after being convicted in January.

SPS guidance at the time stated that trans criminals should be sent to a prison that matches the selfidentified gender they were living in prior to their conviction.

Mr Yousaf is the only one of the three candidates standing to replace Ms Sturgeon as SNP leader and First Minister who has backed her plan to allow all Scots aged 16 and over to self-identify their legal gender.

He is also the only one who has promised to continue her planned legal action against the UK Government veto on her self-ID laws, which has been imposed to protect UK-wide protections for women.

Mr Yousaf said: "Isla Bryson I think is at it, I think everybody recognises that and it is right that they're hopefully going to be incarcerated in a male prison."

Pressed if Bryson should be allowed to self-identify, he added: "I definitely don't think we should be rolling back on the rights for (trans) people."

By Simon Johnson

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