

DETRANS YOUTH FACED WITH MEDIA DISCOURSE

WHAT IS DETRANSITION?

Stopping or reversing a gender transition pathway (social and/or medical). Research on detrans youth shows that their pathways are **heterogeneous** and complex.

Study on the perception of media discourse by young detrans*.

**This study interviewed 25 youth (aged 16-25) in 7 countries between 2020 and 2022.*

On the other hand, the **Media** present them as:



Although the research is very recent and limited, the media argue that access to transitions should be **restricted**.

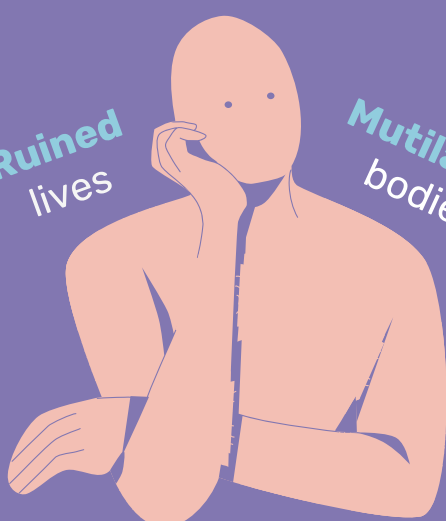


WHAT ARE THE
DETRANS YOUTH
SAYING?

Influenced
victims

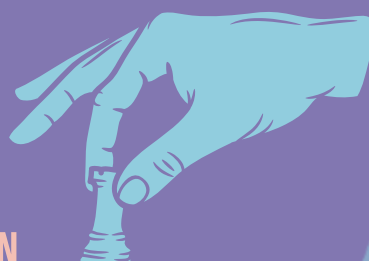
Ruined
lives

Mutilated
bodies



LACK OF REPRESENTATIONS

Detrans youth deplore a lack of nuanced and diversified representations and a lack of information. They feel poorly represented and invisible, which undermines their capacity to make sense of their pathways.



AMBIVALENCE

Gender-critical discourses can be attractive because they consider their experiences and often use feminist arguments. However, the negative framing of detransition can affect young people by fostering a depreciatory view of themselves and their experience.

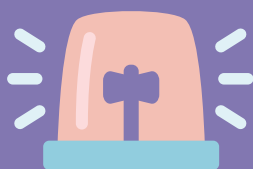
“I started reading, like, radical feminist stuff. [...] They're calling bodies like mine mutilated. And I just kind of got addicted to it because it was, in some ways, cathartic. [...] It was literally self-harm. But, yeah so, I just felt mutilated; I felt unlovable [...] just started to feel like maybe I ruined myself. ”

(Sun, doesn't have a gender identity, 20 years)

They feel that their experiences are being exploited and used for political ends:

“ But it does make me feel a little bit like a pawn, um, because they're unable to see my entire life for what it is and my decision to detransition for what it is. Instead, [...] they take an element of my story, and they use it to justify [...] that nobody should transition, so we have to change all these laws so that people don't get access to transitioning. And [...] it makes me feel bad because, like, that's not what I believe, and it's not my motive. ”

(Jada, Female, Lesbian, but doesn't really give a thought, 22 years)



**Fosters the idea that
detrans youth are
transphobic**



COMMUNITY REJECTION AND SELF-SILENCING

For fear of being judged or having their experiences reused against trans people, they choose to remain silent, which contributes to the lack of representation. Some report rejection by trans communities and a minimisation of their experiences.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Media rhetoric against transitions hurts trans and detrans youth. We need to stop pitting them against each other, at the risk of creating isolation. LGBTQ+ communities could offer detrans youth safe spaces for listening and support.