

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter I. Introduction	1
1 Setting the Stage: Researching the Legal Status of LGBTIQ+ Persons in Belgium	1
A The Social and Legal Position of LGB+ Persons in Belgium	4
B The Social and Legal Position of Transgender Persons in Belgium	5
C The Social and Legal Position of Persons with Variations of Sex Characteristics in Belgium	7
2 Objectives and Limits	8
A Objectives and General Design	8
B Focus on Sexual Minorities	9
3 Methodology	9
A Belgium as Illustration of a Stereotyped Legal System	10
B Qualitative Literature Study	11
I Cross-Disciplinary Literature Review	11
II Legal Literature Review	12
C Analytic Tools: Personal Autonomy and Inclusiveness	15
I Personal Autonomy	15
II Inclusiveness	23
D Methodological Challenges	25
I Shifting and ‘Emerging’ Human Rights Standards	25
II Terminology	25
4 Structure of the Book	26
Chapter II. Terminology and Framework	29
1 Sex (characteristics), Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/Expression	31
A Sex – Intersex/DSD – Variations of Sex Characteristics	31
I Sex	31
II Intersex/DSD/Variations of Sex Characteristics – Binary Normativity	34
B Sexual Orientation – Heteronormativity	48
I Sexual Orientation	48

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	II	Heteronormativity	50
C		Gender (Identity) – Gender Expression – Cisnormativity	55
	I	Transgender/Trans/Trans*	59
	II	Cisgender	67
D		Conflation between Sex, Sexual Orientation and Gender (Identity)	67
2		LGBTIQ+	71
Chapter III. The Legal Status of Persons with Variations of Sex Characteristics			75
1		Sex-Assigning/Normalizing Treatment of Persons with Variations of Sex Characteristics	77
	A	Informed Consent to Medical Treatment in Belgian Law	80
		I Minor Patients’ Rights	81
	B	Evaluation of the Belgian Legal Framework	89
		I Informed Consent to Sex-Assigning/Normalizing Treatment and Personal Autonomy	91
		II International and European Calls for Ban on Non-Consensual Sex-Assigning/Normalizing Treatment	112
		III Malta, Portugal and Germany: Legislative Alternatives	119
	C	Conclusion	125
		I Future Legislation	128
		II Impact on Official Sex Registration	131
2		Official Registration of Sex	133
	A	The Belgian Civil Code	135
		I Official Sex Registration at Birth	135
		II Correction/Change of Sex Registration	138
	B	Evaluation of the Belgian Official Sex Registration	141
		I General Characteristics of the Belgian Official Sex Registration	142
		II Medical Registration of Sex	150
		III Binary Sex Normativity	153
	C	Conclusion	160
Chapter IV. The Legal Status of Transgender Persons			163
1		The Legal Recognition of Gender (Identity)	168
	A	Sex/Gender Registration in Belgian Law	170

	I	Sex/Gender Registration at Birth	170
	II	The 2007 Act on Transsexuality	170
	III	The 2017 Gender Recognition Act	173
B		Evaluation of the Belgian Gender Registration Framework	178
	I	The Right to (Legal Recognition of) Gender (Identity) and Personal Autonomy	179
	II	Depathologization of Transgender Persons	187
	III	Cisnormativity – Conflation Between Sex and Gender (Identity)	211
	IV	Binary Normativity	222
2		Rationale, Pertinence and Proportionality of Gender (Identity) Registration	230
	A	Identification on the Basis of Registered Gender (Identity)	231
	B	Other Government Processes Based on Registered Gender (Identity)	233
	I	Public Registration of Gender (Identity)	234
	II	Compulsory Registration of Gender (Identity)	234
	III	The Need for ‘Interim Measures’	236
	IV	Summary	238
3		Conclusion	240

Chapter V. The Right to Personal Autonomy Regarding Sex (Characteristics), Gender (Identity and/or Expression) and Sexual Orientation 245

1		The Role of Constitutional Fundamental Rights	246
	A	The Role of Fundamental Rights	246
	I	The Importance of Fundamental Rights	246
	II	Criteria for Creating New Fundamental Rights	248
	B	The Role of Constitutions and Constitutional Rights	262
	I	Symbolism	263
	II	Pragmatism	266
2		Why a Right to Autonomy?	274
	A	The Emancipatory Function of Autonomy	274
	B	Autonomy vs. Equality	276
3		Formulation and Scope of the Right to Personal Autonomy Regarding Sexual Identity	280
	A	Material Scope	281
	I	Continued Legal Relevance of Sexual Orientation	282
	II	Heteronormativity – Homonormativity	283

TABLE OF CONTENTS

B	Absolute vs. Relative Right	287
C	The State’s Negative Obligations	290
D	The State’s Positive Obligations	296
E	Personal Scope	301
	I (Inclusive) Universality of Human Rights	301
	II Application to (Cisgender) Women and Feminist Critiques	302
4	Conclusion	307
Chapter VI. General Conclusion		309
1	Conclusions of the Research	310
	A The Necessity of a Correct Conceptual Understanding of Sexual Identity	310
	B The Belgian Legal System Fails to Fully Protect the Right to Personal Autonomy of Persons with Variations of Sex Characteristics	312
	I Sex-Assigning/Normalizing Treatment of Persons with Variations of Sex Characteristics	312
	II Official Sex Registration	313
	C The Belgian Legal System Fails to Fully Protect the Right to Personal Autonomy of Transgender Persons	314
	D Towards the Constitutional Protection of the Right to Personal Autonomy Regarding Sex (Characteristics), Gender (Identity/Expression) and Sexual Orientation	316
2	Suggestion for Further Research	317
Bibliography		319