

Submission to the UN on Rights of the Child

We are concerned that the rights of the child have been eroded in the UK through imposition of adult concepts of 'gender identity' and the resulting undermining of safeguarding and protection of the rights of children, in particular girls.

1. Gender identity ideology teaching

The idea stemming from Queer Theory that biological sex is socially constructed and that 'gender identity' (an inner sense of being male or female) is authentic reality is being taught to children as fact, and children's behaviour is being interpreted through its lens.

2. Replacement of sex with gender identity in policy

In UK schools policies of 'inclusion' have replaced sex with gender identity as the distinction between boys and girls in toilets, changing-rooms, overnight accommodation and sports, in breach of all children's rights to privacy and dignity and girls' rights to safety and fairness in sport.

UNRC Articles

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) defines a child as "every human being below the age of 18."

Article 2 respects and ensures the rights of each child without discrimination on the basis of their sex.

- Substituting sex with 'gender identity' as the distinction between boys and girls erases the basic foundation of children's rights.

Article 3: "In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration."

"States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health..."

The best interests of the child are not being served in UK Education and Health services for the reasons set out below.

Article 8: "States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference."

- A girl's right to the identity 'girl' is compromised by a boy's right to identify into this category, rendering it meaningless.
- When girls cannot be distinguished from boys, girls' rights cannot be upheld in relation to boys.
- 'Gender identity' denies girls their own category and their own distinct identity.

Article 29: “The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes..”

- Equality between the sexes cannot be ensured if the two sexes are conflated under the banner of gender identity.
- Schools are conflating 2 separate Equality Act protected characteristics in their Equalities policies, by replacing the protected characteristic Sex with the term ‘gender’ and sometimes ‘gender, including gender identity.’
- Equality of girls in relation to boys is compromised by gender identity policies in schools. For example, there are instances of girls missing school when they are menstruating because they are humiliated by boys listening to them outside the toilet door. Girls are not drinking water, and holding in urine all day in order not to use ‘gender neutral’ toilets in schools. This will have a detrimental impact on girls’ learning as well as their physical health.
- Girls are being replaced by boys who identify as girls in sports teams, and denied awards in sport, further demoralising girls and taking away motivation to compete. This has an impact on girls not just in terms of equal opportunities in sport but because of the physical and psychological benefits of sport.

Article 12: “States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.”

- In UK schools children are afraid to express the view that girls are human females and that you can’t change sex.

Article 13: “The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds..”

“The exercise of this right may be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary: (a) For respect of the rights or reputations of others”

- Children are being denied freedom of expression in schools if they do not subscribe to the belief that a girl is a boy, or a boy is a girl.
- Children’s freedom of expression is being reinterpreted as evidence that the child was ‘born in the wrong body’ if the child expresses themselves in a way that is not traditionally socially acceptable for their sex.
- Schools are withholding from girls knowledge of their sex-based rights in law and presenting one idea about gender as incontrovertible fact.
- A boy’s freedom of expression gives him the right to identify as a girl up to the point where it infringes on the rights of girls.

Article 14: “States Parties shall respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion”

“Freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals, or the fundamental rights and

freedoms of others.”

- Children are taught online, through broadcast media and in schools that to disagree with gender identity theory is bigoted and transphobic.
- Girls in schools are compelled to accept boys sharing their facilities, and prevented from expressing discomfort, for fear of being seen as transphobic and being ostracised from their peer group.
- Schools are not protecting the right of children to freedom of thought, conscience or religion if they disagree with gender identity theory.
- The freedom to believe in gender identity theory is protected in schools at the expense of freedom not to believe in it.

Article 17: “States Parties recognize the important function performed by the mass media and shall ensure that the child has access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources”

“Encourage the production and dissemination of children’s books”

“Encourage the development of appropriate guidelines for the protection of the child from information and material injurious to his or her well-being, bearing in mind the provisions of Articles 13 and 18.”

- UK national broadcaster, the BBC, has broadcast dramas and documentaries to children as young as six promoting the idea that if you don’t fit regressive sex-based stereotypes you may be the wrong sex, that you can change sex and that blocking your puberty is normal and safe.
- Children’s picture books from the earliest age teach children it is possible to be born in the wrong body and that your inner feelings override your biology, based on regressive stereotypes. These books are available in the libraries of UK schools.
- Videos and resources from trans and LGBT lobby groups, promoting the same ideas, are used in schools.

Article 24: “States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health”

- The UK National Health Service (NHS) promotes gender identity ideology by changing the language of sex and collecting patient data on the basis of gender identity in place of biological sex, putting patients’ health at risk.
- The UK clinic for children with gender-related distress (the Tavistock Gender Identity Development Service) pursued a ‘gender affirmative’ approach that precluded differential diagnosis and led to diagnostic overshadowing, putting children on a pathway of medical intervention without adequate assessment.
- The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence carried out two systematic reviews of puberty blocker and cross-sex hormone studies and found that the evidence for their safety was “of very low certainty.” Nevertheless children have been prescribed these treatments without sufficient evidence for patient safety.
- Blockers and hormones can have serious, irreversible consequences detrimental to children’s future physical and psychological health. A child will be a life-long medical patient and have a shortened life span.

- A review of the Tavistock GIDS found that the model it operated was unsafe for children. The clinic is due to be closed down and replaced with regional services in line with normal standards of paediatric care.
- Nevertheless, regional NHS Foundation Trusts are still offering services to children, adolescents and young adults based on the discredited 'gender affirmation' model.
- Teenage girls, gay and lesbian, autistic children and children from the care system are overrepresented at the Tavistock and these teenagers typically have a range of mental health problems.
- Adequate mental health care has not been provided for this vulnerable cohort of children.

Article 28: "States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity"

"Take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates"

- As stated above, girls are missing school when they have their period due to lack of private toilets.

Article 37: "No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment"

- Shared sex toilets, changing-rooms and accommodation subject girls to a hostile and degrading environment that puts them at risk of sexual assault, harassment, voyeurism and indecent exposure.

The substitution of 'gender identity' for sex has had a detrimental effect on all children in their understanding of reality, without consideration of the psychological effects on developing minds. Implementation of gender identity policies and the 'gender affirmative' approach has disproportionately impacted negatively on girls in terms of their health and safety, and protection of their rights.

Transgender Trend

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Email: transgendertrend@protonmail.com