



Faith & Future Association
Bulgaria

14 March 2021

**STATEMENT TO UNHR
Office of the High Commissioner**

REGARDING THE INDEPENDENT EXPERT SOGI

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We support the protection of all fundamental human rights of all persons regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. We also support the fundamental rights of traditional views and religious organizations to be expressed in the public domain and in policy bodies like the UN. Your report, however, is clearly aimed at, among other things, advancing radical gender theories and ideologies that seek to erase all differences between men and women and undermine the hard-earned gains for women in the area of human rights.

We believe that the leading questions and rhetoric used in your call for submissions demonstrate a clear bias in favor of radical sexual and gender theories and policies, which have been rejected by a large grouping of UN Member States on multiple occasions. The questions listed in the submission guidance by the Independent Expert on SOGI reveal that the main goal of his upcoming report is to change the world's commonly held biological understanding of male and female and replace it with the radical concept of "gender identity." This is the antithesis of the UN's mandate to provide rights and protections to women and girls. The idea that a biological male becomes a girl or woman simply by adopting stereotypical female behavior and dress is regressive and harms girls and women by reinforcing the very stereotypes that have resulted in the harassment, discrimination, and violence against girls and women. The idea that a biological male can or should try to become or impersonate a girl or woman if they reject stereotypically male behavior or that a female can or should try to become or impersonate a boy or a man is regressive and can damage those who are gender non-conforming or those who reject male or female stereotyped roles. Trans theory is especially harmful for women in sports and other areas where biological males

have natural physical advantages. This is not discrimination of trans-people but against natural biological females!

We denounce all “violence” and unjust “discrimination” regardless but would, therefore, challenge your definitions for these two terms which go far beyond UN consensus agreements in harmful ways. We oppose the SOGI Independent Expert’s distorted definition for gender and gender-based terms at the UN to encompass radical and unscientific gender ideology and queer theory. The SOGI Independent Expert’s mandate is to advance the rights of persons to be free from violence or unjust discrimination based on “sexual orientation” or “gender identity,” however, your report undermines the very foundation upon which sex-based rights and protections are established. We strongly oppose the Independent SOGI Expert’s attempts to undermine the hard-won advancements of women and girls whose rights and private spaces are being violated by men who identify as women. **Instead of trying to create special protections for people based on their internal perceptions of themselves which can change over time, we should enforce existing laws and policies calling for the elimination of violence against anyone.**

We are greatly concerned that the Independent Expert on SOGI is actively trying to identify, and perhaps target, individuals, groups and countries that do not accept his ideology and the LGBTQ agenda in general. Several key questions on the SOGI submission guidance are especially troubling, notably 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10. All questions reveal a clear pro-LGBTQ framework agenda, yet the five points mentioned seem to single out religious and traditional views and actors that disagree or are concerned with some issues of the LGBTQ movement. **Freedom of opinion and expression must be upheld and guaranteed for those who disagree with radical gender theory, early sexuality education and the LGBTQ propaganda and ideological framework, especially in schools but also in the public domain.** The best estimate on transgender people is that no more than 0.3 percent of the general population identifies as transgender. Yet this proposed “gender identity” policy can negatively affect the majority of the population, but especially women and girls. It could potentially target and discriminate against everyone who disagrees with the policies to protect LGBTQ and trans people. This would fundamentally violate freedom of speech and conscience, especially of traditional and religious bodies, which are protected by all major international treaties. There are better ways to fight violence and discrimination than to force a minority issue on the majority of the world’s population.

We call upon all UN Member States to reject the past and forthcoming reports issued by the UN Independent Expert on SOGI that will only serve to denigrate and abolish the many hard-won sex-based rights for women and girls, lead to the destruction of the natural family, and damage children who will receive harmful comprehensive sexuality education designed to indoctrinate them in radical gender and sexual ideologies and queer theories.

Respectfully,
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