



Association
Heart for Bulgaria

14 March 2021

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

REGARDING THE INDEPENDENT EXPERT SOGI

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a philanthropic NGO committed to helping poor families, vulnerable children, disabled people, and the elderly, we are deeply concerned that the agenda of the Independent Expert for the protection against violence and discrimination is detrimental to the noble aims of protecting against violence and discrimination. We support the protection of all fundamental human rights of all persons regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. We denounce all “violence” and unjust “discrimination” regardless but would challenge the Expert’s definitions for these two terms which go far beyond UN consensus agreements in harmful ways. Not only is the ideological framework strongly biased towards promoting radical gender theories and destructive early sexualization of innocent children, the wrong use of precious resources would be wrongly diverted, especially when it comes to transgender issues.

The elective, transgender hormonal or surgical interventions that your transgender gender framework would establish as universal rights are prohibitively expensive and would take critical limited resources away from those in developing countries who require basic support for survival. As an organization helping the poor, these resources are better used for providing basic needs rather than spent on a tiny group of people for non-essential, and experimental,

treatments, which also have shown to increase the risks of depression and suicide. These findings are deeply troubling! This radical gender framework would encourage the medical transitioning of vulnerable children with medical and surgical interventions that have been shown to increase mental distress and cause lifelong physical harms including infertility.

The UN should uphold the traditional nuclear family as the basic cell of society and not attempt to radically change what has proven good for millennia. No one should suffer violence and discrimination, yet how these aims are translated into reality are vital. We cannot seek to solve problems by creating more!

It is troubling to note that push for early sexuality education in the name of protecting against violence and discrimination. The Independent Expert on SOGI is seeking to implement so-called “comprehensive sexuality education” (CSE) designed to indoctrinate children and mainstream queer theory, an unhealthy belief system that encourages children to disassociate from their biological sex in harmful ways. We strongly oppose the attempt by the Independent Expert on SOGI to push harmful and ineffective “comprehensive sexuality education” as a major tool to indoctrinate the world’s children and mainstream radical sexual and gender ideologies into the rising generation. It is hard to see how such indoctrination helps fighting violence and discrimination.

It should be noted the concepts of “comprehensive sexuality education” and “sexual orientation and gender identity” were specifically rejected from the 2030 Agenda by many UN Member States and that the establishment of this SOGI expert’s mandate is a deliberate attempt to override the positions of States opposed to such and coerce them into accepting SOGI rights. This is a direct assault on the sovereignty of UN Member States and an abuse of the UN system.

These types of attempts are not only a direct assault on the sovereignty of UN Member States, but also on the sovereignty and health of the traditional family. LGBTQ and CSE is not only detrimental to children’s health, but also to the health of the family and therefore of society.

Respectfully,
Gordon Merk
Heart for Bulgaria