"Submission to the report on gender, sexual orientation and gender identity"

We fundamentally disagree with the radical and unscientific transgender ideologies that underpin your request for submissions for your thematic report on Gender, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. We believe that the very questions and definitions you use illustrate a gross overstepping of your mandate.

We are greatly concerned that the UN-appointed Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) is now at the forefront of UN efforts to reinterpret the concepts of "gender" and "gender equality" beyond the longstanding understanding of male and female and equality between the sexes which would erase all sex-based rights and protections for women and girls.

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.

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.

Consider the following troubling examples showing how "gender identity" policies put women and children at risk:

- BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND: A male student wore a mask and wig to gain entry to a women's bathroom to spy on women and make recordings of a sexual nature.
- WEST YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND: A biological male inmate with a history of sexual offenses changed his name and dressed as a woman so he could be moved to a female prison where he sexually assaulted four female prisoners.
- OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON: A 45-year-old man, who self-identified as a woman, used the women's facilities at the Evergreen State College swimming pool exposing himself to minor girls who also used the college's swimming pool.
- PORTLAND, OREGON: A convicted child sex offender claimed to be a transgender woman and wore a dress to access areas where young girls were changing.
- SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA: A 46-year-old man cross-dressed as a woman to gain access to a women's dormitory and other female-only facilities to take pictures of women with a cell phone.
- TORONTO, CANADA: A man claimed to be transgender to stay at a women's shelter where he then assaulted several women.
- DECATUR, GEORGIA: Parents of a 5-year-old girl filed a legal complaint claiming a transgender boy sexually assaulted their daughter in her school's restroom. This boy was a biological male who identifies as "gender fluid" and therefore was allowed use the girls' restroom under a "gender identity" policy.

The implications and consequences of adopting non-discrimination "gender identity" policies are far reaching with grave consequences for children and the family and ironically, are fraught with negative consequences for the very people they were designed to help.

Cinzia Pedroni