

Input to the upcoming report of the UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

I support the protection of all fundamental human rights of all persons regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. The upcoming report, however, is aimed at, among other things, advancing gender theories and ideologies that obviously cause confusion and may undermine the hard-earned gains for women in the area of human rights.

We should enforce existing laws and policies calling for the elimination of violence against anyone. The questionnaire has a good aim to reveal discrimination against sexual minorities, but it does not recognize that to create special protections affirming “gender identity” policies may harm the very children that need our help.

The estimate on transgender people is that about 0,3 -1,5 percent of the general population identifies as transgender. There is a problem: Where “gender identity” non-discrimination policies are in place, women and girls are being denied their right to privacy in public female spaces, such as bathrooms and showers. Some women and girls have even been sexually assaulted. There is a danger that conception of a “gender framework” which incorporates radical transgender ideology will lead to discrimination, harassment and violence against women and girls as proposed framework will erase the very rights and protections designed for them. One example:

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.¹

Girls and women have been extended special protections and rights because of the disproportionate amount of discrimination, harassment, and violence that girls and women experience—not because they identify as “girls” or “women” but due to the biological reality of being female and the inherent differences between the sexes.

The American College of Pediatricians (ACPed) calls “gender dysphoria” a “mental disorder in which an individual experiences distress over a deeply felt desire or belief that he or she is the opposite sex.” When the dysphoria is severe enough to cause a child to insist on amputating their sex organs, without question, this should be considered a mental disorder. What these children really need is help in overcoming their disorder, not policies to protect their confused “gender identity” or “identities”, putting them at risk for a large array of mental, social, and physical problems throughout their lives. What we should be adopting is a policy calling upon medical and mental health professionals and school officials to assist children in resolving their gender dysphoria, not policies that affirm children in their confusion. The “gender framework” proposed by the SOGI expert would indoctrinate children into a belief system through comprehensive sexuality education, something that is fundamentally at odds with the UN’s Charter.

¹ Danilova, M. (2018, October 4). Transgender Policy Studied in Georgia School Assault Case. *Associated Press*. Retrieved from <https://apnews.com/4034184d18794baca3796dbf8e9ae49b?>

Most children lose their feelings of gender confusion as they grow older. According to Dr. Paul McHugh, “*When children who reported transgender feelings were tracked without medical or surgical treatment at both Vanderbilt University and London's Portman Clinic, 70%-80% of them spontaneously lost those feelings.*”² However, when children are affirmed in their gender confusion by parents, schools, the community and others, the chance that they will normally outgrow this gender confusion is greatly diminished.

The head of the Child and Adolescent Gender Identity Clinic in Toronto, Canada, Dr. Kenneth Zucker, one of the leading authorities in the world on gender disorders, has treated over 500 children with gender confusion. Dr. Zucker found that in the vast majority of cases, therapy focused on reducing the psychopathology within the family has resulted in the child’s acceptance of their birth sex.³

In light of recent findings from a global study on school-based CSE worldwide, there is a good reason to be very concerned by the SOGI expert’s push for CSE. In fact, the researchers concluded: “*Three decades of research indicate that comprehensive sex education has not been an effective public health strategy in schools around the world, has shown far more evidence of failure than success, and has produced a concerning number of harmful impacts.*”⁴ The American College of Pediatricians has stated that comprehensive sexuality education may harm children. (Ample evidence backing this claim can be found at ACPeds.org)

The Independent Expert on SOGI is attempting to identify political and religious leaders who speak out publicly against “gender ideology.” Such a list could also be used to incite reprisals against people who do not see radical transgender ideology reasonable and exercise free expression and liberty rights.

To be equal to all kind of sexual groups, the Independent Expert on SOGI should in the upcoming report also reveal the problems and new forms of discrimination and violence, which “gender ideology” has aroused.

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² McHugh, P. (2014, June 12). Transgender Surgery Isn’t the Solution. *Wall Street Journal*.

³ Zucker, K. & Bradley, S. (1995). *Gender Identity Disorder and Psychosexual Problems in Children and Adolescents*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press

⁴ Weed, S., Ericksen, I. (2019). Institute for Research and Evaluation. *Re-Examining the Evidence for Comprehensive Sex Education in Schools: A Global Research Review*.