We represent a number of groups in various countries, particularly in Europe. We have a number of concerns with regard to the impact of gender identity theory on women and on LGB rights.

All of our groups are secular and include members in Czechia, Slovakia, Finland, France, Japan, Sweden and the United States.

Our answers will vary somewhat, owing the the different positions of these states.

*1. Has the State adopted, in public policy, legislation or jurisprudence, working definitions of gender and related concepts (for example gender theory, gender-based approaches, gender perspective, gender mainstreaming) aiming to address violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity? If so, please give examples, with commentary as needed to explain context, scope and application.*

* 1. *if that is the case, has the State carried out evaluations, assessments or evidence-gathering about the impact of the implementation of such actions and, if so, what are the main trends identified?*
	2. *if that is not the case, please provide information as to the reasons.*

**Answer:**

We believe that the conflation of sex and gender in materials and even laws is a persistent problem.

We agree with the definition of sexual orientation as follows:

Sexual orientation

(1)Sexual orientation means a person's sexual orientation towards—

(a) persons of the same sex,

(b) persons of the opposite sex, or

(c) persons of either sex.

The conflation of gender and sex is a problem. Sexual orientation has nothing to do with self-identified sex or gender and this confusion in terms has already led to many different issues in different countries.

*4. Is comprehensive sexuality education taught in schools?*

* 1. *if yes, please provide information as to the respective programs. Please provide examples (e.g. copies of curricula, citations to polices).*
	2. *if not, are there efforts deployed by the State to establish and promote comprehensive sexual education, which incorporates diverse sexual orientation and gender identity perspectives? What have been the obstacles to adopt such policies or programs? Also, is the State adopting any alternative measures?*

**Answer:**

Governments in some countries, such as Poland, have openly opposed LGB rights. The opposition is led mainly by organisations such as the Catholic Church.

In other jurisdictions, such as Turkey, some workers report being threatened with loss of their job if they come out as bisexual, gay or lesbian at work.

Many schools in other countries appear to be somewhat neglecting their duties to educate children in an appropriate way about LGBT issues. It is our belief that there is a somewhat excessive focus in trans issues over LGB issues.

We believe that there are intersectional issues that are affecting lesbian children particularly negatively, especially those who are marginalised both for their biological sex, homosexuality, and those who do not conform to sexist and often regressive gender stereotypes.

We have seen a large amount of evidence from social media that stigmatisation of lesbians and gay men in particular appears to be growing – this includes comments shaming lesbians or gay men for their attraction to the same biological sex. This includes calling lesbians and gay men ‘transphobic’ for not being attracted to a trans person, sometimes pre-transition, of the opposite biological sex.

We are also worried of the impact rules and guidance in schools intended to include children who have socially or otherwise transitioned may impact on other children. As an example, some children may now share a bathroom with a child of the opposite sex. It seems in some guidance from the UK that this was sometimes agreed without children’s knowledge or consent.

We request an open debate of these issues, free from of abuse or violence.

We would like age-appropriate materials to be developed in schools for educating lesbian, gay and bisexual children – it is noted that in some countries, materials have been withdrawn in school after complaints from parents.

LGB groups may have conflicting interests with some trans groups. There are numerous trans groups in different countries, but few focus solely on LGB issues. This has sometimes caused conflicts within these groups in various ways.

We also see the potential for harm for LGB youth, in relation to laws around self-ID and also/additionally access to so-called "gender reassignment surgeries". These laws have already been implemented in several countries globally.

Numerous questions have been raised about the issue of paediatric transition, including aspects of social contagion. Many of the children who undergo paediatric transition are lesbians prior to their transition. This has been described as some, e.g. Dr David Bell as ‘conversion therapy’, when relaying the concerns of a group of whistleblowers at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust in the UK. In other countries such as Sweden and Finland, the approach to gender transitioning has been reexamined in light of the changing cohort of transitioners. It must be questioned whether any aspect of teaching in schools or excessive focus on trans issues as opposed to, for example, LGB issues, is leading to more children concluding that they are suffering from gender dysphoria so severe that they need to transition.

In Sweden, the number of detransitioners has grown and this has led to the establishment of the first clinic for detransitioned patients. We believe that this number will grow and services will be required in other countries.

We are also aware of the loss of gay and lesbian spaces, particularly lesbian spaces. It appears that these have ceased to exist in many countries. We question whether this development is beneficial to those struggling to come out.

In response to this, various grassroots groups have been formed in numerous different countries and different regions, including but not limited to groups such as the LGB Alliance, which now has groups in:

Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Iceland, India, Ireland, Mexico, the Middle East and North Africa, Norway, Serbia, Spain the UK (including Wales and Scotland), the United States.

We also see that trans people are exposed to discrimination and violence and that they must be protected from this, but this must not happen in such a way that LGB rights, that have been fought for, suffer and are weakened. We are in favor of creating safe spaces for trans people, but not to abandon having the safe spaces created by homosexuals.

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Andreia Nobre, Charenton le Pont, France

Kristína Pisoňová, Bratislava, Slovakia

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