13 March 2021

Dear Independent UN Expert

I acknowledge and affirm that all human beings are created by God and thereby have an inherent dignity. We also believe that God created each person male or female; therefore, sexual difference is not an accident or a flaw, it is a gift from God that helps draw us closer to each other and to God. What God has created is excellent. "God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Gen 1:27).

A person's discomfort with his or her sex, or the desire to be identified as the other sex, is a complicated reality that needs to be addressed with sensitivity and truth. Each person deserves to be heard and treated with respect; it is our responsibility to respond to their concerns with compassion, mercy and honesty.

Children especially are harmed when they are told that they can "change" their sex or, further, given hormones that will affect their development and possibly render them infertile as adults. Parents deserve better guidance on these important decisions, I urge our medical institutions and policy makers to honour the basic medical principle of "first, do no harm." Gender ideology harms individuals and societies by sowing confusion and self-doubt.

The movement today to enforce the false idea that men can be or become women or vice versa, is deeply troubling. It compels people to either go against reason, which is, to agree with something that is not true or face ridicule, marginalization, and other forms of retaliation. One example is an associate professor, Kathleen Lorey, who was fired in 2019 by the University of Alberta in Canada for stating the basic truth that there are only two genders.

As a follower of Jesus Christ and a person who has natural affection, I desire the health and happiness of all men, women, and children. Therefore, I urge you to call for policies that uphold the truth of a person's sexual identity as male or female, and the privacy and safety of all. I hope for renewed appreciation of the beauty of sexual difference in our culture and for authentic support of those who experience conflict with their God-given sexual identity.

Your sincerely,

Kenin R. Stuurman