



# ADVOCATES PROTECTING CHILDREN

To: Mr. Victor Madrigal-Borloz-UN Independent Expert on Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

From: Advocates Protecting Children

Regarding: Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)

As efforts by groups like NAMBLA intensify their efforts to have sexual attraction by adults to children (pedophilia) normalized and considered a sexual orientation, it is critical that the Independent Expert clarify that pedophilia is not protected as a sexual orientation.

We are concerned with the Independent Expert's historical representation of "violence" and "discrimination" to mean not using the specific language an individual prefers, not providing damaging and harmful interventions to change an individual's external appearance, and not "affirming" an individual's feelings regarding his or her identity. This expansive definition serves to expand the definition of violence and discrimination to the point that it is meaningless. It also minimizes the actual violence and discrimination faced by individuals, such as women who are fired for not performing sex acts with their boss, people who are killed based on their religious beliefs, children who are beaten and brutalized by sex traffickers. There is a big difference between someone getting their feelings hurt and someone experiencing discrimination and violence. The UN should not be in the business of protecting the feelings of a specific group. To do so is inherently discriminatory to everyone else who has to subjugate their firmly held convictions and beliefs in order to capitulate to those who wish to prescribe language and undermine the basic rights and protections of other groups to privilege those who claim to have a gender identity different from that of their biological sex.

We support the protection of all fundamental human rights of all persons regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. Your goal seems to be to advance transgender ideology that seeks to erase inherent differences between men and women and undermine the critical rights and protections for girls and women.

Definitions are important and in this call for input and previous calls for input, the Independent Expert has failed to clearly define important terms. By doing this, the Independent Expert shows that he is not, in fact, independent but rather a clear advocate for the transgender belief system that makes the mystical claim that it is possible for someone to be born in the wrong body. By privileging one belief system over others, the Independent Expert is violating his mandate to act independently.

We are concerned by what appears to be an acceptance of controversial ideas outside the internationally agreed human rights legal framework. The term "gender identity" does not appear in any binding international agreements negotiated by the full body of UN Member States. Every time it has been proposed, it has been rejected by UN Member States. The entire idea of gender identity is subjective and based on feelings not fact, something that cannot be codified into

international law in a way that respects the strongly held beliefs of those who do not accept the metaphysical belief that someone can be born in the wrong body. The UN social policies with regard to gender equality were specifically designed to protect sex-based rights, not controversial transgender ideology. To undermine sex based rights and protections is a gross violation of those who believe in the scientific reality of biological sex.

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. 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.

Instead of trying to create special protections for people based on their internal perceptions of themselves which can change over time, the UN should enforce existing laws and policies calling for the elimination of violence against anyone and protections of the right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) which means not forcing others to accept transgender ideology.

Thank you,

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