



To: [hrc-sr-vaw@un.org](mailto:hrc-sr-vaw@un.org)

Netherlands, 30 April 2024

Dear Ms Alsalem,

Herewith we would like to reply to some of your questions regarding violence against women and girls in sport. We are not representing any sports association. We represent women who are critical about areas of life in which gender identity is conflated with biological sex, as is the case in sports. Due to the toxic climate in our country around this issue it is impossible for sporting women to speak out personally. Only two of them had the courage to do so recently (darts sporters Aileen the Graaf and Anca Zijlstra). They received a lot of hostile responses.

[Trans row divides Dutch women's darts, two players quit team - DutchNews.nl](#)

In the Netherlands, current policies regarding the inclusion of trans-identifying men in women's sports are designed by NOC\*NSF. The NOC\*NSF (National Olympic Committee – National Sports Federation) is the national body of 94 sports associations, which represent almost 24.000 sports clubs with a total of 5.2 million organised sporters. In 2015 the NOC\*NSF drafted a guideline for the inclusion of gender and sex diverse people in sports, aimed at volunteers, professionals, board members and individual sporters. It was updated in 2023. This version has been highly influenced by trans charity Transgender Network Netherlands.

[handreiking\\_genderensekseindesport\\_online.pdf \(nocnsf.nl\)](#)

The guidance was drafted with exclusively the interests of transgender sporters in mind. It uses the language of transgender activists like 'sex assigned at birth' and 'cis women' for women. The guideline defines a woman as '*an adult which lives and identifies as a woman, although sometimes it is said that they have a different sex at birth. This definition includes cis women as well as trans women.*' (p. 11) The division of locker rooms and teams on the basis of sex is judged as 'CIS normative'.

It also states that some persons may not have the right letter in their passport of how they identify, but that in all cases it is important to affirm however the person says they identify. Although self-identification of sex is not legal in the Netherlands, the NOC\*NSF endorses it for

all sports and sports clubs. In all cases the demands of the sportsperson should be supported. Nowhere in the guideline is there any room for the voices of women and girls and the implications this will have on their safety, fairness, and dignity. If women or girls would refuse a transwoman (a man identifying as a woman) in their showers or locker rooms, this is considered discrimination on the basis of genderidentity. Transwomen are encouraged to report this.

The NOC\*NSC states that a transgender sportsperson should be allowed to take part in sports in the sex category of their choice – regardless their birth sex and passport registration – and should not be excluded from locker room and shower facilities. We protest these policies because they are excluding women and girls from opportunities to fair play and safe sports.

With highest regards,

Dr. Gerrie Strik

Director at MEMOMA [www.memoma.nl](http://www.memoma.nl)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a horizontal line at the bottom, likely representing the name Gerrie Strik.