

13 March 2021

Victor Madrigal-Borloz
United Nations Independent Expert
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
UN Human Rights Council
Geneva

Dear Mr. Madrigal-Borloz,

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS ON A THEMATIC REPORT ON GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

I write to you on behalf of the members of Youth One Africa Ministries, a non-for-profit organisation in Namibia aimed at empowering youth through Christian disciplines. Reference is made to the above-mentioned call from your office. We fundamentally disagree with the radical and unscientific transgender ideologies that underpin this request for submissions for your thematic report on Gender, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. We believe that the very questions and definitions you use illustrate a gross overstepping of your mandate. We are deeply disturbed by what appears to be the end goals of the call for inputs to your thematic report on gender, sexual orientation and gender identity. Please consider our following concerns.

- We believe that the leading questions and rhetoric used in your call for submissions demonstrate a clear bias in favor of radical sexual and gender theories and policies, which have been rejected by a large grouping of UN Member States on multiple occasions.
- Your report is clearly aimed at, among other things, advancing radical gender theories and ideologies that seek to erase all differences between men and women and undermine the hard-earned gains for women in the area of human rights.
- We are concerned by what appears to be an imposition of controversial notions outside the internationally agreed human rights legal framework in ways that contradict the fundamentals of universality.
- We are deeply concerned that your current and past reports have and will go far beyond the content and scope of your mandate in harmful ways. Specifically, the thrust of your work is not in conformity with the principles as listed in HRC Res 5/1 which require “universality,” “impartiality,” “objectivity,” “non-selectiveness,” and a “gender perspective” as understood by States to mean a women’s equality perspective and not a transgender perspective.

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 because it is too controversial. We reject your interpretations of the terms “violence” and “discrimination” as encompassing any criticism of radical gender theory or policies that protect women’s private spaces.

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Transformation is Here

Isaiah 62:6-7

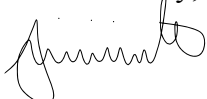
The SOGI Independent Expert is attempting to establish as a protected class by force of law the controversial concept of “gender identity”. We therefore oppose the SOGI Independent Expert’s distorted definition for gender and gender-based terms at the UN to encompass radical and unscientific gender ideology and queer theory, beyond the longstanding understanding of male and female and equality between the sexes.

The terms “gender” and “gender equality” are common terms used throughout the UN system and in multiple UN documents and resolutions adopted by consensus by UN Member States to advance the equality of women and girls with men and boys, respectively, and were never intended to advance highly controversial transgender polities. We further reject the efforts of the Independent Expert on SOGI to redefine “gender equality” specifically in UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 to encompass special rights based on sexual orientation and gender identity that would supersede women’s rights and then to mainstream these alleged “rights” throughout the 2030 Agenda. We strongly oppose attempts to undermine the hard-won advancements of women and girls whose rights and private spaces are being violated by men who identify as women.

Historically as well as currently, women/girls have been exploited for their reproductive capacity. The global reality for many women/girls is that they still suffer under enforced gender roles used as justification to exploit their bodies in practices like female infanticide, child marriages, trafficking, forced pregnancy, forced sterilizations, surrogacy camps, enforced dress codes, corrective rape, lack of access to certain transportation, lack of access to participation in public and political life, etc. The UN can't fight sexism in all of these areas if the category of sex is erased and replaced with “gender identity.” We denounce the Independent Expert on SOGI’s actions seeking to identify States that are not implementing harmful “comprehensive sexuality education” designed to indoctrinate children and mainstream radical sexual and gender identities and ideologies into our societies.

Finally, the freedom of expression, speech and religious liberty rights of political and religious leaders who speak out publicly against “gender ideology” must be respected. We call upon all UN Member States to reject the past and forthcoming reports issued by the UN Independent Expert on SOGI and to censure him for his aforementioned ultra vires actions that will only serve to denigrate and abolish the many hard-won sex-based rights for women and girls, lead to the destruction of the natural family, and damage children who will receive harmful comprehensive sexuality education designed to indoctrinate them in radical gender and sexual ideologies and queer theories. The future of our children must be protected.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AvShalom", written over a white background.

AvShalom Nghifitikeko
Chairperson of the Board of YOA