



March 13, 2021

## **Response by Child & Parental Rights Campaign, Inc. to the Call for Input on Gender, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

To the UN Independent Expert on SOGI:

Child & Parental Rights Campaign, Inc. is a United States-based non-governmental, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the well-being of children and preserving parents' rights to guide the education and upbringing of their children as enshrined in the United States Constitution. The questions and rhetoric used in the call for submissions evince an intent to promote radical sexual and gender theories rather than seeking input aimed at reaching a reasoned, independent conclusion. Human Rights Council Res 5/1 requires “universality,” “impartiality,” “objectivity,” and “non-selectiveness” in expert reports. The pejorative language and prejudicial undertones in the “call for input” violate these principles and belie any claim that the expert is “independent.”

UN Member States have rejected attempts to impose radical sexual and gender theories on their citizens on multiple occasions. By cloaking this latest effort in the language of non-discrimination and violence prevention, the report attempts to circumvent the will of the member states that these ideologies not be imposed on their citizens. The “call for input” evinces a predetermined conclusion that these radical sexual and gender identity ideologies are the norm so that any disagreement is to be labeled “discrimination” or “violence.” In so doing, it seeks to exploit the economic vulnerability of member states to impose a form of ideological colonialism.

The pejorative language in the call for input, furthermore, denigrates the religious beliefs and family values that undergird the “prior right” of parents to direct the education of their children, as memorialized in Article 26.3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Most critically, the radical gender theory championed by the “independent” expert endangers children’s physical, mental and emotional health. It also threatens the safety of women and girls who will be compelled to share personal spaces, even domestic abuse shelters, with biological men.

### **• Incorporating “Gender Identity” Into Non-Discrimination Policies Endangers Children’s Health.**

- Gender identity theory includes teaching children unscientific concepts that they can have a “boy brain” but “girl body” or a “girl brain” but a “boy body.” Children are told that they can reconcile the conflict between their psychological gender “identity” and their biological sex by “transitioning.”
- Transitioning begins with “social transitioning,” which involves adopting an opposite sex name and pronouns and the hair and clothing of the opposite sex.
- After social transitioning, children are often prescribed puberty-blocking drugs that prevent their body from going through natural puberty. **The use of puberty-blocking drugs in otherwise healthy children to delay normal development for gender**

**dysphoria is experimental and the long-term effects are unknown.**<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the UK National Health Service has retracted its claim that puberty blockers are fully reversible and now **acknowledges that they could have long term consequences for children’s brains, bones, and mental health.**<sup>2</sup> What is known is that they will affect the still-developing brain.<sup>3</sup> Also the puberty blocking drugs prevent the natural sexual maturation of a child’s reproductive organs. Most often, the interventions result in permanent sterility and sexual dysfunction.

- The UK High Court recognized the dangers posed by puberty blockers for children and ruled against the National Health Service in a lawsuit brought by a former patient who was encouraged to begin puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones as a teenager and later regretted the attempt to “transition.”<sup>4</sup> The court concluded that that it would highly unlikely that a child under age 16 would be competent to give consent to puberty blockers and claimed jurisdiction over the decision to give puberty-blockers to minors over 16 where any doubts arise.
  
- A recent study from the UK’s Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS), Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust found that all but one child who had begun puberty blockers went on to take cross-sex hormones, estrogen for boys and testosterone for girls.<sup>5</sup> Those cross-sex hormones cause irreversible effects, including sterility if used after puberty has been blocked, the growth of breast tissue in males, and a lowered voice in females. Cross- sex hormones may also cause other serious adverse effects including increased risk of heart attack, cardiovascular disease, gynecological problems, gallstones, blood clots, decreased bone mineral density, decreased insulin sensitivity, cancer, and development or worsening of psychiatric illness.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Bell v. The Tavistock And Portman NHS Foundation Trust*, In The High Court Of Justice Administrative Court Divisional Court, Case No. C O/60/2020, December 1, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Glen Owen, “NHS quietly U-turns on its guidelines for controversial puberty-blocking drugs for transgender teens which could have long-term effects on brains, bones and mental health” U.K. Daily Mail, June 13, 2020 <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8418463/NHS-U-turns-controversial-puberty-blocking-drugs-transgender-teens.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Maiko A Schneider, et al., “Brain Maturation, Cognition and Voice Pattern in a Gender Dysphoria Case,” *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience* (November 14, 2017), <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fnhum.2017.00528/full>; Peter Hayes, “Commentary: Cognitive, Emotional, and Psychosocial Functioning of Girls Treated with Pharmacological Puberty Blockage for Idiopathic Central Precocious Puberty” *Frontiers in Psychology* 8(44) (February 2017), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5253377/#!po=10.0000>.

<sup>4</sup> *Bell v. The Tavistock And Portman NHS Foundation Trust*, In The High Court Of Justice Administrative Court Divisional Court, Case No. C O/60/2020, December 1, 2020.

<sup>5</sup> Carmichael, Butler, et. al. “Short-term outcomes of pubertal suppression in a selected cohort of 12 to 15 year old young people with persistent gender dysphoria in the UK,” (December 2020) <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.12.01.20241653>.

<sup>6</sup> Eva Moore, et al., “Endocrine Treatment of Transsexual People: A Review of Treatment Regimens, Outcomes, and Adverse Effects” *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism* 88(1):3467- 3473 (August, 2003), <http://press.endocrine.org/doi/10.1210/jc.2002-021967>; D. Getahun, et.al., “Cross-sex

- In many cases, as the *Bell v. Tavistock* case illustrates, children seeking gender “transition” treatment will upon adult reflection regret having undergone these interventions and wish that they had received psychiatric or psychological care and waited before starting medical interventions. Dr. Kenneth Zucker, head of the Child and Adolescent Gender Identity Clinic in Toronto, Canada, found that in the vast majority of cases, such therapy resulted in the child accepting his or her birth sex.<sup>7</sup>

Implementing non-discrimination policies that would push children and their parents into these medical interventions in the belief they are necessary to address a child’s discomfort promote dangerous, experimental, and unhealthful treatments. This worsens, instead of improves, children’s health.

- **Incorporating “Gender Identity” Into Non-Discrimination Policies Violates Parental Rights.**

“Gender identity” non-discrimination policies pose significant threats to parental rights.

- These policies often grant children authority to consent to treatments without notice or consent of their parents, as is required for other medical treatments.
- Policies also promise children that their gender identity and any treatments they are receiving will not be disclosed to their parents. This prevents parents from providing the wisdom and guidance necessary to navigate complex psychological and medical issues required for deciding whether a child has a discordant gender identity and how it should be addressed. This contradicts Article 26.3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Children and families are put at risk, and parents are stripped of their most important right – to direct the upbringing of their children and protect their health and well-being.
- The threat to parental rights is not theoretical or speculative:
  - CANADA: Ontario passed a law, the Supporting Children, Youth and Families Act of 2017, that could allow the government to remove children from their parents if the parents refuse to affirm their children in the opposite gender.<sup>8</sup>
  - UNITED KINGDOM: Some NHS trusts in England are allowing children who want to change gender to have what they want regardless of whether their

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Hormones and Acute Cardiovascular Events in Transgender Persons: A Cohort Study” *Annals of Internal Medicine* 169(4):205-13 (August 21, 2018), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29987313>

<sup>7</sup> Zucker, K. & Bradley, S. (1995). *Gender Identity Disorder and Psychosexual Problems in Children and Adolescents*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.

<sup>8</sup> Lianne Laurence, *Ontario passes ‘totalitarian’ bill allowing gov’t to take kids from Christian homes*, LifeSite News, June 1, 2017.

parents agree. Some local authorities are taking children away from parents who object to them “changing gender.”<sup>9</sup>

- CHILE and URUGUAY have passed laws that permit children as young as 14 to change their name and sex designation on legal documents without the consent of their parents or with the consent of only one.<sup>10</sup>
- UNITED STATES: In Minnesota a 16-year-old boy who was not living at home decided he was a girl. His school and medical providers began treatment to change his appearance from male to female without the mother’s knowledge or consent. The county government even provided financial support for the boy without informing his mother.<sup>11</sup> In Ohio a 17-year-old girl was taken from her parents and placed with her grandparents because her parents would not allow her to take cross-sex hormones.<sup>12</sup>

Article 26.3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and similar parental rights provisions in Member States’ constitutions will be rendered meaningless if such policies are sanctioned. The Independent Expert’s purposed gender framework will elevate vulnerable children’s psychological perception and state sanctioned ideologies above the rights of parents.

- **Incorporating “Gender Identity” Into Non-Discrimination Policies Threatens Women’s and Girls’ Safety.**

- Where “gender identity” non-discrimination policies are in place, women and girls are denied their right to privacy in public female spaces, such as bathrooms and showers. This produces psychological and emotional distress as girls and women have to undress and attend to intimate bodily functions in the presence of males, placing girls and women at the mercy of the subjective self-identification of males.
- For women and girls who have suffered sexual abuse, in particular, the presence of a male in their private spaces could trigger psychological trauma and emotional distress.
- Some women and girls have been sexually assaulted by males who claim to identify as women and gain access to women’s spaces. For example:

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<sup>9</sup> Carys Moseley, *LGBT Rights Extremism within the UK is treating children as state property*, March 15, 2019, Christian Concern, <https://archive.christianconcern.com/our-issues/family-and-sexual-ethics/lgbt-rights-extremism-within-the-uk-government-is-treating-child>

<sup>10</sup> *Gender Identity Law Takes Effect in Chile*, HRC News, January 10, 2020, <https://www.hrc.org/news/gender-identity-law-takes-effect-in-chile> ; *The Uruguayan Government Has Passed One of the Most Progressive Trans Rights Bills the World Has Seen*, Remezcla, October 18, 2018, <https://remezcla.com/culture/uruguay-trans-rights-bill/>.

<sup>11</sup> Thomas More Society. *Thomas More Society Seeks Vindication for De Facto Emancipation of Minor Son*. (2017). <https://www.thomasmoresociety.org/thomas-more-society-seeks-vindication-for-de-facto-emancipation-of-minor-son/>

<sup>12</sup> O’Neil, T. (2018, February 15). *Ohio Christian Parents Lose Custody of 17-Year-Old Daughter for Refusing Her Transgender Drugs*. PJ Media. <https://pjmedia.com/faith/ohio-christian-parents-lose-custody-of-17-year-old-daughter-for-refusing-her-transgender-drugs/>

- In the UK, two-thirds of all sexual assaults occur in mixed-use privacy facilities, which one MP said were magnets for sex offenders and dangerous for women and girls.<sup>13</sup>
- CANADA: A Toronto man claimed to be transgender to stay at a women’s shelter where he then assaulted several women.<sup>14</sup>
- UNITED STATES: In Oregon, a male with a prior conviction for sexual abusing children, was arrested and charged with unlawful contact with a child and unlawfully being in a location where children congregate because, dressed as a woman, he entered the women’s locker room at an aquatic park.<sup>15</sup> In California, a man dressed as a woman went to "female-only facilities" where he allegedly tried to take pictures with a cellphone hidden in his purse.<sup>16</sup>

Girls and women have been extended rights and protections because of the disproportionate amount of discrimination, harassment, and violence that girls and women experience—not because they identify as “girls” or “women” but due to the *biological reality of being female* and the inherent differences between the sexes. Adopting the “gender framework” suggested by the independent expert would disregard that biological reality and remove the protections that have permitted girls and women to escape cycles of abuse and sexual violations. Girls and women would no longer have safe and private facilities where they do not have to be in fear of being harassed, intruded upon, or overpowered by men. Decades of progress for girls and women around the world will be erased.

The implications and consequences of adopting non-discrimination “gender identity” policies are far-reaching with grave consequences for children and the family. Ironically, these policies are fraught with negative consequences for the very people they were designed to help. Upholding the rights and protections of girls and women and preserving the sanctity of the family requires rejecting the harmful and unproven assumptions regarding gender in the Independent Expert on SOGI’s call for input for his upcoming “thematic report.”

Respectfully Submitted,

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<sup>13</sup> Andrew Gilligan, *Unisex changing rooms put women in danger*, The Times, London, September 2, 2018, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/unisex-changing-rooms-put-women-in-danger-8lwbp8kgk>.

<sup>14</sup> Sam Pazzano, *Predator who claimed to be transgender declared dangerous offender*, Toronto Sun, February 26, 2014, <https://torontosun.com/2014/02/26/predator-who-claimed-to-be-transgender-declared-dangerous-offender>

<sup>15</sup> *Oregon Live: Cross-Dressing Sex Predator Sentenced for Clackamas Aquatic Park Crimes*, October 27, 2011, [http://www.oregonlive.com/oregon-city/index.ssf/2011/10/cross-dressing\\_sex\\_predator\\_se.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/oregon-city/index.ssf/2011/10/cross-dressing_sex_predator_se.html)

<sup>16</sup> *Man allegedly dressed as a Woman tried to take pictures in a dorm*, Los Angeles Times, June 24, 2013, <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-man-allegedly-dressed-woman-20130624-story.html>