



Dear Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity,

The Compassion Coalition is a politically diverse non-partisan international group of over 1400 members. We are fighting to stop harmful experimental medical transition interventions which attempt to cosmetically mimic the stereotypical appearance of the opposite sex.

It is difficult for us to respond to your request for submissions because we fundamentally disagree with the underlying assumptions in the request for submissions. Because the phrasing of the questions reflect underlying assumptions that are based on the Independent Expert's beliefs we are responding generally to the request for submissions rather than the specific questions crafted to elicit responses to support the Independent Expert's personal ideology.

We assert that basic human rights of all people should be protected however we contend that one groups' rights should not supersede another groups. It is clear based on the content of your request for submission that you are privileging one group's alleged rights and protections over another group based only on how an individual identifies. The basic human rights of all people should be protected however we reject the idea that one's self-perceived gender must be validated and supported by law and culture when that identity is at odds with their biological sex.

We reject protections based on gender identity since anyone can claim to identify as anything and thus the category is meaningless. More importantly, laws requiring people to pretend, for example, that a male who identifies as female is a female lead to the erasure of sex-based protections for girls and women.

Historically, the UN has used "gender" interchangeably with "sex." UN rights and protections for women and girls are based on a system that recognized the binary categories of male and female. This binary system accepted that biological males are boys or men and biological females are girls or women.

The "gender framework" presented in your request alters the understood definition of gender as being a substitute for sex in a way that completely obliterates sex-based rights and protections. In fact the Independent Expert's definition for gender framework appears to be based on an unverifiable religious belief or superstitious thinking and therefore should not be the foundation upon which any new rights and protections are asserted.

Further the positions embraced by the Independent Expert would require governments under the banner of non-discrimination to provide experimental and harmful puberty-blockers, wrong-sex hormones, and cosmetic surgeries to those with gender identity issues, diverting limited resources from those who are struggling to have basic needs met.

It has been proven time and again that these interventions do not improve mental health outcomes but often result in an individual who is medicalized for life.¹

We would like to point out that those who are being pushed to medically transition by the kind of religious or superstitious beliefs underpinning your gender framework often suffer from unresolved trauma, are on the autism spectrum, have a confused understanding about gender roles and stereotypes, or suffer from internalized homophobia.

It is clear that your goal is to advance your unscientific beliefs even though they undermine the rights and protections of girls and women and children suffering from gender identity issues. Girls and women face particular challenges the UN has noted based on their biology. These challenges are addressed by the UN because women cannot simply “identify” out of themselves.

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women notes that the UN explicitly recognizes that girls and women are far more likely to suffer violence. This Declaration states that the cause of the violence is because of unequal power relations between men and women. This is not due to identity but due to biology and the inherent differences between women and men.²

The Compassion Coalition rejects the underlying assumptions of your call for submissions and we are deeply concerned that your gender framework, which is supported by unscientific theory and beliefs will erode the protections and rights of girls, women, and the LGB community.

For the sake of women and girls especially, we demand that you desist from pushing radical gender theories that are based on the spiritual belief that it is possible for someone to be born in the wrong body. We insist that you stop your ultra vires attempts to mainstream harmful gender ideology into the UN system and into the laws and policies of UN Member States.

Signed by the Co-founders of the Compassion Coalition on behalf of all members,

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Maria Keffler, M.S.Ed

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1. Cecilia Dhejne, et al., “Long-Term Follow-Up of Transsexual Persons,” supra n. 13., Mark Regnerus, “New Data Show “Gender-Affirming” Surgery Doesn’t Really Improve Mental Health. So Why Are the Study’s Authors Saying It Does?” Public Discourse (November 13, 2019) <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2019/11/58371/>.
Rikke K. Simonsen, et al., “Long-Term Follow-Up of Individuals Undergoing Sex-Reassignment Surgery: Somatic Morbidity and Cause of Death” *Sexual Medicine* 4(1) (March, 2016), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4822482/>,
Richard Bränström and John E. Pachankis, “Reduction in mental health treatment utilization among trans- gender individuals after gender-affirming surgeries, a total population study,” *American Journal of Psychiatry* (Oct. 4, 2019), <https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.ajp.2019.19010080>, Ryan T. Anderson, “Transitioning procedures don’t help mental health, largest dataset shows”, *The Daily Signal* (August 3, 2020) <https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/08/03/transitioning-procedures-dont-help-mental-health-largest-data-set-shows/>; R. Bränström, J.E. Pachankis “Correction to Bränström and Pachankis, Reduction in Mental Health Treatment Utilization After Gender-Affirming Surgeries ” *Journal of American Psychiatry* (August 1, 2020) <https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.ajp.2020.1778correction>.
Sven Roman, “Utredare forvanskar om konsdysfori” *Svenska Dagbladet* (Oct. 22, 2019), <https://www.svd.se/utredare-forvanskar-om-konsdysfori>.
J. Michael Bailey & Ray Blanchard, “Suicide or Transition: The Only Options for Gender Dysphoric Kids?” *4th Wave Now* (September 8, 2017), <https://4thwavenow.com/2017/09/08/suicide-or-transition-the-only-options-for-gender-dysphoric-kids/>.
2. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ViolenceAgainstWomen.aspx>