



8665 Kamloops Road
P.O Box 33862
Lusaka, Zambia
www.efzsecretariat.org
Tel: +260211 292 663/786
Cell: +260 977 427266
+260 966 761 470

Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia

"Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity..." – Ps.133-1-3

14th March, 2021

**Attention: The Independent Expert On SOGI
United Nations Human Rights
Office of The High Commissioner**

Dear Sir/Madam

We the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia, representing a fraternity of the largest number of Protestant Christians, that are approximately 70% of the over 98% strong Christian population in the nation, have been running a campaign since last year, calling for the withdrawal of CSE programs from the public schools. We are currently engaged in talks with our government to that end and we are proudly part of a global campaign with organizations of similar interests to raise the same alert.

In response to the **Call for input to a thematic report: on Gender, sexual orientation and gender identity**; We hereby wish to register the following objections to your thematic report:

- The Independent Expert on SOGI is seeking to implement so-called "comprehensive sexuality education" (CSE) designed to indoctrinate children and mainstream queer theory, an unhealthy belief system that encourages children to disassociate from their biological sex in harmful ways. It should be noted the concepts of "comprehensive sexuality education" and "sexual orientation and gender identity" were specifically rejected from the 2030 Agenda by many UN Member States and that the establishment of this SOGI expert's mandate is a deliberate attempt to override the positions of States opposed to such and coerce them into accepting SOGI rights. This is a direct assault on the sovereignty of UN Member States and an abuse of the UN system.
- We strongly oppose the attempt by the Independent Expert on SOGI to push harmful and ineffective "comprehensive sexuality education" as a major tool to indoctrinate the world's children and mainstream radical sexual and gender ideologies into the rising generation.
- The concepts of "comprehensive sexuality education" and "sexual orientation and gender identity" were specifically rejected from the 2030 Agenda by many UN Member States, a fact that the Independent Expert is blatantly and disrespectfully ignoring.
- CSE programs typically contain many, and often all, of 15 program elements listed below that are harmful to children.

We note the following 15 Common Harmful CSE Elements:

1. Sexualizes children
2. Teaches children how to consent to sex
3. Normalizes anal & oral sex
4. Promotes homosexual/bisexual behavior
5. Promotes sexual pleasure
6. Promotes solo and/or mutual masturbation
7. Promotes condom use in inappropriate ways
8. Promotes early sexual autonomy
9. Fails to establish abstinence as the expected standard
10. Promotes transgender ideology
11. Promotes contraception/abortion to children
12. Promotes peer-to-peer sex ed or sexual rights advocacy
13. Undermines traditional values and beliefs
14. Undermines parents or parental rights

We therefore strongly discourage the SOGI expert to refrain from promoting CSE.

- In light of recent findings from a global study on school-based CSE worldwide, we are very concerned by the SOGI expert's push for CSE. In fact, the researchers concluded: *"Three decades of research indicate that comprehensive sex education has not been an effective public health strategy in schools around the world, has shown far more evidence of failure than success, and has produced a concerning number of harmful impacts."*¹
- A study released in 2019 on school-based CSE concluded that "Worldwide, 87% of the school-based CSE programs that measured effects at least 12 months post-program failed to produce sustained effects on any key protective outcome for the intended youth population. School-based CSE programs outside the U.S. showed a lack of success similar to those within the U.S., with 89% of non-U.S. and 85% of U.S. programs that measured these effects failing to produce them."²
- Research indicates that comprehensive sex education has not been an effective public health strategy in schools around the world, has shown far more evidence of failure than success, and has produced a concerning number of harmful impacts. (See at SexEdReport.org)
- The 2018 UNESCO *International Guidance on Sexuality Education* teaches children, as part of CSE, "that each person's decision to be sexually active is a personal one, which can change over time and should be respected at all times." (UN Inter-agency Guidance, p. 71). We do not believe sexual promiscuity among youth should be respected and therefore oppose the SOGI expert's push for CSE.

¹ Weed, S., Ericksen, I. (2019). Institute for Research and Evaluation. *Re-Examining the Evidence for Comprehensive Sex Education in Schools: A Global Research Review*. Retrieved from SexEdReport.org

² Weed, S., Ericksen, I. (2019). Institute for Research and Evaluation. *Re-Examining the Evidence for Comprehensive Sex Education in Schools: A Global Research Review*. Retrieved from SexEdReport.org

- “Comprehensive sexuality education” has never been accepted in a binding treaty or major UN consensus document. Member States who have expressed strong objections to CSE should be respected by the SOGI mandate holder.
- The American College of Pediatricians has stated that “*comprehensive sexuality education is a dangerous assault on the health and innocence of children.*” How can the SOGI expert endorse and adopt such a controversial kind of education? (Ample evidence backing this claim can be found at ACPeds.org and at stopcse.org.)
- According to the 2018 UNESCO International Guidance on Sexuality Education, “*CSE promotes the right to choose when and with whom a person will have any form of intimate or sexual relationship...*” (UN Inter-agency CSE Guidance, p. 18). In other words, CSE, rather than encouraging children to avoid sex, promotes the right for children to have sex even though studies show that sexually active youth are more likely to experience many negative outcomes including:

Less likely to use contraception
 More likely to experience STIs
 More concurrent or lifetime partners
 More likely to experience pregnancy
 Lower educational attainment (and not necessarily linked to pregnancy)
 Increased sexual abuse and victimization
 Decreased general physical and psychological health, including depression
 Decreased relationship quality, stability and more likely to divorce
 More frequent engagement in other risk behaviors, such as smoking, drinking and drugs
 More likely to participate in anti-social or delinquent behavior
 Less likely to exercise self-efficacy and self-regulation
 Less attachment to parents, school and faith
 Less financial net worth and more likely to live in poverty
 Early sexual behaviors set a pattern for later ones³

We therefore strongly oppose the SOGI expert’s attempts to strengthen efforts to implement CSE.

- Article 26.3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that parents have a “prior right” to guide the education of their children. Surely an issue as sensitive as sexuality education should be taught with respect for the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents as enshrined in multiple UN treaties and major UN documents.
- We are deeply concerned that question #4 of the SOGI expert’s call for submissions promotes “comprehensive sexuality education,” which has been rejected by many States. More specifically, at the time of the adoption of the UN 2030 Agenda, the African Group stated as part of its reservation (see A/69/PV.101), “*With regard to information and education in the context of sexual and reproductive health services, as referred to under Goal 3 and target 3 ... the African Group does not think that*

³ Ascend. (2016). *Policy Priorities: Why Sexual Delay Should be the Goal in Sex Education...And Why Teen Pregnancy Prevention Isn't Enough*. Retrieved from <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Sexual-Delay-Priorities-1.pdf>

comprehensive sexual education should be included as part of it.” The SOGI expert’s push to find obstacles to CSE, therefore disrespects the African Group position.

- Children who become sexualized through CSE, among other harms, are less likely to be able to form and maintain stable families as adults. (See WarOnChildren.org.)

We remain committed the promotion of strong family values and the protection of moral welfare of the millions of lives under our care.

Yours sincerely

Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia (EFZ)



Bishop Paul E. Mususu
BOARD CHAIRMAN