



Paris, 13th March 2021

To the attention of the Independent Expert on SOGI

Dear Sir,

Femina Europa is willing to give its input to the thematic report you are preparing on Gender, sexual orientation and gender identity. We are a French NGO, whose goal is to promote the identity and rights of women, through mutual knowledge and respect of the other sex, and care for its specificities. We are accredited at the EU.

We believe that the leading questions and rhetoric used in your call for submissions for your thematic report on Gender, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity demonstrates a clear bias in favour of radical sexual and gender theories and policies, which have been rejected by a large grouping of UN Member States on multiple occasions.

The very questions and definitions you use illustrate a gross overstepping of your mandate. 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.

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.

We support the protection of all fundamental human rights of all persons. Your report, however, 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.

As women defending women’s rights, the idea that a biological male becomes a girl or woman simply by adopting stereotypical female behaviour and dress is regressive; it harms girls and women by reinforcing the very stereotypes that have resulted in the harassment, discrimination, and violence against girls and women.

And if we were to adopt a “gender identity” policy, how would it be defined? If all gender identities (there are over 112 different gender identities as reported on Tumblr) were protected under a gender identity policy, it would create great controversy among UN Member States. How can we create policies based on characteristics that are subjective, changeable, self-defined and that cannot be measured or quantified? For example, “Adamasgender” is defined as “a gender which refuses to be categorized,” and “Affectugender” is defined as “a gender that is affected by mood swings?” How



can governments be expected to regulate policies based on an individual's internal or individual experience of gender?

Historically as well as currently, women and girls have been exploited for their reproductive capacity. The global reality for many women and girls is that they still suffer under enforced gender roles used as justification to exploit their bodies in practices like female infanticide, FGM, 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."

Also this radical gender framework would encourage the medical transitioning of vulnerable children with medical and surgical interventions that have been shown to increase mental distress and cause lifelong physical harms including infertility.

The attempt to identify political and religious leaders who speak out publicly against "gender ideology" is worrisome as such a list could be used to incite reprisals against people who exercise free expression, speech and religious liberty rights.

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.

Indeed, the reason girls and women have been extended special protections and rights is 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. The right answer to violence is care, not gender identity.

That is why, in order to uphold the rights and protections of girls and women, **Femina Europa** rejects the false assumptions regarding gender in the Independent Expert on SOGI's call for input for his upcoming "thematic report."

Please accept, Sir, the expression of our respectful consideration.

Anne Girault
Femina Europa President