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**United for Life Ethiopia**

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Date: - March 14, 2021

**TO: - Mr. Victor Madrigal- Borloz**  
**UN Independent Expert on SOGI**  
**United Nations, New York**

**From: - United for Life Ethiopia**  
**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Sir,**

As the United Nations' Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (UN Independent Expert on SOGI), you have issued a call for submissions on a thematic report you are writing on Gender, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

We fundamentally disagree with the radical and unscientific transgender ideologies that underpin your 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.

The SOGI Independent Expert's mandate is to advance the rights of persons to be free from violence or unjust discrimination based on "sexual orientation" or "gender identity,". However, your report undermines the very foundation upon which sex-based rights and protections are established.

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.
- We support the protection of all fundamental human rights of all persons regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. Your report, however, is clearly aimed at, among other things, advancing radical gender theories and ideologies that seek to

***“የድምፅ አልባዎች ድምፅ!”***  
***“A voice to the voiceless!”***

erase all differences between men and women and undermine the hard-earned gains for women in the area of human rights.

- We denounce all “violence” and unjust “discrimination” regardless but would challenge your definitions for these two terms which go far beyond UN consensus agreements in harmful ways.
- 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 are greatly concerned that the UN-appointed Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) is now at the forefront of UN efforts to reinterpret the concepts of “gender” and “gender equality” beyond the longstanding understanding of male and female and equality between the sexes which would erase all sex-based rights and protections for women and girls.
- 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 and were never intended to advance highly controversial transgender polities.
- We oppose 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.
- The UN social policies with regard to gender equality were specifically designed to protect sex-based rights, not controversial transgender ideology.
- 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.
- While every individual is entitled to basic human rights, imagine the chaos that would ensue if all of the controversial “gender identities” that have been conceptualized are established as part of a protected class. The New York City Commission on Human Rights “gender identity” policy now recognizes 31 genders and already multiple complaints have been filed against individuals or businesses accused of discriminating against these “identities.” If found guilty, these individuals or entities

could be forced to pay fines up to \$250,000.<sup>1</sup>

- The best estimate on transgender people is that no more than 0.3 percent of the general population identifies as transgender. Yet this proposed “gender identity” policy can negatively affect the majority of the population, but especially women and girls.<sup>2</sup>
- There is no evidence to support claims that there is an epidemic of violence against biological males who want to appropriate womanhood, yet allowing biological males to opt in to the category of girls and women puts girls and women at an increased risk of harassment and violence.
- Consider the following troubling examples showing how “gender identity” policies put women and children at risk:
  - BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND: A male student wore a mask and wig to gain entry to a women’s bathroom to spy on women and make recordings of a sexual nature.
  - WEST YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND: A biological male inmate with a history of sexual offenses changed his name and dressed as a woman so he could be moved to a female prison where he sexually assaulted four female prisoners.
- 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.”*<sup>3</sup>

So in conclusion,

We declare any and all efforts by unaccountable UN mandate holders to retroactively reinterpret longstanding UN consensus terms or UN agreements related to gender and sex, that have been used in countless UN consensus agreements, resolutions and treaties, undermine the entire collaborative UN negotiation process and international human rights framework with serious implications for all peoples.

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<sup>1</sup> The 31 genders recognized by the New York City Commission on Human Rights are: Bi-gendered, Cross-dresser, Drag King, Drag Queen, Femme Queen, Female-to-Male, FTM, Gender Bender, Genderqueer, Male-to-Female, MTF, Non-Op, HIJRA, Pangender, Transexual/Transsexual, Trans Person, Woman, Man Butch, Two-Spirit, Trans, Agender, Third Sex, Gender Fluid, Non-Binary Transgender, Androgyne, Gender Gifted, Gender Blender, Femme, Person of Transgender Experience, and Androgynous.

<sup>2</sup> Gates, G. (2011). *How many people are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender?* The Williams Institute. Retrieved from <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Gates-How-Many-People-LGBT-Apr-2011.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> 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

We denounce in the strongest terms the Independent Expert on SOGI's attempts to redefine "gender," "gender equality" and other gender-based terms, especially in the UN 2030 Agenda to encompass radical and harmful concepts and gender ideologies that go beyond the concepts of male and female based on biological sex.

We denounce Independent Expert on SOGI's most recent call to identify political and religious leaders worldwide who speak out publicly against harmful and unscientific "gender ideology." We are concerned that the Independent Expert on SOGI is actively trying to identify individuals, groups and countries that do not accept his ideology. What does he intend to do with this list? Will it be used to incite reprisals against those who do not accept radical transgender ideology?

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.

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.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seyoum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S'.

Seyoum Antonios, MD  
Director, United for Life Ethiopia