CHANGED

Victor Madrigal-Borloz Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

via email: e-sogi@ohchr.org

March 13, 2021

Re: Gender, sexual orientation and gender identity

Mr. Madrigal-Borloz,

I am the co-founder of the CHANGED Movement. Changed is an international grass-roots network of men and women who no longer identify as LGBTQ, headquartered in the United States.

We believe all people have the right to control and shape their sexual expression, including romantic behavior and sexual orientation. Many of our members have rejected LGBTQ-based feelings and behaviors as a right of conscience. While we believe that in effect sexual expression is fluid and can be shaped by individual conscience, we believe gender to be firmly rooted in biological reality. Many of our members no longer identify as transgender and several have surgically detransitioned. Therefore, we oppose lawful enforcement of any initiative that misrepresents or conflates biological dimorphism and the obvious physical, mental and emotional differences between the sexes.

Gender theory-informed approaches to human identity seek to erase the biological dimorphism of human beings. This extreme viewpoint establishes "equality" between the sexes by eradicating the notion of meaningful biological sex differences. As with other "critical power theories," gender theory deconstructs socio-cultural institutions (marriage, family, religion, language, philosophy, national or ethnic identification, etc., which are rooted in and extensions of biological reality), to embed and establish itself. Biology undergirds all that is socially constructed in respect to the genders/sexes. **Great harm has been caused to many of our members by those who promote Gender Theory and its associated distortion of biological fact.** The trauma of internalized gender confusion partnered with the physical harm of mutilating surgeries is a human rights crisis that the United Nations must not disregard. We are witnessing a great social experiment. Transgender medicine is a relatively new field and many so-called "treatments" lack solid longitudinal data about associated impacts.

The equality and inclusivity we all seek, whether LGBTQ-identified or not, cannot be gained by deconstructing gender in society. Instead, the United Nations should focus attention on acknowledging differences among all people by empowering and protecting their unique dimorphic reality, which is fundamental to human procreation, social institutions, and sexual expression. Otherwise, the "equality and inclusivity" gained through international law will be built upon semantics and ideology, not actualized by value for human dignity.

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The wide-scale implementation of gender theory in America is effectively increasing the number of individuals who identify as LGBTQ. Science has shown¹ that same-sex sexual behavior is not innate and determinative. LGBTQ has now become a socio-political identity. A recent Gallup Poll² indicates that over the past eight years, Americans identifying as LGBTQ has increased by 60%, jumping from 3.5% to 5.6%. In 2012, LGBTQ identification among Baby Boomers was 2.7%. Today, among Gen Z, 15.9% of individuals identify as LGBTQ. *Sexual fluidity is becoming the norm*, yet many refuse to acknowledge its implications—namely that men and women will increasingly identify as several letters across the LGBTQ spectrum including heterosexual in their lifetime.

We caution the UN to understand that these protections meant for LGBTQ identifying people today may cause harm to that very people group tomorrow. It certainly discriminates against CHANGED and those like us presently by invading our safe spaces, including therapist offices and places of worship. With that in mind, enforcing any ban on counseling choices blindly denies the implications of sexual fluidity. As more people identify as LGBTQ, more and more will also seek to desist. That is true for many of us at CHANGED, yet the UN and other entities continue to suppress and deny our existence and wrongly accuse us of causing harm to our LGBTQ neighbors.

Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance.

We humbly ask that the United Nations agree to uphold the terms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by continuing to protect freedoms of religion, conscience, and thought. Gender Theory informed approaches violate these rights.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Elizabeth Woning Co-founder, the CHANGED Movement Redding, California

¹ https://science.sciencemag.org/content/365/6456/eaat7693.full

² https://news.gallup.com/poll/329708/lgbt-identification-rises-latest-estimate.aspx