

WHRC Letter to UN  
July 2020

Dear...

We write to you to introduce you to our organisation, Women's Human Rights Campaign (WHRC). We are a group of volunteer women from across the globe dedicated to explaining and promoting the recognition of women's sex-based rights. Our volunteers include academics, writers, organisers, activists, and health practitioners, representing the breadth of the human female experience. The main document of our campaign is the Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights (<https://www.womensdeclaration.com/en/>), a document based on the principles of CEDAW.

Given the international legislation on women's rights, the recognition of sex as protected characteristic, and the clear conceptualization on gender as social power structure, we are concerned about the increasingly ideological and political confusion between sex and "gender identity" and, even worse, about their legal homologation. The silent replacement of sex by "gender identity" reinforces structural inequalities against women and conceals systemic violence against us.

Reducing the category of "woman" to a gender identity is causing deep harm to women and girls. In the case of sports, the damage is clear as we see women losing team places and prizes. Many other opportunities, public and private spaces, quotas or activities guaranteed to women for the purposes of promoting their equality with men have also been lost.

We are surprised that international organizations that claim to defend women's rights have remained silent on this confusion, which is based on a postmodern constructivism that has never been part of the realist philosophy that characterizes feminism. We would like to know UN-Women's position on this issue and open a fruitful dialogue with you. Our purpose is to work together to protect the sex-based rights of women and girls globally.

Yours, etc.