

June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

INTERNATIONAL WARNING  
Generation Equality Forum, Beijing +25



**Ref: Failure to protect women and girls' human rights in international law and language while they are made invisible**

**Government of France, Government of Mexico, UNWOMEN, UN General Secretariat,**

We are the feminists - women in public office and political life, adolescents, young girls and detransitioners of gender dysphoria, victims and survivors of men's violence against women and girls including rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment and abuse, prostitution, pornography, surrogacy and transactivism, lesbian and bisexual women, academics, writers, judges, journalists, feminists, mothers, sportswomen and girls, women's human rights organizations, women's groups, coalitions - **many who have worked for decades for equality for women and girls at local, national and international levels.**

To date, more than **18,055 of us from 137 countries in collaboration with 353 organizations, have signed the Declaration on Women's Sex Based Rights led by WHRC, the Women's Human Rights Campaign**, a group of volunteer feminists from across the globe dedicated to protecting human rights of women and girls.

Governments, United Nations Agencies and Civil Society Organizations and Groups we assume with good intentions withing the **Generation Equality Forum**, have allowed for the advancement of an agenda that presents itself as inherently feminist and progressive, **with little awareness of the harms it represents for the lives of women and girls.**

At an incredible speed and with a flaring lack of debate within the women's rights and feminist movement worldwide, UN Agencies and governments **are replacing the legal category of sex, and sex-based discrimination, with that of gender identity**, that is, stereotyped roles which favor men and disadvantage women<sup>1</sup>.

By introducing *gender identity* as a protected category and by replacing sex with it, these documents, reports, laws and policies **endorse the idea that being a man or a woman is not a material biological fact, but a mental state** founded on stereotyped feelings, experiences, physical appearance and mannerisms among other unlimited and not verifiable characteristics, while women's oppression through gender, remains untouched.

**This confusion leads to a clash of rights and the violation of women's human rights:** motherhood as an exclusively female status and the protection of the rights of their children; women and girls' rights to physical and reproductive integrity; women's rights to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, and political participation; women's rights to fair play in sports; the need to

---

<sup>1</sup> CEDAW Article 5a: *States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to modify social and cultural patterns of conduct, prejudices and customary and practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women.* Further developed in CEDAW General Recommendation No. 28, Art 5: The term "sex" here refers to biological differences between men and women. The term "gender" refers to socially constructed identities, attributes and roles for women and men and society's social and cultural meaning for these biological differences resulting in hierarchical relationships between women and men and in the distribution of power and rights favoring men and disadvantaging women.

end violence against women and girls, including trafficking, prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, surrogacy and related practices.

We warn the governments of France and Mexico, as well as UN Women that the proposals that will gravely impact women and girls, found in the Mexico final recommendations<sup>2</sup>, are:

- a) Replacing **discrimination based on sex for gender or just discrimination** allowing for conflation with hate crimes and intolerance against “diversities”. Some of these terms include: *gender identity, gender violence, gender equity, multiple identities, sex characteristics, sex/gender assigned at birth or any other aspect of identity, women in all their diversity*.
- b) Making usual **perpetrators of violence against women and girls** -that is, men- invisible. Some of these terms include: *gender violence, gender digital violence, transphobic violence*.
- c) Erasing all international commitments to **eliminate trafficking for the purpose of prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation**, by calling to decriminalize pimps and traffickers under the terms “*sex work*”, *free of stigma* and by conflating perpetrators of sex crimes with women exploited in the sex industry, or, other vulnerable groups such as *migrant workers and domestic workers*.
- d) Removing **discrimination based on age** necessary for girls’ health and a life free from violence, in order to protect the financial interests of biomedical industries that promote transgenderism, by *eliminating third party consent* -parents, for example- and by proclaiming *bodily autonomy of girls, adolescents and “young people”*.

**In the end, under an apparently “neutral” language, international and national legal frameworks that protect women and girls from sex-based discrimination, human rights violations, men’s violence against them, as well as any advances towards reaching substantive equality<sup>3</sup> for women and girls, are being dismantled.**

Should the Paris Forum continue ignoring this clash of rights and its detrimental impact on women’s rights under international law, **it may be too late to remedy the inequalities it will perpetuate at the global level.**

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

18,055 [Signatories of the Women’s Human Rights Campaign](#)

CC.

**UNITED NATIONS**

Antonio Guterres, UN General Secretary

Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General

Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General

Alicia Buenrostro Massieu, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations, New York

---

<sup>2</sup> *Pathway Toward a Feminist Agenda for the Generation Equality Forum Priorities and Recommendations*, Generation Equality Mexico, April, 2021

<sup>3</sup> Please find pedagogical infographic attached, explaining substantive equality according to international law, CEDAW and General Recommendations No. 25 and 28.

Natalie Broadhurst, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, New York  
XXX, Permanent Mission of XXX (country) to the United Nations, New York

#### **CO-HOSTS**

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, President of Mexico  
Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico  
XXX, Ambassador of Mexico in XXX (country)

Emmanuel Macron, President of France  
Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France  
Benjamin Bechaz, Deputy Secretary General of the Generation Equality  
XXX, Ambassador of France in XXX (country)

#### **UNWOMEN**

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director  
Anita Bhatia, UNWomen Deputy Executive Director - Policy and Programme  
Asa Regner, Deputy Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships Coordination and Intergovernmental Support  
Sarah Hendriks, Director Policy Programme and Intergovernmental Division  
XXX, Regional Director  
XXX, (country) Representative

#### **CEDAW COMMITTEE**

Secretariat  
Gladys Acosta (Chairperson)  
Nahla Haidar (Vice-Chairperson)  
Ana Pelaez (Vice-Chairperson)  
Elgun Safarov (Vice-Chairperson)

#### **CSW -Commission on the Status of Women, 2021 Bureau**

Mher Margaryan (Armenia), Chair (Eastern European States Group)  
Ahlem Sara Charikhi (Algeria), Vice-Chair (African States Group)  
Na Sang Deok (Republic of Korea), Vice-Chair (Asia-Pacific States Group)  
Shilpa Pullela (Australia), Vice-Chair designate (Western European and other States Group)