



# News report

WHRC and the UN  
24 July 2021



# CEDAW, CSW, NGO CSW, UNWomen and the appropriation of feminism

- CEDAW – adopted by the UN in 1979
- CSW – Commission on the Status of Women
- NGO CSW – civilian NGOs with interest in advancing women's rights
- UNWomen – founded 2010
  - Should defend women's rights as set out in CEDAW
  - Has sold its soul and lost sight of its brief
  - Rich funders have prompted the move to replace sex with 'gender identity'
  - Feminism has been redefined and its language appropriated



## WHRC actions

- Contacted UN representatives to warn of consequences of replacing sex with 'gender identity'
- Assumed best intentions of representatives – ideology has taken hold quickly
- Idea that sex is not material but based on stereotypes does nothing to reduce women's oppression and harms women and girls
- Letters, infographics and a press release translated into multiple languages
- All resources available on our website

## The results

- GEF concluded with ‘Global Acceleration Plan’
- New, appropriating language dominates funding and state actions:
  - ‘Women in all their diversity’
  - ‘Bodily autonomy’
  - ‘Intersectionality’
- Males/male interests must be included in work to improve women’s rights
- Possible reasons for hope

## What can we do?

- Hold UN/UN agencies/NGOs/corporate funders to account
- Contact all involved in ‘Action Coalitions’
- Contact leading UNWomen funders
- Produce resources – letters, templates, contact details for use
- UN letter writing campaign
- Keep speaking up



Thank you!