

25 January, Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva
Contribution TCC in consultation meeting UN-SOGI Expert

Honorable professor Vitit Muntarbhorn,

On behalf of and as director of the Transatlantic Christian Council, an organization with special consultative status at the United Nations, I would like to thank you for providing the opportunity to exchange views and to ask some questions. We do so in a friendly way, but we are looking for clarity. The background is that we are concerned.

It is no secret that your mandate has been highly controversial from the outset. A majority of Member states of the UN did not vote in favor of your mandate. This is because of conflicting worldviews and religious principles. To our Council it seems that the promoters of this mandate are creating a community of Divided Nations, rather than United Nations. How do you experience this reality and how will you address the opposing views related to your mandate?

It seems you plan to try to reconcile these vastly different worldviews, as you have outlined in your linchpin number 4. There you attempt to identify and disseminate all-inclusive interpretations of religion and other beliefs with space for gender diversity. Are you saying that you intend to dictate to religions how they are to interpret their own beliefs? Will you respect religious, political and community leaders if there views are opposite or different from your views on LGBT issues? Or will you assume your views are to replace theirs?

Also what do you mean by 'enable LGBTI people to associate fully in family life'? Is this referring to same-sex marriage or adoption of children by same-sex couples? If so how do you propose to go about pushing this in light of the fact that most nations maintain that marriage is between a man and a woman? Do you feel it is your place to try to overturn such laws?

In light of the UN convention of the Rights of the Child wherein it states, children have the right to know and cared for by their parents, have you considered the rights of the child in these matters? Are you aware of the abundant research showing that children do best when raised by both their mother and father? Does that even matter or do the desires or alleged rights of adults to trump this important right of the child?

And what do you mean by 'all-embracing' with regard to ideologies you want to push on children? According to UN consensus documents, it is the natural parents who are responsible for the upbringing of their children according to their own beliefs, not UN experts. Do you intend to encourage children to embrace controversial sexual life styles and identities and if so, is that really the role of the UN?

There are lots of faith-based schools, hospitals and other religious associations and organizations worldwide. Will you respect such fundamental freedoms as the freedom of religion, association and education within these institutions?

Also do you plan to enter into the bathroom wars? Will you also promote, pressure or coerce states and schools to allow transgenders or gender fluid people to use the toilets, locker rooms and showers of the opposite sex? Such policies were tried in the U.S. and likely will be soon overturned especially because of the chaos they have created. The majority of the world's people find such policies to be unacceptable as they put women and girls especially at greater risk for abuse..

For our Council and for many states and many people your mandate raise more questions and concerns than it gives answers and solutions.

Some final questions.

Will you respect the sovereignty of states? How do you plan to hold states accountable on discrimination when no international agreement exists on the legal definition of SOGI or SOGI discrimination? Do you consider freedom of religion to be subservient to anti-discrimination? These are all questions of critical importance.

Dear Professor, we look forward to your responses.