

**52nd Human Rights Council Session**  
**General Debate – Item 8**  
**Joint Statement**

Mr. President,

This statement is presented on behalf of 66 organisations.

We reaffirm the principles of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration stating that human rights are intrinsically linked, universal and indivisible.

**In this spirit, we welcome the joint statement presented by Argentina.**

Self-determination is a corollary of the right to bodily autonomy, a right that has been long and hard fought for by feminist human rights defenders, lawyers, physicians and experts across the globe.

This is not merely a fight for rhetoric. Without the full realisation of the right to bodily autonomy, the health, lives, human rights and well-being of all women and girls, including trans women, trans youth, and people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics, are on the line. The evidence that affirms this is overwhelming.

According to a global research published in 2022, 327 trans and gender-diverse people were reported murdered globally, 95% of whom were trans women or trans feminine people; in the cases where data on race and ethnicity is available, 65% of these murders were racialised trans people.. Due to the lack of LGR, trans victim/survivor is labelled with their sex assigned at birth. So this reported number is only the surface of reality.

Despite this, we are seeing an instrumentalisation of human rights by right-wing populist and anti-gender actors mobilising against gender equality as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights, spreading fear, hate, and disinformation and pushing for discriminatory laws and policies, harming women and girls in all their diversity. The practice of legal gender recognition through self-identification is the most effective approach in accordance with human rights standards. This policy has been proven successful in countries such as Argentina, where the claims propagated by anti-gender groups have been revealed as baseless and a mere tool to advance their anti-democratic goals and create moral panic.

We condemn all attempts at creating divisions between our movements, pitting the rights of certain groups of women against others. These narratives deny the patriarchal root causes of gender-based violence and discrimination and its structural and interpersonal manifestations, including for lesbian, bi, trans and queer women.

We call on the members of the Human Rights Council to keep advancing human rights norms for women and girls in all diversity, adopting an intersectional framework to

dismantle gender-based discrimination and violence, including when manifested through homophobia and transphobia. Legal gender recognition based on self-identification, which provides state acknowledgment of trans people's autonomy and mitigates the risk of transphobic violence, is a crucial step toward realising their human rights.

#### List of Signing Organizations:

1. ABGLT - Associação Brasileira de Lésbicas, Gays, Bissexuais, Travestis, Transexuais e Intersos (ECOSOC: Associação de Gays, Lésbicas e Bissexuais)
2. Act Church of Sweden
3. Action Santé Travesti(e)s et Transexuel(le)s du Québec (ASTT(e)Q) (Canada)
4. African Trans Network
5. Amnesty International
6. ASEAN SOGIE Caucus (ECOSOC: Southeast Asia Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression Caucus (ASC), Inc)
7. Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN)
8. Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) TBC
9. Athlete Ally
10. Çavaria, Belgium
11. Center for Reproductive Rights
12. Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR)
13. Coalition Margins, North Macedonia
14. Coalition sexual and health rights of marginalised communities MARGINS, Republic of North Macedonia
15. COC Netherlands (ECOSOC: Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit - COC Nederland)
16. Cohort (Ukraine)
17. CREA
18. EATHAN - East Africa Trans Health & Advocacy Network
19. Egale Canada
20. EL\*C - Eurocentralasian Lesbian\* Community
21. Familias Diversas Asociación Civil - AFDA, Argentina
22. Fem Alliance Uganda
23. FRI - The Norwegian Organisation for Sexual and Gender Diversity
24. galck+ (Gay and lesbian Coalition of Kenya)
25. GATE - Global Action for Trans Equality
26. Gender DynamiX (GDX)
27. GIN SSOGIE
28. Global Network of Sex Work Projects (ECOSOC: Global Network of Sex Work Projects Limited)
29. HIV Legal Network (Canada)
30. Human Rights Watch
31. IGLYO (The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Youth and Student Organisation)
32. ILGA Asia
33. ILGA World (ECOSOC: International Lesbian and Gay Association)
34. International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
35. Intersex South Africa
36. IPPF
37. Iranti-NPC
38. JINSIANGU
39. Justice for Sisters (Malaysia)

40. Lawyers Collective, India
41. LGBT Centre (Mongolia)
42. Men's Health Cambodia (MHC)
43. MenEngage Global Alliance
44. Mitini Nepal
45. Network for Adolescent and Youth of Africa
46. ODRI Intersectional Rights - Office against Discrimination, Racism and for Intersectionality
47. OII Europe
48. Outright International
49. POURAKHI Nepal
50. Rainbow Action against Sexual Minority Discrimination, Republic of Korea
51. ReportOUT
52. RFSL (ECOSOC: The Swedish Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights, RFSL)
53. RFSU (ECOSOC: Swedish Association for Sexuality Education)
54. Sex og Politikk (IPPF Norway)
55. Sexual Rights Initiative
56. Stella, l'amie de Maimie (Canada)
57. STONEWALL
58. STRAP Society of Transsexual Women of the Philippines
59. The International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Right
60. The YP Foundation, India
61. Transgender Europe (TGEU)
62. UCTRANS -United Caribbean Trans Network
63. Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights (UAF)
64. Visibles NGO Guatemala
65. Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR) - New Ways (Turkey)