



62nd Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on SOGI

18th June 2026

Mr. President,

We welcome the Independent Expert's report and acknowledgement that LBQ women's rights are made conditional, with access to housing, healthcare and property often granted through relationships with men, making LBQ women invisible in law and policy. This is the patriarchy functioning as designed.

We thank the Expert for exposing the structures that enable violence and discrimination to continue. We must protect individuals from harm, and transform environments that produce it.

The Expert documents how family, community, and religious actors invoke tradition to justify violence. We recognise these same institutions hold power to drive change, with lasting transformation requiring engagement with those that shape belonging and values.

LBQ women are regularly cast as threats to family and tradition and such narratives are then written into law and policy to justify exclusion. We are alarmed by anti-gender movements using religion and family values to roll back LBQ rights - including rising hostility seeking to erase trans women. Liberation demands radical intersectionality: trans LBQ women face compounding discrimination.

We urge States to fund and protect defenders and civil society organizations working for the rights of LBQ women, and ask the Independent Expert how States can look beyond legal reform and invest in community-led engagement to build belonging, resilience and social inclusion?

Dignity is not granted by law alone - it is secured when people are safe and respected in their communities and free to live without fear.

Thank you.