

8 July 2021

To whom it may concern,

The Argentine working group of the international Women's Human Rights Campaign would like to express its bewilderment and concern at the complete disregard of the constitutional category "sex" that took place at the side event co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations on the occasion of the 47th UN Human Rights Council: "Feminist and LGBTI movements: uniting in our strength" (<https://ilga.org/feminist-and-lgbti-movements-side-event-hrc47>).

Said event, calling itself "feminist", has confused the legal category "sex" with the cultural stereotypes of "gender" and the psycho-identitarian feelings of "genders". This confusion is not innocuous. It attempts to turn women into an identity minority comparable to any other "gender" or "diversity".

It is not feminist, but anti-feminist to ignore sex as the basis for the oppression of more than half of humanity. And it is also a patriarchal strategy to use the name of feminism to cover and promote categorical and political confusions that seek to liquefy the feminist political project, to distort its interests and claims.

We assume that this Permanent Mission recalls that sex is a protected category clearly defined by international law, namely: the physical and biological characteristics that distinguish women and men. Scientific evidence further demonstrates the intersecting nature of these characteristics in the bio-psycho-social make-up of women and men. Given this transversality, women are socially oppressed because of their sex, in accordance with specific and contingent determinations of each culture and individual woman. International law calls "gender" those roles, poses, activities, customs, usages, practices, cultural attributes, etc., that oppress women on account of their sex and must be eradicated from the culture.

Women are not murdered, raped, exploited, trafficked, prostituted, rented, mutilated, forced into child marriage or motherhood, etc. because of their deep feelings, but because of their sex. To confuse sex with gender and gender with private feelings is to ignore the specificity of women's oppression as such in order to reduce them to a subspecies of "the genders". This is discrimination and violence against women.

The Argentine State, through the ratification of CEDAW, has committed itself to promote the development of women and men free of sexist stereotypes and structural inequalities expressed by gender. For this reason, in view of the series of ambiguities and conceptual confusions expressed in a self-declared "feminist" event co-sponsored by Argentina, we feel the need to remind this Permanent Mission to the UN that:

- Feminism deals with women, each and every one of them, in accordance with the specificity of sex-based oppression. For feminism, sex is the axis on which all other intersecting variables are included.
- Sex is binary because the reproduction that defines it takes place on the basis of two functions, male and female. Sexual binarism should not be confused with with

ideological gender dualism, which opposes and excludes the feminine -passive and emasculated- and the masculine -active and superior-. The sciences, including psychology, show that sexual binarism constitutes a relational dynamism that is in itself multiple, heterogeneous and highly complex, just as women and men are, unlike fixed, distinct and exclusive representations of gender.

- Women are not "normative identities", neither "cis" nor "hetero", neither are we the "equals" of "diverse" people, we are different ourselves. Our sexual identity does not depend on male self-perception or choice of object.
- We women are more than half of humanity and its potential for development.
- The phallogentric subordination of women is not due to a presumed hetero-cis-normativity, but to male homo-normativity with the purpose of appropriating and exploiting women's sex-reproductive capacities.
- Prostitution is not "sex work", it is violence against women. In this regard, we refer to the recent Recommendation No. 38 of CEDAW (2020).
- In no case should the right to individual freedom of opinion, self-perception or belief be confused with the alleged right to eliminate sex or confuse it with subjective feelings.
- The rights of women based on sex are human rights, absolutely compatible with the rights of every person.
- The human rights of women are incompatible with the privileges of a few to institute their imaginary desires in material realities, attributions that patriarchy has always arrogated to itself.
- Women's human rights are incompatible with the psycho-identity relativism and discursive constructivism of postmodernity, assumed by queer ideology and applied by it exclusively to the register of sex and sexuality.
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- The human rights of women are incompatible with the elimination of the legal registration of sex that the Yogyakarta Principles demand.

Given the tenor of the statements made at the co-sponsored event, "Feminist and LGBTI movements: uniting in our strength", we ask this Permanent Mission of Argentina to the UN to kindly explain to us why women, girls and adolescents should join forces against the disappearance of our rights based on sex.

We look forward to your response at: argentina@womensdeclaration.org

Attached is a digital copy of the Declaration on Gender-Based Women's Rights, which to date has 18,791 signatories worldwide, 351 organizations and 137 countries, which can be found on the website: <https://www.womensdeclaration.com/es/>.

In sorority,
WHRC - Argentina