**Women’s rights, which have been achieved on the basis of sex, are now being undermined by attempts to incorporate the concept of ’gender identity’ into international human rights documents, and into national law in some countries.**

The Declaration on Women’s Sex-Based Rights reaffirms the sex-based rights of women which are set out in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women 1979 (CEDAW), which were further developed in the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women 1993 (UNDEVW), and other human rights documents. It reaffirms women’s rights to physical and reproductive integrity, and calls for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls that result from the replacement of the category of sex with the category of ‘gender identity’, and from ‘surrogate’ motherhood and related practices.

Recent changes replacing references to the category of sex, which is biological, with the language of ’gender’, which refers to stereotyped sex roles, in some United Nations documents, and in national law and policy in many countries, undermine the protection of women’s human rights.

**Why does including men who have claim a female ‘gender identity’ in the term “woman” matter? Here we highlight three concerns, taken from the Declaration on Women’s Sex Based Rights.**

* **Sex-disaggregated data.** Article 4 (k) of UNDEVW says that states should “promote research, collect data and compile statistics, especially concerning domestic violence, relating to the prevalence of different forms of violence against women…’’ The conflation of sex and ‘gender identity’ is leading to the recording of inaccurate and misleading data about violence against women, as crimes committed by biological males are being recorded as having been committed by women.
* **Single-sex sports.** Men who claim female ‘gender identities’ are increasingly participating in women’s single-sex sporting activities. This places women at an unfair competitive disadvantage and may place them at increased risk of physical injury.
* **Violence against women and girls.** The conflation of the category of sex with the category of ‘gender identity’ hinders the protection of women and girls from violence perpetrated against them by men and boys. It increasingly enables men who claim to have a female ‘gender identity’ to access female single-sex victim support services and spaces, as both service users and as service providers. This includes specialist single-sex provisions for women and girls who have been subject to violence, such as shelters and health care facilities. It also includes other services in which single-sex provision is crucial to the promotion of the physical safety, health, privacy, and dignity of women and girls, such as prisons. In some cases, women have been
* been sexually assaulted by biological males placed in women’s prisons.

**The Declaration on Women’s Sex-Based Rights has been signed by 7023 people from 103 countries and is supported by 123 organisations.**

Womensdeclaration.com

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN, SUITE A, 82 James Carter Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 7DE United Kingdom