

Graeme Reid, IE SOGI OHCHR-UNOG 8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211 Genève 10, Switzerland hrc-ie-sogi@un.org

10th November 2025

Dear Graeme Reid

## Trans-Led and Human Rights Groups report the UK's Equality and Human Rights Commission to GANHRI

We write to you in your position of UN Independent Expert for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity to update you on recent developments regarding trans rights in the United Kingdom, specifically in relation to the actions of the UK's Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) before, during and after the Supreme Court ruling on the definition of sex in the Equality Act.

As you will be aware, your predecessor Victor Madrigal-Borloz visited the UK in 2023 and met with the EHRC at that time. He was <u>particularly alarmed</u> to learn that the EHRC had recently advised the UK's Equalities Minister on the potential advantages of redefining "sex" in the Equality Act, <u>setting out his serious concern</u> that such a definition would lead to the exclusion of trans and gender-diverse persons from legal protections afforded them under UK and international human rights law.

In part due to the concerns raised by Madrigal-Borloz, GANHRI's Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) initiated a Special Review of the EHRC in 2023. Despite GANHRI's subsequent recommendations, the EHRC's ongoing actions have only heightened our concerns, particularly in relation to April's UK Supreme Court on the definition of "sex" in the UK Equality Act and the devastating ways in which the ruling is now being implemented.

We believe the situation has deteriorated to such an extent that we have submitted once again to the SCA for an urgent review of the EHRC's compliance with the Paris Principles.

In particular, we believe that the EHRC is failing severely in its fundamental mandate to promote and protect human rights, and is in fact pursuing a position that directly undermines and reduces the rights of transgender people in the UK, and even risks their outright violation.

We attach a copy of our submission here, which was made jointly with Amnesty International UK and Trans+ Solidarity Alliance. Please also see the additional submissions made by <u>Scottish Trans</u> and the <u>Trans Advocacy and Complaints Collective (TACC)</u>.

We wish to highlight that the EHRC's interpretation of the Supreme Court ruling has had <u>a significant</u> <u>impact on trans people across society</u>, including in the areas addressed in your recent report on the <u>human right to education</u>. For example, following the EHRC's interim update, the Scottish Government has been forced to revise their "Supporting Transgender Pupils in Schools" guidance to

mandate that trans pupils are banned from the toilets and changing facilities of their lived gender (p.22).

We hope that the above information will be of use to you as you continue to uphold your mandate as IE SOGI, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of additional help or provide further information.

Yours sincerely

## **TransActual**

PS We plan to share a copy of this letter publicly on our website, to build further awareness of the issues highlighted here.