



**56<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Council session**

**20 June 2024, 1500**

**ITEM 3 – Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity**

**Statement by Global Action for Trans Equality Inc. (GATE)**

*Delivered by Daniel Benitez-Posada*

Mr. President,

This statement is made on behalf of Global Action for Trans Equality and was drafted in collaboration with trans and gender diverse activists from the Global South and East. We applaud the comprehensive report highlighting barriers that LGBT individuals face in exercising our fundamental freedoms of expression and assembly. We commend the focus on legal restrictions, hostile environments, and the instrumentalization of LGBT rights driven by anti-democratic political forces to distract from entrenched economic and political issues.

For trans people, barriers start when our identification documents do not align with our gender. It strongly impacts our ability to express ourselves and exercise fundamental rights, such as the right to education, healthcare, housing, employment, and freedom of movement. For me, the lack of State registration with the correct gender marker was detrimental to receiving crucial and adequate care as a trans man living with HIV and served as a precondition to exercising my right of expression and assembly.

The right to legal gender recognition is paramount as it is the foundation for other human rights. Therefore, we urge Member States to:

1. Adopt legal gender recognition laws based on self-determination.
2. Repeal laws and policies restricting LGBT freedoms and criminalizing our lives.
3. Combat hostile rhetoric and political manipulation by anti-rights and anti-gender groups.

Independent Expert, we ask you: how do you view the role of collaboration between civil society and your mandate in ensuring the right of trans people to legal gender recognition?

Thank you.