



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

**20 June 2025,**

**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 Alexis D'Marco*

Mr. President,

This statement is delivered 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 welcome the Independent Expert's report and commend him for exploring the overlooked and urgent issue of forced displacement. We appreciate the detailed attention to the structural, legal, and social factors contributing to such displacement—including criminalization, violence, climate change, and exclusion from protection systems—and for acknowledging the specific vulnerabilities of trans and gender diverse people.

Discrimination often begins at home: many trans and gender diverse people are first displaced by their own families. This rejection is followed by systemic exclusion, homelessness, lack of access to basic health and other life-saving services.

We urge the Council to pay special attention to the intersection of displacement and climate change. Trans and gender diverse people in small island nations in the Caribbean and Pacific face a double jeopardy of environmental precarity, such as natural disasters, rising sea levels and food security, and State inaction or hostility that further marginalizes us.

Finally, we call on the Council members to renew the mandate of the Independent Expert. His work is vital in addressing the unique and often invisible forms of violence and discrimination that other UN mechanisms may not be able to capture fully.

Thank you.