



**Date: March 11, 2026**

**Time: 10-11 AM**

**Location: Luxembourg Permanent Mission, 17 Beekman Place · New York, NY 10022**

**Meet with:**

- **Minister of Defence; Minister for Mobility and Public Works; Minister for Gender Equality and Diversity, Yuriko Backes**
- **Permanent Mission of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Olivier Maes**
- **And honorable delegates from the Luxembourg government and mission**

Your Excellencies, and Madame Minister,

I would like to begin by expressing how much your contribution means to trans communities worldwide.

In your remarks following the adoption of the Agreed Conclusions on Monday, you spoke about the increasingly polarized negotiations around gender concepts and terminology is now declared a “red line,” and the continued absence of a woman Secretary-General in the United Nations.

But the words that resonated most deeply with me were these — and I quote: *“Legal systems must be designed to protect everyone, particularly those most vulnerable. They must be free from discrimination and bias, accessible to all, and capable of providing adequate remedies and mechanisms — especially for LGBTIQ+ communities.”*

These words matter. Because they affirm that LGBTI — and especially trans — communities have the right to exist, and the right to be protected.

Today, I would like to briefly highlight the challenges that trans communities are facing amid the global backlash against gender equality.

First, research from GATE’s 2023 Global Report, covering seven regions, together with our recent work in the SWANA region, shows that anti-gender movements are not isolated national phenomena. They are part of a transnational and well-funded network that shares strategies across borders.

The same playbook appears everywhere: narratives about “family values,” claims of “protecting children,” or accusations that gender equality represents “Western ideology.” These narratives manufacture moral panic and are used to justify restrictions on bodily autonomy, gender-affirming healthcare, and legal gender recognition.



The most immediate impact we document is severe psycho-emotional stress and burnout. Human rights defenders are leaving the movement. Organizations are forced to shut down, cancel events, or relocate staff due to harassment, violence, and the failure of authorities to protect them. We see this across regions — from Uganda to Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.

When organizations disappear, communities lose essential services — including HIV prevention, legal aid, shelter, and psychosocial support.

However, anti-gender actors are not only operating online or in national politics. We have also seen attempts to undermine organizations like GATE within international spaces, including attacks on our credibility and on our Executive Director personally.

This is why we recommend three actions:

First, systematically monitor anti-gender actors, including those operating within multilateral spaces and Member States.

Second, meaningfully consult with affected communities when assessing these threats.

And third, strengthen support for civil society organizations so they have the capacity to respond and continue their vital work.

Because protecting trans communities is not only about defending one group. It is about safeguarding the integrity of human rights, democracy, and gender equality for everyone.

Thank you.