Canada and Chile, the current co-chairs of the Equal Rights Coalition, thank the Independent Expert for his report. The report again demonstrates the value of this mandate for combating global violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Your report highlights the crucial interrelationship between state recognition of gender identity and the ability of trans and gender-diverse persons to enjoy the full spectrum of human rights. In this regard, we recall the fundamental principle stated in Article 1 of the UDHR, that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”. We acknowledge that issues of gender identity can be sensitive for many states. Nevertheless, if states are to meaningfully ensure the human rights of everyone in their national communities, they must address gaps in their legal and policy frameworks relating to gender recognition. These gaps are barriers to the enjoyment of human rights by trans and gender-diverse persons.

At the recent ERC Global Conference in Vancouver, ERC member states recognized that while progress is being made in safeguarding the rights of LGBTI persons, much work remains to be done, including in our own countries. We will continue to advocate for the rights of trans and gender-diverse persons as part of our efforts to advance the human rights of all LGBTI persons, so that no one is left behind.

**Question:**

Independent Expert, could you share examples of education and sensitization campaigns you have encountered that appear to be effective in changing public attitudes regarding gender diversity?

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