

ABSTRACT. Let  $G$  be a word hyperbolic group in the sense of Gromov and  $P$  its associated Rips complex. We prove that the fixed point set  $P^H$  is contractible for every finite subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ . This is the main ingredient for proving that  $P$  is a finite model for the universal space  $\underline{EG}$  for proper actions. As a corollary we get that a hyperbolic group has only finitely many conjugacy classes of finite subgroups.