

Joint FWI UNFRC Statement to the UN

Delivered by Sharon Slater
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May 16, 2016
on the occasion of
the UN celebration of the International Day of Families
at the “Uniting Nations for a Family-Friendly World” event

Madame Chair, Your Excellencies, distinguished government officials, and friends of the family everywhere.

It is my privilege and honor to deliver this brief joint statement on behalf of Family Watch International and the United Nations Family Rights Caucus, a coalition of organizations working to ensure that the family and family values are protected in all UN agreements and outcome documents.

The UN Family Rights Caucus currently has member organizations and individual members in over 160 countries, and the one thing that unites us all is our understanding that the strength and wellbeing of each nation largely depends on the stability and strength of its families.

Without the family there is no sustainable development. This is why the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and no less than five binding treaties including the CRC, ICESCR, ICCPR, the Disabilities Treaty, and many other UN consensus documents and resolutions all obligate States to protect the natural family.

This is also why over 110 national constitutions recognize the family as the fundamental unit, cell or nucleus of society.

We commend the UN Human Rights Council for the adoption of the “Protection of the Family” resolution.

This historic resolution that we supported from its inception invites States to mainstream the promotion of family-friendly policies as a cross-cutting issue in the goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda.

The family resolution also warns that “*the contribution of the family in society and in the achievement of development goals continues to be largely overlooked and underemphasized...*” and calls upon Member States “*to take into account the role of the family as a contributor to sustainable development, and the need to strengthen family policy development in their ongoing efforts to achieve the development goals.*”¹

Again, without the family there is no sustainable development.

For this reason the UN Family Rights Caucus has issued a petition signed by about 150,000 Individuals from multiple faiths, cultures and backgrounds in every region of the world calling upon States to “*mainstream a family perspective in each of the Sustainable Development Goals goals and targets and to analyze the impact of all laws, policies, and programs on family stability and autonomy.*”

Family Watch International and the UN Family Rights Caucus have also supported the Declaration on the Rights of Children and Their Families presented by the children so beautifully today.

We are deeply concerned about the global assault on the health and innocence of children through comprehensive sexuality education programs that sexualize children and violate the prior rights of parents to guide the education of their children, especially in sexual matters. We would strongly urge you to go to the website ComprehensiveSexualityEducation.org to watch a powerful 10-minute documentary outlining this assault on children and invite all present to join us in stopping this war on our children and families.

If we want to promote the health and well-being of children, then we must respect the rights of parents and protect the family.

If we want to lift people out of poverty, promote gender equality, protect women and girls from violence, abuse and exploitation, then we must strengthen family stability.

If we want to create productive and creative contributors to sustainable development in every nation, then we must focus on the family.

If we want to eradicate HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other devastating diseases, then we must fortify the family and enhance its ability to protect and educate its members.

If we want true sustainable development during the next 15 years, we can no longer ignore the most valuable resource of all—the families of the world.

¹ This same call was also issued in 2014 in resolution PP9 C-SOCD E/CN.5/2014/L.5.

Now is the time to put the family at the center of the UN's global 2030 development agenda because as the family goes, so go the children, so go the nations, and so goes the world.