

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018



IOF Weekly — Fighting for Women and Children

President's Message

Dear Friend of the Family:

Many people are aware of the work of the International Organization for the Family (IOF) through our highly-public World Congress of Families world-wide congresses, our regional conferences around the globe, and our publications such as *The Natural Family*, an international journal of research and policy. And while we are very proud of our work on those projects, we also are hard at work day in and day out, usually behind the scenes, promoting the natural family at the United Nations and in other international venues.

This week we are standing up for the interests of women and children as part of the UN's 62nd annual session of its Commission on the Status of Women. In addition to meeting with delegates, we have produced and made available to over 150 missions an important resource, co-signed by eleven other organizations, urging delegates in their negotiations to follow foundational principles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. You can read more about this effort in the article below in this week's newsletter.

IOF is helping lead the pro-family movement across the globe. Our continued success depends on the generosity of supporters like you. We receive no government funding. Our [Sustaining Member program](#) is a critical component of our funding, because it forms the financial base of our organization. Knowing that we have pledges coming in every month from Sustaining Members is what gives us the confidence we need to continue our efforts on behalf of the natural family.

[Please support IOF](#) with your pledge to become a Sustaining Member, helping 2018 be our best year ever. Thank you for your support!

God bless,



from the desk of

BRIAN S. BROWN, PRESIDENT
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
FOR THE FAMILY

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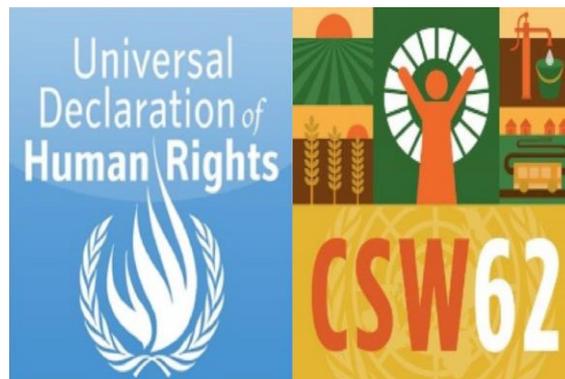
International Family News

Guiding Stars to Protect Women, Children and Family

By E. Douglas Clark
Director of UN and International Policy



As our IOF United Nations team works in concert with partner organizations at this year's [Commission on the Status of Women](#) at UN headquarters in New York, March 12-23, we are urging delegations to be guided by foundational principles of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), pursuant to a statement we have prepared. Co-signed by eleven organizations, the statement has been provided to over 150 ambassadors as a guide for protecting women, children and family in the important work of this year's Commission.



UDHR Principles for CSW62

Guiding Stars to Protect Women, Children and Family

The celebration later this year of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a reminder that several of its key provisions can serve as guiding stars for the work of this year's Commission on the Status of Women, beginning with the preambular principle of **“the inherent dignity and... equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family,”** including **“the equal rights of men and women.”** We commend the delegates for their tireless work in seeking to better the lives of women by eliminating all harm, harassment, and violence, including all

trafficking, exploitation, and child and forced marriage; by ensuring equal pay and benefits for equal work, equal access to asset ownership and control, and equal access to education; and by protecting vulnerable women migrants.

As these goals are pursued, we urge that another guiding star from the UDHR not be forgotten: **“Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance”** (art. 25(2)). To that end, we ask delegates to resist proposals whose impact would be to lure mothers away from their children under the guise of “full participation” in the workforce, as we recall the words of Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon: “Mothers play a critical role in the family... The mother-child relationship is vital for the healthy development of children.... We face multiple challenges in our changing world, but one factor remains constant: the timeless importance of mothers and their invaluable contribution to raising the next generation.”

Accordingly, we urge adoption of language proposed by two delegations recognizing that **“women’s contribution to the home, including unpaid care and domestic work, which is still not adequately recognized, generates human and social capital that is essential for social and economic development.”**

We further urge that the pursuit of “gender equality” not ignore the reality presumed in the UDHR provision stating that **“Men and women... have the right to marry and to found a family”** (art. 16(1)). The equal rights of men and women do not erase their inherent differences in what Pope Francis has referred to as “the complementarity of man and woman” which “is at the root of marriage and family.” But, he warns, “In our day, marriage and the family are in crisis” due to a “revolution in manners and morals [that] has often flown the flag of freedom, but in fact... has brought spiritual and material devastation to countless human beings, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Evidence is mounting that the decline of the marriage culture is associated with increased poverty and a host of other social ills, disproportionately affecting women, children, and the elderly.” We urge delegates not to be deceived by the “flag of freedom” flown to advance an agenda that ultimately and disproportionately harms women, including the very people who the UDHR recognizes as having special rights: mothers and children.

Finally, we urge delegates to give due weight to the UDHR’s singular provision recognizing the only group that has rights: **“The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State”** (art. 16(3)). We urge the adoption of the African Group’s proposal stating: **“Reiterate that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and**

assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community, particularly in rural areas.” We further urge adoption of the language proposed by several delegations stating: **“Recognize the family as a contributor to development, including in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals for women and girls.”**

Thank you for your consideration of these matters and for your important work to protect women, children, and the family—the indispensable natural and fundamental group unit of society.

Sincerely,

International Organization for the Family

Alliance Defending Freedom

Center for Family and Human Rights

United Families International

American Family Association of New York

Latin American Alliance for the Family

Novae Terrae Foundation, Italy

FamilyPolicy.RU Advocacy Group, Russia

Family Policy Institute, South Africa

CitizenGo, Spain

Family First Foundation

Universal Peace Federation

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International Organization for the Family Partners

