



PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY AND FAMILY-ORIENTED POLICIES IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

Monday, May 17, 2021

3:00 – 5:30 PM

ONLINE EVENT

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES

CONCEPT NOTE

THE GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY

Bangladesh

Belarus

Comoros

Egypt

Indonesia

Iran

Iraq

Kuwait

Kyrgyzstan

Libya

Malaysia

Nicaragua

Nigeria

Oman

Pakistan

Qatar

Russian
Federation

Saudi Arabia

Somalia

Sudan

Tajikistan

Turkmenistan

Uganda

Yemen

Zimbabwe

BACKGROUND

The family is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as “the natural and fundamental group unit of society” and is “entitled to protection by society and the State”.

In the face of COVID-19 pandemic, many people in the world have been locked down with their family. For some, it has been an opportunity for families to grow closer. For others, it has been a source of tension, as increases in divorce and domestic violence attest. Most families have been negatively affected economically. Millions of workers around the world lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 outbreak, that increased the burden on social protection systems.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the urgent need for legal and social protection of the family and family-oriented policies. In the recovery period following the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of creating an environment conducive to family formation and stability should be borne in mind, so that life within the family can be a source of consolation and renewal for all after the COVID-19 crisis.

Efforts to rebuild after COVID-19 should be carried out taking into account the importance of protection of the family and assistance by society, including the right of everyone to work and live in dignity.

OBJECTIVES

The event will bring together Members of the *Group of Friends of the Family* and other interested delegations for the exchange of views with civil society and academia on the importance of protection of the family and ways of strengthening the family-oriented policies, including in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PROGRAM AND SPEAKERS

- Moderator: Austin Ruse, President of the Center for Family and Human Rights (C-Fam)

VIDEO: Voices for the Family at the UN, produced by Family Watch International

STATEMENTS BY UN MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES (1hr)¹

- H.E. Mr. Valentin Rybakov, Permanent Representative of Belarus to the UN (on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Family)
- H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN
- H.E. Mr. Mohamed Fathi Ahmed Edrees, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN
- H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN
- H.E. Mr. Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the UN
- H.E. Mr. Gennady Kuzmin, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN

¹ Delegations wishing to deliver a statement should contact Mr. Dmitry Yarkovich of the Mission of Belarus at d.yarkovich@mfa.gov.by, tel. 917 374 3327

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION (50 min)

- "Impact of COVID-19 on Adolescent wellbeing: Exploring Family Factors", Dr. Sharifa Al-Emadi, Executive Director, Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)
- "The Importance of Family for the Well-being of Children", Mark Regnerus, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Texas at Austin
- "Protecting Parental Rights and Children's Well-Being," Melissa Moschella, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, McDonald Distinguished Fellow in the Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University School of Law
- "The Protection of Children from Online Harm during Lockdown", Haley McNamara, The International Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation"

CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENTS (40min)

- Kenyan Christian Professionals Forum/Africa Christian Professionals Forum
- Transatlantic Christian Council
- Chosen to Glow Ministries
- Ordo Luris International Law Center
- HazteOir
- UN Family Rights Caucus/Family Watch International
- Civil Society for the Family/Center for Family and Human Rights
- Empowered Youth Coalition
- ADF International
- The Heritage Foundation

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Civil Society for the Family represents 200 International NGOs. The organizing committee for this platform includes the following: Center for Family and Human Rights (C-Fam), Family Research Council, Human Life International, HazteOir.org, and Derecho a Vivir.

The UN Family Rights Caucus is a global coalition with member organizations and individuals from over 160 countries dedicated to protecting and promoting the institution of the family. The Caucus advocates for pro-life and pro-family policies and programs in multilateral fora.

PARTICIPATION

This event will be a webinar that will be streamed online. No registration is required.

Link to join webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81768552876?pwd=UysxSEIrUUdSQm4vUzNoSERCdE9mQT09#success>

Passcode: 350673