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Turkmenistan

Yemen

Uganda

Zimbabwe

## THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: PARENTS, SCIENCE AND EXPERIENCE

CONFERENCE ROOM 6, UN HEADQUARTERS,  
NEW YORK  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016, 10 AM - 1 PM

### BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

The Convention on the Rights of the Child recognized that the family is the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children and that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

Article 8 of the same Convention stipulates that States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference. The right of the child to know and be cared for by his/her mother and father (CRC 234) lies at the heart of many human rights obligations enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including for family reunification and the right to cultural and religious identity. In order for these rights to be protected family, — should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community, according to the preamble of the Convention.

Sadly, many societies are facing unprecedented challenges in protecting this fundamental right of children. Racial and economic divides, advances in technology and new social arrangements are testing the limits of the parent-child bond like never before in history. Artificial reproduction, family breakdown, single-parent households, and other widespread new social realities place many children in situations where their right to know and be cared for by their mother and father is undermined and even violated.

The event will feature the personal experiences of individuals who have grown up without their mother and/or father, as well the findings of the best available social science on the effect of these new social realities on the development and wellbeing of children, and the need to promote policies to strengthen and protect the family in order to member states to be able to meet their international obligations mentioned in the CRC.

## ORGANISERS, VENUE, TIME AND FORMAT

**Organisers:** Group of Friends of the Family jointly with Civil Society for the Family

**Time & venue:** Friday, October 7, 2016, 10 am – 1 pm, Conference Room 6

## PANEL DISCUSSION

### **Mark Regnerus, Ph.D. (invited and confirmed)**

Mark Regnerus is associate professor of sociology at the University of Texas at Austin, a research associate of the university's Population Research Center, and a senior fellow at the Austin Institute for the Study of Family and Culture. His areas of research are sexual behavior and family formation. He's the author of two books (2007 and 2011) on the sexual behavior of teenagers and young adults.

### **W. Bradford Wilcox, Ph.D.**

W. Bradford Wilcox is Director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia, Professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia, Senior Fellow at the Institute for Family Studies, and a Visiting Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. He earned his Ph.D. from Princeton University and held research fellowships at Princeton University, Yale University, and the Brookings Institution. He is the author of many seminal books and articles on the subject of the family and child wellbeing. His research has been awarded numerous times and has been featured prominently in the mainstream media.

### **Katy Faust**

Katy Faust did her undergraduate degree in political science and Asian studies. She received a Fulbright scholarship to Taiwan. Her fluency in Mandarin assisted her when she worked with the largest Chinese adoption agency in the world. She is firmly committed to enforcing ethics in adoption and fighting child trafficking. She is best known to readers today as the blogger at [askthebigot.com](http://askthebigot.com).

### **Robert Oscar Lopez, Ph.D.**

Robert Oscar Lopez received his BA in Political Science, an MA in Classics, and a PhD in English. His book, *The Colorful Conservative: American Conversations with the Ancients from Wheatley to Whitman*, came out with Rowman & Littlefield's University Press of America in 2011. The next two projects will be *Putting Text on Trial*, a pedagogical study of mock trials, and *Gilded Lilies*, a cultural study of the Hollywood musical. He has been an active commentator and advocate for children's rights and ethical family alternatives based on his personal experience of growing up in a same-sex household. Dozens of his essays have appeared in venues such as *Counterpunch*, *American Thinker*, and *Public Discourse*, among others. Since 2012 he has been involved internationally with correspondents in over twenty other countries. His French-English translations are posted on a site he co-manages with Swiss and French partners, called *English Manif*.

**Susan Yoshihara, Ph.D.***Moderator*

Susan Yoshihara is senior vice president for research and director of the International Organizations Research Group at the Center for Family & Human Rights (C-Fam) where she advises UN delegations on population and international security, maternal health policy, and human rights. She has participated in UN negotiations on development and human rights since 2006, including service as a member of the Holy See delegation to the Commission on Population and Development.

Dr. Yoshihara is the author of *Waging War to Make Peace: U.S. Intervention in Global Conflicts* (Praeger, 2010) and co-editor of *Population Decline and the Remaking of Great Power Politics* (Potomac Books, 2012), translated into Japanese as *The Life and Death of Nations* (2014). Her op-eds have appeared in Fox News, Yomiuri Shimbun, Philadelphia Inquirer, Washington Times, Providence Journal, Roll Call, Human Events, and National Review Online. Dr. Yoshihara was on the faculty at the U.S. Naval War College where she taught national security affairs and international relations. In her twenty-year career as a U.S. Navy helicopter pilot, she held the rank of Commander, led combat logistics and search and rescue units in the Gulf War, advised the Atlantic Fleet commander, and worked as a White House Fellow. She is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, received an M.A. in national security affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School and a Ph.D. in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. She lives in San Diego and Rhode Island with her husband, Toshi, and their two daughters.