The Importance of Family Stability to Social Protection and Achieving Sustainable Development

February 12, 2019
9:45 – 11 AM

Organizers:
Group of Friends of the Family, Center for Family and Human Rights (C-Fam)

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, Yemen, Uganda, Zimbabwe

Co-sponsoring Organizations:
Civil Society for the Family represents 180 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, Citizen Go, and Derecho a Vivir

United Nations, CR12
Those who do not have a UN pass must RSVP by February 6th by emailing unrsvpfeb12@gmail.com

Ceremonial segment with the participation of the high-ranking officials from the Group of Friends and from the United Nations followed by Panel Discussion

CEREMONIAL SEGMENT
Maria Fernanda Espinosa, President of the 73rd session of the General Assembly (tbc)
Inga Rhonda King, President of ECOSOC (tbc)
Andrei Dapkiunas, Deputy Minster of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Family
Statement by Representative for the Group of the Friends of the Family
Civil Society Statement - Annie Franklin, Family Watch International

MODERATOR: Austin Ruse, President, C-Fam

PANELISTS:
“The Importance of Healthy Father-Child Relationship for Family Stability and Social Protection”
Jay Fagan, Ph.D., Professor of Social Work, Temple University

“The Importance of Family Stability for Children”
Mark Regnerus, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin

“Family and Peace”
Susan Yoshihara, Ph.D., Senior Vice President for Research, C-Fam

“Foster Parenting and Public Policy: Protecting Society one Life at a Time”
Honorable Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, former Member U.S. House of Representatives
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.” All efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must necessarily emphasize the role of the family because of its essential function as primary educator, economic driver, and social safety net.

Family stability is an essential component of social stability and social protection. In many developing countries the family is the only form of social protection. In developed countries the breakdown of the family is causing new and unforeseen challenges to social protection. Even in the context of peace and security, the topic of family stability is an essential consideration to be borne in mind not just with regard to family reunification, but also when designing humanitarian interventions.

Governments have an obligation under international law to adopt laws and polices that, as much as possible, provide conditions conducive to family formation and stability. Governments must help individuals exercise their right to marry and found a family ad well as provide social protection for the family. When the family breaks down the consequences for men, women, and especially children, are far reaching and dramatic. And repercussions are felt throughout society. Governments must, as much as possible, help strengthen families in order to achieve the best possible level of social protection.

This event will provide a platform for UN Member States to present best practices to promote family stability to strengthen and protect the family, in accordance with their international obligations. In addition, a broad representation of international civil society organizations and family policy experts will provide their experience and research on the importance of family stability both in the field and within the UN system, especially in the context of the 2030 Agenda.