March 11, 2022

Ms. Sima Bahous
Executive Director
UN Women
220 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

**Re: Reports of discrimination by NGO/CSW against pro-life and pro-family organizations**

Dear Executive Director Bahous,

We write to express our concern regarding reports of discrimination against pro-life and pro-family organizations from the Non-governmental Organization Commission on the Status of Women (NGO CSW).

It has come to our attention that NGO CSW has repeatedly denied the parallel event applications of several pro-life and pro-family organizations in recent years. NGO CSW informed these organizations it was because their events and ideas did not "align with NGO CSW values". These developments are very troubling.

NGO CSW is an official surrogate of the secretariat of the UN Commission on the Status of Women to facilitate the cooperation of the commission with civil society. Pro-life and pro-family organizations have a long history of successfully hosting events through the NGO CSW. The rejection of their applications in recent years makes it seem as though UN Women and Member States are no longer interested in facilitating inclusive and respectful dialogue on issues that affect women and, instead, want to enforce a kind of global feminist orthodoxy, siding with powerful governments and special interests who want to silence pro-life and pro-family organizations under the guise of labeling them "anti-rights".

UN agencies must set a good example of respect and inclusivity toward all, the powerful and the not so powerful. It is with this premise that the United Nations was founded. All countries have an equal voice, and it is the responsibility of both Member States and the Secretariat and Agencies to assure this inclusivity is extended to all civil society as well. Sadly, a decision by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 2019 to exclude several pro-life and pro-family organizations from participating at the Nairobi Summit set a bad precedent.

At the Summit, the United States government led a joint statement on behalf of itself and 10 other countries calling upon the international community to focus on areas of consensus instead of divisive issues like abortion and sexual mores. Furthermore, there were several proposals from members of Congress to discontinue any United States contributions to the UNFPA because of their promotion of abortion. As you know, U.S. federal law prohibits the use of U.S. foreign

assistance to perform or promote abortion. If UN Women follows their example, we expect Congress to take similar action.
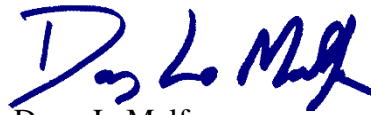
Protecting the right to life and family values is not contrary to the founding principles of the United Nations. On the contrary, it is wholly consistent with the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and international human rights instruments, which recognize the "inherent dignity and worth" of every member of the human family and define the family as the "natural and fundamental group of society."

We call on you to ensure that the UN Women and NGO CSW allow pro-life and pro-family voices to be heard in a constructive spirit of inclusivity, cooperation, and dialogue.
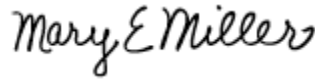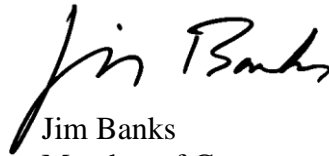
Sincerely,


Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress


Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress

Jim Banks
Member of Congress


Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

Bob Good
Member of Congress


Ronny L. Jackson, M.D
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress


Bill Posey
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

Andy Harris, M.D.
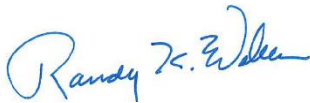Member of Congress

Michael Cloud
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

Ben Cline
Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress

Jody Hice
Member of Congress

Brian Babin, D.D.S
Member of Congress

Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress

Ted Budd
Member of Congress

cc:

H.E. Linda Thomas-Greenfield
United States Ambassador to the United Nations

H.E. Antonio Guterres
United Nations Secretary-General