

Special High-Level Event

Root Causes of Trafficking in Persons

Key Role of the Family for Protection and Prevention



In conjunction with the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Group of Friends of the Family together with civil society is pleased to host a special high-level event on the theme of protecting and empowering women and girls in the context of preventing them from becoming the targets of exploitation and the irreplaceable role of the family in helping girls reach their full potential.

Moderator: **Ms. Mercedes Schlapp**, Fox News Contributor

Program Features: Preview of **I AM JANE DOE Documentary**, Remarks by Mother of victim of sex-trafficking on Backpage.com

Speakers: **Congresswoman Linda Smith**, Founder and President, Shared Hope International; **Rev. Shenan Boquet**, President, Human Life International; **Dawn Hawkins**, Vice President, National Center on Sexual Exploitation; **Vednita Carter**, President, Breaking Free, Survivor Leader; **Jennifer Lahl, RN**, President, Center for Bioethics and Culture Network; **Allan Carlson**, John Howard Fellow at the International Organization for the Family, a director of the Family in America Studies Center, the International Secretary of the World Congress of Families; **Valerie Huber**, President, CEO, Ascend

Panel Moderators: **Susan Yoshihara, Ph.D.**, Senior Vice President for Research, C-Fam; **Ann Kioko**, Co-founder and president, African Organization for Families; **Austin Ruse**, President, C-Fam

Organized by the 25 member states of the Group of Friends of the Family which includes: 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.

**Wednesday, March 15, 2017
3 PM – 6 PM**

**ECOSOC Chamber,
UN Headquarters, NY**

**Attendees must RSVP their attendance to
cswmar15@c-fam.org by March 13**

ORGANISERS

Group of Friends of the Family
jointly with Civil Society for the Family

CO-SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Civil Society for the Family represents 180 International NGOs. The organizing committee for this platform includes: Center for Family and Human Rights (C-Fam), Citizen Go, Derecho a Vivir, Family Research Council (FRI), HazteOir.org, Human Life International (HLI), International Organization for the Family (IOF), National Organization for Marriage (NOM), and Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC).

OTHER SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Campaign Life Coalition, Construye, Family and Life, Family Watch International, International Solidarity and Human Rights Institute, Priests for Life, REAL Women of Canada and United Families International.



Moderator:

Ms. Mercedes Schlapp, Fox News Contributor

Program Features:

I AM JANE DOE Documentary

I AM JANE DOE, narrated by Academy-Award nominee, Jessica Chastain, and produced by award-winning filmmaker Mary Mazzi, chronicles the epic battle that several American mothers are waging on behalf of their middle-school daughters, victims of sex-trafficking on Backpage.com, the adult classifieds section that for years was part of the Village Voice. Reminiscent of Erin Brockovich and Karen Silkwood, these mothers have stood up on behalf of thousands of other mothers, fighting back and refusing to take no for an answer. For more: www.IamJaneDoeFilm.com

Speakers:

Congresswoman Linda Smith, Founder and President, Shared Hope International

Rev. Shenan Boquet, President, Human Life International

Dawn Hawkins, Vice President, National Center on Sexual Exploitation

Vednita Carter, President, Breaking Free, Survivor Leader

Jennifer Lahl, RN, President, Center for Bioethics and Culture Network

Allan Carlson, John Howard Fellow at the International Organization for the Family, a director of the Family in America Studies Center, the International Secretary of the World Congress of Families

Valerie Huber, President, CEO, Ascend – Building the protective shield for children vulnerable to human sex trafficking

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Austin Ruse, President, C-Fam