



# The Family, Child Well-being, and the Protection and Empowerment of Girls

*Uniting Nations for a  
Family Friendly World*

**Friday, March 17, 2017, 4:45 - 6:00 PM**  
**UN Headquarters, NY, Conference Rm. B**

**Attendees must have a pass to attend this event.**  
**Please RSVP to [info@c-fam.org](mailto:info@c-fam.org) by March 10, 2017**

In conjunction with the 61<sup>st</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, the Group of Friends of the Family together with civil society, is pleased to host an event on the theme "The family, child well-being, and the protection and empowerment of girls."

The family is the safest place for children to grow to maturity, particularly girls and special need children. The social science about the benefits of the family for child development is overwhelming, and replicates across borders, racial, religious, and cultural divides.

In order to empower girls from their earliest stages it is essential for governments to do everything in their power and within their means to strengthen and protect the family as the institution that has been empirically shown to provide the safest and most nurturing place for children, in particular girls and those challenged with disabilities, to flourish.

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.



March 21 is World Down Syndrome Day, WDSD, a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.

#### **Organisers:**

Group of Friends of the Family jointly with C-Fam on behalf of 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 (FRC), HazteOir.org, Human Life International (HLI), Institute for Family Policies (IPF), 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.

## PANELISTS

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

Professor of Sociology,  
University of Virginia

*Why Marriage Matters: How  
Children Benefit from Stable  
Marriage*

### **Valerie Huber**

President and CEO, ASCEND

*Sexual Risk Avoidance:  
Beginning with prevention  
and ending with health*

### **Kurt Kondrich**

Human Coalition, Senior Director  
of Development

*Unborn Women Can't Make  
History*

## MODERATOR

### **Susan Yoshihara, Ph.D.**

Senior Vice President for Research,  
Center for Family & Human Rights  
(C-Fam)