

INTRODUCING THE WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES



Our Mission

The World Congress of Families affirms, defends and promotes the natural family as the lifelong union of a man and a woman through marriage, bound by faith and tradition, for the purposes of sharing love and joy, having children, providing for their moral education, building a vital home economy, offering security in times of trouble, and binding the generations.

The Congress seeks to shift the terms of the social and policy debate:

- From *"The family as an obstacle to development"* to the *"family as the source of social renewal and progress"*;
- From *"overpopulation"* to *"under-population"* as the demographic problem facing the 21st century;
- From *"the small family and voluntary childlessness as good"* to *"the celebration of the large family as a special social gift"*;
- And from *religious orthodoxy as a "threat to progress"* to *"religious orthodoxy as the source of humane values and cultural progress."*

In response to the militant secularism and anti-family collectivism found in many parts of the "post-modern" West – and the challenge of these forces at the United Nations and European Union, as well as from left-wing governments – the World Congress of Families has created an international network of pro-family organizations, scholars, legislators and activists that seeks to restore the natural family as the fundamental social unit and seedbed of civic responsibility.

The Congress is the only organization building an alliance of pro-family groups across denominational boundaries. World Congress of Families seeks to unite orthodox believers of different faiths to defend the family as the foundation of civilization and central building block of society.

Toward that end, World Congress of Families sponsors international Congresses as well as regular regional conferences. It also fosters communication and cooperation among pro-family groups around the world.



World Congress of Families – A Brief History

World Congress of Families was founded in 1995 by WCF's first International Secretary Dr. Allan C. Carlson, Ph.D., noted family historian, author and then-president of The Howard Center for Family, Religion & Society.

There have been eight Congresses to date:

Prague (1997)
Geneva (1999)
Mexico City (2004)
Warsaw (2007)
Amsterdam (2009)
Madrid (2012)
Sydney (2013)
Salt Lake City (2015)
Tbilisi (2016)

Each Congress was shaped by a local host committee, had a unique theme, and issued its own declaration. Each was a truly international gathering of pro-family leaders, activists and scholars.

World Congress of Families IX, Salt Lake City 2015

World Congress of Families IX (October 27-30) was held in the Grand America Hotel, in Salt Lake City. More than 3,300 delegates from over 60 countries attended WCF IX.

More than 200 speakers included: Utah Governor Gary Herbert and First Lady Jeanette Herbert, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, Lila Rose (Live Action), Dr. Alveda King (niece of Dr. Martin Luther King), Ignacio Arsuaga (President, CitizenGo Foundation and organizer of WCF VI, Madrid, 2012), Rev. Samuel Rodriguez (President, National Hispanic Leadership Conference), Dr. Paige Patterson (President of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and past President of the Southern Baptist Convention), Dr. Ted Baehr (Founder and Publisher of MovieGuide: The Family Guide to Movies and Entertainment), The Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield (Chancellor and CEO of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary in New York), Dr. W. Bradford Wilcox, (Director of the National Marriage



Planning Committee For Madrid Congress



Nigerian Students - WCF Regional Event



Planning Warsaw Congress



Moscow Demographic Summit

Project at the University of Virginia), Patrick Trueman (National Center on Sexual Exploitation), Christine de Vollmer (Latin American Alliance for the Family and Pontifical Council on the Family), Dr. Everett Piper (President of Oklahoma Wesleyan University), Bishop Emmanuel Badejo (Secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria), John-Henry Westen (editor and publisher, Life-Site News), Alexey Komov (WCF Representative in Russia and the CIS, organizer of the 2011 Moscow Demographic Summit), Dom Duarte (Duke of Braganza and titular King of Portugal), Austin Ruse (President, Center for Family and Human Rights), Anne Mbugu (Kenya Christians Professional Forum) and Rabbi Avremi Zippel (Chabad Lubavitch of Utah)

There were 17 plenary sessions and over 50 concurrent sessions, covering such diverse topics as: International Pro-Life Initiatives -- Economic and Social Costs of Family Breakdown -- The Distinctive Roles of Mothers and Fathers -- The Family in Europe: Past, Present and Future -- The Role of Moral and Ethical Values In Education -- Faith and Family -- Understanding the Sexual and Cultural Revolution -- How the Culture Undermines Life and Family -- Demography: The Impact of Rapidly Falling Fertility -- Sexual Exploitation -- The Social Costs of Pornography -- Promoting Family Policies at the UN: Impact and Issues -- The Homeschooling Movement -- Divorce -- An African Perspective on Family Breakdown and Religious Freedom -- What the Culture is Not Telling You About Casual Sex -- Marriage and Family -- The Natural Family -- Marriage, Economics and Poverty -- and What Laws and Policies Best Protect Life and Family.

WCF IX is uploading videos from the Congress. See the World Congress of Families website by [clicking here](#).

From The Declarations of Past Congresses

"We declare that the family is the most important of all social units and holds primacy above all governments, institutions, the United Nations and other communities, and that political theories and systems which place governments, their officials, institutions or other communities in a position of supremacy over the family are to be condemned and opposed. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 ... recognizes as inviolable the rights of families, parents and children to protection from state intrusion." World Congress of Families I, Prague (1997).

"Sexuality is ordered for the procreation of children and the expression of love between husband and wife in the covenant of marriage. Marriage between a man and a woman forms the sole moral context for the natural sexual union. World Congress of Families II, Geneva (1999).

"Procreation is the key to the survival of the human race. An increasing number of countries are experiencing below-replacement birth rates due to misguided population-control programs that promote contraception, abortion, delayed marriages, and the abandonment of the institution of marriage. Demographic growth is an indication of the expansion of human resources that represents challenges and opportunities, not burdens These problems can be solved by education, creative social policies, economic development and promotion of family integrity regardless of geographical boundaries, cultural practices and religious affiliation." World Congress of Families III, Mexico City (2003).

"We call on them (*governments*) to protect every human being from conception to natural death, to stress the upbringing of children as the fundamental right of parents, to protect young people against demoralization and to promote economic solutions that provide dignified living conditions to all families." World Congress of Families IV, Warsaw (2007).



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"We affirm that the future of nations rests on families that are spiritually grounded. Religious organizations should be free to uphold their own moral teachings about marriage and family in the public square." World Congress of Families V, Amsterdam (2009).

"We affirm the natural family is a fixed aspect of the created order, one ingrained in human nature. The natural family cannot change into some new shape; nor can it be re-defined by eager social engineers." World Congress of Families VI, Madrid (2012).

"We affirm that the productive economy is sustained by strong families, which reliably shape the virtues needed for a healthy economic exchange." World Congress of Families VII, Sydney (2013).

"We call for a culture that honors and enables, faithful, fulfilling and resilient marriages; that recognizes and protects the uniquely valuable contributions of both mothers and fathers to the lives of their children, and that encourages the values and vision necessary for young people to look forward to and prepare for successful marriage and parenting." World Congress of Families IX, Salt Lake City (2015).





Now in its 10th year of publication, World Congress of Families News is the Congress's monthly electronic newsletter.

Colorful and attractively designed, each issue of World Congress of Families News contains news of pro-family activities around the world, vital research on family issues, leadership profiles, a calendar of upcoming events, and a listing of World Congress of Families Partners, with links to their websites. Click [here](#) for the latest World Congress of Families News. WCF News is supplemented by informal Leadership Memos, published two or three times a month.



Madrid Congress 2012

United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Serbia, Nigeria, South Africa, Russia, Australia and New Zealand, as well as many of the largest and most active pro-family organizations in the United States.



Our Partners include REAL Women of Canada – Red Familia, the Family Network (Mexico) – Alliance for the Family (Latin America and Europe) – HazteOir.org, Make Yourself Heard (Spain) – Associazione per la Difesa Dei Valori Cristiani, the Association for the Defense of Christian Values (Italy) – Dveri (Serbia) – Novae Terra Foundation – Pro Vita – Christian Concern (U.K.) – the Family Policy Institute (South Africa) – the Foundation for African Cultural Heritage (Nigeria) – Family First New Zealand – Endeavour Forum and Dads4Kids (Australia) – and the Family and Demography Foundation (Russia).

Partners give WCF the ability to reach out to their members and supporters – especially in a Congress year. They also demonstrate the international scope of the Congress and constitute an endorsement by many of the most prominent groups in the pro-family/pro-life movement.

The Congress gives our Partners a chance to connect with pro-family organizations, leaders, activists and scholars all over the world. World Congress of Families News is a vehicle to publicize their activities and recognize the important contributions of their leaders. To discuss your organization becoming a Partner, contact Coalitions Director Don Feder by [clicking here](#).

Partners benefit at Congresses include free registrations, an exhibit and an opportunity to participate in the program. Partners also have the satisfaction of knowing that they are part of a burgeoning international movement.

Until our Partner Program was launched, there was never an attempt to forge an international alliance of pro-family organizations. Between World Congresses, WCF regional events, our Partner Program, special projects and World Congress of Families News and Leadership Memos, we now have the beginnings of such a movement.

The World Congress of Families seeks not to lead or shape the international pro-family movement, but to facilitate communication and cooperation and help to coordinate activities.

See next page for a complete list of WCF Partners.

World Congress of Families Partners Program – Building An International Pro-Family Movement

The World Congress of Families Partner Program was started in July 2007, following WCF IV/Warsaw. At the end of that year, we had 14 Partners. As 2015 drew to a close, we had more than 40 Partners, including pro-family groups in Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, the



Warsaw Congress 2007

World Congress Of Families Partners as of April 2016

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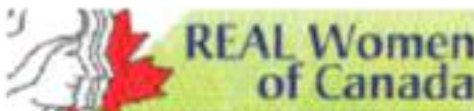
Click on name below to link to the Partner's website.

Alliance Defending Freedom
Latin American Alliance for the Family
Associazione per la Difesa Dei Valori
Cristiani – Luci sull'Est, Italy
Bruderhof Communities
Christian Broadcasting Network
Christian Film and Television Commission
Christian Concern (UK)
CitizenGO (Spain)

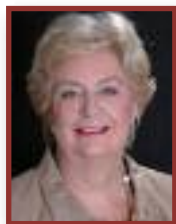
Dads4Kids (Australian)
Dveri (Serbia)
Endeavour Forum (Australia)
Ethics and Public Policy Center
Family First Foundation
Family First New Zealand
Sanctity of Motherhood Program (Russian)
Family Policy Institute (South Africa)
Family Watch International

Fellowship of St. James
Georgian Demographic Society
Grasstops USA
Heartbeat International
Home School Legal Defense Association
Human Life International
National Center on Sexual Exploitation
National Organization for Marriage
Novae Tarrae Foundation

Population Research Institute
ProVita
REAL Women of Canada
Red Familia (Mexico)
The Ruth Institute
United Families International
Worldwide Organization For Women



"The World Congress of Families has brought together the leadership of an increasingly trenchant and powerful wing of the international pro-family movement." **Ms Magazine**



"By becoming a Partner of the World Congress of Families, we are acknowledging and supporting its great work in uniting us all in the most formidable challenge of the 21st century – to protect and promote the natural family." **Gwendolyn Landolt, National Vice-Chairman, REAL Women of Canada**

"The academic work produced by the World Congress of Families has had a huge impact...part of the fallout of their work is networking of people around the world with shared values and concerns about the deterioration of the family structure." **Ellen Sauerbrey, head of U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration, and U.S. Representative to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, under President George W. Bush.**

"One should be concerned about World Congress of Families, not just because of what they say, but because of what they do: influence domestic and international policy." **Sex Information and Education Council of America (SIECUS), 2009**

"Seen from the Latin American perspective the World Congress of Families V was a wonderfully encouraging occasion. Not only were the talks and activities of exceptionally high quality, but the opportunity to network with the top leaders of pro-family activities worldwide was very empowering. Together we can change the way the international agencies are taking the world!" **Christine Vollmer President of Latin American Alliance for the Family, member, Pontifical Council on The Family**



"There is no doubt WCF V has had a profound impact on the debate in the Netherlands. The issues raised up till now were almost taboo. Left-wing politicians even tried to prevent our Family Minister from opening the conference with its 'despicable views.' Leading newspapers however took the other side, defending freedom of speech; but, moreover, acknowledging that, on a worldwide scale, WCF represented the majority view on a number of these issues. The scope of the debate has broadened." **Peter Cuyvers, family expert, the Dutch Christian Democratic Party**

"Possibly the largest pro-family conference ever held concluded last week with the passage of a declaration seeking to reestablish recognition of the family as the 'fundamental' unit of society, and to seek protection for the tradi-

tional family from persistent cultural and governmental attacks." **Catholic World News**

"Founded by right-wing 'family values' ideologue Allan Carlson, the WCF inveighs against abortion, same-sex marriage and secularism and promotes large 'natural families' and 'religious orthodoxy.'" **Katha Pollitt in the prominent left-wing magazine The Nation (2007)**

"It is important that conservatives all over the world remain united in defense of the non-negotiable principles of life and family values. In this common fight, the World Congress of Families plays a crucial role." **Silvio Dalla Valle of In Defense of Christian Values (Italy)**



"If you miss the World Congress of Families, you will miss the cutting edge on how to take the family back from the social radicals." **Austin Ruse, president, Center for Family and Human Rights**

"It (WCF) is a locus for heavyweight U.S. conservative actors, from the Heritage Foundation, the Family Research Council and James Dobson's Focus on the Family – to network with representatives of the Vatican, conservative Christians from developing nations and a smattering of Muslim groups seeking allies to fight gay and women's rights. The result is the spread of the U.S. culture war across the globe." **Feminist author Kathryn Joyce in her book "Quiverfill: Inside the Christian Patriarchy Movement."**



"The World Congress of Families is the only organization successfully addressing the importance of the natural family in an international setting." **Dorothy Patterson, professor of theology in women's studies and first lady at South-western Baptist Theological Seminary**

"The WCF International Congress held in Salt Lake City, Utah with the theme; 'Family - The Promise Begins With Me' was a phenomenal event which included 12 participants from the Caribbean region....It was such an exhilarating blend of nationalities, organizations and perspectives in support of the natural family that it ushers in an era of hope. This Congress put us on the edge of cataclysmic shifts across the globe for life, marriage, family and faith, based on love, truth and reason." **Rebekah Ali-Gouveia, Elpis Centre, Trinidad - WCF Caribbean Coordinator**

"May God bless you immensely, for without attending this

congress and witnessing over 3,000 family soldiers, I wouldn't have the courage to take up my new position. I look forward to attending the Georgia Congress as a more resourceful person." **Ann Mutave Kioko – Kenya, African Organization for Marriage**

"The World Congress of Families in Salt Lake City was marked by brilliant social analysis, inspiring stories, unmatched networking, and world-class entertainment." **Peter Sprigg, Senior Fellow for Policy Studies, Family Research Council**

"As an attendee and presenter at WCF IX, I was humbled by each highlight which was special in its own right and yet part of a magnificent whole where individuals, families and groups were refreshed and empowered to continue the journey of building better families for a better world." **Alveda King, Priests for Life**



"When so many pro-family advocates from around the globe come together to be encouraged, enthused, equipped and inspired to speak up on strengthening families and marriage, you can guarantee that it will be a roaring success. And it was. Nobody left disappointed!" **Bob McCoskrie, National Director - Family First New Zealand**

"Someone asked me what I personally thought the highlight was for World Congress of Families IX in Salt Lake City. My answer is simple – meeting people who are passionate for building the best future for our children." **Warwick Marsh, Dads4Kids, Australia**

Everything was superb and all of the speakers and organizational details were perfect. Thank you for giving us so many sessions, so well prepared, and so many opportunities to meet different people." **Luca Volonte, CEO, Novae Terrae Foundation, former Italian MP and MP of the European Council**

Regional Conferences

Besides our international Congresses, each year, World Congress of Families holds a growing number of Regional Conferences around the world.

In years past, Regional Conferences have been held in **Ottawa, Trinidad, Barbados, Santa Cruz (Bolivia), London, Belgrade, Riga (Latvia), Chisinau (Moldova), Moscow, Tbilisi, Abuja (Nigeria), Lagos, Nairobi, Christ Church (New Zealand) and Melbourne.**



Like Congresses, Regional Conferences are locally organized and operated. They have given World Congress of Families an opportunity to bring the natural family philosophy to audiences on five continents.

They also give those who don't have the ability to attend a World Congress the chance to hear from stellar international experts and leaders on a broad range of issues that impact the family, including abortion and other life issues, marriage, population, home schooling, pornography, drug abuse, religious liberty and so-called sexuality education.

[Click here](#) to access the manual "How to Organize a World Congress of Families Regional Conference." To learn more about hosting such a conference in your area, contact Don Feder, Coordinator of Regional Conferences, by [clicking here](#).

For More Information Contact

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