

February 25, 2022

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

cc:

H.E. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General

CSW66 Bureau Members:

H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini (South Africa), Chair (African States Group)

Ms. Pilar Eugenio (Argentina), Vice-Chair (Latin American and Caribbean States Group)

H.E. Ms. Antje Leendertse (Germany), Vice-Chair designate (Western European and Other States Group)

Mr. Māris Burbergs (Latvia), Vice-Chair designate (Eastern European States Group)

Ms. Hye Ryoung Song (Republic of Korea), Vice-Chair designate (Asia and Pacific States Group)

Ms. Houry Geudelekian Chair at NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW/NY)

Subject: Discrimination against pro-life and pro-family groups by NGO/CSW

Esteemed Ms. Bahous,

As organizations who work to promote the protection of life and the family, we appeal to you to ensure that organizations such as ours are not discriminated against in UN debates.

In recent years several of our organizations have been denied applications for parallel events by NGO/CSW. The only reason ever received as to why NGO/CSW rejected our applications was that the event “does not align with NGO CSW/NYs values.” This is a troubling development and a break with the NGO/CSW tradition of openness to a wide-ranging and sometimes eclectic diversity of views.

As you know, NGO/CSW has been for over two decades a semi-official extension of the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) secretariat to promote the Commission on the Status of Women among civil society groups and facilitate their participation in the work of the commission. For many years our organizations successfully hosted multiple events through the NGO/CSW, without any objections or questions about the content of our events.

Even though pro-life and pro-family organizations did not endorse the same policies as many organizations who lead NGO/CSW we always felt that a diversity of views was welcomed by the NGO/CSW and that our contributions to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women were worthwhile and valuable. We are sad to report that this no longer appears to be the case. Several of the organizations writing this letter have applied to host parallel events through NGO/CSW and have been rejected multiple times in recent years.

We are even more alarmed that organizations accredited with the United Nations openly called for organizations such as the ones writing this letter to be banned from the CSW debate altogether and to have our ECOSOC status revoked. This took place during a consultation hosted by the Permanent Missions of Denmark and Costa Rica and Mr. Māris Burbergs on how to further enhance the participation of civil society in the working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women.

These organizations are not interested in dialogue and debate. They want to cancel those with whom they disagree. They label organizations such as ours as “anti-rights” simply because we stand against the destruction of life in the womb and for protection of the rights of the family. The irony of course is that many of the organizations calling for us to be cancelled and silenced are funded by powerful countries and wealthy philanthropic groups who are already over-represented in UN debates, whereas most organizations who promote pro-life and pro-family values are grass-roots organizations with millions of real constituents who have little visibility in UN debates.

As you know protection of life and family are not outlier values. They are core values for billions of people of good will all around the world. Thirty-four countries signed the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women’s Health and Strengthening the Family in October of 2020 (UN Document No. A/75/626). Since then, two more countries have joined the declaration, Russia and Guatemala. These countries represent over 1.6 billion people around the world. Their voices also deserve to be reflected in UN debates and our organizations do their best to do just that.

Sadly, the UN Population Fund set a woeful example in 2019, when it excluded several of our organizations from the Nairobi Summit, even though we were qualified to attend and applied in a timely manner. We hope the UN Women will set a better precedent.

It is entirely unacceptable that a UN agency or its surrogates like NGO/CSW would attempt to cancel and silence an entire sector of civil society. We call on you to do everything within your power to ensure that UN Women and NGO/CSW keep CSW an open forum of respectful and frank debate on the issues dearest to all of us.

Respectfully,

Abanderados por la Familia Colombia*	Colombia
Abogados por la Vida Santa Fe	Argentina
Abogando por Guatemala*	Guatemala
Abortion Alternatives*	Australia
Abortion Survivors Network	United States
Afeka Missao	Brazil
Africa Family Life Federation	Mauritius
African Christian Professionals Forum	Kenya
African Network For Change*	Uganda
African Organization for Families*	Kenya
Alfa Szövetség (Alpha Alliance for Life)*	Hungary
Aliancia za rodinu (Alliance for Family)	Slovakia

Alliance for Life International*	United States
Alliance for Life Ontario	Canada
Alliance of Romania's Families*	United States
Amanc Yucatan	México
American Family Association	United States
Americans United for Life	United States
AMMYC	México
Amor Seguro, AC	México
ANE PROVIDA*	Bolivia
APEP	Paraguay
Apostolado de la Nueva Evangelizacion - Casita de Oracion - Familias de Nazareth*	United States
Apostolate of Gloria Dei	United States
Archdiocese of Lusaka, Marian Shrine	Zambia
ASIEP	Paraguay
Asociación Acción por la Vida	Argentina
Asociācija Ģimene*	Latvia
Asociación Centro de Asistencia a la Mujer*	Nicaragua
Asociación Civil CREER	Argentina
Asociación Cristiana de Comunicación	Panamá
Asociación Cristiana Panameña para el Desarrollo Educativo	Panamá
Asociación de Abogados Pro Vida y Pro Familia	Paraguay
Asociación de Estudios Bioéticos	Paraguay
Asociación de Familias Numerosas de Madrid*	Spain
Asociación de Médicos por los Derechos H	Mexico
Asociación de Médicos por los Derechos Humanos (AMEDEH)	Guatemala
Asociación de mujeres Peñallana*	Spain
Asociación Educar es de Padres	Perú
Asociación Ex LGTB Perú	Perú
Asociacion La Familia Importa*	Guatemala
Asociación Mutualista Evangélica Neuquina	Argentina
Asociación Mutualista Evangélica Río Negro	Argentina
Asociación Nacional Provida y Profamilia	Brazil
Asociacion Nicaraguense de Bioetica*	Nicaragua
Asociacion Nicaraguense por la Vida*	Nicaragua
Asociación Origen, vanguardia y Cambio Cultural	Perú
Asociación Para el Desarrollo Comunitario "Nueva Generación"	Argentina
Asociación para el Desarrollo de Liderazgo	El Salvador
Asociación para la Promocion de la Mujer Artesana y Obrera (PROMU)	Paraguay
Asociación Pasión y Vida	Colombia

Asociacion por el derecho a vivir*	Guatemala
Asociación Provida Monagas	Venezuela
Asociación Spei Mater	Spain
Asociación Vida Humana Integral	México
Asociación Vida Joven	Perú
Asociación Vida y Dignidad Humana	Guatemala
Asociación Vida y Familia	Perú
ASOSIASI AKSARA BADUGA	Indonesia
Associacio Catalana de Pares Separats*	Spain
Association chrétienne de lutte contre l'avortement (A.C.L.C.A)*	Belgium
Association for Life and Family	Slovakia
Association Sénégalaise pour la protection de la femme	Senegal
Ayuda a la Mujer Embarazada	México
Azzjoni Kattolika (Gozo Catholic Action)*	Malta
Billings LIFE*	Zimbabwe
Brazos y Lazos	México
Bundesverband Lebensrecht	Germany
California Right to Life Educational Fund*	United States
Campaign Life Coalition	Canada
Cana Movement*	Malta
Caribbean Transformation International Network	Trinidad & Tobago
Casa del Hogar Desamparado	México
Casa Pró-Vida Mãe Imaculada*	Brazil
Casasistencia IAP	México
Catholic Centre for Life*	Nigeria
Catholic Church of Sweden	Sweden
Catholic Diocese of Bukoba	Tanzania
Catholic Diocese of Maseru	Lesotho
Catholic Pro-life Committee*	Guam
Catholic Women's League of Australia*	Australia
Center for Family and Human Rights	United States
Centre for Justice and Liberty	United Kingdom
Centro Cristiano de Avivamiento	Argentina
Centro Cristiano Fruto de La Vida Caracas	Venezuela
Centro Cultural Calacoaya, A.C.	México
Centro Cultural Voz por la Familia	México
Centro de Cultura y Orientación Civil	México
Concertación, A.C.	
Centro de Desarrollo Integral Nueva Vida Internacional	México
Centro de Estudios de Familia y Sociedad*	Mexico
Centro de Estudios Universitarios Calacoaya, A.C.	México

Centro de Estudios y Formación Integral de la Mujer Yucatan, SC	México
Centro de Estudios Jurídicos Santo Tomas Moro	Perú
Centro de Promoción Familiar y Regulación Natural de la Fertilidad	Perú
Centro Educativo y Comunitario Pbro. Fernando Castro Andrade	México
Centro Educativo y Cultural SHALOM	México
Centro Guadalupe Vida y Familia	Puerto Rico
Centro para el Desarrollo de la Familia	Perú
CETPA México	México
Chosen to GLOW Ministries	Jamaica
Christ's Brothers & Sisters Downunder*	Australia
Christian Concern*	United Kingdom
Christian Council International	United States
Christian Democratic Party*	United Kingdom
Christians United for Truth and Justice	Jamaica
CitizenGO Foundation	Spain
Citizens for a Pro-Life Society	United States
Club of Large Families	Slovakia
Colegio Calacoaya Tierra Nueva, A.C.	México
Colegio Sagrada Familia	Argentina
Comexbio	México
Comitato Cattilici per una Civiltà dell'Amore*	Italy
Comitium Nuestra Señora del Ave Maria*	Colombia
Companions of Jesus Crucified	United States
Comunicación con Éxito*	Bolivia
Comunidad Apostólica Hosana	Panamá
Concerned Women for America	United States
Conciencia y Derechos Humanos	México
Consejo Mexicano de la Familia, A.B.P.*	México
Construye Observatorio Regional para la Mujer de América Latina y El Caribe AC*	Mexico
Construyendo Un Nuevo Mundo	Argentina
Coordinadora Nacional Profamilia	Perú
Corporación de Orientación Familiar, COFAM*	Ecuador
Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life, USA*	United States
Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life*	Philippines
Crossroads Pro-Life*	United States
Crusade for the Family*	Ireland
Demographic and Social Statistics Division NSO South Kivu*	Congo, Democratic Republic of the
Derecho A Vivir*	Spain

Dhaka Single Women Association*	Bangladesh
Donando Sangre, Compartiendo Vida	México
Elder's Society*	Sri Lanka
Elpis Centre	Trinidad & Tobago
Emmanuel Community	Trinidad & Tobago
Empower Youth Coalition	United States
Empower Youth Coalition Africa	Kenya
Encauce	Perú
Encuentro Familiar Bogota*	Colombia
Endeavour Forum	Australia
Endeavour Forum*	Canada
Enfant du Monde-Priorité Santé*	Congo, Democratic Republic of the
Enlace, A.C.*	Guatemala
Equipo Internacional de Mujeres Increíbles	Uruguay
ERGO - European Regional Organization*	Hungary
Estandartes de Amor	México
Estilo de Mujer A.C	Argentina
Ética y Derecho	Perú
European Large Families Confederation	Spain
Familia Desarrollo Población, FADEP*	Guatemala
Familia, Cultura y Sociedad, A.C.*	Mexico
Familias de esperanza*	Mexico
Familias y Sociedad A. C.*	Mexico
Familienföderation für Weltfrieden und Vereinigung Deutschland*	Germany
Family Builders International*	Sierra Leone
Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Switzerland*	Switzerland
Family First*	New Zealand
Family Institute of Washington*	United States
Family Life Council	United States
Family Life International NZ*	New Zealand
Family Life Network	Uganda
Family Policy Institute	South Africa
Family Research Council	United States
Family Watch International	United States
Family, Faith, Freedom	Barbados
FamilyPolicy.RU*	Russia
Fatti Sentire*	Italy
FEDAVIFA	Paraguay
Fellowship of St. James*	United States
FEMINA EUROPA	France
Fondation Bien-Etre Famille Ltee*	Mauritius
Fondazione Novae Terrae*	Italy

FORUM AZZAHRAE FOR MOROCCAN WOMEN	Morocco
Forum for Public Questions	Slovakia
Foundation for African Cultural Heritage	Nigeria
FRENVIFA, Frente Nacional Pro Vida y Pro Familia	Paraguay
Fundación Acción Provida	Ecuador
Fundación Amarse	Venezuela
Fundación Bendice al Prójimo	Panamá
Fundación Buenas Noticias	Panamá
Fundación Centro de Acción A.C.B.	Bolivia
Fundación Centro Familiar Vida Nueva	Panamá
Fundación Choose Life Colombia	Colombia
Fundación Cielos Abiertos	Argentina
Fundación Cimientos sobre la Roca	Dominican Republic
Fundación Construyendo Puentes	Chile
Fundación Construyendo Vidas	Panamá
Fundación Cristiana Esperanza	Argentina
Fundación Cultura de la Vida	Costa Rica
Fundación de Integridad para el Fortalecimiento de los Valores de la Familia	México
Fundación de Líderes para la Transformación de Panamá Oeste	Panamá
Fundación Elegí Sonreír	Argentina
Fundación Empresarios "El Olivar"	Venezuela
Fundación en Promoción de la Familia y la Libertad (Conciencia Nacional por la Libertad Religiosa)	México
Fundación Enlace e Innovación Social	México
Fundación ESALCU	Argentina
Fundación ESALCU	Uruguay
Fundación Forja	El Salvador
Fundación Haciendo Proezas	Argentina
Fundación Iglesia Cristiana Evangélica Cita Con La Vida Córdoba	Argentina
Fundación Internacional Biblia Thompson	Panamá
Fundación Justicia, Verdad y Derecho	Colombia
Fundación La Roca	Bolivia
Fundación Ministerio de la Unción	Panamá
Fundación Nueva Democracia	Colombia
Fundación Ofrece un Hogar	Panamá
Fundación Para Desarrollo del Capital Social	Panamá
Fundación Para el Desarrollo Sustentable de la Familia	México
Fundación Piedras Vivas	Argentina
Fundación Redes de Esperanza	Chile

Fundación Renuevo	Bolivia
Fundación Sí a la Vida	El Salvador
Fundación Tocando Sueños	México
Fundación Un Nuevo Amanecer	Panamá
Fundación Valentina Arrigunaga Peón	México
Fundación Vida Para la Ciudad	Argentina
Fundación Vida SV	El Salvador
Fundación Vida y Familia	Panamá
Fundación Vida y Salud	Bolivia
Fundación Visión Empresarial	Costa Rica
Generacion Provida El Salvador	El Salvador
Global Center for Human Rights	United States
Global Centurion	United States
Good Counsel	United States
Grandeers	United States
Guadalupe Association of Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
HazteOir.org	Spain
Hear the Children's Cry	Jamaica
Hnutí Pro život ČR*	Czech Republic
Hogares Maná	México
Homeschoolers of Maine*	United States
Hosea*	United States
HTCSF*	Italy
HUMA*	South Korea
Human Dignity Center	Hungary
Human Life Alliance	United States
Human Life of WA*	United States
Human Life International	United States
Human Life International/Asia and Oceania	Asia and Oceania
Human Life International/Kenya	Kenya
Human Life International/Uganda	Uganda
ICLN*	United States
IDAR	México
Iglesia Cristiana La Familia	Bolivia
Iglesia de Cristo Casa de Amor y Paz	Colombia
In the Name of the Family*	Croatia
Indonesian SVD of Family Commission*	Indonesia
Infancia Feliz	México
Inštitút pre ľudské práva a rodinnú politiku, o.z.	Slovakia
Instituto de Acceso a la Justicia	México
Instituto de Atención a la familia	México
Instituto de Deberes y Derechos Humanos	México
Instituto Integra de Formación	México
Instituto de Investigación en Población	Perú

Instituto Jose Pablo Robalo Azcué	México
Instituto Latinoamericano en Defensa de la Familia	Perú
Instituto Tomás Moro	Paraguay
Intercollegiate Defense of Equality and Solidarity*	United States
Interessenvertretung ungeborener Menschen e.V.*	Germany
International Baptist Church of Tbilisi, Georgia*	Georgia
International Catholic Jurists Forum	
International Children's Rights Institute	United States
International Muslim Women Union	Pakistan
International Organization for the Family	United States
International Right to Life Federation	
International Solidarity and Human Rights Institute	United States
International Youth Coalition	United States
IPS. Instituto de Política Social*	Spain
Ireland Stand Up*	Ireland
Issues4Life Foundation	United States
Jamaican Coalition for a Healthy Society	Jamaica
JMJ Children's Fund of Canada Inc.*	Canada
Justice Foundation	United States
Juventud Provida	Perú
Kenyan Christian Professionals Forum	Kenya
Knights of Columbus 2908*	Canada
La Mamá Oca*	Peru
Lake County Right To Life*	United States
Law of Life Summit	United States
Le Beffroi*	Belgium
Libertad Viva*	Spain
LIFAM Foundation	Uganda
Life and Family Foundation	Uganda
Life is Worth Living, Inc.*	United States
Life Issues Institute	United States
Life Legal Defense Foundation	United States
LifeNetwork Foundation Malta*	Malta
LifeNews	United States
LifeRunners	Tanzania
Live Christ Share Christ Movement*	United States
Llevando Arte para Todos	México
Love March Movement	Jamaica
Lyceum 8 "Olympia"*	Russia
Madrinas por la Vida	Uruguay
Mano Amiga Conkal	México

Más Humano, AC	México
Más mujer*	Mexico
Mater Dei	México
Mi Familia*	Spain
Ministerio Apostólico Dios es con Nosotros	Uruguay
Ministerio Evangelico el Aposento Alto	Panamá
Ministerio Generación Diferente	Panamá
Misión Vida	Uruguay
Mission America*	United States
Monastère de Montorge*	Switzerland
Moscow city parental committee*	Russia
Mothers At Home Matter	United Kingdom
Movimiento Familiar Cristiano Catolica	United States
Movimiento Familiar Cristiano de España*	Spain
Movimiento Social de Justicia Restaurativa: Hacia un Estado Social de Justicia Restaurativa.*	Colombia
Mujer con Valor A.C.*	Mexico
Mujer en acción	El Salvador
Mujeres Jadasa A.C.	México
MUMAFAM AC*	Mexico
Nathum Vida	Mexico
National Association of Catholic Families Australia*	Australia
NGO ISFEM*	Chile
Niñez Adolescencia Familia N.A.F	Paraguay
No más Violencia Internacional (No More Violence)	Estados Unidos de América
Novae Terrae Foundation	Italy
Nucleus of Life*	United States
OFS (Msida)*	Malta
Ojo Ciudadano	Argentina
Ola Celeste Perú	Perú
ONG Educativa Cristiana 10 veces mejor	Perú
Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis	Kenya
Organización Pro-Familia*	Spain
Padres en Acción Paraguay	Paraguay
Padres Objetores*	Chile
Parroquia Sagrado Corazón de Jesús*	Costa Rica
Pasos por la Vida	México
Pastoral familiar Santa Mónica del Colegio San Agustin de Chiclayo*	Peru
Patronato Hogares Juveniles	México
Pequeña Comunidad Samaritana y Misionera Sagrada Familia*	Colombia

Population Research Institute*	United States
Pregnancy Lifeline*	Australia
Preparatoria universidad panamericana	Mexico
Pro Mujer y Derechos Humanos	Perú
Pro Vita & Famiglia Onlus*	Italy
Pro Vita Bucharest	Romania
Pro Vita Onlus*	Italy
Pro-Life Action League	United States
Pro-Life Action Ministries	United States
Pro-Life Joint Operations Research*	United States
Pro-Life Lesotho	Lesotho
Pro-Life Malawi	Malawi
Pro-Life Michigan	United States
Pro-Life Ministry of the Community of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal	United States
Pro-Life Nurses of Wisconsin*	United States
Pro-Life Rwanda	Rwanda
Pro-Life Swaziland	Swaziland
Pro-Life Tanzania	Tanzania
Profesionistas Multidisciplinarios Paso Firme A.C	México
Protect Marriage Australia*	Australia
Proyección Valor, AC	México
Proyecto Dignidad	Colombia
Qispinqa	Perú
Queremos Vivir*	Venezuela
RAH*	Spain
Real Women of Canada	Canada
Red de Jóvenes pro vida del Perú	Perú
Red de Mujeres Por los DDHH	El Salvador
Red Jóvenes Provida Perú*	Peru
Red Nacional de Abogados por la Defensa de la Familia	Perú
Red Pro Yucatán, AC	México
Red Vida y Familia Ecuador*	Ecuador
Red Vida de el Salvador*	El Salvador
Res Claritatis*	Czech Republic
Right Brain People	United States
Right to Life Association Western Australia*	Australia
Rosario Te Quiero Pro Vida	Argentina
Ruth Institute*	United States
Salt & Light*	Slovakia
Salvemos una Vida, AC	México
Sana, AC	México
Sask Pro-Life Association*	Canada

Save Our Families*	United States
Seed of Life Pregnancy Resource Center	Belize
SEMUJER*	Mexico
Ser Familia MX	México
Seventh-Day Adventist Church Pro-Life Committee	Zambia
Sikiliza Music, Viduka Enterprises	Tanzania
Somos Muchos Muchos Mas	Paraguay
St. Bernard's Catholic Mens Fellowship*	United States
St. Joseph's Pro-Life Group*	Ireland
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Rundu	Namibia
St. Lawrence Catholic Church*	United States
St. Stephen the First Martyr*	United States
St. Teresa's Respect Life*	United States
St. Theresa Pro-Life Committee*	United States
Stowarzyszenie Dziewięć Dni*	Poland
Street Gospel Ministries Inc.	Barbados
Students for Child-Oriented Policy (SCOP)*	United States
Sudamérica por la Vida	Perú
Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust	United States
Tanzania Center for Civic Education	Tanzania
The Heritage Foundation	United States
Them Before Us*	United States
Third Order of St Dominic*	United States
Time2Think*	Netherlands
Transatlantic Christian Council	Netherlands
Tresseras*	France
Trinidad & Tobago Council of Evangelical Churches	Trinidad & Tobago
Tukleeh	México
UMAVID*	Guatemala
UN Family Rights Caucus	United States
Unidos en Amor A.C	México
Unión Nacional de Padres de Familia Yucatán	México
United Families International	United States
United for Life	Ethiopia
Universal Peace Federation Switzerland*	Switzerland
UYIRKKURAL*	India
Valores para mí país*	Argentina
VALTON*	France
Victory Christian Centre*	New Zealand
Vida Para Nacer A.C	México
Vida y Familia	Argentina
Vida y Familia AC*	Mexico

Voto Católico Colombia*	Colombia
Vox Vitae*	United States
Voz Pública A. C.*	Mexico
VQ Fundación A.C	México
Vyborg Christian Center*	Russia
Watoto Markeplace Family Sphere*	Uganda
Welland Port Colborne Pro-Life Association*	Canada
Women Aid Trust	Pakistan
Worship Kingdom International Ministries*	Spain
Yellowstone Valley Christians for Life*	United States

*This organization is a signatory as a member of Civil Society for the Family