

World Congress of Families News



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Best and Worst Trends for the Family in 2016

Best

1. Slovenians Reject Same-Sex "Marriage" by a landslide vote – Citizens of Slovenia repealed an SSM law passed by their legislature. Opponents of the law collected over 40,000



signatures to put a repeal measure on the ballot. In October, the nation's Constitutional Court ruled the National Assembly couldn't block the referendum. On December 21, the first gay marriage law in Eastern Europe was repealed by a vote 63.5%. Former Prime Minister Janez Jansa stated the obvious, "It is not possible to build the future of Slovenia with same-sex couples." Like most of the region, Slovenia has well-below replacement fertility. "Sexual equality" may be a heady elixir for the elite, but can't fill empty cradles.



2. U.S. Congress Votes to De-fund Planned Parenthood

– In mid-December, for the first time, both houses of Congress voted to eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood, whose clinics perform over 320,000 abortions annually. The outcry over the sale of fetal tissue spurred the vote. (Managers at PPF clinics were caught on camera chortling over the money they could make by selling body parts.) Majorities in both Houses decided they could find better things to do with an

annual appropriation of \$528 million – like giving it to thousands of community-based health centers. For Planned Parenthood, casting itself as a champion of women's rights was always a tough sell. More so now, with the awareness that it trades in the organs of its victims.

3. Hungary and Poland block covert effort to enact SSM throughout the EU – Proponents of marriage deconstruction tried to get the EU Council to approve a proposal which would have required nations without gay "marriage" to recognize such unions contracted elsewhere. If enacted, the government of Slovenia, whose voters just rejected SSM by an

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overwhelming margin, would have been forced to recognize such a travesty contracted in Western Europe. Since the measure required unanimity of member states, Hungary and Poland were able to kill it. Not that proponents won't keep trying. When democracy fails them, as it usually does, and courts decline to override the will of the people, bureaucratic subterfuge is their last resort.

4. EU Parliament Condemns all forms of Surrogacy – In a resolution that passed just weeks ago, the EU Parliament condemned surrogacy, “which undermines the human dignity of the woman since her body and its reproductive functions are used as a commodity.” The free market is great, but not when it turns women into incubators for hire.

5. Anglican Bishop of Sydney says Marriage has boundaries – In opening a 2015 synod, Dr. Glenn Davies, Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, Australia, noted that “The antagonism of the world to the word of God is perhaps seen nowhere more acutely than in the virulent challenges to the definition of marriage.” Davies questioned the notion of marriage equality, reminding listeners: “There is simply no marriage equality for everyone. Marriage necessarily has boundaries that even the adherents of the facile rhetoric of ‘marriage equality’ can not deny.” This includes “marriage” by blood relatives, under-aged partners, and multiple partners. In other words, everyone draws the line somewhere, which means, regarding marriage, everyone discriminates to one degree or another.



6. British Parliament overwhelmingly rejects assisted suicide – On September 11, the British House of Commons, the Mother of Parliaments, rejected a bill to legalize assisted suicide in certain cases by a vote of 330 to 118. Dr. Philippa Whitford, MP, a breast cancer surgeon, told her colleagues, “I have never considered as a doctor that death was a good treatment for anything.”

7. Thousands rally in Rome against gender ideology – On June 24, an estimated 300,000 rallied in Rome against the introduction of gender ideology in Italian schools. This dogma, dear to the hearts of sexual radicals

everywhere, holds that gender is an artificial construct rather than a biological imperative determined at birth. Simone Pillon of Family Forum told the crowd, “Today in this square, we are all creating a culture, not against persons, but against ideologies that are destroying the family and are trying to destroy man and woman as its model.” Who can say where gender theory may lead. Perhaps *species* is also an artificial construct and oppressive to those creatures artificially labeled cats and dogs.

8. Parade in Korean county with nation's highest fertility rate – Along with most developed nations, the Republic of Korea has a depressingly low fertility rate – a national average of 1.2, roughly half of replacement level. In the 1970s and '80s, the government launched anti-fertility drives which succeeded all too well. Now the nation is desperate to reverse the trend. With free baby clothes and monthly cash allowances, Hanam, a rural county on the tip of the Korean peninsula, has achieved the nation's highest fertility. On November 4, it celebrated the distinction with a parade of visibly pregnant women and those pushing baby carriages and leading toddlers. It's ZPG's worst nightmare, but may just be the nation's salvation. As a 37-year-old who just had her third child remarked, “Babies are the hope for the family and the nation.”

9. Senior physician in British National Health Service wants women educated on fertility – When feminists talk about empowering women, they mean telling them how to get an abortion. Professor Geeta Nargund, a gynecologist consulting with the British National Health Service, has something else in mind. In a letter to Education Secretary Nicky Morgan, Nargund urged fertility education. “I have witnessed all too often the shock and agony on the faces of women who realize they have left it too late to start a family,” Nargund wrote. “Information is power and the best way to empower people to take control of their fertility is through education.” Facilitating conception instead of abortion, what will they think of next?

10. Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court Tells Probate Judges to Stop Issuing Marriage Licenses to Same-Sex Couples – Roy Moore, Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, enjoined the state's probate



judges from issuing licenses to same-sex couples. The Chief Justice noted that in a 2006 referendum, Alabama amended its constitution – with a yes vote of 81% – to define *continued on page 3*

Best and Worst Trends for the Family in 2016

marriage as the union of a man and a woman. Why then should our state bow to the whim of five members of the Supreme Court, overturning 3,300 years of Western civilization, he asks? Just say no to judicial tyranny?

Worst

1. US Supreme Court In Effect Abolishes Marriage – In

1973, the Supreme Court found a non-existent right to abortion lurking in the penumbra of an equally non-existent right to privacy in the First Amendment. In June, by a single vote, SCOTUS invented another fictitious right (that of men to marry men and women to marry women) – this notwithstanding that 32 states amended their constitutions between 1998 and 2012 to limit marriage to a man and a woman. In reporting the ruling, the mainstream media said the Supreme Court created a constitutional right to same-sex marriage. But government doesn't create rights. It can either affirm or deny them. In this case the latter. Here, by a one-vote majority, in a flight of egalitarian fancy, SCOTUS constructed a right out of thin air. Chief Justice John Roberts said the ruling "has no basis in the Constitution." In positing a phony right, the decision denied a real one– that of children to grow up in a home with a mother and a father.



2. Ireland's bait and switch on gay "marriage" – It took less than six months for proponents of SSM in Ireland to break a solemn promise. Ireland's gay "marriage," referendum, which passed overwhelmingly in May, included protection for freedom of conscience on religious grounds. There were exemptions for Catholic institutions, including schools and hospitals. Many voters relied on those protections when they voted for the measure. In December, the Irish parliament stripped away the safeguards. Proponents of marriage "equality" are totalitarians. Coercion is necessary for their agenda to succeed.

3. Amnesty International Says Prostitution is a human right – Meeting in Dublin in August, the self-styled civil libertarians declared laws against prostitution to be human rights abuses, and called for decriminalization of the sex trade. Amnesty activists inhabit a universe where women

make a career choice to sell their bodies, instead of being coerced – physically or by desperate circumstances. What Amnesty is advocating should be called the Pimps and Johns Protection Act.

4. California requires some pro-life centers to refer for abortion – Under a law signed by California Governor Jerry Brown, which goes into effect this month, pro-life pregnancy resource centers which provide medical services (such as ultra-sounds) will be required to inform clients that there are state-run programs that provide abortions and contraceptives for little or no cost. Naturally, abortion facilities are under no similar obligation (to refer to crisis pregnancy centers). Under the same logic, anti-violence programs could be required to notify participants of the location of local gun shops and shooting ranges. Proponents of the California law claim pro-life centers practice deception – that women arrive expecting an abortion and leave with information on stages of fetal development and abortion alternatives. Scandalous.

5. Woman has Planet Fitness membership revoked for complaining about a man in the ladies' locker room – A woman who complained about a man (who says he "identifies as a woman") in the ladies' shower and changing room at the Planet Fitness in Midland, Michigan had her membership revoked for the newest variety of prejudice – "transphobia." She was informed that it's the company's



policy to let members use the locker room that comports with their "gender identity." When she warned other women at the club, her membership was

revoked. Planet Fitness advertises itself as a "judgment-free zone," except when it comes to modesty and Judeo-Christian morality.

6. Ashley Madison: Adultery for fun and profit – The Internet service Ashley Madison, where clients advertise for adultery (its motto is "Life is short. Have an affair") suffered a massive security breach when hackers acquired the identifies of 32 million members. Ashley Madison has 39 million users and posted a profit of \$55 million last year, based on \$115 million in sales. Regarding the breach, the media focused on privacy. There was little discussion of what tens of millions cyber-cruising for extra-marital affairs says about the state of marriage

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 22, 2016 – National March for Life, Washington, D.C. <http://marchforlife.org/mfl-2016/>

January 24 – Annual Assembly for Life in Boston <http://masscitizensforlife.org/2016-assembly-for-life/>

January 30 – La Manif Pour Tous Italy, demonstration in Rome, The People Back in Place to Protect the Family and Children's Rights jacopo@amanifpourtous.it

February 5 – 24th Annual MovieGuide Awards, Hollywood, CA. movieguideawards.com/

March 2-5 – Conservative Political Action Conference, Washington, DC cpac.conservative.org/

March 9-12 – Global Home Education Conference 2016, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil <http://www.ghec2016.org/>

March 12 – One of Us European Forum And Awards, Paris <https://www.facebook.com/events/>

April 8-9 – Third WCF Caribbean Conference in Barbados proteq@gmail.com

May 8, 2016 – 2016 March for Life, Rome, <http://www.marciaperlavita.it/en/>

May 12, 2016 – Canadian March for Life, Ottawa www.campaignlifecoalition.com/

May 15-18, 2016 – Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia WCF X, Levan Vasadze ivasadze@yahoo.com or Tinatin Khorbaladze tinatin@ymail.com

September 29 – Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Summit, Houston <https://www.eventbrite.com>

September 2016 – Values Voter Summit <http://www.frc.org/>

November 2016 – World Congress of families Regional Conference, Cape Town, South Africa enaidoo@familypolicyinstitute.com

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Best and Worst Trends for the Family in 2016

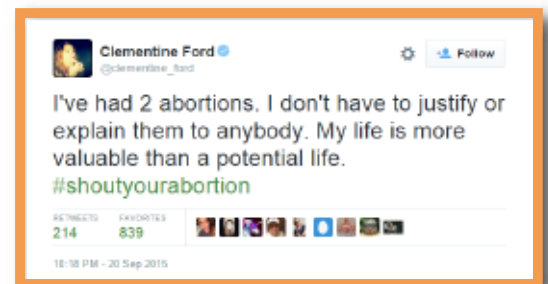
and the family in an anything-goes culture.

7. Ghost homes in Tokyo suburbs – In August, The New York Times reported that in Japan, a nation once known for population density, there are 8 million vacant dwellings. Half have been forsaken completely. Japanese fertility is so far below replacement that in 2014 there were approximately 1 million births and 1.3 million deaths. It also has the most rapidly aging population in the world. Thanks to late marriage, the preference for small families and the failure to form families, the Land of the Rising Sun is quietly setting. Its population is expected to fall by a third over the next 50 years. Japan may be ahead the curve, but other developed nations aren't far behind.

8. Sing and shout your abortion –

One of the most disturbing phenomenon of the past year was the growing popularity of the hashtag “#shoutyourabortion.” Meant to counter growing pro-life sentiment and outrage over the Planned Parenthood body-part selling scandal, women who've had abortions are urged to celebrate the death of their unborn children. How far

we've come from Bill Clinton's dictum that abortions should be “legal, safe and rare.” Now, for sexual radicals, it's “ubiquitous, celebrated and someone else pays for it.”



9. California adopts “aid in- dying” – With 10% of the U.S. population, California legalized what proponents euphemistically call aid-in-dying, in October, during a special session of the legislature called to reform that state's Medicaid system. With this approach, advocates were able to short-circuit the legislative process, in particular avoiding hearings and the opportunity to lobby legislators. They also avoided embarrassing questions about abuses in countries like Belgium and the Netherlands. If doctor-assisted suicide is as popular as its advocates claim, why this approach? Why does it have to be smuggled in, like pork-barrel spending, to avoid public scrutiny?

10. U.S. State Department pushes gay rights in Africa – According to a story in the December 26 New York Times, “Since 2012, the American government has put more than \$700 million into supporting gay rights groups and causes globally.” More than half of that money has focused on sub-Saharan Africa. The article also notes that U.S. involvement has made matters worse, according to activists on both sides of the debate. Given the traditional nature of African society, this is unsurprising. Once, American liberals said different people were entitled to their own cultures and what they then called cultural imperialism was intrusive and immoral. In the pursuit of gay rights in emerging nations, those ideals have been discarded. For the U.S. cultural elite, now it's “We talk, you listen.”



World Congress of Families IX – Reminiscences

By Dr. Janice Shaw Crouse, Ph.D, WCF IX Executive Director

After every World Congress of Families we all say, “That’s the best one yet!” And, it’s true. Each Congress builds on the previous ones and they each get better and better. I’ve been asked what I consider the highlights of the WCF IX and what features made it so special. Let me attempt to identify the characteristics that made WCFIX the remarkable event it was.

First, we had an incredible range of wonderful speakers addressing the pressing issues of the day. With 200 of them spread out over 4 days, that’s a lot of outstanding speakers every single day. Many people commented that they thought Tuesday was the highlight, while others thought Wednesday was even more memorable; then Thursday topped that and Friday was the incredible finale! Who can forget Nick Vujicic, Utah Governor and Mrs. Gary Herbert, Brad Wilcox, Oklahoma Governor Sam Brownback, Cathy Ruse, Everett Piper, Stephanie Neilson, the standing ovation for Dorothy Patterson, the list could go on and on, including Pat Fagan of Family Research Council, and WCF Partners Ignacio Arsuaga, Christine Vollmer and Charmaine Yoest?

Second, there were such wonderful special events – the Piano Guys, The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the movie premier of “God is not Dead II,” (thanks to Dr. Ted Baehr) the musical artistry of Jenny Oaks Baker and her talented children, the lovely voices of Nathan Osmond, Betty Shearer and Jessie Funk, the Playlist trio and the bluegrass fun of “StickShift.”

Third, WCF IX faced vicious attempts by radical leftist groups to derail and even destroy the Congress with false charges that our being advocates for the natural family made us a hate group. The WCF IX staff published a 30-page-rebuttal to every accusation against the World Congress of Families, and worked to counter the barrage of anti-WCF rhetoric from the leftist groups. We ended up with about 20 registrations from people determined to find sensational news headlines during the WCF IX; they actually found very little because we focused on positive means of promoting life, marriage and family rather than being sidetracked into controversy for the sake of controversy. We stand firmly and unwaveringly for Judeo-Christian values, and we believe equally strongly in civil discourse and in the power of truth; we welcomed anyone who is willing to listen respectfully and with an open mind.

Fourth and most importantly, at a pivotal time when the US Supreme Court overturned the codified will of the people in 32 States regarding the historic meaning of the nature of marriage with the Obergefell decision, WCF IX moved forward to hold the first World Congress in the United States with an overflow crowd who enjoyed a Congress that, once again, showcased speakers from around the world sharing pro-life, pro-marriage and pro-family values:

committed scholars and advocates, as well as the most powerful academic, religious, political and institutional leaders.

As we turn our attention to WCF X in Tbilisi, Georgia, we pause to once again pay tribute to the Sutherland staff, Utah volunteers and WCF leaders who made the WCF IX one for the record books.

[Click here](#) for more information



We Look Forward to Welcoming You to Tbilisi for World Congress of Families X in May- A Message from Levan Vasadze

Every Georgian child knows this legend: When God created the world, He gave land to each nation. The Georgians were late for the distribution as they were honoring guests at a feast. Having come late, after all the lands were given to all the nations, they asked God to have mercy on them, as they were hosting guests as a sign of His Grace. God forgave the Georgians by giving them the last piece of land, which He had saved for Himself. This is how Georgians came to live in Georgia.

During his visit to Tbilisi in 2005, President George W. Bush called Georgia the “beacon of democracy.” Long regarded as the most pro-western of the former Soviet republics, Georgia is no ordinary place. Legendary for its majestic beauty and authentic culture, Georgia has been a legend among travelers. Nobel Prize winning American writer, John Steinbeck, when visiting Soviet Union in 1948, wrote:

“Wherever we had been in Russia... the magical name of Georgia came up constantly. People who had never been there, and who possibly never could go there, spoke of Georgia with a kind of longing and a great admiration. They spoke of Georgians as supermen, as great drinkers, great dancers, great musicians, great workers and lovers. And they spoke of the country in the Caucasus and around the Black Sea as a kind of second heaven. Indeed, we began to believe that most Russians hope that if they live very good and virtuous lives, they will go not to heaven, but to Georgia, when they die.”

After he visited Georgia himself, Steinbeck wrote:

“It is a magical place, Georgia, and it becomes dream-like the moment you have left it. And the people are magic people. It is true that they have one of the richest and most beautiful countries in the world, and they live up to it. And we understood thoroughly now why Russians had always said to us, ‘Until you have seen Georgia, you have seen nothing.’”

Regarded as the birthplace of wine-making, metallurgy, agriculture and polyphonic singing, having one of the world’s 14 original alphabets, and as one of the oldest Christian countries in the world (Christianity became Georgia’s state religion in 327 AD), Georgia has so much to offer to its visitors.

Located at the crossroads of Asia and Europe, Georgia has absorbed all of the great cultural influences. When in Georgia, you will be reminded of many of the great cultures you have seen, but you will know, you are in



Georgia.

On one hand, Georgia has been more successful than most of the former Soviet republics in modernizing (you will first encounter this in the ease of entry at Tbilisi Airport) and at democratic reform, on the other, Georgia is under a massive invasion of George Soros-sponsored Western NGOs, which are making it their business to interfere and influence the policy of this sovereign state. Georgia’s traditional family-based culture is under siege by international organizations and radical NGOs, which are assaulting our people with so-called anti-discrimination laws and the introduction of gender ideology in Georgian schools..

Independent-minded Georgians wanted to break from the USSR in the quest for freedom of religion, private property and the broad range of civil liberties. Instead, the West, which should be championing these values, seems to be attacking our Christian culture with atheism, new forms of socialism and sexual radicalism – worse than we saw during the last 25 years of the Soviet empire.

This is why we need you to come to Tbilisi for World Congress of Families X on May 15-18. Please come and share your wisdom and heart with us. Enjoy our unrivaled wine, cuisine, music, culture and hospitality, but also work with us, speak with us, listen and plan with us.

Last but surely not least, bring your family, if you can. For what is a World Congress of Families if we gather without our loved ones. We want your spouses and children to rejoice with us in celebrating Georgia, for there is no greater joy and honor for a Georgian than to host guests. One thing more, citizens of the U.S. and EU don’t need a visa.

Levan Vasadze
Chairman WCF X

[Click here](#) for the World Congress of Families X/Tbilisi Facebook page

World Congress of Families X and The Future of the Family In Europe

What happens at World Congress of Families X in Tbilisi (Republic of Georgia, May 15-18, 2016) will have a profound impact on family policy throughout Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, the Balkans and the former Soviet Union.

The fight for the family is moving south and east – south to Africa and east to Eastern Europe, the Balkans and countries of the former Soviet Union:

- Greece just passed civil unions.
- The people of Slovenia defeated same-sex “marriage” by a landslide vote in a national referendum.
- Romanians will soon start a drive to collect 500,000 signatures on a petition to constitutionally define marriage as the union of a man and a woman.
- Hungary and Poland stopped a covert attempt to force homosexual marriage on all of the countries of the European Union.
- In 2013 the Russian Duma passed an anti-propaganda law to prevent the solicitation of minors by sexual radicals.
- Like their Western European counterparts, these countries are plagued by fertility rates well below replacement level.
- Their faith-based, traditional cultures are under assault by the European Union, the U.S. State Department and increasingly well-funded and aggressive NGOs pushing sexual radicalism, marriage deconstruction and indoctrination in the guise of education.
- The battle has been joined.
- In 2007, World Congress of Families IV was held in Warsaw’s Palace of Culture and Science.

Global Home Education Conference in Rio de Janeiro, March 9-12

Home education is the fastest-growing alternative to public schools in the world and has created a vibrant community with a global footprint and impact. The second Global Home Education Conference (GHEC) will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in March 2016, with the theme “Home Education: It’s A Right.” The GHEC 2016 will be held at the Windsor Florida Hotel in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from March 9-12, 2016, bringing together hundreds of home education leaders, advocates, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers from all over the world. Thirteen home education leaders are organizing the GHEC 2016, and want to extend a personal invitation to you to join. They count your attendance—or support in the form of a donation or endorsement—as a great privilege.

Join with noted education leaders, including Dr. Sugata Mitra, Education Professor at the University of Nottingham; Dr. Jan De Groof, UNESCO Chair and Professor of Education Law at the

University of Tillberg; Attorney Michael Farris, Chancellor of Patrick Henry College Founder of HSLDA, Constitutional Attorney; Andre Stern, author, speaker and advocate for freedom in education; Erwin Fabián



- In 2011, we had the World’s first Demographic Summit in Moscow, at the Russian State Social University.
- In 2015, we held regional conferences in Moldavia, Serbia and Tbilisi. For Serbia and Georgia, these were second annual conferences.
- World Congress of Families X/Tbilisi 2016 will be our first Congress in an Orthodox country, the first in the Caucasus and the first east of Poland.

Tbilisi will help the international pro-family movement to establish a beachhead in the region. One reason sexual radicals have targeted these countries is to demonstrate their ability to overcome traditional cultures and compel people who cling to normative values to bend to their will.

Tbilisi 2016 could begin the process of rolling back Cultural Marxism across the continent.



**GLOBAL
HOME EDUCATION
CONFERENCE 2016**

García López, Professor of Education, Columbia; and Justice Tom Parker, Associate Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court

The conference will explore the importance of freedom in education policy and regulation topics, the success of home education, new research and policy discussion.

The Rio Conference is a forum that will increase awareness about home education, its legal framework, social and academic research, and practical experience around the world. Our goal is to promote positive change in the sphere of parental rights and home education.

Please consider attending or referring others in your sphere of influence to participate in this conference. Organizers are particularly interested in bringing senior-level policy makers interested in educational freedom to Rio. Limited scholarships are available on a needs basis.

A principal organizer of GHEC is Michael Donnelly, Director of Global Outreach of Home School Legal Defense Association. HSLDA is a World Congress of Families Partner.

[Click here](#) to register or for more information on GHEC

Third WCF Regional Conference In Caribbean Scheduled for Barbados (April 8-9)

World Congress of Families' Third Caribbean Regional Conference ("The Natural Family: Key to a Healthy, Stable and Prosperous Caribbean Community") is scheduled for Christ Church, Barbados, April 8-9. Previous Caribbean conferences were held in Trinidad in 2012 and 2013.



Dr. Veronica C. Evelyn Ph.D

The conference is being organized by Dr. Veronica C. Evelyn, Ph.D. (Proteqt Inc.), with the support of Rebekah Ali-Gouveia, WCF Caribbean Representative. Rebekah organized the two Trinidad Conferences, attended by 150 to 200.

A partial list of speakers includes:

Dr Janice Shaw Crouse (Executive Director of WCF IX) – "Marriage as a Public Good -

How Stable Marriages Benefit a Nation"

Don Feder (WCF Coordinator of Regional Events & Coalitions Director) – "The Sexual Revolution and Demographic Winter"

Professor William Wagner (President Salt & Light Global) – "How One's Worldview Affects the Destiny of a Nation"

Dr Nanci Coppola – (Author & Development Director of the Healthy Respect Program) – "Brain Development & Its Impact on Adolescent High Risk Behaviors" and a workshop on "The

Proteqt CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Power of Healthy Choices - Empowering Youth to Have Healthier Futures"

Dr Godfrey St Bernard (Director of Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of the West Indies, Trinidad) – "Demographic Trends in the Caribbean"

Adrian Alexander (President of Caribbean Umbrella Organization for Restorative Justice and Human Trafficking Abolitionist) "The Caribbean's Experience with Modern Slavery - Trafficking in Persons in the Former British Colonies"

Gale Oxley Mohammed (Educator and pro-family activist at the OAS) – "The Family of the Modern Society and its Spiritual and Moral Challenges"

Arnold Culbreath (Founder/President - Breath of Life) – "Targeted for Abortion"

Rebekah Ali-Gouveia (Founder/President of The Elpis Centre, WCF Caribbean Representative) – "Motherhood: The Heart of the Matter: Building a Nation from the Cradle"

Dr Marlon Husbands (Founder and Senior Pastor, Sanctuary Empowerment Centre) – "Fathers and Their Role in Developing a Nation"

[Click here](#) for more information or email proteqt@gmail.com

Novae Terrae Releases International Education Index

Since 2013, Novae Terrae Foundation (a World Congress of Families Partner) has worked with the International Organization for the Right to Education and for Freedom of Education (OIDEL) – an NGO with consultative status at the United Nations, UNESCO and the Council of Europe – to draw up an independent global Freedom of Education Index (including the rights of parents). In September 2014, the Novae Terrae Foundation and OIDEL set up a permanent group of international experts (the Socrates Group), which periodically comes together to examine issues and best practices in countries around the world regarding freedom of education and respect for the rights of parents.

Starting from the provisions of Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Global Index on Freedom of Education provides worldwide data on the respect for and promotion of this fundamental right, and of policies to ensure freedom of education at the national and regional level.

their children, including homeschooling;

- Public support for freedom of education (vouchers for families, direct support for schools, teachers' salaries, costs of infrastructure, buildings etc.)

- Net rate of enrolment in primary schools
- Percentage of students enrolled in state-recognized independent schools

The global Index can be an important tool for periodically analysing the evolution of national policies as well as respect and promotion of the right to freedom of education (Council of Europe, 2012) at the international level.

[Click here](#) for the full report, which covers 134 countries
Luca Volontè is the President, Novae Terrae Foundation



Luca Volontè, Chairman Novae Terrae

This continues our regular feature celebrating the women and men who have contributed to the growing success of the international pro-family movement.

Bishop Emmanuel Adetoyese Badejo

Bishop Badejo was born in 1961, the sixth of seven children. He entered primary school at the age of four and went to minor seminary by age 9. He exhibited uncommon musical, artistic and intellectual abilities through minor seminary and the SS Peter and Paul Major Seminary, Ibadan where he studied philosophy.

Bishop Badejo studied theology in Rome and by 1984, at age 23, completed the studies for priestly ordination and was ordained in 1986.

In 1989 he won the scholarship of the Catholic Union of the Press (UCIP) as the best youth journalist in Nigeria and was sponsored to the organization's World Congress in Ruhpolding, Germany. He returned to Rome in 1992 for a Licentiate in Pastoral Communications at the Salesian University and travelled all over Europe for various conferences, returning to Nigeria to work for the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria, (CBCN), as Director of Communications for 8 years. During this time, he coordinated and recorded musical tapes and audio and video productions addressing themes related to Faith, Family, HIV/Aids and Youth.

On a sabbatical in the United States, while doing research on film and spirituality, he was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Oyo in Nigeria in 2007.

Bishop Badejo believes strongly in the limitless capacities of a child's mind and so tries to learn from children because they express themselves with minimum filters and inhibitions. He also admires the enthusiasm, hope and generosity of young people even in desperate conditions. This enriches his total belief in the sanctity of life and the inviolability of the human right to live with dignity. For these reasons, he often speaks from the pulpit and in writing, on the inability of leaders in the political, social and religious arena to positively harness the creativity and generosity of youth and use these transforming qualities to create a better world especially in Africa.

The Bishop works extensively on supporting families and forming pastoral agents for marriage and family issues. He helps to organize conferences and meetings on pro-life issues and family formation and advocacy within



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Tinatin Khorbaladze

Tinatin Khorbaladze holds Master's Degrees in Public Administration from Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, the University of Georgia (Atlanta), a recognition certificate for successful completion of PA Program at GIPA which is a national center for development of practices in Public Administration, Law, Politics and Journalism and one of the top three private universities in the Republic of Georgia.

She also has a diploma from Tbilisi State University (TSU), Department of Eastern European Languages and Literature, with specialization in English Philology, and a certificate in Management Psychology, Personal Branding and Leadership and Effective Communication. Her master's degree research work on "Economic Development and Labor Market in Georgia" was named among the best, receiving highest evaluations, and her case study on the theme of new public policy (main discussion topic: role of ethics in public administration) was published in the Collection of Practical Case Studies.

With nearly 10 years experience in administration and management, Tinatin has contributed to the establishment and maintenance of a private school in Kiketi (near the capital city of Tbilisi) where children are involved in a unique full-day program which focuses on comprehensive academic education, extensive sports and athletics program, unique spiritual and religious education and an interactive manual labor program named life-skills.

Besides planning and executing programs that enhance public perception of the school, organizing events and activities and managing communication locally and internationally, Tinatin was also involved in communication with school departments, coordinating tasks and monitoring the implementation process.

Tinatin has been a pro-family advocate actively involved with Georgian Demographic Society, the principal NGO that works with Georgian government to promote a pro-life agenda and support improvement of extremely grave demographic situation in Georgia.

With special emphases on education and pension-system reform, during her work, Tinatin has been strongly involved in fighting against the new global education curriculum in Georgia's schools..

Through the Georgian Demographic Society, she helped to organize



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Georgian Patriarch Ilia II Blesses and Will Participate in WCF X

saqarTvelos sapatriarqo
sagareo saqmeTa ganyofileba



**Patriarchate of Georgia
Foreign Affairs
Department**

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4 January, 2016

To Mr. Lawrence (Larry) D. Jacobs

Dear Mr. Lawrence D. Jacobs,

We greet you and confirm our respect to you, and with the blessing of the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia His Holiness and Beatitude Ilia II we express great joy over the fact that the tenth Congress of Families is planned to be held in Tbilisi on 16-18 May 2016.

We consider the work done by your international organization throughout these 20 years of great value in protecting the family and in maintaining morals, in general.

We also inform you that His Holiness and Beatitude will participate in the Congress, and we pray to God that it may become a display of peace and love, of Christian values and culture.

We congratulate you on the Nativity and the beginning of the New Year. May God bless you and the people working with you; may God grant you the strength and power to accomplish many more good deeds to come.

With best regards,

Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs of

The Patriarchate of Georgia, Metropolitan of Tsaishi and Zugdidi

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Bishop Emmanuel Adetoyese Badejo

and beyond Nigeria. He was recently appointed Chairman of CEPACS, the Communications Commission of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar. He frequently addresses marriage and family ethics and values in his column, published weekly in 3 Nigerian national newspapers.

Bishop Badejo participated in World Congress of Families IX in Salt Lake City, and took part in a meeting of African delegates attending the Congress.

fradebadejo@yahoo.com

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Tinatin Khorbaladze

World Congress of Families (WCF) regional conferences in Tbilisi in 2014 and 2015 and has participated in TV shows, high level meetings and debates to defend Georgian traditional society and its roots, in an era of globalization. She's also the founder of the pro-life NGO Eber.

Tinatin Khorbaladze is the executive director of World Congress of Families X, May 15-17 in Tbilisi. Her leisure activities include skiing, reading and traveling.

tinatin@ymail.com

MovieGuide's 24th. Annual Faith & Family Values Awards Gala and Report to the Entertainment Industry

Each year around OSCAR time, MOVIEGUIDE® hosts its annual Awards Show, where it recognizes and rewards the best family-friendly movies and TV shows of the previous year. It also honors the best films for mature audiences and awards the \$200,000 Epiphany Prizes, the \$50,000 Chronos Prize for Inspiring Screenplays by Established Filmmakers, and the \$50,000 Kairos Prize for Spiritually Uplifting Screenplays – all sponsored by grants from the John Templeton Foundation.

In addition to the awards, MovieGuide founder, Dr. Ted Baehr presents his much anticipated annual statistical analysis based on MOVIEGUIDE's reviews. His analysis consistently shows studio executives and filmmakers that family-friendly, spiritually uplifting content can significantly increase the profitability of their movies.

Entries for the Best Family Movie of the Year include: "The Peanuts Movie," Pixar's "Inside Out," DreamWorks "Home," "Cinderella" and "Paddington," about the lovable bear from the Amazon Forest.

2015 Winners included:

Best Movie for Families – "Heaven is for Real"

Best Movie for Mature Audiences – "Unbroken"

Epiphany Prize for Most Inspiring Movie – "God's Not Dead"

And Faith & Freedom Award for Movies – "The Giver"

An hour-long version of this year's awards ceremony will be broadcast on the REELZChannel 4pm Pacific and 7pm Eastern on February 22 and 9pm Pacific, 12 am Eastern on February 24.

The Gala itself will take place on February 5, in the Grand Ballroom of the Universal Hilton in Los Angeles, beginning at 6 pm PT.

Movieguide.org is a World Congress of Families Partner. Dr. Baehr will be a speaker at WCF X/Tbilisi, May 15-18

[Click here](#) or more information on the Annual Faith and Family Values Awards Gala.



Thank you to all World Congress of Families Partners for your support.

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