

## Consultation - United Nations Human Rights Council

**Report on “Protection of the family and the contribution of families in realizing the right to an adequate standard of living” - Input to Human Rights Council resolution 29/22 on the protection of the family.**

### **Protection of the Family Resolution – A refreshing and welcomed initiative**

**The Jamaica Coalition for a Healthy Society** welcomes this opportunity to comment on the July 2015 *Resolution on the protection of the family*<sup>1</sup>. This resolution was arrived at after much valuable debate. The call for the protection of the family as a fundamental unit of society, for the recognition of the prior right of parents to educate their children, and for all nations to create family-sensitive policies is a call which was overdue in time. These are issues which have hitherto been neglected by the UNCHR. It is a call in keeping with reality, the outcomes of which will be the strengthening of the family units. Strong family units bounded together by wholesome values have measurably better outcomes in producing strong and healthy individuals not only physically but, mentally emotionally and spiritually.

The underlying assumption in the Resolution of the natural family meaning the family founded upon the union of a man and a woman, is to be greatly commended. This union reflects design and the inescapable and unchangeable fact of the complementarity of the two opposite genders. Marriage is by definition therefore, one man married to one woman, committed to each other for life, to the exclusion of all others, in a caring, safe union together raising their children.

The goods gained by individuals and societies from low-conflict, intact marriages is illustrated by social science data. Married families have the highest income and average net worth of all family structures. Married men increase their productivity and income, on average, by 26% after they marry (USA)<sup>2</sup>

Married couples also enjoy better sexual intimacy. Neuroscience tells us that the hormones released in the brain when we engage in sexual activity is like glue and bonds us to that activity and that person.

Fornication and sexual promiscuity costs individuals, families and nations dearly – infections, disease, infertility, cancers. The bonding in the brain still occurs but frequent

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<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly, HRC/Res/29/22 of 3 July 2015

<sup>2</sup> **Marriage and Poverty**, Marriage and Religion Research Institute, [www.marri.us](http://www.marri.us)

multiple sexual partners weaken its bonding.<sup>3</sup> Promiscuous men therefore find it hard to stay in relationships long term or to bond to their children.

Co-habiting women are more likely to experience more emotional turmoil and domestic violence. Fatherless children more likely to do poorly in school, get into risky behaviours, early sexual initiation, be more sad, depressed and at risk for suicide. Boys looking for male guidance, affirmation and solace, get drawn into gangs.<sup>4</sup>

Marriage and family-weak societies are marked by lower rates of productivity, poorer neighborhoods, increased crime and a dependence on greater Government intervention in order to fulfill the vacuum left by absent parents and spouses. Such a situation can be described as the broken city walls because the national security of a country, its Family life, is destroyed.

The same act of intimacy that turns a man and woman into husband and wife also makes them a father and mother. Research proves that children do best when raised in intact low-conflict homes by their married biological mother and father.<sup>5</sup> No other combination or type of arrangement quite does it than this one which makes sense because who better to raise a child than the two persons who contributed their DNA to the making that of that child. Children raised in stable married home report better academic performance, better mental, emotional and physical health and better behaviours.<sup>6</sup>

Western societies which in the past adopted this design reaped social, economic, and political stability. It remains to be seen what will be the outcomes for these societies over time since they have now abandoned these principles. Public policy should be informed by factual statistics on public health data, particularly by the medical and harmful outcomes of the practice of high risk sexual behaviours to the individual and the society. Behaviours that have been established as harmful and destructive on the basis of robust, credible, scientific and epidemiological research must be actively discouraged.

As an example, Professor Kevin Fenton, the National Director of Health and Wellbeing at Public Health England has stated that,

“There is an increasing and potentially catastrophic HIV and sexual health epidemic in gay men and men who have sex with men (MSM) in

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<sup>3</sup> **Hooked: New Science on How Casual Sex is Affecting Our Children**, , 2008 , Dr Freda McKissic Bush and Dr Joe McIlhane

<sup>4</sup> **The Marriage Files**, Dr Patricia Morgan, 2014

<sup>5</sup> **Emotional Problems Among Children with Same-Sex Parents: Difference by Definition**, Dr. Donald Paul Sullins, *British Journal of Education, Society and Behavioural Science*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (January 25, 2015)

<sup>6</sup> **Marriage and Family as Investment for Society**, [www.marri.us](http://www.marri.us)

every part of the world...despite having an increasing number of tools to prevent HIV.”<sup>7</sup>

Professor Fenton added, HIV prevalence in MSM is increasing almost everywhere and incidence (the proportion who acquire HIV every year) is stubbornly refusing to change.

It stands to reason that nations should therefore be encouraged to discourage behaviours which are associated with negative outcomes including homosexual behavior. Societies should instead teach and encourage healthy human relationships and behaviours which are associated with life sustaining outcomes. The July 2015 resolution provides a good basis on which to build framework for ensuring that stable, nurturing family life is a policy imperative which will lead to healthy nations.

Chastity and fidelity are therefore necessary virtues for a thriving society. The only *safe* sex is *saving* sex until marriage between one man and one woman. Marriage is not a private affair with a public role. It is the basis of the five institutions of society – family, school, church, Government and the marketplace.<sup>8</sup>

Paragraphs 13 and 14 of the Resolution highlight the particular economic vulnerabilities faced by single female headed households and other types of households not headed by fathers. Effective intervention by the State and civil society must first encourage and promote strong committed husbandry and fathering, as nurturing husbands and fathers in the home provide an unmatched singular benefit to ensuring stable healthy homes.

The sexual “rights” campaign being promoted by some socio-political groups place sexual pleasure regardless of consequences has been used to suppress freedom of conscience, expression, religion and parental rights as evidenced by the experiences of the US, Canada and the UK among other countries.

In Jamaica, we have seen attempts to infiltrate these illogical ideas into society – through constitutional challenges to buggery law, proposed revisions to health and education policies affecting minors, through media, through business campaigns, through universities. We therefore welcome and embrace this Resolution as a basis for us to stand against these harmful developments.

The greatest need for human beings is for security and safety. How can we give that to the next generation of citizens of the world? This is what the July 2015 resolution of the UNCHR is all about- creating the framework for flourishing for the next generations of our various nations.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.bhiva.org/News.aspx?NewsID=389566d6-2b03-4218-9721-b43a5f0ce209/>

<sup>8</sup> **The Family: agent of economic development and the fundamental safety net**, MARRI, Dr Patrick Fagan, 2015