

March 5, 2018

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

CC:

H.E. Nikki Haley, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations
Senator Bob Corker, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Congressman Ed Royce, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee
Katy Talento, Domestic Policy Council, Healthcare
Brian Hook, Senior Advisor and Director of Policy Planning, U.S. Department of State
Pam Pryor, Senior Advisor in the Office of the Under Secretary for Civilian Security,
Democracy, and Human Rights, U.S. Department of State

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

We are writing to you as human rights, health, and development organizations to congratulate you for supporting a proper understanding of international human rights in the forthcoming State Department's annual Human Rights Report. By rejecting attempts to include abortion and other contentious issues, which are not universally agreed-upon human rights, you are returning the United States to its leadership role in promoting the right to life and protecting the family.

We welcomed the news from spokeswoman Heather Nauert that the State Department will no longer attempt to dilute the seriousness of human rights and "will sharpen the focus of the report on abuses of internationally recognized human rights and the most egregious issues."

Internationally agreed-upon human rights treaties do not mention abortion; much less do they contain any right to abortion. On the contrary, nations have repeatedly rejected any right to abortion in open debate at the United Nations. They will do so again at the Commission on the Status of Women in just a few weeks. Nonetheless, UN committees and staff have attempted to reinterpret internationally agreed-upon documents as including a right to abortion, and they have pressured countries to change their laws accordingly. UN human rights treaty monitoring bodies have pressured 154 countries 479 times to liberalize their laws based upon their own personal views of the treaties. This is a dangerous trend, and the State Department's human rights report will send a strong signal to human rights experts that the United States will adhere to a proper understanding of international law going forward.

As organizations committed to human rights and protection of the weakest, most vulnerable members of society, we work against all violations of human rights and outrages against personal dignity no matter what the sex, religion, race, or nationality of the victim. These rights are indivisible and universal.

Seventy years ago, nations agreed that “the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.” They agreed that “men and women...have the right to marry and found a family”. Today, these rights are threatened. Those who seek to erase their very existence from UN documents do so based on the misunderstanding that these rights somehow offend people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. This is simply false. Furthermore, strong and healthy families are the safest place for all children, especially girls. When a girl is raised within a loving home by her parents, her chances of achieving higher education, health, employment, and security are improved significantly.

By publishing this report without inserting politically motivated and contentious social issues, you will ensure the credibility of this important human rights tool—that so many of our colleagues around the world use to hold their governments to account.

Your leadership is deeply appreciated on this vital matter.

Signed,

1. Center for Family and Human Rights (C-Fam)
2. Citizen Go
3. Derecho a Vivir
4. Family Research Council (FRC)
5. HazteOir.org
6. Human Life International (HLI)
7. Institute for Family Policies (IPF)
8. International Organization for the Family (IOF)
9. National Organization for Marriage (NOM)
10. Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC)
11. Campaign Life Coalition
12. Construye
13. Family and Life
14. Family Watch International
15. International Solidarity and Human Rights Institute
16. Priests for Life
17. REAL Women of Canada
18. United Families International
19. Abanderados por la Familia Colombia

20. Abogando por Guatemala
21. Abortion Alternatives
22. African Network For Change
23. African Organization for Families
24. Agere
25. Alfa Szövetség (Alpha Alliance for Life)
26. Alliance for Life International
27. Alliance of Romania's Families
28. Americans For Truth About Homosexuality (AFTAH)
29. ANDEVI
30. ANEPROVIDA
31. Apep
32. Apostolado de la Nueva Evangelizacion - Casita de Oracion - Familias de Nazareth
33. Argentinos Alerta
34. Asociācija Ģimene
35. Asociación Centro de Asistencia a la Mujer
36. Asociación de familias numerosas de Madrid
37. Asociación de mujeres Peñallana
38. Asociacion La Familia Importa
39. ASOCIACION NICARAGUENSE DE BIOETICA
40. ASOCIACION NICARAGUENSE POR LA VIDA
41. Asociacion por el derecho a vivir
42. Asociación Vida & Familia
43. Associacio Catalana de Pares Separats
44. association chrétienne de lutte contre l'avortement(A.C.L.C.A)
45. Azzjoni Kattolika (Gozo Catholic Action)
46. Beyond the Shades of Gray
47. Billings LIFE
48. California Right to Life Educational Fund
49. Cana Movement
50. Casa Pró-Vida Mãe Imaculada

51. CATHOLIC CENTRE FOR LIFE
52. Catholic Pro-life Committee
53. Catholic Women's League of Australia
54. CEAP PEDREIRA
55. Centro de Estudios de Familia y Sociedad
56. Centro de Política Familiar "Visión & Desarrollo"
57. Cheer Sincere (HK) Limited
58. Christian Concern
59. Christian Democratic Party
60. Christ's Brothers & Sisters Down Under
61. CitizenGO
62. Civil Society for the Family
63. Colegio Trabajo y Hogar de Jalisco AC
64. Comitato Cattolici per una Civiltà dell'Amore
65. Comitium Nuestra Señora del Ave Maria
66. Comunicación con Éxito
67. CON MIRADA DE MUJER
68. Consejo Mexicano de la Familia, A.B.P.
69. Construye Observatorio Regional para la Mujer de América Latina y El Caribe AC
70. Corporación de Orientación Familiar, COFAM
71. Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life
72. Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life - USA
73. Crossroads Pro-Life
74. Crusade for the Family
75. Custodiando Vidas
76. Demographic and social statistics division NSO South Kivu
77. Derecho A Vivir
78. Dhaka Single Women Association
79. Dowd Chapel, 13943 Dowd Drive, Boys Town, NE 68010
80. ENCUENTRO FAMILIAR BOGOTA
81. Enfant du Monde-Priorité Santé

82. Enlace, A.C.
83. ERGO - European Regional Organization
84. Familia Desarrollo Población, FADEP
85. Familia, Cultura y Sociedad, A.C.
86. Familias De Esperanza
87. Familias y Sociedad A. C.
88. Familienföderation für Weltfrieden und Vereinigung Deutschland
89. Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Switzerland
90. Family Life Groups
91. FamilyPolicy.RU
92. Fatti Sentire
93. Fondation Bien-Etre Famille Ltee
94. Fondazione Novae Terrae
95. For Family Rights
96. Fundación Sí a la Vida
97. Generación Provida
98. Grandees.org
99. HazteOir.org
100. Hnutí Pro život ČR
101. Homeschoolers of Maine
102. HUMA
103. Human Life of WA
104. Humanize, por una cultura en familia, A.C.
105. In the Name of the Family
106. Indonesian SVD of Family Commision
107. Instituto Panameño de Educación Familiar
108. Interessenvertretung ungeborener Menschen e.V.
109. International Baptist Church of Tbilisi, Georgia
110. International Solidarity and Human Rights Institute
111. IPS. Instituto de Política social
112. Ireland Stand Up

113. Jackson Madison County TEA Party
114. JMJ Children's Fund of Canada Inc.
115. Kaunas United Democratic Movement
116. Knights of Columbus 2908
117. La Mamá Oca
118. Lake County Right To Life
119. Le Beffroi
120. Libertad Viva
121. Life is Worth Living, Inc.
122. LifeNetwork Foundation Malta
123. Live Christ Share Christ Movement
124. LOS INOCENTES DE MARIA A.C.
125. Love March Movement
126. Lyceum 8 "Olympia"
127. Más mujer
128. Mi familia
129. Mission America
130. Monastère de Montorge
131. Moscow city parental committee
132. MOVIMIENTO FAMILIAR CRISTIANO de España
133. Movimiento Social de Justicia Restaurativa
134. MUJER CON VALOR A.C.
135. MUMAFAM AC
136. National Association of Catholic Families Australia
137. Nucleus of Life
138. OFS (Msida)
139. Oratório Sagradas Relíquias
140. Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis- Kenya
141. Organización Pro-Familia
142. Padres Objetores
143. Parroquia Sagrado Corazón de Jesús

144. Pastoral familiar Santa Mónica del Colegio San Agustín de Chiclayo
145. Pequeña Comunidad Samaritana y Misionera Sagrada Familia
146. Population Research Institute
147. Pregnancy Lifeline
148. Pro Vita Onlus
149. Pro-life Joint Operations Research
150. Pro-Life Nurses of Wisconsin
151. Protect Marriage Australia
152. Queremos Vivir
153. RAH
154. REAL Women of Canada
155. Red Familia Colombia
156. Red Jóvenes Provida Perú
157. Red por la Vida y la Familia Chile
158. RED PRO YUCATAN
159. Red Vida y Familia Ecuador
160. Res Claritatis
161. Right to Life Association Western Australia
162. Ruah Woods
163. Ruth Institute
164. Sask Pro-Life Association
165. Save Our Families
166. SEMUJER
167. St Joseph's Pro Life Group
168. St. Bernard's Catholic Mens Fellowship
169. St. Lawrence Catholic Church
170. St. Theresa Pro-Life Committee
171. St.Teresa's Respect Life
172. Stowarzyszenie Dziewięć Dni
173. Students for Child-Oriented Policy (SCOP)
174. T & B Texas Longhorn Cattle Company

175. The Family Institute of Washington
176. THE FELLOWSHIP OF ST. JAMES
177. The Intercollegiate Defense of Equality and Solidarity
178. Third Order of St Dominic
179. Time2Think
180. Transatlantic Christian Council
181. UMAVID
182. Universal Peace Federation Switzerland
183. Vaile Oceania
184. Valores para mí país
185. Victory Christian Centre
186. Vida y familia AC
187. Vopacke/Rainey Family Tree Society
188. Voto Católico Colombia
189. Vox Vitae
190. Voz Pública A. C.
191. Vyborg Christian Center
192. Welland Port Colborne Pro-Life Association
193. Yellowstone Valley Christians for Life
194. Foundation Novae Terrae, Milano, Italy
195. ProVita, Bucharest
196. Asociácia za život a rodinu, Slovakia
197. Interessenvertretung ungeborener, Menschen