

WUCWO DECLARATION ON THE FAMILY

Whereas our understanding of the family is derived from the description in Genesis 2:24 of the original unity of man and woman; the fruit of this unity being children (Genesis 4:1); and

Whereas the Church proclaims the sacredness of this unity in the Sacrament of Marriage and speaks of the “mission of proclaiming to all people the plan of God for marriage and the family, ensuring their full vitality and human and Christian development, and thus contributing to the renewal of society and of the People of God” (*Familiaris Consortio*); and

Whereas the stability of the family unit is universally recognized as the vehicle for the transmission of morals, ethics, and religion from past generations to the future and gives structure to society, providing a child’s first example of individuals working together for the common good and several generations interacting to provide a continuum of wisdom; and

Whereas the concept of family transcends a legal description and is recognized as a union of love based on God’s covenant described in the Book of Genesis and modeled through the Holy Family;

We declare that as a world-wide body of Catholic women, representing 100 Catholic women’s organisations worldwide, active in 66 countries including all inhabited continents and some island states,

WUCWO will work to ensure that:

-The traditional concept of the Family, a structure that had its origin and received its rights and obligations before Society came into existence, is upheld.

-Parents, natural and adoptive, will have the primary right to form their children, educating them and providing examples of faith and a right way of life, transmitting values and traditions and providing training in religion.

-Society enacts measures to ensure the social and economic security of the family; to include measures that protect the family from overreaching of the State and from harmful cultural practices that hurt the family or family members.

-Solid marriage preparation and parenting classes as well as marriage and family counseling are available to enable families to assume their rights and meet their obligations so that they might create a loving, peaceful and joyous family environment.

-Families that suffer are comforted, accepted and embraced as part of the greater family of Society.

-We shall provide our time, talent and treasure to support efforts sustaining needy and broken families.

-We shall assist the Church in its endeavor to speak for and uphold the family and its unique foundational place in society. *“Faith brings hope, Hope replenishes the human race” (The Sustainable Demographic Dividend: What Do Marriage & Fertility Have to Do with the Economy? Social Trends Institute, 2011).*

WUCWO

The World Union of Catholic Women’s Organisations (WUCWO) was founded in 1910 and now represents 100 Catholic women’s organizations worldwide, active in 66 countries including all inhabited continents and some island states, representing millions of Catholic women of every walk of life. WUCWO’s aim is **to promote the presence, participation and co-responsibility of Catholic women in society and the Church, in order to enable them to fulfill their mission of evangelization and to work for human development**, particularly by increasing educational opportunities, poverty reduction and the advancement of human rights beginning with the fundamental right to life.