STATEMENT • OF • PRINCIPLES
WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES II

As part of the World Congress of Families II, delegates from throughout the world prepared the Geneva Declaration, consisting of twelve paragraphs of ideals and policies for families in relation to society and current issues. The principles listed here are the first sentences of each part of the Declaration. They summarize the Declaration, which was approved by those who attended the congress and will be presented to the United Nations and other policy-making bodies as the voice of the families of the world.

Our Purpose: We assemble in this World Congress, from many national, ethnic, cultural, social and religious communities, to affirm that the natural human family is established by the Creator and essential to good society.

Society and the Family: The natural family is the fundamental social unit, inscribed in human nature, and centered on the voluntary union of a man and a woman in the lifelong covenant of marriage.

Marriage and the Family: The cornerstone of healthy family life, marriage brings security, contentment, meaning, joy and spiritual maturity to the man and woman who enter this lifelong covenant with unselfish commitment.

Children and the Family: The natural family provides the optimal environment for the healthy development of children.

Sexuality and the Family: The complementary natures of men and women are physically and psychologically self-evident.

Life and the Family: The intrinsic worth, right to life and sanctity of life of every human person exists throughout the continuum of life, from fertilization until natural death.

Population and the Family: Human society depends on the renewal of the human population; the true population problem is depopulation, not overpopulation.

Education and the Family: Parents uniquely possess the authority and responsibility to direct the upbringing and education of their children.

Economy and the Family: Economic policy, both corporate and governmental, should be crafted to allow the family economy to flourish; what is good for families is good for the economy.

Government and the Family: Government should protect and support the family, and not usurp the vital roles it plays in society.

The Family and Religion: Parents have the right to teach their religious and moral beliefs to their children and to raise them according to their religious precepts.

Call to Respect the Family: We exhort all persons, families, social organizations and governments throughout the world to respect and uphold the institution of the natural human family, in accordance with the principles of this Declaration, for the good of present and future generations.