



The Contribution of Families to Peace, Human Development and Prosperity

July 5-6, 2012

The International Labour Organization and United Nations Offices, Geneva, Switzerland



This timely and informative conference which, in the Palais des Nations, had special status as a Side Event of the 20th Human Rights Council, brought together: two Ambassadors to the United Nations; a Presidential Candidate and Christian Party Leader from Austria; representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent and the International Organisation for Migration; very senior religious leaders representing Protestantism, Catholicism, Judaism, Islam; Founders of charitable bodies; and US human relationship experts.

Several aspects were remarkable, in particular the rich variety of speakers and topics addressed in relationship to the Contribution of the Family to Peace, Human Development and Prosperity and the substantial contribution of religious perspectives from both youth and experts in addition to those from NGOs and charitable foundations.

Brief excerpts from selected Speakers



Dr. Yong Cheon Song – Chairman UPF Europe

The Universal Peace Federation is deeply concerned at the extent to which modern societies seem to have lost the sense of connection between a good marriage and family life and the peace, well being and prosperity of society as a whole. We are seeing the consequences of that in the increasing social decay and breakdown to be observed in so called advanced societies the world over.



Dr. Rudolf Gehring, Chair Christian Party of Austria

A strong country needs strong families. Family is something we live! When I was candidate for the Austrian Presidency I became aware that so many Austrians support this view. Young people wish for family and friendship as a foundation for security, stability and support. My political party considers itself as a party for the family and holds that the future of society depends on the Family



Dr. Katrien Beeckman, Director of the Principles and Values Dept. of Int'l Federation Red Cross & Crescent Societies.- We owe our children a life free from violence and fear and full of love and care. The Red Cross and Red Crescent have an active network of 13 million volunteers more than half youth and 54% women. Parents are a role model for their children and matter as much or more than peers in terms of influencing children. Equality at the decision making level between men and women and fathers sharing in child rearing and domestic tasks is protective against domestic violence.



Mr. Dennis Stoica, MBA, Chair, Healthy Relationships California & International.

In California State funding for family and marriage support programs is \$150million per year. Why such strong bipartisan support – it is all about the children – the evidence of studies so overwhelming – children who grow up in intact families do better in education. Mental-health physical health, avoidance of poverty, gangs and crime and have improved lifetime earnings prospects and likelihood to get and stay married.



H.E. Mme. Soline Nyirahabimana, Ambassador of Rwanda to the UN on behalf of Mme Jeannette Kagame

The Ambassador paid very meaningful tribute to the many projects initiated by Rawanda's First Lady and her commitment to engage, educate and empower through initiatives in education, health and employment. For example the Guardian Angels project which encourages remarkable adults who have shown remarkable compassion by caring for vulnerable children and the Unity club which brings together women survivors of the genocide and the wives whose husbands are in prison or exile as a result of their part in committing the atrocities.



Islam- Dr. Tariq Ramadan, Professor of Islamic Studies, Oxford.

To address peace we should not just consider principles of religious belief and teaching but rather commitment and implementation. Islam is family centred and marriage is regarded as half of faith. The Family should be a school of humility whose objective is peace. First at peace in yourself – finding God is meeting our need for spiritual well being through truth – we need to think of this in our family. Freedom is to know who you want to be – not what society says you should be or what others want you to be.



Ms. Carolyn Handschin-Moser - President WFWP Int. – Europe

Proposed a new paradigm - *Familiarchy* - A system of society in which the family unit is the nexus; parents, children, and extended family members cooperate according to their roles to maintain and enhance its members and contribute as a whole and as individual members to the development of the larger community. ..becoming an intertwined network of families.



Lord Raj Loomba, CBE, Member of the House of Lords and Founder, Chairman and Trustee of the Loomba Foundation (Widows Foundation), UK.

Family life is so influential but family life can break down through no fault when a woman's spouse dies via ill-health, accident or disease – then the woman often loses her place in society and if uneducated may depend on her children to work in factories or on the street and to be open to being abused. The tragedy in developing nations is that widows are often ostracised, even prohibited from making a living and their property taken away from them so that they face destitution.



Ms. Pindie Stephen, Senior Migrant Training and Integration Specialist Labour Migration and Human Development Division, IOM

The feminisation of migration represents a qualitative change – women increasing as primary immigrants not as dependents. The social impacts of migration: uprooting and adapting has major impact e.g. you are on your own in a new unfamiliar environment, children finding themselves as cultural facilitators, loss of social networks and support systems. Successful migrants who settle well can in turn educate and prepare others and become a beacon of hope for the next generation.

Some Comments from Speakers and Participants:

I can already recommend another speaker for your next ELC from our organization (IOM). It has been a great honour and privilege to partner with you for this precious conference.

Pindi Stephen IOM Geneva

The most extraordinary accomplishment was that you managed in this conference to bring together the main religious leaders of Geneva of all the large faith congregations.

Rev. Dr. William Mc Comish, Dean Emeritus of St. Peter's Cathedral in Geneva



I would like to thank UPF/WFP the organizers for this outstanding conference. Despite the fact that it was a short 2 days, I feel absolutely no regret of coming from 1000 km away Vienna to be part of this great event. It was totally worth it!

Dr. Rudolf Gehring, Head of Christian Party of Austria and former Presidential Candidate.

An excellent very rich and professionally organized conference - we are so moved to see the impact of UPF and WFP and partners at the United Nations Geneva. The young people in an interfaith peace council will open many doors. We need to publicise these events in the media and arrange TV interviews; also to establish a network of counsellors, professors, psychologists and marriage educators.

Dr Dietrich Seidel, family and marriage educator

The time we spent together was very emotional and the hospitality of our host warm and welcoming. We became like a family in just the first twelve hours! I learnt a lot from this conference and am rich in material and knowledge to use for my work in Africa.

Isalano Niffa – Kenyan educator

A very good approach through all aspects of the programme -all areas discussed were valuable. I wish we had stressed more that peace comes when physical as well as spiritual needs are met. I have added a lot of values to my own and plan to write about the conference in the in-house magazine to share with my work family.

Hala Elsayed, Egypt and Vienna

I appreciated this special opportunity to talk with the delegates about our work and to learn about theirs. I am hoping that some wonderful developments will come from these new relationships. I'm very impressed with the reach of your vision and with your abilities to bring form and substance to this vision by gathering such an array of high level people from around the world. None of this is easy and I'm most appreciative of your willingness to do all that you both do to foster international understanding and cooperation.

Patty Howell, President Healthy Relationships California and California Healthy Marriages Coalition

Summaries of some key contents from the various speakers - links to presentations and full texts where they are available and more to be added as they become available.

The Opening Session



H.E. Mme. Soline Nyirahabimana, Ambassador of Rwanda to the UN on behalf of **Mme Jeannette Kagame** - The loss of key elements of traditional culture which established respect and order in Rwandan society, as a result of the impact of colonisation, was a substantial factor in a level of disorder and complete lack of moral restraint which expressed itself in the horror of genocide. The natural order of society of which family plays such a central part should be and is now protected by the state so that families can flourish.

The Ambassador paid very meaningful tribute to the many projects initiated by Rwanda's First Lady and her commitment to engage, educate and empower through initiative in education, health and employment. The Guardian Angels project which encourages remarkable adults who have shown remarkable compassion by caring for vulnerable children and the Unity club which brings together women survivors of the genocide and the wives whose husbands are in prison or exile as a result of their part in committing the atrocities. They discovered they were all victims of the tragedy and facing similar problems in overcoming traumatic loss and caring for their families.



Dr. Yong Cheon Song – Chairman UPF Europe - UPF is deeply concerned at the extent to which modern societies seem to have lost the sense of connection between a good marriage and family life and the peace, well being and prosperity of society as a whole. UPF's Founders, Father and Mother Moon have dedicated their entire lives to expounding a vision of marriage and family that can serve as the basis for lasting world peace and in which all levels of social entity can exist in peace and harmony both within themselves and in relationship to other social entities. Much of the solution to our social, political and economic ills lies in rediscovering the causal link between healthy families and a healthy society and in finding ways to revitalize the institutions of marriage and family. – [Link to speech](#)

Session I

Family Policy in Modern Western Society – Where do we stand?



Dr. Rudolf Gehring, Chair Christian Party of Austria.- [Link to speech](#)

A strong country needs strong families. Family is something we live! When a candidate for the Austrian Presidency I became aware that so many Austrians support this view. Young people wish for family and friendship as a foundation for security, stability and support. My political party considers itself as a party for the family and holds that the future of society depends on the Family:

- Family mainstreaming – the relationships between men and women should not be characterized as a struggle for power but a matter of mutual respected and support, cooperation and stable loving relations.

- Recognition of family work as an important contribution to society
- Establishing a genuine choice between parental care and other forms of child care
- Family sufferance – more votes for families with children
- A focus on all age groups not just the young and elderly



Mr. Dennis Stoica, MBA—Chair of Directors, Healthy Relationships California and International - In California State funding for family and marriage support programs is \$150million per year. Why such strong bipartisan support – it is all about the children – the evidence of studies is so overwhelming – children who grow up in intact families do better in education, mental-health physical health, avoidance of poverty, gangs and crime and have improved lifetime earnings prospects and likelihood to get and stay married. Prevention is much less expensive than caring for social problems and preventative human relationship education is very cost effective compared with crisis couple counselling. Teaching basic skills – effective speaking and listening, empathy

and win- win strategies - these skills are also applicable beyond the family to address conflict prevention and resolution – they start in the family and then can grow to impact world peace. – [Link to presentation](#)



Ms. Carolyn Hands

Ms. Carolyn Handschin-Moser - President WFWP Int. – Europe

Proposed a new paradigm, *Familiarchy*, a system of society in which the family unit is the nexus; parents, children, and extended family members cooperate according to their roles to maintain and enhance its members and contribute as a whole and as individual members to the development of the larger community and becoming an intertwined network of families. An inclusive system of government in which men and women share responsibility similar to the way that parents guide and nurture their children, taking into consideration the advice of family elders and including citizens of all ages as partners according to their capacity. – [Link to presentation](#)



Mr. Josef Gundacker, Familienforum Oesterreich

Falling in love and splitting up again and again incurs so much cost to the individual, family and society. What is the cause – is the family outdated or just changing? Doubt and mistrust towards family mean that the family is generally portrayed in a negative light – marriage as risky and children as a burden. The parent-child relationship is classified as less important for the development of the child. Even though, extensive scientific studies in the fields of early child development and brain development show the importance of parents for the development of the child, those studies are widely ignored. Family is not primarily formed through social and economic conditions. It is the parent-child relationship that forms the family. Furthermore, family relationships cannot

be simply organized by management methods. They follow the principle of sowing and reaping. Generally it is assumed that for men and women freedom of choice is the most important matter and that the relationship will develop automatically, but this is wrong thinking. In fact, the biggest challenge for the majority of the population is to build lasting relationships of trust. Therefore, trying to find solutions for the wellbeing of family life based only on economic and social conditions, leads to false assumptions. – [Link to speech](#)



Session II

Families, Human Development and Good Governance: What can we learn from other Cultures and Continents?



Dr. Wim van Eekelen (Former Dutch Defence Minister) chaired the session and recalled his wonderful and memorable experience with UPF when participating in a ceremony to renew his wedding vows and rededicate his family as part of the European World Peace Blessing which took place in San Marino in 2010.



HE Maurice Peter Kagimu Kiwanuka, Ambassador of Uganda to the UN, Geneva

The Ambassador declared that he follows the Biblical definition of family and feels that human rights are being stretched too far with gay couples allowed to adopt children. When looking for a marriage partner family stability and background are important and really knowing your prospective spouse. It is good to inherit spiritual wealth and to plant God in the heart of our children. Schools should teach so as to prepare young people for marriage and expound the values on which good relationships can be built. Family is good for all of us – without happiness in family, life becomes very difficult. – [Link to speech](#)



Dr. Jesus Domingo, Minister & Consul General, Philippines Mission Geneva

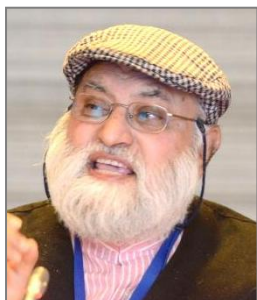
Family is the most fundamental of NGOs – the primary unit of good governance. In the Philippines 10% of our population are overseas workers – many enjoy a prosperous lifestyle which they could not have gained working at home, but the cost is that many children are not brought up by both parents and the marital separation involved also has an adverse impact on marital fidelity. Family plays a major role in economy and business start up – the government is providing training in entrepreneurship and business start-up for families. An important key is the development of virtue and the diminution of ethical negatives and the role of places of worship. Families are the *god particle* for a good society – the family that prays, earns, advocates and leads together!



Dr. Katrien Beeckman, Director of the Principles and Values Dept. of Int'l Federation Red Cross & Crescent Societies.

We owe our children a life free from violence and fear and full of love and care. The Red Cross and Red Crescent have an active network of 13 million volunteers more than half youth and 54% are women. The work is anchored in local knowledge, work, aspirations and needs. Many programs are on offer: non-discrimination, violence prevention and mitigation, engagement in inter-dialogue (culture and religious etc). Parents are a role model for their children and matter as much or more than peers in terms of influencing children. Equality at the decision making level between men and women and fathers

sharing in child rearing and domestic tasks is protective against domestic violence. The value of one to one quality time between parents and children is make or break regarding the potential for substance misuse for example. Skills training for parents: development stages, setting boundaries, non violent communication, non-violent discipline - and for Children: reduction of vulnerability to negative peer pressure and education that stimulates them to take up their own responsibility. Creating networks of support – let's come up with positive role models of family!



Dr. Imam Abdul Sajid, Chair, Dialogue of Cultures in Europe, Deputy Chair, Religions for Peace- Europe

Marriage – a male and female come together voluntarily, a child is born and a family begins – this springs directly from God's creation. Unconditional love is a prerequisite for family. If family is shattered the cost to society is almost uncountable. If peace is in the family you acquire peace in your own world and from there it builds. If there is no peace in your own heart then there cannot be peace at the subsequent levels –family, society etc. We are social beings so we cannot become civilised except through relationships – we learn our capacity to relate through our family. When family is shattered then the whole society is affected. Strong families bring peace and love. Love does not grow alone, it needs a foundation. We need to address the breakdown of the family and the right to be free from domestic violence and honour killing and forced marriage etc. These violations are not to do with the true practice of religion and can be stopped in the family by good education.



Mr. Jack Corley, President, Universal Peace Federation, UK – [Link to presentation](#)

We need self restraint through education – balanced education – to educate to be good as well as to be smart. The key contribution of religion is to bring the body under the dominion of a good mind so that virtuous ideals turn into virtuous actions and lives. Through this we can address and resolve issues of good governance in relationship to preventing conflict, abuse, pollution and corruption. The key is the fundamental spiritual principle and ethical imperative – living for the sake of others – Father Moon's number one motto. The practice of placing the public before the private leads to the individual living for the family, family for the nation and nation for the world – the path to peace.

Session III

Special Session of the Model UN (Youth) “Interreligious Council” on “The Contribution of Families to the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals” (MDGs)

This was the 8th time for the Model UN Interreligious Council to meet.

At their first meeting during Ramadan all the representatives fasted over the two day conference in solidarity with their Moslem colleagues. This is a wonderful example of the heart to go beyond what is currently expressed in the political and religious arena.



Youth representatives of faiths

President of Council Hi-Seung D'Alberti and Youth delegates, Ambassadors of their faiths to the Council

Protestantism, Lenka Spycher, who spoke of her work in Thailand and Nepal with Buddhist and Hindu colleagues – her experience of Buddhist compassion and the Hindu father who wanted his daughters to attend school along with his sons.

Hinduism, Karthik Ragavan. If we take care of the women of the family the family can reach its highest potential. You take the shortcomings of others as an occasion for you to show your unconditional love. Guidance for each family to share charity to the needy - it is not enough to know, we must practice – look back into our roots and traditions and we will find the wisdom we need – look back and realise the peace and the God within you.



Islam, Wesam el Hussein quoted from the teaching of the Prophet Mohammed PBH as regards to treating parents gently and respectfully – not becoming impatient or rude – and the blessing to take care of our parents in their old age. That paradise is at the mother's feet and she is the one to whom you should show kindness first. It falls to family to teach their children to respect others. Children are an investment for all – parents invest and this creates a chain of love.

JCLDS, Jessica Lees spoke especially about gender equality and empowering women. Children are taught by word, deed and example – when fathers and mothers work as equal partners, this partnership directly teaches gender equality.

Unificationism, Teresa Stacey emphasised that gender equality is the basis for achieving many other of the MDGs – my faith teaches that God is both male and female. Norms and values are learnt at home in the family. The father needs to value his wife's contribution and ideas – women should be seen as a vital resource and should receive education and take up careers – equality in family will lead to equality in wider world.



Session IV

“Can the World Faiths provide a pattern and incentive for a Culture of Peace rooted in Family Ethics?”



Dr. Kyriaki Topidi, Chair of Comparative Law and Religion, University of Lucerne
Notes from her presentation are to follow.



Judaism- Rabbi Garai, Communauté Israélite de Genève

The Family is a human entity not a sociological construct. There are two Jewish approaches, the Orthodox in which women's part is confined to the intimate and family space and the Liberal in which men and women are equals both within and outside the family. The view of God as male affects the view of women and leads to male dominance and women being subjected to restrictions not placed on men e.g. in matters of dress. This is not supportive of peace.



Protestant- Rev. William McComish, Dean Emeritus, St Peter's Cathedral, Geneva

Protestantism has not more than five centuries of existence- largely middle class, literate and urban in origins and in the main Northern European. Calvin writes very little about the family, but his legislation was very much family based and designed to protect family life. In today's Geneva we find many families in which there are more than one religious background – when I asked one class in a Geneva school more than 50% were from such families.



Catholicism - Dr. Richard Friedli, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Theology, Univ. Fribourg

It is not really possible to globally define family from a Catholic perspective. There is official doctrine but also much global variation – a monogamous family that guarantees the continuation of humanity – but in Africa there are large extended Catholic families – or in China one family one child Catholic families – and again Europe is very different in practice from the official doctrine. Much seems to depend upon the respective economic circumstances. It is better not to focus on defining family and theological views, but rather on meeting the actual needs of people and families – food, water medical needs.



Islam- Dr. Tariq Ramadan, Professor of Islamic Studies, Oxford University, UK.

To address peace we should not just consider principles of religious belief and teaching but rather commitment and implementation. Islam is family centred and marriage is regarded as half of faith. God is not either man or woman – rather beyond and above our understanding. There are many different Islamic traditions and interpretations within different cultures. We should place the priority on creating peace not on the complexities of theology. What do we mean by peace? You are at peace when all your needs are met – spiritual, social, political, economic etc – a state of wellbeing. We need to realise the well being of all for peace to be realised. The Family should be a school, of humility whose objective is peace. First at peace in yourself – finding God is meeting our need for spiritual well being – through truth – we need to think of this in our family. Freedom

is to know who you want to be – not what society says you should be or what others want you to be. Develop our ability to perform Jihad – meaning to resist temptation – celebrate the good and resist the bad.



Unificationism – Mr. Tim Miller, Vice Chair, Unificationist Community, Europe

spoke of his experience at a marriage ceremony of 2000 couples officiated by Rev Moon in 1982 and dedicated to World Peace through ideal families – later in 1992 a larger event including elders of all faiths rededicating their marriages in support of young people making their marriage vows for the first time. This represents a means by which all religions and religious leaders can cooperate together to uphold marriage, family, commitment, purity and fidelity as cornerstones of a stable loving society. Peace must be achieved on the individual level through closeness to God, the development of self-restraint and the capacity to live for others as a foundation for societal peace, through

families where the love of God comes down and passes to the next generation. Where man and woman meet in a love that is pleasing to God, for the sake of the other and leads to the conception of new life and most importantly the establishment of a tradition of love that passes through the generations – lineage.

[Link to presentation](#)

Session V

The Economic and Social Contribution of the Family: combating Poverty and Crime?"

Professor Mohan Gautam, provided an in depth report on the previous day's proceedings



HE Mme. Soline Nyirahabimana, Ambassador of Rwanda to the UN

Empowered families can contribute to a peaceful and prosperous nation – in Africa the family is beyond the nuclear family, rather the extended family. The promotion of the family is a paramount part of Rwanda's national vision to 2020. Following the genocide of 1 million we remain with many orphans and widows. Rwanda sought to find its own home grown initiatives to bring about resolution of poverty and crime. The introduction of the household performance contract which requires each household to make pledges based on the capacity of the household and the cell of 10 to 20 households - e.g. a pledge to plant so many trees. This results in community public project days and a process of mutual assistance at the cell level. This promotes the sense of one family between neighbours – caring for each other.



Lord Raj Loomba, CBE, Member of the House of Lords and Founder, Chairman and Trustee of the Loomba Foundation (Widows Foundation), UK.

The economic and social significance of the family often not considered in depth – family life is so influential but family life can break down through no fault when a woman's spouse dies via ill-health, accident or disease – then the woman often loses her place in society and if uneducated may depend on her children to work in factories or on the street and to open to being abused. I grew up as a widow's son and I know the problems such families face. As a result I set up a foundation to care for widows and their children which works in fourteen countries including India but also Rwanda. This is the first global NGO for widows to be accredited for by the UN and we could also establish the International Widows Day on June 23rd each year which the UN recognised in 2010 – that was the day in 1954 when my mother became a widow. The tragedy in developing nations is that widows are often ostracised, even prohibited from making a living and their property taken away from them so that they face destitution. Widows and their families are thus prevented from contributing economically and they become victims of criminality, trafficking and prostitution etc. Women are more vulnerable to poverty and crime – but for widows the discrimination is doubled.



Mrs. Patty Howell, Ed.M., A.G.C.--President, Healthy Relationships California and International explained that married couples stay together longer due to the element of commitment – relationship stability is a great contribution to society. Children have great trouble in school when marriages break. There is a strong link between poor marital outcomes and poverty and crime: 73% of the lowest income quintile in USA are single parent families and 80% of long term child poverty is found in broken or never formed families. This has intergenerational consequences.

We provide a variety of skills based courses which are best taught by instructors who are trained for a specific course. We have delivered such courses to 125 thousand in California over the past five years. Meta analysis from over 100 sources demonstrates that high levels of relationship happiness remain for up to 12 years after the course. This brings very substantial benefits in terms of life time benefit and even economic returns.



Mr. Heiner Handschin, Secretary General UPF, Europe 2

I would like to emphasize the important input of religious leaders – and teachings and understanding that can empower individuals and communities to establish loving families. Such families are the best means for combating poverty and crime in society because of their preventative effect. Education of heart aims at teaching children how to be able to love- learning to love on 4 different levels. First as children; on that level, we are definitely on the receiving end, we fundamentally learn to receive love from a parents, a Father and a Mother, different in nature but very complementary in substance. A child is embedded in his parents love and in this state children develop the ability to trust and confidence in themselves. At a second level, children realize the with the emergence of a sibling that parental love can be shared and children can love each other as siblings, being united under the same warm love umbrella coming from their parents. Siblings love is like secondary school education in the school of heart and love. At a third stage in the school of love and heart, young adults are coming to engage in a spousal love which brings together the two universes of masculinity and femininity, reflecting the divine nature of the Creator. Two hearts melting into one, making oneself completely vulnerable to another being is a completely new dimension, bringing each individual to the point of going beyond oneself for the sake of the other. Spousal love is compared to the university level in the school of heart and love. Finally the master class or PHD in the school of love is the realm of parental love that can go beyond one's own interest, it is totally giving and forgets that it has given. The heart and love of a parent can smoothen out the roughest edges of character. Parents can still love where neither siblings nor spouses can love and are able to embrace even “enemies”. Love your enemies is a truly parental perspective, as it seeks solely the good of the other. – [Link to speech](#)

Session VI

Families and Integration in a multi-cultural environment



Ms. Pindie Stephen, Senior Migrant Training and Integration Specialist Labour Migration and Human Development Division, IOM

My comments will come from a migration and integration perspective. Transnational families are the largest and most vulnerable would be migrant workers – the demand for cheap and flexible care takers in developed world leads to employment of women from developing nations who in turn leave their own children in care of others – e.g in the Philippines where many communities are empty of women. The feminisation of migration is a qualitative change – women increasing as primary immigrants not as dependents. The social impacts of migration: uprooting and adapting has major impact, you are on your own in a new unfamiliar environment, children find themselves as cultural facilitators, loss of social networks and support systems. Migrant training programs: pre departure orientation for migrants and the families left behind, preparing communities to welcome new migrants. Successful migrants who settled well can help to educate and prepare others becoming a beacon of hope for the next generation.



Ms. Rosalie Gueye, President Miferval, Lyon – France

The family is the foundation of society, the centre of education and determines our behaviour. What are the responsibilities of parents in families that are experiencing migration? Many Africans left Africa in search of a better life and later families join them. We have programs to help families to connect both their country of origin and their new country. Lack of education causes a major handicap - leads to problems in school and in integration – it is difficult for working parents to care for their children when they come home – children have many questions but cannot get answers. Neglected children go on line or watch TV or go on the streets and this offers a culture of transition which can

lead to gangs and violence. Truthfulness – parents transmit to the children what they can do the best – something compatible with new culture and the culture of origin. Maximise the advantages – acquire citizenship and rights and learn to tolerate others in a multicultural society.



Rev. Dr. Joong Hyun Pak, Author, Theologian, Chairman of the Multicultural Family Association in South Korea – [Link to presentation](#)

Based on the view of Alvin Toffler, I suggest that with the coming of the new millennium, we have arrived at a new era – the 4th wave, a global village composed of multicultural families. We need a new set of values - multicultural family values in order to manage this new age – such a blue print will be the foundation for a future peaceful world. These are my proposals:

1. The multiracial family – love doesn't have a particular skin colour!
2. The multinational family - love doesn't have national boundaries.
3. The multiclass family – the trend for rich and poor and those of different educational levels to marry.
4. The multi-religious family – the trend to marry beyond religious difference
5. The multidimensional family – maintaining love and commitment even to the spouse who has left this world in the expectation to be reunited in the next world.

Such families can only be possible through true love, an unchanging and unselfish love.



Mrs. Chantal Komagata, Secretary General. UPF, Switzerland gave a very moving and insightful account of her own family experience as a Swiss woman married to a Japanese man. She remarked on the attraction of differences and at the same time the challenges that spring from that difference and which require you to overcome feelings of rejection. To go beyond the individual sphere to the family sphere is not easy – I need to get beyond myself – for that we need to get out of our comfort zone and experience others different from myself which takes real but rewarding effort. Every cultural sphere you integrate opens the door to the people living in that sphere – through learning a language and coming to know another culture. When I went to Japan for the first time I could understand why my husband was the way he was - I arrived in Japan and became

a servant rather than a queen! Later when my husband came to live in Switzerland I could understand the challenges he faced and empathised with him. To unite we need a united heart centred on a common purpose.

[Link to presentation](#)