

## Concept Note

# The Family's Role in Elevating the Next Generation

February 23, 2023 | 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Conference Room XXV, United Nations, Geneva

Sponsors: The Permanent Mission of the Gambia to the United Nations in Geneva  
The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Congo to the United Nations  
in Geneva  
Latter-day Saint Charities of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

### Background:

The family is the “natural and fundamental” building block of society (UDHR Art. 16(3)). As such, stable families are essential for stable communities, stable nations, and a stable world. This is evidenced in myriad studies and statistics. Positive trends of strong families include decreases in poverty and teenage pregnancy, and increases in physical and mental health, educational opportunities, employment and earning potential, and self-reliance. Increasingly, however, many institutions are trending towards favoring individual rights over family rights. In so doing, these same institutions are doing themselves a disservice to the broader community, and lack of strong families will have a detrimental effect in the long run.

This event will seek to show some of the ways in which strong families aid in elevating the next generation. Speakers will come from a variety of backgrounds to talk about the family's role as a stabilizing influence in society and what can be done to further strengthen the family.

### OPENING STATEMENTS:

The following confirmed Permanent Representatives who will be co-sponsoring, other Permanent Representatives who will be attending, and one invited guest will deliver opening statements:

Amb. Muhammadou M.O. Kah, Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the United Nations, Geneva

Amb. Paul Empole Efambe, Permanent Representative of The Democratic Republic of Congo to the United Nations, Geneva

Amb. Hend Abdalrahman Al-Muftah, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, Geneva

Rev'd Dr. Andrew Teal, Chaplain, Fellow, and Lecturer in Theology, Pembroke College Oxford

### PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:

- 1) The Value of the Family in Society: Many positive demographic trends are associated with strong families, including decreased teenage pregnancy, increased education attainment, etc. This portion will show research surrounding changing demographics of the family, and how those trends have affected society.

Speaker: Dr. Spencer James, The Wheatley Institute

- 2) Family and Education: Article 26 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights outlines parents' right to actively participate in their children's education. Not only is it in the family that children learn academic skills, but they also learn other important life skills such as financial literacy, civic engagement, health practices, etc. This speaker will outline the role of the family in guiding their children's education.

Speaker: Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe, Ethics Education for Children, Arigatou International

- 3) The Role of the Family in the Provision of Humanitarian Aid: This portion will focus on how the family plays a vital role in the distribution of humanitarian aid, including that humanitarian aid goes further and lasts longer when distributed through family units. More than providing the best distribution mechanism for aid, families also increase self-reliance by teaching fundamental life skills.

Speaker: Christine Campeau, Global Advocacy Director - Food Systems | CARE

#### FORMAT:

After opening statements by the Co-hosts and additional Permanent Representatives, each speaker will be given 10-12 minutes to present. After their presentations, there will be a Question and Answer period.

BIOS (Confirmed Speakers):

Ambassador Muhammadou M.O. Kah, Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the United Nations, Geneva:

With a career spanning more than three decades in higher education, science and technologies, as well as corporate business, Mr. Kah has held teaching and leadership positions in the United States, Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. He has served as the founding Chairman of Zenith Bank, the Gambia; Chairman of the Board of Directors of Africa Consulting and Trading Group in Dakar, Senegal; and founder and Chairman of Khamsys Technologies Ltd, a start-up in Bijilo, the Gambia.

Mr. Kah stepped down from the Board of Trustees of the American University of Nigeria and was appointed as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, and Professor of information technology and computing at the American University of Nigeria (2017-2020). He served as the third Vice Chancellor of the University of the Gambia from 2009 to 2015, the first Gambian to serve in this capacity, where he also held the position of Professor of information technology and communications and Overseer of the Gambia College. He served as Founding Dean and Professor of information technology and communications of the School of Information Technology and Engineering, and Vice Rector for Technology and Innovation, ADA University, Azerbaijan. He served as Founding Dean of the School of Information Technology and Communications at the American University of Nigeria for four years, including as Interim Dean of the School of Business and Entrepreneurship for one year. Mr. Kah also served as a Department Chairman and Information Systems at the American University of Sharjah, School of Business and Management, United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Kah completed his BSc, his MSc and his Ph.D. at the Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, United States. He was awarded a Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) by the University of the Gambia. He also has a Master of Science in Finance from George Washington University, Washington, DC, and a postgraduate diploma in strategy and innovation from the University of Oxford, Said Business School, Oxford, United Kingdom, and has completed a number of executive education programmes, among others.

Ambassador Paul Empole Efambe, Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo to the United Nations, Geneva:

Paul Empole Efambe is the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Prior to his appointment to Geneva, Mr. Empole Efambe served at the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations in New York since 2010, as Minister Counselor, Deputy Permanent Representative, then as the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. He also represented the Democratic Republic of the Congo at the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services during that period.

Mr. Empole Efambe held various posts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Chief of Office covering the Economic and Social Council and sustainable development at the Direction of International

Organizations; Deputy Secretary of the Permanent Consultative Committee of the United Nations for security questions in Central Africa; and Secretary of the National Committee to fight against the illicit sale of small arms and light weapons and antipersonnel mines. He was a professional intern at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1999 to 2001 and then became a career diplomat.

Mr. Empole Efambe has a diploma of higher studies in French literature and civilization, Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences, University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (2010); a bachelor's degree in French language and literature from the same University (1999); and a bachelor's degree in applied pedagogy from the National Pedagogical University, Democratic Republic of the Congo (1995).

Ambassador Hend Abdulrahman Al-Muftah, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations , Geneva

H.E. Ms. Hend Abdulrahman Al-Muftah, is the new Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland. She was appointed in July 2022.

H.E. Ms. Al-Muftah has had a wide-ranging career since 2004, including different academic, research and professional positions. From May 2015 to January 2021, she was Vice President for Administration and Finance and Associate Professor at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. She taught at Qatar University from 1990 to 2016, starting as a teaching assistant, and finishing as an associate professor of management (2010 to 2016). She was Executive Director of the Childhood Cultural Centre of the Qatar Foundation from April 2012 to September 2014. She also served as Director of Human Resources at Qatar University from 2004 to 2008.

In 2017, H.E. Ms. Al-Muftah was appointed as a member of the Shura Council of Qatar, one of four ladies joining the Council for the first time for a four-year term. She has been a member of, or consultant to various national and regional bodies and has many publications.

H.E. Ms. Al-Muftah has a Ph.D. in human capital formation-human resources management from Exeter University, United Kingdom (2004). She also has a master's degree in management science from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, United Kingdom (1999), and a bachelor's degree in public administration from Qatar University, Qatar (1990).

Rev'd Dr. Andrew Teal, Fellow, and Lecturer in Theology, Pembroke College Oxford

Reverend Dr. Andrew Teal is fellow, chaplain, and full member of the Faculty of Theology and Religion at Oxford University. He has been an Anglican priest for thirty-four years and has worked in multicultural parishes in the English Midlands and in the academy, having been chaplain of Pembroke College for more than seventeen years. His academic interests include early Church history and society, systematic theology and interfaith dialogue. Teal is also warden of the largest Anglican Convent in the United Kingdom, the Sisters of the Love of God, and is a trustee of the Orthodox Church's St Theosevia House in Oxford. He is committed to building fruitful and trusting friendships between people of different faith traditions.

Dr. Spencer James, Senior Fellow, The Wheatley Institute:

Spencer L. James's research focuses on global family relationships and how those relationships influence the wellbeing of children, adolescents, and adults.

Within this broader stream of research, he focuses on two lines: the first on the consequences of family relationships for child well-being, and the second addressing how and why people form, maintain, and dissolve romantic relationships. Presently, he is directing the Global Families Research Initiative, which aims to inform the curious public, policymakers, journalists, academics, and other stakeholders of current trends shaping contemporary family life across the globe. His current projects examine how family structure and child wellbeing are linked in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. James is an internationally recognized expert on global family trends and has published articles in leading journals in family science, sociology, demography, psychology, and social work. He serves as an associate editor for the Journal of Comparative Family Studies and is on the editorial boards of the Journal of Marriage and Family, Family Relations, The International Journal of African Studies, and The International Journal of Public Health and Environmental Research. His research has been widely cited in both traditional and digital media throughout the United States, Europe, Latin America, and Australia.

Dr. James earned his dual-Ph.D. in Sociology and Demography at Penn State University.

Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe, Ethics Education for Children, Arigatou International

Maria Lucia Uribe Torres is the Executive Director of Arigatou International Geneva. She heads the strategic direction of the Ethics Education for Children Initiative as an International Knowledge and Action Hub with partners in more than 30 countries. She is also in charge of developing and maintaining Arigatou International's engagement in child rights initiatives with UN agencies and child rights focused NGOs in Geneva. Ms. Uribe was previously the Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator for Education and Fragility for the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), and served as Program Officer for Arigatou International in charge of coordinating the development of its flagship program, Learning to Live Together. She convenes the International Consortium on Nurturing Values and Spirituality in Early Childhood for the Prevention of Violence, and the Working Group on Children and Violence of Child Rights Connect. Ms. Uribe serves on the Steering Group of the International Partnership for Religion and Development.

Christine Campeau, Global Advocacy Director - Food Systems | CARE

Christine Campeau is CARE's Global Advocacy Director for Food Systems, where she leads the execution of CARE's global policy and advocacy on food and water systems at global, regional, and national levels.

Building on her more than 15 years of experience in the development sector, Christine served as the Deputy Chair of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit's Action Track 4 to advance equitable

livelihoods. She worked alongside the UN Deputy Secretary General and Government Focal Points to develop 117 whole-of-government national food systems pathways. Christine continues to guide CARE's work to support the implementation of the national pathways and established the Decent Work and Living Incomes and Wages Coalitions alongside ILO and IFAD. As a contributor to the Food Systems Countdown Initiative, she helps measure, assess, and track the performance of global food systems toward 2030.

Prior to this, Christine worked for intergovernmental agencies, such as UN Nutrition; for global support systems, such as the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement Secretariat; and with civil society organizations, including Caritas Internationalis.

Christine holds a Master of International Relations from Webster University, Geneva, Switzerland, with a combined focus on international diplomacy and climate-induced migration. Born and raised on a farm in Southern Ontario, she has spent countless hours volunteering on organic farms across Canada and working with farmers in developing countries. Her personal goal is to work with committed farmers, entrepreneurs, social movements, academics, and decision makers to build resilient food systems that ensure global food and nutrition security.