



PULLING BACK THE COVER:

The Roots, Relationships, and Rise
of Family Watch International



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACP	Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
AfBA	African Bar Association
BYU	Brigham Young University
C-Fam	Center for Family and Human Rights (previously Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute)
CSE	Comprehensive sexuality education
ERA	Equal Rights Amendment
FWI	Family Watch International
HGGC	Huntsman Gay Global Capital
IOF	International Organization for the Family (does business as Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society, parent organization of WCF, below)
IRS	United States Internal Revenue Service
LDS	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (the Mormon Church)
LGBTI	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
NIW	National Institute of Womanhood
NOM	National Organization of Marriage
OIC	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
PAC	Political action committee
SEC	United States Securities and Exchange Commission
UFI	United Families International
UN	United Nations
USD	U.S. dollar
WCF	World Congress of Families

1. Executive Summary and Key Findings

On April 4, 2023, Janet Museveni, the First Lady of Uganda, [tweeted to her half-million followers](#), “I recently had the honor of meeting with Ms. Sharon Slater, President of Family Watch International.” The tweet included a photograph of Museveni standing next to Slater and a small group of people on the steps of the State House in Entebbe. The thread continued, “[W]e discussed the significance of safeguarding African culture & family values against emerging threats, & I expressed my concern about the imposition of harmful practices like homosexuality.” Less than two months later, Janet Museveni’s husband, President Yoweri Museveni, signed into law one of the [world’s most punitive anti-LGBTI bills](#), which includes punishments that range from life imprisonment to the death penalty.

Most Ugandans have likely never heard of Sharon Slater or her organization, Family Watch International (FWI). If they have, they may wonder how a Mormon American who leads a small Arizona-based nongovernmental organization (NGO) comes to sit at the table with the wife of a head of state to discuss African values and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people. This is also a question many in the United States and elsewhere are asking.



First Lady Janet Museveni [front, third from right] tweets a thread following a three-day event with Family Watch International. On the steps of State House flanking the first lady are the president of FWI, Sharon Slater, [left] and her husband, Gregory Slater [right].

Private U.S. citizens are free to travel and engage with political leaders in other countries; when this work is politically driven and contributes to dangerous legislation that harms individuals and violates basic human rights, the public is entitled to learn more about the person and the organization they represent. This report aims to shed light on FWI, a group that peddles disinformation and homophobia that is impacting health, education, and human rights policy from Arizona to East Africa and in multilateral spaces like the United Nations.

While FWI has cycled in and out of the public eye since its incorporation in 2000, Slater's close ties to Museveni, and high-level participation with the first lady in a [regional anti-LGBTI inter-parliamentary conference](#) in Entebbe, Uganda, has drawn renewed scrutiny and intense criticism of her organization and its agenda.

This report includes two sections; a case study of FWI's activities in Uganda, followed by a detailed examination of FWI's origins using a "follow-the-money" methodology to identify key transactions, relationships, and events that reveal the organization's roots and ties. This report does not focus on FWI's other public anti-rights organizing, which has been well-documented elsewhere. This report finds that:

- FWI is an ideologically motivated, religious organization that is effectively a branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (also known as the LDS Church or the Mormon Church) and funded by some of its wealthiest and most influential members. FWI's ties to the LDS Church are evidenced in its leadership; Sharon Slater herself; her late father's connections to the LDS Church's economic and political elite in Washington, D.C.; FWI's former parent organization, United Families International (UFI); and through FWI's past and present major donors.
- FWI was originally founded in 2000 by Slater as a state chapter of UFI in Gilbert, Arizona, and was fully funded by UFI from 2000-2004. UFI, itself founded in 1978 by LDS member Susan Roylance, is an organization that is anti-feminist, anti-LGBTI, and anti-sexuality education.
- Slater was simultaneously working for FWI and UFI from 2001 to 2006, and exclusively for FWI starting in 2006. When Slater took over the UFI presidency in 2001, it flourished with financial support from high-profile LDS church members, including then-coach of the National Basketball Association Phoenix Suns' Danny Ainge; minority Suns owner Ross

Farnsworth; Phil Marriott (grandson of J. Willard Marriott, of the global hotel chain); National Football League star Steve Young; singer and musician Alan Osmond; and many others.

- In her 2009 book, *Stand for the Family*, Sharon Slater notes that her work “would not have been possible” without the financial support of Robert “Bob” Gay, a retired private equity magnate who previously worked at U.S. Senator Mitt Romney’s Bain Capital in Boston. Gay retired in 2012 to join the LDS Church’s Presidency of the Seventy, the third-highest ranking leadership body in the LDS church. The Sorenson Legacy Foundation is another major funder of FWI. LDS Church member James LeVoy Sorenson was the richest person in Utah at the time of his death in 2008.
- From its inception, FWI had major political connections with far-right LDS Republicans, and more recently, to the Trump administration. One of FWI’s founding board members was current Arizona U.S. Representative Andy Biggs. FWI’s relationship with Biggs has lasted two decades and is mutually enriching; on January 28, 2020, Biggs presented at FWI’s annual Global Family Policy Forum, and that same year Slater was a member of the 2020 Women for Biggs Coalition. In 2022, Biggs was referred to a House Ethics Committee for failing to comply with a subpoena from the panel investigating the January 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol.
- Sharon Slater’s husband, Gregory Slater—current Vice President and Senior Director of Global Regulatory Affairs for the semiconductor chip manufacturer Intel—has supported FWI’s work from the start and travels often with Sharon, including most recently to speak at the 2023 inter-parliamentary meeting in Entebbe as a “senior legal adviser” to FWI. In February 2017, one month after Andy Biggs was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Biggs celebrated newly elected President Trump’s announcement of Intel’s 7 billion USD investment in the Chandler, Arizona, Intel plant.
- In September 2021, FWI hired a new executive director, Laura Cunliffe, who previously worked with the Trump administration as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva following a stint at the White House Office of Management and Budget and as Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy.
- Slater’s anti-LGBTI activism in Uganda dates to at least 2007. She has close ties to many of the individuals who were involved in the development of the 2009 anti-LGBTI bill, including the former Ugandan Minister for Ethics and Integrity, James Nsaba Buturo and her former Africa coordinator, Martin Ssemu. Buturo worked closely with Scott Lively, the American evangelical

extremist who helped draft the “blueprint” for the anti-LGBTI bill. Both Buturo and Ssempea were named as co-conspirators in a suit filed against Lively accusing him of violating international law by inciting anti-LGBTI persecution in Uganda.

FWI is arguably one of the lead U.S.-based organizations influencing conservative countries around the world to harden their stances against LGBTI rights and sexual and reproductive rights (SRHR). They claim to be international experts, yet their published work is informed by pseudo-science and disinformation, which they use to promote harmful policies and practices and undermine human rights systems. They take great pains to disassociate the organization from the LDS Church. Slater frames her work as non-religious¹ and accuses those who describe FWI as “a “religious organization,” an “evangelical organization,” a “Mormon organization,” or a “Christian organization” as spreading “falsehoods.” Their work has real-life consequences and endangers the lives and rights of LGBTI populations, women, and young people. Understanding their motivations, connections, and background is vital to unraveling and countering their harmful work.

1. Sharon Slater, *Stand for the Family: Alarming Evidence and Firsthand Accounts from the Frontlines of Battle*, (Litchfield Park, Arizona: Ingelstone Publisher, 2015).

2. Methodology

The objective of this report is to provide detailed background information on the founding and development of Family Watch International, a small U.S.-based NGO with an outsized and harmful impact on human rights in the U.S. and sub-Saharan Africa. This report includes research on FWI's funding and financial information, as well as background research on FWI's president and founder Sharon Slater, her husband Gregory Slater and other FWI staff, and the organization's principal networks of support.

Research on organizational financing and history was conducted by [Empower](#), using both paid and free public sources of information. Recent historical and background research was conducted using publications of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS Church), such as Deseret News, local reporting, obituaries, U.S. Congressional archives, social media, academic articles, published books, and organizational websites. Ipas conducted research on FWI's advocacy activities based on open source, publicly available data, gray literature, and social media monitoring.

Empower consulted the following sources of public information to identify organizational funders and obtain official documentation of organizational registration, tax filings, and activities, as well as property holdings and political activities.² This includes:

- Company registration and annual filing documents from the [Utah Division of Corporations](#) and [Arizona Corporations Commission](#);
- Lobbying registration data from the Arizona Secretary of State;
- U.S. Internal Revenue Service Form 990 filings, through both the [official U.S. government website](#) and the [ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer](#) database;
- Political campaign contribution filings from the U.S. Federal Elections Commission and state filing data accessible on [OpenSecrets.org](#);
- County Clerk and Assessor records in various relevant jurisdictions; and,
- Filings with the [U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission](#).

2. These records are on file with Empower and Ipas and available upon request.

3. Introduction

For a relatively small non-profit organization, Family Watch International has an outsized impact on issues related to education, trade, and human rights. Led by its co-founder and president, Sharon Slater, FWI has gained entry to parliaments in [sub-Saharan Africa](#); [discussed anti-LGBTI laws](#) with the president and first lady of Uganda; joined a prayer breakfast with [parliamentarians in Ghana](#); co-hosted events with the Nigerian Mission to the United Nations in New York; keynoted addresses at the [African Bar Association \(AfBA\)](#) and the [Nigerian Bar Association](#); held [consultation meetings with members of the European Parliament in Brussels](#), [hosted anti-LGBTI trainings for policymakers](#); all while sitting on the board of directors of the [Political Network for Values](#) and [No Left Turn in Education](#); and [signing memorandums of understanding](#) with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which represents 57 majority Muslim member states.

FWI is arguably one of the lead U.S.-based organizations influencing conservative countries around the world to harden their stances against LGBTI rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). They have largely targeted African states, cultivating parliamentarians from the region through [annual trainings](#) in FWI's home state of Arizona. In recent years they have focused on two particular issues, [comprehensive sexuality education \(CSE\)](#) and [a trade agreement](#) between the European Union and its country partners in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

FWI's ideology is based on a patriarchal "pro-family" framework that is in conflict with "radical feminism" and "homosexual activism." The Southern Poverty Law Center has long classified FWI as an [anti-LGBTI designated hate group](#). The organization's work is informed by pseudo-science; Slater supports the [dangerous practice of "conversion therapy"](#) and abstinence-only approaches to prevent HIV/AIDS. FWI promotes these disproved "therapies" and pedagogical tools in countries with high HIV rates, high teenage pregnancy rates, and poor records on respect and protection of LGBTI rights. The organization leverages parliamentary and other regional policy and legal spaces to spread SRHR- and LGBTI-related disinformation, which they circulate on FWI-branded websites focused on thematic issues including [CSE](#) and [pornography](#), and on [unbranded websites](#) as well.

How does Slater, who claims [no income or compensation](#) for “all her activities to protect the family,” manage to gain privileged access to these different halls of power? To answer the question, this report first examines the history of FWI’s activism in Uganda, and then unpacks its origin story, looking at its founding and funding ties to the LDS Church. We start with FWI’s genesis, organized in rough chronological order with Sharon Slater’s family history, then the early history of United Families International (UFI) from 1978 to 1995 and its pivot from U.S. to UN lobbying from 1995 to 2000. After detailing the organization’s subsequent move from Utah to Arizona, the report concludes with a review of its financial history and key funders.

FWI Goes Global

Sharon Slater, on behalf of FWI, has spent years cultivating relationships and developing international, regional, and national partners who oppose LGBTI rights and SRHR. Slater cuts a well-known figure in the halls of the United Nations, which is where she got her political start in 2000. In her book, *Stand for the Family*, Slater writes that she was motivated to action³ following the [1999 World Congress of Family \(WCF\)](#) held in Geneva, Switzerland, which was co-sponsored by the [World Family Policy Center](#), a Brigham Young University-based organization. It is possible that the experience in Geneva informed FWI’s decision to obfuscate its religious ties. The participation of the LDS Church created tensions among the organizing members of the WCF conference. It also created tension in Geneva, where leaders of the Swiss Reformed Church [withdrew their permission for the WCF to use St. Pierre Cathedral](#) upon learning that Mormons would be involved.

Mormon participation in the WCF predated Slater’s awakening in Geneva, and indeed, the LDS Church was one of the key leaders at the first WCF in Prague in 1997. On March 21, as the Prague meeting wrapped up, one of the organizers, Christine de Vollmer, president of the Latin American Alliance for the Family, wrote to Allan Carlson, founder of WCF, enthusing that “Susan Roylance, and the other

3. Sharon Slater, *Stand for the Family: Alarming Evidence and Firsthand Accounts from the Frontlines of Battle*, (Litchfield Park, Arizona: Inglestone Publisher, 2015, p. 1).

Mormons are really ready to GO.” Later, she reflected, “The M’s [Mormons] have a very rich arsenal and hitherto have been using their energies in trying to convert the world. I think that they must see that a more immediate goal should be to defeat the un [United Nations]. I think that if they took it as their primary target for a few years, they could do it. They have the money, the organization and the zeal.”⁴

By 2001, the visibility and influence of the LDS Church in the WCF was creating problems for other members. That year, Dorothy Kelly Patterson, the wife of Paige Patterson, then president of the Southwestern Baptist Convention (SBC), wrote to Carlson threatening they would not distribute WCF materials because “it is going to be perceived as a Mormon product of the World Congress of Families.” She continued, “Allan, I do not want to sound like a broken record; but from the discussions I have had with our agency people and with Paige...we will not be able to muster the support of Southern Baptist for any of these causes unless we find a way to get off center on the high profile control by representatives of the Church of Latter Day Saints.”⁵

From the beginning, FWI scrupulously avoided any LDS identification and instead, led by Slater, positioned themselves as thematic experts on education, UN negotiations, and family policy. This is still FWI’s calling card and its materials, videos, and PowerPoints have been shared widely, and frequently referenced as authoritative resources by its allies in parliaments. FWI materials on comprehensive sexuality education receive particularly wide distribution. It should be noted that none of FWI’s staff is a technical expert on education, sexuality, or children’s rights.

4. Letter on file with Ipas. Howard Center for the Family, Religion, and Society Records, Northern Illinois University.

5. Letter on file with Ipas. Howard Center for the Family, Religion, and Society Records, Northern Illinois University.

FWI in Uganda

While FWI has cycled in and out of the public eye since its founding in 2000, it is Slater's recent sponsorship of the [regional anti-LGBTI inter-parliamentary conference](#) in Entebbe, Uganda, that has drawn renewed scrutiny and intense criticism. To understand the events that played out in Entebbe, it is instructive to follow Slater's movements in the lead-up to the conference.

Slater's involvement in Uganda dates to at least 2007 when FWI reported that one of its major accomplishments for the year was "providing consultation with government leaders and/or pro-family groups."⁶ The following year, 2008, found Slater battling against the inclusion of the [International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights](#) in a resolution about HIV/AIDS at the United Nations. Slater claimed, without evidence, that "the homosexual behavior promoted by these guidelines is known to increase HIV/AIDS infection." She took it upon herself to lobby UN delegates to call for the deletion of references to the Guidelines from the resolution. In a remarkable section of her book, *Stand for the Family*, Slater describes how, with just a phone call, she was able to influence a seemingly intractable debate at the UN:

We contacted the African coordinator for Family Watch, who lives in Uganda, and he immediately facilitated a conference call with the Ugandan Minister of Ethics and Integrity. The Minister grasped the seriousness of the threat and quickly called Uganda's UN office in New York to ask them to assist us in removing the reference to the HIV/AIDS Guidelines. The Ugandan Ambassador immediately came over and, after speaking to the woman chairing the negotiations, assured us that the offending language would be removed.⁷

Slater does not name either the African coordinator for FWI, nor the Ugandan Minister, but in 2008, the Minister for Ethics and Integrity was James Nsaba Buturo. Buturo worked closely with [Scott Lively](#), the American evangelical extremist who helped draft the "blueprint" for the anti-LGBTI bill presented in Uganda in 2009, which included the death penalty for the "offense of

6. Family Watch International email to subscribers sent January 3, 2008. On file with Ipas.

7. Sharon Slater, *Stand for the Family: Alarming Evidence and Firsthand Accounts from the Frontlines of Battle*, (Litchfield Park, Arizona: Inglestone Publisher, 2015, pg 15).

homosexuality.” In 2012, a Ugandan LGBTI rights organization filed a suit against Lively, accusing him of [violating international law](#) by inciting anti-LGBTI persecution in the country. Buturo was named as one of four Ugandan co-conspirators; the other three were Stephen Langa, David Bahati, and Martin Ssempea.

Martin Ssempea is a controversial and dangerous anti-gay activist in Uganda, and it is likely that Ssempea was the unnamed FWI coordinator who rang Buturo in 2008; [he is listed in FWI’s “Who We Are”](#) section of its website as the FWI African Coordinator. In June 2023, days after Museveni signed the anti-LGBTI bill into law, and FWI was excoriated for its support of the Entebbe meeting, FWI went into damage control and created a “Frequently Asked Questions on the Situation in Uganda and Family Watch International.” To the question of what connection does FWI have with Martin Ssempea, FWI answered, Ssempea “was once listed on our website...but Family Watch ceased any formal association with Mr. Ssempea sometime around 2014 when he began promoting the proposed Ugandan law calling for the death penalty for ‘aggravated homosexuality.’” If that was the reason for their split, it’s unclear why FWI waited so long to end its association with Ssempea when his role in supporting the anti-LGBTI bill was well-documented, and indeed, he was named as a co-conspirator in the 2012 Lively case.

Slater and Buturo’s relationship extended beyond the U.N. and Slater’s name [appears in discovery papers](#) that were submitted in the lawsuit against Lively. In 2010, [Slater was part of correspondence](#) between Charles Tuhaise, a “legal draft researcher at parliament,” Scott Lively, and the four co-conspirators in the Lively case: Langa, Ssempea, Bahati, and Buturo. While the discovery papers do not show Slater actively participating in the email exchange, there are many questions as to why she was included in a private correspondence taking place between the promoters and drafters of the original anti-LGBTI bill.

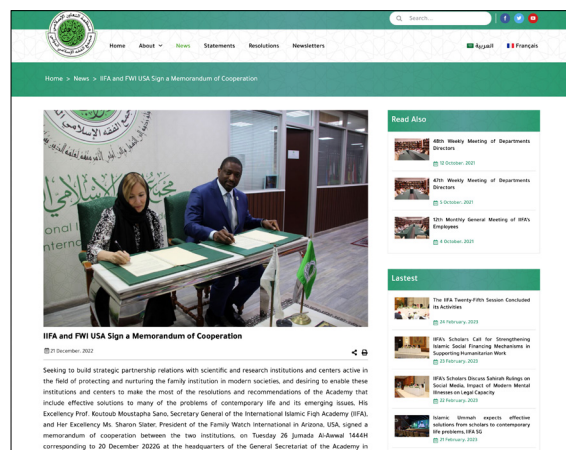
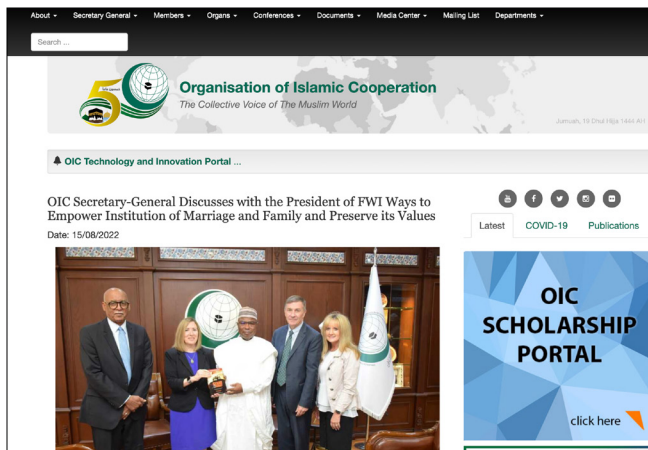
More recently, Slater again found herself in a private group of Ugandans coordinating on introducing an anti-homosexuality bill. As reported by [openDemocracy on May 5, 2023](#), Slater was part of a WhatsApp group that included more than 150 Ugandan anti-LGBTI activists including Thomas Tayebwa, the deputy speaker

of the Ugandan parliament. According to the article, Tayebwa has called FWI “my ideological home,” and it was on this WhatsApp group that he announced, on January 25, 2023, “I think the ground is now ripe to re-table the anti-homosexuality bill.” Also included in the WhatsApp group was Martin Ssempea.

FWI continued taking a focused interest in Uganda, and in providing opinions on national policy. In 2018, FWI drafted a [50-page analysis of Uganda’s national sexuality education framework](#) to provide “suggestions for removing hidden threats that could be problematic in the future.” As mentioned earlier, FWI has a particular interest in CSE, and has practically created a cottage industry of materials to support its efforts to ensure CSE is never introduced or applied in schools.

To promote her anti-CSE and other work, Slater travels extensively, cultivating relationships with influential stakeholders like the Musevenis and, recently, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The [OIC describes itself](#) as the “second largest organization after the United Nations,” with 57 member states, and as the collective voice of the Muslim world. Uganda has been an OIC member since 1974.

In 2022, Sharon and her husband Gregory traveled to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, [to sign a memorandum of understanding with the OIC](#), which committed the two groups to coordinate in responding to the “various attempts that seek to



On the left, Sharon Slater holds a copy of her book, *Stand with the Family*, with the Secretary-General of the OIC, Hissein Brahim Taha (with Gregory Slater on the right), on August 8, 2022; and, on the right, a photo from later that year on December 20, 2022, of Sharon Slater signing a memorandum of understanding with Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, a subsidiary of the OIC.

eliminate the values and principles called for by religions and...to preserve the family system, and the necessary interests agreed upon by all divine religions.” The signatories also outlined the stakes that were at play, explaining that “any violation or manipulation of the concept of marriage, which means that sacred natural contract between a man and a woman, leads to the gradual eradication of the human race, and the obvious ensuing destruction and ruin.” The two organizations, one Muslim, the other Mormon, would seem to have little in common except for their shared animus for CSE and LGBTI rights.

On January 19, 2023, OIC Ambassador Tariq Ali Bakheet delivered a video statement at the opening session of FWI’s 12th annual global policy forum, held in Arizona. In his remarks, Bakheet acknowledged the [OIC’s work with FWI and emphasized](#) that “the OIC continues to vigorously confront the deviant concept of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) at the United Nations and other platforms.” Bakheet insisted that LGBTI people cannot be protected under human rights law and that “we all need to counter SOGI on conceptual grounds that this notion is neither a subject of international human rights law, nor a universally recognized or practiced right so it should not be debated upon within the human rights framework.” And he closed by urging participants at the FWI gathering to use their mandates to “counter the normalization of SOGI at the national level.”

FWI didn’t need any urging to work against LGBTI rights at the national level. By the end of March 2023, one week after the Ugandan Parliament [passed the first draft of the extreme anti-LGBTI bill](#), Slater, her husband Gregory, and Annie Franklin, FWI’s Director of International Activities, found themselves on the steps of the Ugandan State House in Entebbe being photographed with First Lady Janet Museveni. All four had just attended the FWI co-sponsored “*The First African Regional Inter-Parliamentary Conference and Dialogue on the Global Challenges to the Protection of the African Child, the African Family, and African Culture and Values.*”⁸ The event was co-sponsored by the

8. The Entebbe meeting came just two weeks after the United Nations’ annual Commission on the Status of Women, which took place in New York City in early March 2023. There, FWI worked closely with the Nigerian mission to the United Nations to organize several side events, in collaboration with C-Fam, that showcased some of the participants who later attended the meeting in Entebbe, including Ashems Songwe, a Malawian parliamentarian and Uganda’s Minister of State for Gender and Culture in the Ugandan Cabinet, Peace Regis Mutuuzo.

[Parliamentary Forum on Family, Uganda](#), in partnership with the African Bar Association (AfBA)⁹ and the [Foundation for African Cultural Heritage](#), a Nigerian anti-abortion group.

In the lead up to the Entebbe meeting, [Family Watch International](#) was a silent co-sponsor of the event, going to striking lengths to scrub its affiliation. An odd, and revealing, detail in the draft agenda (see Annex 5) was the inclusion of two “international experts,” “Deon Ruff” and “Greg Scott.” For followers of international law, these alleged experts are entirely unknown. However, it is clear these were cover names for Sharon Slater and her husband, Gregory Slater. Rather than identify themselves on the program, they used their middle names, and in the case of Sharon Slater, her maiden name, Ruff (more below on the Ruff family).¹⁰

It should be noted that while Gregory Slater advises FWI and [its partners](#) on strategies to push their anti-LGBTI agenda, his fulltime employment is with the Intel Corporation, the semiconductor chip manufacturer. Given Intel’s [public support for LGBTI equal rights](#) in the United States, which includes a corporate [LGBTI initiative](#), it is unclear if the company is aware of the work of one of its longtime senior executives. Ugandan human rights groups have launched a [petition](#) urging Intel to address the issue of one of their executives spreading homophobia in Africa. The Entebbe meeting was influential for the region as, at the time of writing, [Kenya is considering its own anti-LGBTI bill](#). Its main proponent, Kenyan Member of Parliament Peter Kaluma, [attended the event](#), during which he has stated [participants discussed strengthening anti-LGBTI legislation across East Africa](#).

9. It should be noted that FWI has a long history with the AfBA; in August 2022, Sharon Slater traveled to Lilongwe, Malawi to attend the Association’s annual conference, which was opened by Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera. Slater was joined by FWI including Richard Kakeeto, FWI Africa policy advisor and board member of the Life and Family Foundation of Uganda, and Seyoum Antonios, FWI Africa Director who is based in Addis Ababa. [Program on file with Ipas]. And even earlier, in 2011, Slater traveled to Lagos, Nigeria, to keynote the Nigerian Bar Association Conference, where she warned attendees that they would lose their parental rights if they supported “fictitious sexual rights.”

10. Also included on the draft program was a screening of The Family & Sustainable Development: Strong Families—Prosperous Nations, and anti-UN film that was not labeled as an FWI production, though it explicitly is. Richard Kakeeto, FWI Africa Policy Advisor was included on the agenda without his FWI affiliation (see Annex 5).

Following the Entebbe event, FWI was the subject of intense public condemnation and there were [numerous high-profile articles](#) criticizing FWI’s coordinating role and participation in the Entebbe meeting. FWI’s efforts to [distance themselves from both the event and the anti-LBTI bill](#) that was signed into law by President Museveni suggests they did not anticipate the intense blowback.

As part of damage control, FWI called allies to its defense. The first person to [speak out was Austin Ruse](#), president of the anti-rights organization the Center for Family and Human Rights (C-Fam), who cast Sharon Slater as a kindly grandmother from Utah who was being unfairly excoriated by the “international sexual left.” FWI also worked to rehabilitate its image and in an act of shameless gaslighting, [spun its participation](#) in the meeting as an act of kindness for LGBTI people. Days after President Museveni signed the anti-LGBTI bill into law on May 29, 2023, FWI created a [dedicated page on its website](#), “Frequently Asked Questions on the Situation in Uganda and Family Watch International,” which claimed that FWI has never supported nor promoted any iteration of the Ugandan anti-LGBTI bill but that “in fact, we opposed them both.”

On May 30th, 2023, the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 was published in the Uganda Gazette and is in force as law.

The 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act of Uganda includes some of the following provisions:

- Confirms existing penal code punishment of life imprisonment for same-sex conduct.
- Increases to 10 years the prison sentence for an attempt at same-sex conduct.
- Call for the death penalty for “aggravated homosexuality” in certain circumstances, including so-called “serial offenders,” or those having same-sex conduct with a person with a disability—denying persons with disabilities the capacity to consent.
- Outlaws the “promotion of homosexuality”—thereby censoring freedom of speech and the ability to advocate or provide financial support on LGBTI issues or to LGBTI organizations—instituting up to 20 years’ imprisonment.

- Criminalizes the failure to report suspected same-sex acts to the police with either a fine or up to six months' imprisonment.
- Criminalizes same-sex ceremonies with up to 10 years imprisonment.
- Outlaws knowingly providing accommodation that facilitates same-sex conduct.

4. Origins and Growth

A Family Affair

[Family Watch International](#) is a trademark of the 501(c)(3) organization Global Helping to Advance Women and Children, and was registered in 2000 by Sharon Slater as the Arizona state chapter of the de facto LDS-affiliated United Families International (UFI).¹¹ After Slater left UFI in 2006, she grew FWI into a larger organization than its original parent entity, though both FWI and UFI continue to operate out of Gilbert, Arizona, under LDS leadership and with funding from wealthy and influential LDS members.

Sharon Slater (née Ruff) is the daughter of the LDS multi-level marketing salesman, author, media personality, and conservative activist Howard J. Ruff. At the time of Howard’s death in 2016, the Ruff family asked that donations be made in his name to his daughter’s organization, [of which he “was a great supporter.”](#) While U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) records are not readily accessible for the Howard J. Ruff Foundation for Economic and Political Education—which had its tax-exempt status revoked in 2010—the Eric and Janine Ruff Family Foundation (Eric is Sharon’s brother) made a modest donation to FWI in 2012.¹²

In the early 1980s, Howard Ruff founded a political action committee (PAC), [RuffPAC](#), and a lobbying organization, Free the Eagle, to support free-market and other right-wing causes in the United States, such as arming the Afghan mujahideen with stinger missiles to fight the Afghan government and the Soviet Union. According to his autobiography, because [Ruff’s organizations “were real powers in Washington,”](#) he had “access to President Reagan and any senator and congressman [he] wanted.” Ruff’s most lasting impact on the FWI, therefore, appears to have been his relationships with

11. U.S. designation of a registered nongovernmental organization (NGO) that receives tax-exempt status.

12. Eric and Janine Ruff Family Foundation, 2012 Form 990.

the LDS leadership and access to the country's economic and political elite.¹³

The importance of Ruff's Washington relationships for FWI is evident in the later involvement of his closest contacts' children. [J. Willard Marriott's grandson](#) is a long-time board member and chairman of [United Families International \(UFI\)](#). The late Nina Palmer, daughter of U.S. Senator Watkins, founded the Worldwide Organization for Women (originally Utah Association of Women) in 1977, in large part [to fight ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment \(ERA\)](#). The momentum that had led to the passing of the ERA in 1972 [slowed as conservative activists allied with the emerging religious right](#) and launched a campaign to stop the amendment.

[Palmer was an experienced lobbyist](#) when she attended a 1996 UN conference in Istanbul as part of a large group of LDS members from Utah [who learned to lobby the UN in the 1990s](#).

When the LDS Church and a BYU-based organization, (which would soon bring Gregory and Sharon Slater into the fold), [hosted a 1998 reception in Salt Lake City](#) to support the Second World Congress of Families, U.S. Senator Robert Bennett (Wallace's son) was in the room. In 2003, the younger Senator Bennett (Republican-Utah) led an effort with Orrin Hatch (Republican-Utah) and Jon Kyl (Republican-Arizona) to get appropriations funding for Sharon Slater's "Stay Alive" [abstinence-based HIV/AIDS prevention program](#) at UFI. Howard Ruff himself does not appear to have been instrumental in founding FWI, but his relationships with the LDS elite contextualize his daughter stepping in as the lead administrator of the LDS branch in a Catholic-led, ecumenical movement to fight SRHR and LGBTI rights at the UN.

13. Ruff first entered politics when he was sent on an LDS mission to Washington, D.C. There, he was befriended by the Utah senators Arthur Watkins and Wallace Bennett—the father of Utah's current U.S. senator—as well as J. Willard Marriott, Sr., [namesake of the Marriott School of Business at Brigham Young University \(BYU\)](#) and of the global hotel chain. Nearly all key donors, board members, and administrators of FWI and UFI have ties to BYU, which is part of the LDS-sponsored Church Educational System.

Domestic Organizational Roots (1978-95)

Filings with the IRS and Arizona Secretary of State show that in its first years of existence (from 2000 and 2003), FWI was fully funded by UFI as an affiliated state chapter, all under the coordinated and somewhat opaque direction of Sharon Slater out of Gilbert, Arizona.

UFI, in turn, was founded by LDS member Susan Roylance in 1978 as United Families. It was part of the same effort against ratification of the ERA that led Senator Watkins' daughter Nina Palmer to found the Utah Association of Women in 1977. The LDS Church leadership, and notably Gordon Hinckley, who would become its president in 1995, [was involved in this effort](#). In 1982, Roylance's organization registered in Utah as United Families Foundation, which has survived as the recipient of charitable donations for UFI. [For the next decade, until 1994, the organization notes](#) that it "worked to protect families in the United States from the LGBT and radical feminist movements, abortion without parental consent, federally controlled daycare, sex education issues, [and] distribution of contraceptives to minors," [with involvement from administrators](#) such as Executive Director Gordon Jones, former staffer for U.S. Senators Jake Garn (Republican-Utah), and Paula Hawkins (Republican-Florida), both LDS Church members.

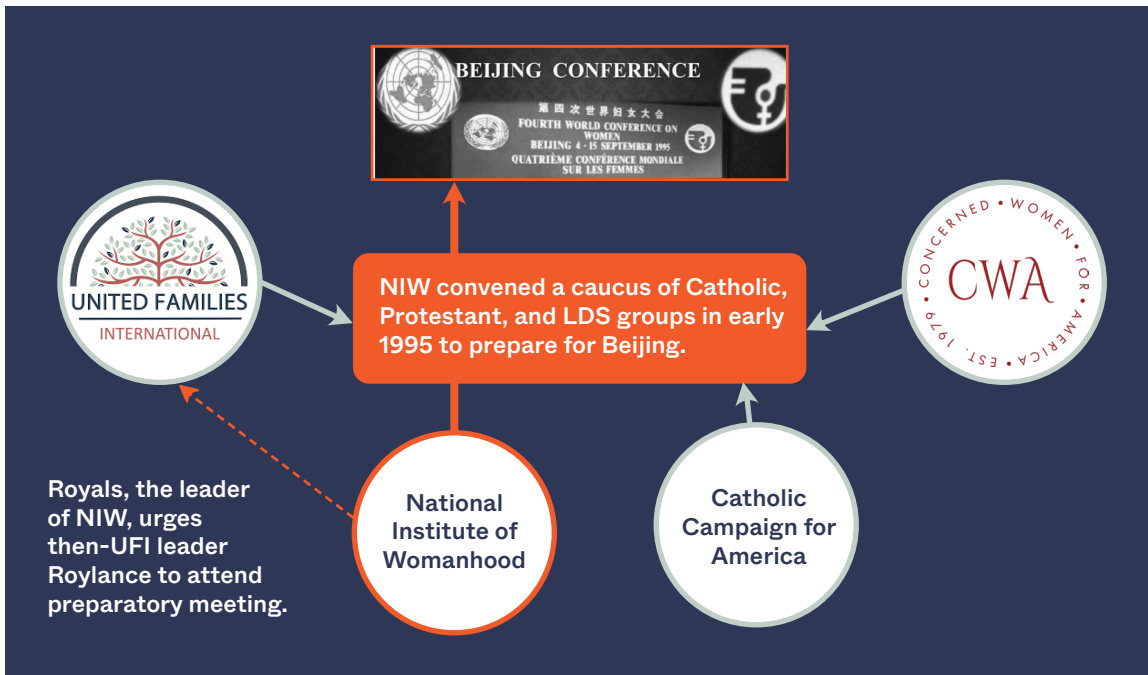


Figure 1: Groups organize ahead of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

In 1995, [UFI took a turn toward international work](#) following “unexpected, yet providential involvement” in the 1995 fourth UN World Conference on Women in Beijing, where Roylance represented both the Utah Association of Women and UFI. Roylance explains that “the president of the National Institute of Womanhood [Cecilia Acevedo Royals]¹⁴ urged her to find a group of LDS women to attend the preparatory meetings for the UN Women’s Conference in Beijing.”

The pre-Beijing coalition building was very successful for anti-rights organizers, and U.S. evangelical and LDS allies threw their resources behind the UN project in Beijing and beyond. Representing the interests of evangelicals in Beijing, [Concerned Women for America’s Beverly LaHaye took a leadership role](#). Beverly and her husband, Tim LaHaye, were allies of Jerry Falwell in founding the Moral Majority, as was James Dobson, whose Focus on the Family was also at Beijing. “I thank God that Pope John Paul really blocked some of those objectives in Cairo [in 1994],” said Dobson in Beijing, adding, [“Evangelicals slept through the whole thing.”](#)

In addition to attempting to prevent the adoption of expanded reproductive rights in other countries, [the anti-feminist Beijing coalition reflected an effort](#) to “keep up pressure on the Republican Party to take a conservative line” in the 1996 presidential election. Material evidence of this is perhaps seen in the Milwaukee-based Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation’s 2,500 USD grant for Cecilia Royals [to travel to Beijing](#). The Foundation has no identifiable religious affiliation but has been one of the principal funders of hard right-wing causes in the U.S. for the last several decades, alongside family foundations like Koch and Scaife.

UFI effectively became the LDS branch of this Catholic-led, ecumenical movement and began growing an LDS lobbying and fundraising infrastructure in Utah.

14. Royals is a member of the Catholic Church’s conservative [Opus Dei organization](#), founded in Spain in 1928.

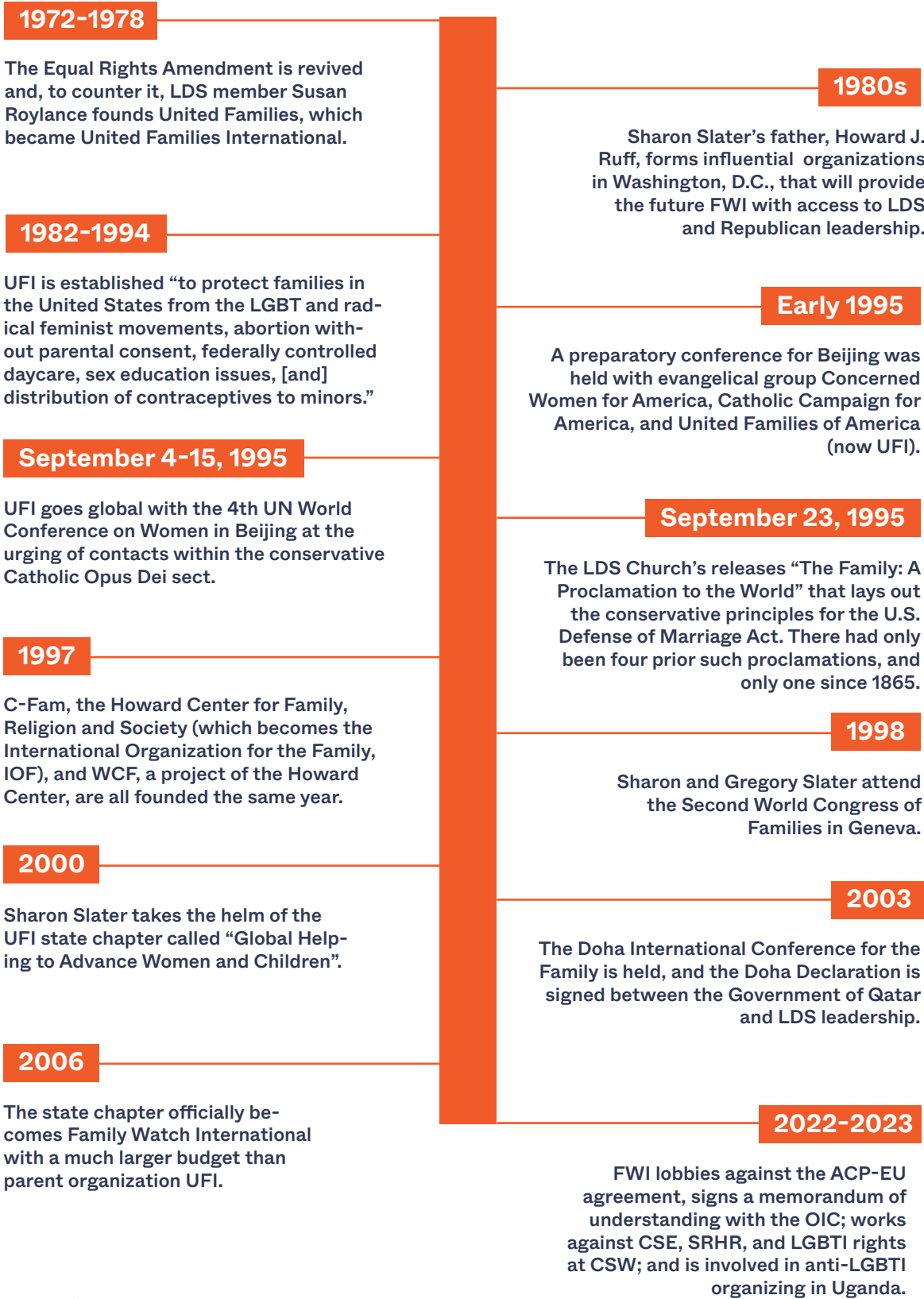


Figure 2: Timeline of FWI's evolution from UFI's domestic focus to global anti-rights group.

The LDS Church Strengthens Global Capacity (1995-2000)

Between 1995 and 2000, UFI received support from the LDS Church to build capacity and recruit activists, including Gregory and Sharon Slater. This began with a very deliberate political move in the form of a religious pronouncement on 23 September 1995, several days after the end of the Beijing conference. Church president Gordon Hinckley first read [“The Family: A Proclamation to the World”](#) at a meeting of the Church’s General Relief Society, a women’s charitable group.

Amid national debates on same-sex marriage that would lead to the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, the Family Proclamation was the Mormon blueprint of conservative principles that defined marriage as exclusively between a man and woman; gender as an essential characteristic of human identity; fathers as responsible for providing necessities while “mothers are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children”; and so on. What made this important was not that it provided any particularly new religious doctrines, but rather its presentation as a formal proclamation. There had only been four prior LDS proclamations, and only one since 1865. Furthermore, it was [explicitly political](#), reading: “We call upon responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society.”

The timing was not coincidental. Boyd Packer, then acting president of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, which issued the proclamation with President Hinckley, said in a 2003 interview, “I can tell you how that came about. They had a world conference on the family sponsored by the United Nations in Beijing, China. We sent representatives. It was not pleasant what they heard. They called another one in Cairo. Some of our people were there. I read the proceedings of that. The word *marriage* was not mentioned. It was at a conference on the family, but marriage was not even mentioned. It was then they announced that they were going to have such a conference here in Salt Lake City. Some of us made the recommendation: [‘They are coming here. We had better proclaim our position.’](#)” Packer was presumably making reference to the UN’s March 1995 International Year of the Family event in Salt Lake City.

While the Family Proclamation was said to have been written by the President and Quorum of Twelve, numerous rumors on LDS message boards suggest that

the document may have been written by the combined efforts of BYU law professor Richard Wilkins and the LDS Church's law firm, Kirton McConkie. Regardless of whether he wrote or edited the document, Wilkins soon became the central intellectual figure behind the LDS branch of the UN lobbying operation.

Just as Susan Roylance was invited to Beijing by a Catholic activist and ally of the Vatican, [Wilkins was first “urged to attend” a UN Conference in June 1996](#), about nine months after the family proclamation was issued, “by several scholars from Catholic universities [he] had met over the years, as well as members of various nongovernmental organizations.” He delivered a speech based on the concepts laid out in the Family Proclamation, an event that UFI now refers to as the “Miracle of Istanbul,” as it garnered conservative support and was the start of the LDS Church's organized involvement and leadership in UN lobbying.

UFI had some 30 representatives at that early event who, regardless of their exact affiliation, were a bloc of lobbyists and new recruits [effectively representing the LDS Church](#). UFI's Susan Roylance, [describing the delegation](#), said “take Linda Barton; it was her first time lobbying the UN, but she's been a paid lobbyist at the Utah State Legislature. And Nina Palmer has lobbied for years. Even my son Brad (a law student at BYU) has lobbied before.”

When he went back to BYU, [Richard Wilkins joined UFI leadership](#), first as Vice President and the next year as a board member, alongside Nina Palmer (daughter of former U.S. Senator Watkins) and South Jordan City Councilman Thomas Christensen, who also spoke at Istanbul, among others.

Wilkins proceeded to found a group called NGO Family Voice in conjunction with BYU's J. Reuben Clark Law School and David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies. In 1999, [NGO Family Voice changed its name to World Family Policy Center](#), a branch of the BYU law school that became an intellectual hub for UFI and FWI, before being dissolved in 2008. It should be noted that BYU is controlled by the LDS Church, meaning that this was a Church-sponsored initiative.

As the LDS Church was building capacity, so were Catholic and Protestant partners, most notably Austin Ruse, who was involved in the 1997 founding of the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute (now Center for Family and Human Rights, or C-Fam), and Allan C. Carlson, co-founder of the Howard Center for

Family, Religion and Society in 1997, which would become the International Organization for the Family (IOF). Also, in 1997, [Carlson founded the World Congress of Families](#) in collaboration with Russian academics and funders, which would serve as the hub of a primarily Catholic, LDS, and Protestant coalition that remains active today. Today, IOF and WCF are run by Brian Brown, who founded the anti-LGBTI group National Organization of Marriage (NOM).

It is worth mentioning that, in early 2000, in the lead-up to the Beijing+5 UN review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for

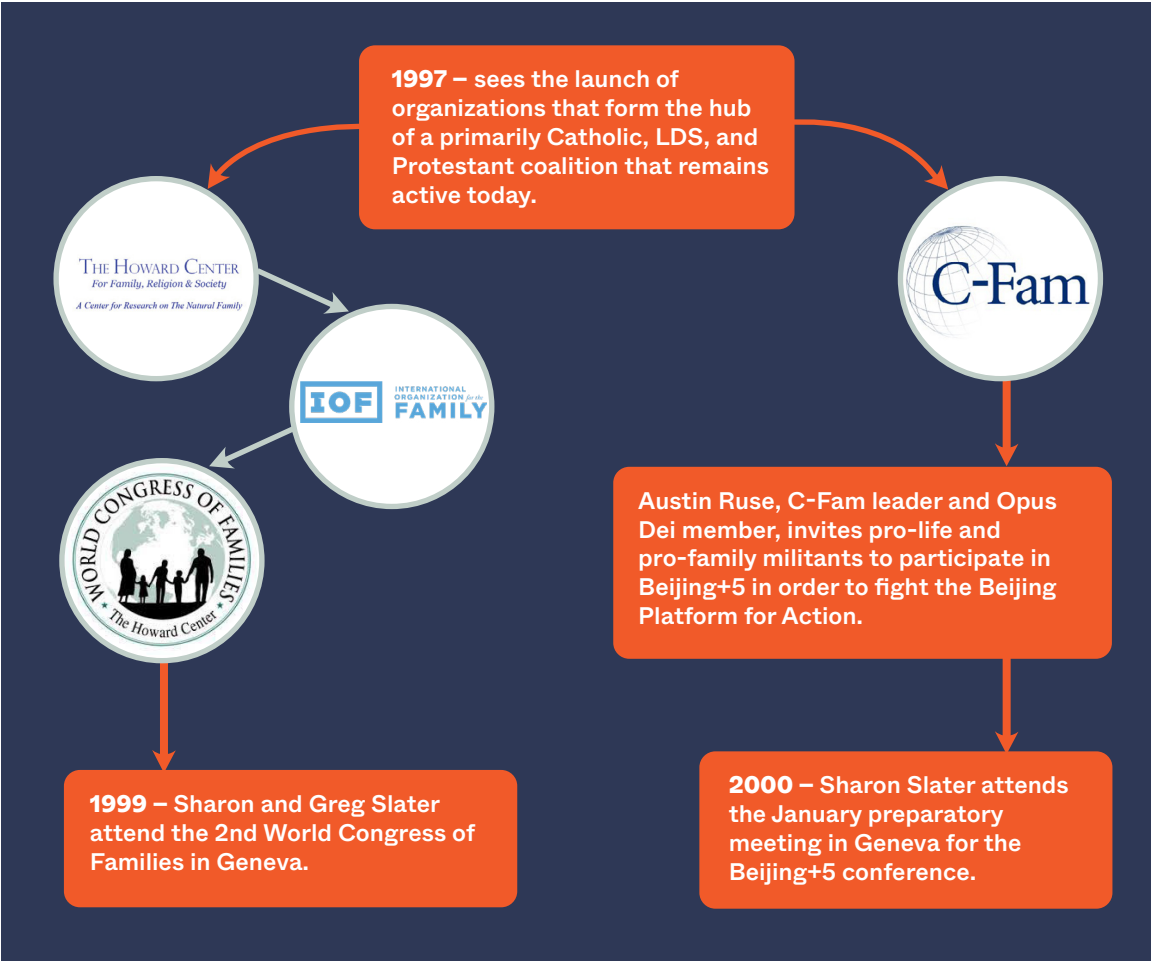


Figure 3: 1997 was a launching point year for anti-rights organizations that first set their sights on Beijing+5.

Action, researchers from the Université du Québec à Montréal noted that “the mobilization of right-wing anti-feminist groups has been orchestrated by Austin Ruse¹⁵ of the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute.

C-Fam remains a strong ally to FWI; in May 2023, when Sharon Slater came under public criticism for her participation in the anti-LGBTI parliamentary meeting in Uganda, on the heels of passage of a punitive anti-LGBTI bill, C-Fam came to her defense, attempting to soften her image by publishing an article claiming that [“the international sexual left targets Utah grandmother.”](#)

The LDS Church would go on to broaden the coalition when BYU’s World Family Policy Center was approached by the ambassador of the State of Qatar, Nassir Al-Nasser, in 2003, to plan the Doha International Conference for the Family and in anticipation of Qatar’s chairing of the UN Group of 77. This led to [high-level discussion between the Government of Qatar and LDS leadership](#) and, eventually, the Doha Declaration, “an international legal document—first discussed at meetings sponsored by Brigham Young University—that reaffirms long ignored international norms related to the family and recognizes the centrality of many principles stated in the Proclamation.”

FWI has continued the LDS outreach to Muslim partners, most recently when it signed a memorandum of understanding with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in December 2022. This partnership was announced on Twitter the following month by the OIC, which also noted that its ambassador, Tariq Ali Bakheet, had made opening remarks at FWI’s 12th annual global policy forum in Arizona. In his remarks, Bakheet noted the OIC’s commitment to the family and its work with FWI, emphasizing that the OIC “continues to vigorously confront the deviant concept of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) at the United Nations and other platforms to [protect the institution of family.](#)” There has been ample coverage of the [WCF and international coalition-building from 1997 to the present](#); the remainder of this report will focus on subsequent growth of the LDS branch of the movement.

15. Like Cecilia Royals, who first invited UFI to participate in the 1995 Beijing conference, [Ruse is a member of Opus Dei](#), the conservative Vatican-affiliated organization founded in Spain.

It was during the late 1990s that Sharon and Gregory Slater first became involved in international lobbying against LGBTI rights and SRHR. [As reported in the LDS Church-owned *Deseret News*](#), “In 1998, Sharon Slater was living in Arizona with her husband, Gregory, being a typical stay-at-home mom. Her life then took an abrupt turn after Gregory received an email about his former law professor. The email that described an experience the professor¹⁶ had in defending the family at the United Nations motivated Sharon and Gregory to attend the World Congress of Families (WCF) in Geneva.”

The Slaters’ alma mater, BYU, from which they both graduated in the mid-1980s, [was a cosponsor of the event in Geneva](#), which featured Richard Wilkins as general secretariat, as well as speakers including Bruce C. Hafen, a member of the Seventy of the LDS Church who had helped plan the first World Congress of Families; Mary Ellen Smoot, president of the Church’s Relief Society; and Margaret Nadauld, [Young Women’s president of the Church](#).

The 1999 conference was a transformational learning experience for Sharon Slater. She would go on to attend a January 2000 preparatory meeting in Geneva for the Beijing+5 conference, where she was “invited by a friend.” Here,

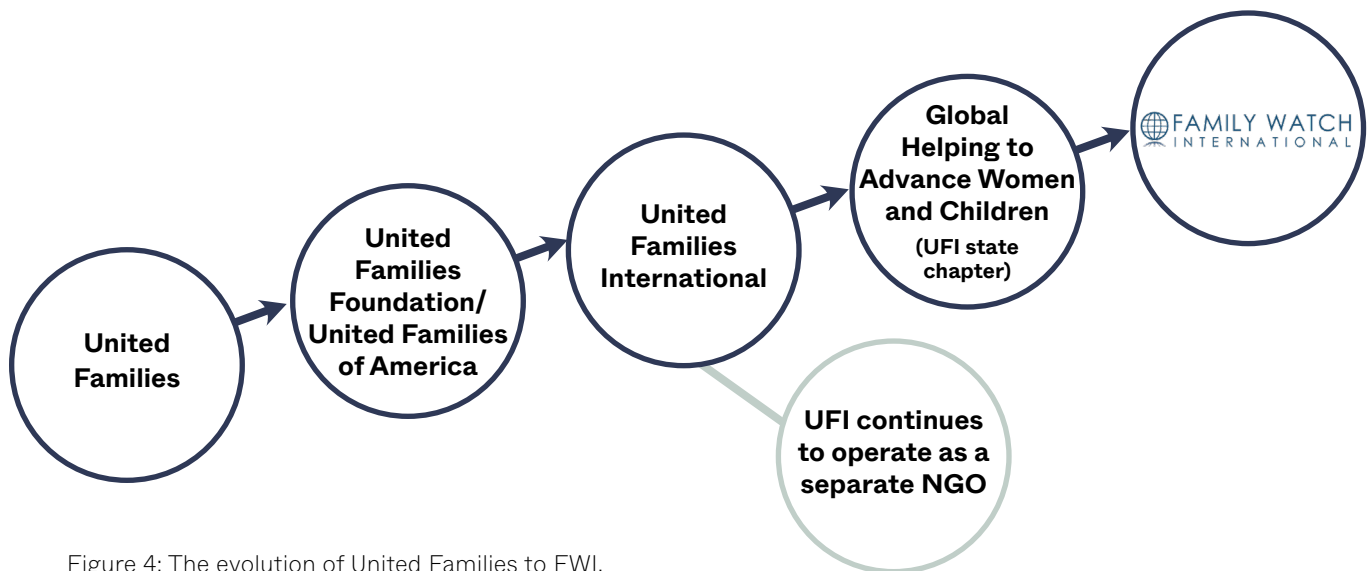


Figure 4: The evolution of United Families to FWI.

16. Gregory Slater’s former BYU law professor may have been Richard Wilkins.

Slater made a close connection with the Vatican delegate in trying to build opposition to “radical feminist” governments, providing the delegate with a guide to UN lobbying written by UFI’s Susan Roylance.¹⁷

In February 2000, Slater incorporated the organization [Global Helping to Advance Women and Children in Gilbert, Arizona](#), as a “state chapter” (the only one of any significance) of UFI.¹⁸ [She then assumed the presidency of UFI in November 2001](#), running both until she grew the “state chapter” into Family Watch International, an ostensibly independent organization since 2006 that now has a much larger budget than its original parent.

Sharon Slater’s tenure at FWI significantly changed the course, though not the mission or religious affiliation, of the organization, through social networking with key figures in the LDS political and social elite stemming from the Slaters’ local Church community in Gilbert, Arizona. These connections, which go a long way toward painting a picture of its most important financial and political backers, are explored in the following section.

Consolidation of Operations in Arizona (2000-Present)

In her 2009 book *Stand for the Family*, Sharon Slater thanks just one major financial supporter for her work at FWI. “I am also deeply indebted to Bob and Lynette Gay who provided substantial financial and moral support. Without this generous support, many of the experiences and successes recounted in this book would not have been possible.”¹⁹ Research conducted for this report found many other financial supporters in IRS filings over the years, so the omission of thanks to any other financial backers (besides Sharon’s brother Eric, who contributed a modest amount) is notable and suggests that Robert “Bob” Gay is the single most important funder, at least since the first years of Slater’s involvement. While it has not been possible to verify the full extent of Gay’s support using public records, the contributions of many other wealthy LDS families,

17. Sharon Slater, *Stand for the Family: Alarming Evidence and Firsthand Accounts from the Frontlines of Battle*, (Litchfield Park, Arizona: Inglestone Publisher, 2009).

18. IRS, Form 990 filings by United Families Foundation, various years.

19. Sharon Slater, *Stand for the Family: Alarming Evidence and Firsthand Accounts from the Frontlines of Battle*, (Litchfield Park, Arizona: Inglestone Publisher, 2009).

as detailed below, suggest that he may also have played a role in fundraising among other members of the LDS economic elite.

[Bob Gay has been a member of the LDS Church's Presidency of the Seventy](#), a group of seven General Authorities that oversees the Seventy priesthood, since 2012, when he retired from a long career as a private equity investor. Born in Los Angeles in 1951, he went on an LDS mission to Spain from 1971-73 and subsequently studied economics at the University of Utah and Harvard. In the late 1970s, he met Mitt Romney while serving on the high council of the LDS Boston Stake, [of which Romney would go on to become president from 1986 to 1994](#). Gay worked at Romney's private equity firm, Bain Capital, from 1989 to 2004. After leaving Bain to preside over an LDS mission with his wife Lynette in Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Liberia from 2004 to 2007, he founded Huntsman Gay Global Capital (HGGC) with billionaire LDS member Jon Huntsman, Sr., where he continued to work until 2012. Huntsman and Gay committed [to donate all their shares of the firm's carried interest to charity](#).

While no concrete information was found about how Sharon Slater first met Bob and Lynette Gay, one connection that leads to Gilbert, Arizona, is hard to ignore. Bob Gay is a board member of the Forever Young Foundation, led by Gay's colleague at HGGC, National Football League legend and LDS member Steve Young. Forever Young contributed to UFI in 2001 and 2003,²⁰ the first years that it was run by Slater out of Arizona. The Forever Young Foundation is directed by Sterling Tanner (BYU '90) out of Mesa, Arizona. At the time, Tanner lived in the same Val Vista neighborhood of Gilbert as the Slaters, [where Gregory Slater has formed part of the Val Vista Stake leadership](#) in recent years. [The first president of the Val Vista Stake \(1987-1996\), Craig A. Cardon](#), a member of the Seventy from 2006-2018 and [part of a wealthy, politically-connected family with a major real estate group](#), joined the board of UFI when the organization incorporated in Arizona in 2004,²¹ following Sharon Slater's transfer of UFI operations to Gilbert in late 2001. (More detailed information about key funders is provided later in the report.)

20. United Families International, Form 990 filings.

21. Arizona Corporations Commission, United Families International 2005 Annual Report.

In 1997 the Slaters appear to have followed Gregory’s new employment with the semiconductor chip manufacturer Intel at its Chandler, Arizona campus,²² a Phoenix suburb adjacent to Gilbert.²³ [Gregory Slater would eventually climb the ranks of Intel leadership](#) to become Vice President and Senior Director of Global Regulatory Affairs, occupying important positions such as Counsel to the President along the way. But before he was an important executive at the company, he and Sharon were active members of the LDS community in Gilbert and established relationships with important Church members in local political and business circles.



On January 28, 2020, Congressman Andy Biggs [second from left] posts on Facebook about the FWI Global Family Policy Forum. Bigg’s relationship with FWI spans two decades and [at the forum in Arizona he addressed](#) “over 100 United Nations delegates from around the world who work tirelessly to strengthen families and protect the best interests of children.”

One such relationship was with current U.S. Representative Andy Biggs, who lived in the same Gilbert neighborhood as the Slaters when he joined FWI as an inaugural board member in January 2000 alongside Sharon Slater, Lynn Allred, and Marcia Barlow.²⁴ At the time, this was a “state chapter” of UFI, but, by the following year, Slater was also running the parent organization out of Gilbert. In 2002, as Biggs recalls, “a friend urged [him] to run for office,” [leading to his election](#)

22. Maricopa County property records, recording numbers 19970566074 and 20220458879. In 2022, the Slaters appear to have moved back to Provo, Utah, home of BYU, see Utah County property records, file numbers 69539:2022. This followed an earlier home purchase in nearby Highland, Utah, in April 2022, according to Utah County property records, file number 77468:2022.

23. Gilbert is a community with a large LDS population that dates to resettlement by LDS families from northern Mexico to the adjacent Arizona towns of Gilbert, Mesa, and Chandler. The Mesa LDS temple was built in 1927 and was the primary center of worship for the community until the Gilbert temple was completed in 2010.

24. Arizona Corporations Commission, Global Helping to Advance Women and Children 2001 Annual Report.

[as a state representative](#). One month after his election to the U.S. House of Representatives in January 2017, Intel and newly elected President Trump [announced a 7 billion USD investment in the Chandler Intel plant](#). Biggs would go on to chair the Freedom Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives from 2019-2022.

By 2002, a newsletter from UFI shows that Sharon Slater had already built an impressive support network with some of the most influential LDS members in Arizona and beyond. Presumably, this was aided by the fact that UFI's 1995 turn to international UN lobbying had always been a Church-supported initiative, so the Slaters did not depend solely on their ability to develop relationships in Gilbert.

The 2002 UFI newsletter lists Danny Ainge, then a resident of Gilbert and coach of the Phoenix Suns National Basketball Association team, as the organization's official spokesperson, who "has been instrumental in helping us raise much needed funds," spending "countless hours helping us move this forward." Ainge was a board member of the above-mentioned Forever Young Foundation, alongside Steve Young and Bob Gay. He would go on to become the top executive at the Boston Celtics and later the Utah Jazz, where he remains today.

Advisory board members mentioned in the 2002 UFI newsletter, who helped in early fundraising efforts, include:

- Bob and Lynette Gay, who appear to have been key funders above and beyond Bob's participation in the Forever Young Foundation with Steve Young;
- Ira Fulton, an LDS Arizona real estate developer and philanthropist who, with his wife Mary Lou, is the namesake for five schools at BYU, Arizona State University, and Utah Valley University;
- Ross (and Anita) Farnsworth, a wealthy LDS businessman and real estate developer who was minority owner of the Phoenix Suns NBA team and a major Republican Party donor;
- Dennis Barney, an influential Arizona LDS businessman and real estate developer;
- Phil Marriott, based in Utah, grandson of LDS business magnate J. Willard Marriott, of the hotel company;
- Alan Osmond, based in Utah, LDS member of the famous Osmond family, who contributed through his One Heart Foundation; and
- Carl Bacon, a land developer and LDS Church authority who, in 2004, would become president of the temple in Provo, Utah, where BYU is located.

Individuals and other wealthy Church members have provided funding for both UFI and FWI over the last two decades. In the early 2000s, the two organizations went through a transitional period during which both were under Slater's leadership. After this transitional period, both continued to operate out of Gilbert, Arizona, though Slater is no longer formally involved in the activities of UFI, which now has a much smaller budget than its former state chapter.

In 2004, at the suggestion of UFI board member Craig Cardon, the organization "separated out" the "worker-bees" from its board and added several influential Arizona-based LDS board members, including:

- Robert "Bob" Worsley, founder of SkyMall and subsequent member of the Arizona House of Representatives (2013-2019);

- Fred Ash (December 2020), brother of future State Representative Cecil Ash (2009-2013);
- Lawyer Jay Heiler, current member of the Arizona Board of Regents; and
- [Heather Sandstrom](#), National Women for Mitt Finance Vice Chair for Romney's 2008 presidential campaign and a [long-time "good friend" of Mitt Romney](#) and his wife Ann. [Sandstrom is the granddaughter of Ezra Taft Benson](#), former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (1953-61) and President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (1985-1994).

In addition to these and other strategic board additions, the Slaters continued to build political relationships both locally and nationally. For example:

- The Slaters' adopted son Afonso is the [best friend of the son of current Gilbert Mayor John Lewis, an LDS member](#) (both were adopted in 2008 from Mozambique);
- [The Slaters hosted a Romney presidential campaign fundraiser in Gilbert in 2007](#), with 2,300 USD photo ops with the candidate; and
- [Sharon Slater was a member of the 2020 Women for Biggs Coalition](#), when her long-time ally Andy Biggs was Chair of the House Freedom Caucus.

While their political campaign contributions are not significant compared to such political relationships, both Sharon and Gregory have made contributions to federal and state candidates (see Annex 1).

5. State Filing History and Funding Overview

While Sharon Slater was president of UFI from 2001 through 2006, funding was inconsistent but substantial, reaching a peak of 1,617,102 USD in 2002. However, revenue trailed off from there and by 2009, the organization stopped filing Form 990s, implying annual revenue of less than 50,000 USD. It has not filed a full Form 990 since, but continues to file Form 990-N each year, which the IRS refers to as an e-Postcard.

During this time, Global Helping to Advance Women and Children (the registered name of FWI) received essentially all of its modest budget from United Families Foundation (donation recipient for UFI), of which it was a state chapter. However, the smaller organization underwent involuntary dissolution by the State of Arizona in 2002 and did not file a single annual report with the Arizona Corporations Commission until 2007, when FWI filled out and submitted all pending annual reports from the past seven years, during which time it had evidently continued doing business. In 2007, FWI began to establish an ostensibly independent budget, which has since grown considerably (see Annex 2).

As a 501(c)(3) registered in Arizona,²⁵ FWI and its affiliated entities have undergone involuntary dissolution on multiple occasions due to failure to file timely annual reports and tax clearance certificates with the State of Arizona. In 2007, Sharon Slater registered a lobbying organization out of her home in Gilbert called The Coalition of AZ Non Profits for Reinstatement. Limited public information is available online about this organization, which was terminated in January 2009, but its affiliated lobbyists were [FWI staffers Sharon Slater, Annie Franklin, and Lynn Allred](#). The organization seems to reflect a struggle over FWI's corporate filings with the State of Arizona.

This period involved a series of attempts to reorganize the structure of affiliated organizations. In November 2006, Slater incorporated a second entity with the

25. See filings in supporting documents at the following link: share.mayfirst.org/s/S3xC32Zm-BHa8Axg. Arizona filing information is accessible at ecorp.azcc.gov/EntitySearch/Index.

name Global Helping to Advance Women and Children, which has been inactive since September 2007. In December 2006, Slater incorporated an entity called Family Watch International, Inc., which did not register any annual reports until October 2010 and was administratively dissolved in January 2011. In June 2009, Slater incorporated Family Watch USA, Inc., which was administratively dissolved in October 2011.²⁶

As recently as April 2022, FWI had its status changed to “pending inactive” by the Arizona Corporations Commission for failure to file a timely annual report, though the organization filed its annual report several days later.

FWI does not have to disclose its donors to the IRS, but a full-text search of all available Form 990 filings for relevant search terms allows for a partial “reverse engineering” of the organization’s private foundation donors. It should be noted that individual donors are not traceable using this method, except to the extent that they use private foundations to make contributions. For a detailed list of donations, nearly all of which come from LDS members, see Annex 3 and Annex 4. While this method does not uncover any disproportionately important donor to FWI, three major donors stand out since 2010:

- Boston Foundation, Inc. (325,000 USD between 2010 and 2020);
- Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund (156,625 USD in 2018-2019); and
- Sorenson Legacy Foundation (164,000 USD in 2018).

Keeping in mind that Sharon Slater has singled out Bob and Lynette Gay as uniquely important funders of her work, these three donors appear to be at least tangentially related to the couple. Boston Foundation and Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund both operate donor advised funds out of Boston, meaning that the donations to FWI are not gifts directly from those two organizations, but rather from anonymous donors who set up donor advised funds for that purpose. Bob Gay worked for years at Bain Capital, which was co-founded by Mitt Romney. The Boston-based Bain Capital has worked with both Boston

26. Family Watch International is a registered trade name of Global Helping to Advance Women and Children, which was incorporated twice in the State of Arizona, using two different Entity IDs (09390196 and 13250328). Arizona filing information is accessible at ecorp.azcc.gov/EntitySearch/Index

Foundation and Fidelity on charitable giving,²⁷ and has other institutional ties, such as [Bain Capital Senior Advisor Dwight Poler sitting on the board of the Boston Foundation](#).

Based on publicly available information, it is impossible to know if the donations to FWI from these donor advised funds came from Bob Gay, Bain Capital, another individual at Bain Capital, or someone else entirely. That said, it seems likely that the donations came from the social orbit of Bob Gay or possibly from him personally. While Gay no longer works at his namesake HGGC, having moved into the Church hierarchy, the Palo Alto firm's charitable operations are run out of Mesa, Arizona, by [Michelle Knox, who simultaneously works at the Forever Young Foundation](#).

The Sorenson Legacy Foundation, meanwhile, is a private foundation run by the family of the late James LeVoy Sorenson, the LDS founder of a conglomerate known as the Sorenson Companies, who was the richest person in Utah at the time of his death in 2008, [with a net worth of 4.5 billion USD, which he gave to charity](#). Sorenson Capital was funded by the Sorenson family and Bob Gay, and [HGGC Chairman Steve Young was among its first general partners in 2003](#). [Several Bain Capital alumni are partners](#) of the company.

Thus, while the direct available evidence of FWI's most important funders is partial at best, that evidence (see Annexes 3 and 4) indicates two things:

- 1.** Almost all reviewable contributions to FWI have been made by wealthy or influential LDS members; and
- 2.** The largest contributions have been made by donors ostensibly in the social circle of the highest echelon of the LDS financial elite, primarily revolving around Bob Gay, now a member of the LDS Presidency of the Seventy.

The Sorenson Legacy Foundation has also made major recent contributions to non-LDS organizations that are allies of FWI, including 1.375 million USD

27. See, for example: The Boston Foundation, "Partnering with Companies," www.tbf.org/donors/company-giving; and Dan Primack, "The nonprofit winners in today's Canada Goose IPO," Axios, 16 March 2017, www.axios.com/2017/12/15/the-nonprofit-winners-in-todays-canada-goose-ipo-1513300995.

between 2017-2019 to the National Organization for Marriage, an organization led by [Brian Brown that has alleged ties to Opus Dei](#), and 200,000 USD in 2018-2019 to the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society, tied to the World Congress of Families.²⁸

There are too many ties among these organizations over the years to catalog. However, one relationship that indicates how FWI's inter-faith cooperation has moved on to the next generation concerns Craig A. Cardon, who was president of the Val Vista Stake (1987-1996) in Gilbert and a neighbor of the Slaters, who joined the UFI board in 2004 before joining the LDS Seventy. His son, Craig D. Cardon, [now sits on the board of NOM](#) and is a [Trustee of the Witherspoon Institute](#), a major Princeton-based think tank led by former Opus Dei national official Luis Tellez, which has also received money from the Sorenson Legacy Foundation and other high-profile conservative donors. Cardon's business partner, [Broc Hiatt, was named president of the LDS Mesa Arizona Central Stake in 2020](#) and also sits on the board of NOM.

In September 2021, [FWI hired a new Executive Director, Laura Cunliffe, from the Trump administration](#), where she was Chief of Staff of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, after working at the White House Office of Management and Budget and as Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy. Notably, [Cunliffe does not appear to be an LDS member](#), having attended Wheaton College—an evangelical Christian school in Illinois—and Samford University, a Southern Baptist-affiliated law school in Birmingham, Alabama. There is no indication that her religious affiliation changes anything about FWI's LDS orientation; Cunliffe was ostensibly hired for her high-profile lobbying connections at the UN, where FWI has key allies of various affiliations. Prior to being hired by FWI, [Cunliffe had already collaborated with Sharon Slater and allied organizations](#).

28. IRS records, Form 990 filings.

6. Conclusion

Family Watch International has grown since its incorporation in 2000, from a small, state-level organization, into an international operation with an outsized influence on United Nations negotiations and national level policy related to LGBTI rights, children’s rights, and sexual and reproductive rights. It has moved this work forward under the leadership of Sharon Slater, a self-described grandmother and homemaker who was motivated to action by the supposed derogation of marriage and the family in law and policy. Slater takes liberties with her self-image as she toggles between presenting herself as both a stay-at-home mom and an “international expert” on human rights. She and her entourage—including her husband Gregory Slater—have insinuated themselves into various halls of power, impacting how policy makers in other countries consider national issues on sexuality, reproduction, and education.

FWI’s recent foray into Uganda is the result of over two decades of careful cultivation of relationships that rely on personal family, church, and political connections. It has been enabled by financial support from the LDS Church and FWI’s production and dissemination of anti-scientific “educational materials” aimed at depreciating the international human rights system in service of reducing and ultimately eliminating human rights protections for children, women, and LGBTI people.

FWI descends from a long tradition of anti-LGBTI and anti-feminist organizing. This report traces Sharon Slater’s early family history and LDS Church relationships, starting from 1970s Utah and Washington, D.C., and the conservative and religious right alliance fighting the Equal Rights Amendment. This early coalition of right-wing religious groups reconfigured itself two decades later as evangelical, Catholic, and LDS resources came together in the mid-1990s and targeted women’s reproductive rights at the UN. As this anti-rights coalition grew, UFI, and subsequently FWI, with Slater at the helm, effectively became the LDS branch of the movement. FWI used the LDS’s lobbying and fundraising infrastructure in Utah to outpace its parent organization UFI, eventually moving to Arizona, another welcoming Mormon enclave.

This report shows how FWI has navigated in diverse political spaces by obfuscating their religious affiliation and funding, blurring their overarching loyalties and ideology. This is likely because in the past, drawing public attention to the organization’s de facto LDS affiliation has been a hindrance to its international lobbying and collaboration with other anti-rights groups. From faking their names on an agenda, to accusing those that identify the organization as religious or Mormon as spreading “falsehoods,” FWI operates under a scrim of secrecy and concealment. This report endeavors to cast light on the shadows that surround the organization because their work has real life consequences on the lives and human rights of LGBTI populations, women, and young people.

Annex 1 – Federal and State Campaign Contributions

Gregory and Sharon Slater Federal Campaign Contributions²⁹

Contributor	Recipient	Date	Amount (USD)
Gregory Slater	Chris Smith for Congress	22 March 2022	1,900
Sharon Slater	Friends of Chris Smith	26 September 2018	1,000
Gregory Slater	Friends of Chris Smith	29 March 2016	1,000
Sharon Slater	Republican National Committee	30 June 2012	350
Sharon Slater	Romney for President Inc.	28 June 2012	2,150
Sharon Slater	Romney Victory Inc.	28 June 2012	2,500
Gregory Slater	Romney Victory Inc.	16 May 2012	25
Gregory Slater	Republican National Committee	16 May 2012	25
Gregory Slater	Romney Victory Inc.	4 May 2012	2,500
Gregory Slater	Romney for President Inc.	4 May 2012	2,500
Sharon Slater	Romney for President Inc.	1 April 2012	350
Sharon Slater	Romney for President Inc.	11 February 2012	1,500
Gregory Slater	Salmon for Congress	30 January 2012	1,500
Sharon Slater	Romney for President Inc.	12 December 2011	1,000
Sharon Slater	Romney for President Inc.	25 November 2011	100
Gregory Slater	Romney for President Inc.	30 September 2011	2,500
Sharon Slater	Romney for President Inc.	28 September 2011	250
Sharon Slater	Carly for California Inc.	28 September 2011	250
Gregory Slater	Hatch Election Committee	20 July 2010	1,500
Sharon Slater	Our County Deserves Better PAC - TeaPartyExpress.org	5 May 2010	100
Gregory Slater	Carly for California Inc.	15 March 2010	500
Gregory Slater	Committee to Reelect Trent Franks to Congress	9 December 2009	500
Sharon Slater	McCain-Palin Compliance Fund	21 September 2008	1,000
Gregory Slater	McCain-Palin Compliance Fund	21 September 2008	1,000
Gregory Slater	McCain Victory 2008	21 September 2008	1,000
Sharon Slater	McCain Victory 2008	21 September 2008	1,000
Gregory Slater	National Republican Congressional Committee	21 August 2008	150

Source: U.S. Federal Election Commission.

29. Excludes regular Gregory Slater contributions to Intel PAC.

Gregory and Sharon Slater State Campaign Contributions

Contributor	Recipient	Date	Amount (USD)
Gregory Slater	Mark Anderson for Congress	18 April 2008	
Sharon Slater	Marrilee Boyack ³⁰ (Utah House of Representatives)	2020	1,000
Sharon Slater	Lacinda Lewis (Arizona House of Representatives)	2016	1,500
Sharon Slater	Andrew Pugno (California Assembly)	2012	100
Sharon Slater	Andrew Pugno (California Assembly)	2010	400
Sharon Slater	Matt Salmon (Arizona Governor)	2010	140
Sharon Slater	Roy Moore (Alabama Supreme Court)	2010	100
Sharon Slater	Cecil Ash (Arizona House of Representatives)	2008	130
Gregory Slater	Matt Salmon (Arizona Governor)	2002	150
Sharon Slater	Matt Salmon (Arizona Governor)	2002	150

Source: OpenSecrets.org.

30. Merrilee Boyack was an FWI employee, serving as Executive Director from 2018 to 2020. An outspoken advocate for conservative values, Boyack has also served as Chair of Abortion-Free Utah and ran as a Republican candidate for the seat in Utah House District 56.

Annex 2 – Revenue of Key Organizations

Year	United Families Foundation revenue (USD)	United Families Foundation “affiliate contributions” to Global Helping to Advance Women and Children (USD)	Global Helping Women and Children revenue (USD)
1999	<25,000	No data	--
2000	266,703	17,729	18,629
2001	225,759	8,820	73,665
2002	1,617,102	5,880	8,820
2003	253,729	2,450	5,880
2004	585,572	0	2,450
2005	495,497	0	0
2006	452,049	No data	5,213
2007	270,775	No data	65,597
2008	177,846	No data	116,113
2009	<50,000	No data	47,416
2010	<50,000	No data	144,589
2011	40,877	No data	114,364
2012	<50,000	No data	242,483
2013	47,142	No data	354,204
2014	<50,000	No data	350,909
2015	<50,000	No data	337,317
2016	<50,000	No data	495,825
2017	<50,000	No data	505,052
2018	<50,000	No data	727,049
2019	<50,000	No data	1,428,632
2020	<50,000	No data	262,235
2021	<50,000	No data	No data
2022	<50,000	No data	No data

Source: Arizona Corporations commission and U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

Annex 3 – Donations to Family Watch International

Donor	Location	Key person	Year	Amount USD
American Online Giving Foundation Inc. (donor advised fund) , Newark, DE <i>Bryan D. Lottinville, Founder and Executive Chariperson at Benevity</i>			2020	19,520
EBJ & MSJ Foundation , West Haven, Utah <i>Edwin Boyd Jones (1917-1989), CEO of Michigan National Bank, LDS member.</i>			2020	100
			2018	100
			2017	100
			2016	100
			2015	100
			2014	100
Boston Foundation Inc. , Boston, MA <i>Paul S. Grogan, former president and CTO of Boston Foundation and Harvard Business School professor.</i>			2020	25,000
			2016	50,000
			2015	150,000
			2011	50,000
			2010	50,000
Ashton Family Foundation , Lehi, Utah <i>Alan C. Ashton, co-founder of WordPerfect and former BYU professor, LDS member.</i>			2019	5,000
			2018	10,000
			2016	10,000
			2013	10,000
			2012	10,000
Bluth Family Foundation , Gilbert, Arizona <i>L. Lothaire Bluth (1950-2020), President, founded successful eye clinic, LDS member.</i>			2019	5,000
			2018	5,000
			2017	5,000
			2014	5,000
			2013	No data
			2012	2,400
			2011	2,000

Donor	Location	Key person	Year	Amount USD
Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund (donor advised fund) , Boston, MA <i>Pamela Norley, President and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for Points of Light, global volunteer organization created by former President George H.W. Bush.³¹</i>			2019	52,125
			2018	104,500
Sorenson Legacy Foundation , Midvale, Utah <i>James LeVoy Sorenson (1921-2008), founder of Sorenson Companies and richest man in Utah at the time of his death. His wife, Beverley Taylor Sorenson (1924-2013), was the great-granddaughter of the LDS Church President.</i>			2018	164,000
Family First Foundation , W. Bountiful, Utah <i>Steven Edgar Smoot, president and owner of Excel Investment Corporation, co-owner of Sky Properties, partner of World Congress of Families, LDS member.</i>			2014	2,500
			2013	3,250
			2012	1,500
Child Family Foundation , Salt Lake City, Utah <i>William H. Child, former CEO of RC Willey and current CEO of Koloa Landing Resort (Marriott Autograph Collection Island in Hawaii), BYU Advisory Board, LDS member.</i>			2013	2,400
Eric and Janine Ruff Family Foundation , Provo, Utah <i>Eric Ruff is Sharon Slater's brother, LDS member.</i>			2012	500

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Form 990 filings.

31. Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund, 2018 Form 990.

Annex 4 – Donations to United Families International

Donor	Location	Key person	Year	Amount USD
Span Foundation , ³² Bountiful, Utah <i>Lynn G. Robbins, Trustee, General Authority Seventy of LDS Church and co-founder of Franklin Covey Company.</i>			2018	5,000
			2017	5,000
			2016	5,000
			2015	5,000
			2014	1,000
			2013	1,000
			2012	1,000
			2011	1,000
DeKorne Family Foundation , ³³ Manakin Sabot, Virginia <i>Jack DeKorne, principal of DeKorne Associates.</i>			2014	500
Rivendell Stewards Trust DTD 022385 , ³⁴ Santa Barbara, California <i>Walter Hansen, president, theologian, and pastor whose father went to college with evangelist Billy Graham.</i>			2014	50,000
Scott and Stana Kjar Foundation , ³⁵ Centerville, Utah <i>W. Scott Kjar, President/owner at Sky Properties, Inc., BYU alum, LDS member</i>			2014	0 reported
			2013	0 reported
			2012	0 reported
			2011	0 reported
EBJ & MSJ Foundation , West Haven, Utah <i>Edwin Boyd Jones (1917-1989), CEO of Michigan National Bank, LDS member.</i>			2013	100
			2012	100

32. Span Foundation, 2018 Form 990

33. DeKorne Family Foundation, 2014 Form 990.

34. Rivendell Stewards Trust DTD 022385, 2014 Form 990.

35. Scott and Stana Kjar Foundation, 2014 Form 990.

Donor	Location	Key person	Year	Amount USD
Gospel Communications International Inc. , Grand Rapids, Michigan <i>Billy Zeoli (1932-2015), co-chairman of the board and former president, White House chaplain to former President Gerald Ford, evangelical.</i> <i>Richard M. DeVos (1926-2018), board chairman and co-founder of Amway, Finance chairman of RNC, Heritage Foundation award recipient, evangelical.</i>			2012	10,000 to ETC Center in Spain ³⁶
Forever Young Foundation , Mesa, Arizona <i>Steve Young, former American football player, LDS member; and Robert Gay, former managing director of Bain Capital, LDS member.</i>			2003	5,000
			2001	5,000
Fulton Family Foundation , Tempe, Arizona <i>Ira A. Fulton, Founder of Fulton Homes, BYU donor, LDS member</i>			2002	“[G]enerous contribution” and “salary of full-time administrative assistant.” ³⁷
One Heart Foundation , Salt Lake City, Utah <i>Alan Osmond, member of the Osmond Brothers musical act, LDS member.</i>			2002	“We look forward to working with Alan and Suzanne Osmond, and their One Heart Foundation. They have joined with UFI to expand the World Family Alliance... Together, with their sons, The Osmonds-2nd Generation, Alan and Suzanne did an excellent job emceeing, and performing at the Arizona conference.” ³⁸

36. The ETC Center in Spain is part of UFI and received funding for online trainings and the development of an e-learning facility. Gospel Communications International, 2012 Form 990.

37. 2002 UFI newsletter.

38. 2002 UFI newsletter.

Donor	Location	Key person	Year	Amount USD
Ross Farnsworth (1933-2014), Mesa, Arizona, <i>CEO of Farnsworth Companies, LDS member.</i>			2002	“[G]enerous contribution which made it possible to put on the Southwest regional World Congress of Families and to set up the UFI office in Arizona.” ³⁹

39. 2002 UFI newsletter.

Annex 5 – The First African Regional Inter-Parliamentary Conference and Dialogue on the Global Challenges to the Protection of the African Child, the African Family, and African Culture and Values

Draft Program

		<p>DRAFT Program Outline</p> <p>African Family Policy Conference</p> <p>Hosted by Parliament Uganda</p> <p>Uganda March 31 and April 1, 2023</p>
<p>Day 1 : Thursday, March 30, 2023 Pre-Conference Networking</p>		
<p>5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Welcome Reception Hosted by Parliament Uganda</p> <p>Opening Remarks & Welcome His Excellency President of Uganda Yoweri Museveni “Protecting National Sovereignty and the Institution of the Family: An African Imperative”</p>	

Day 2—Friday, March 31

8:00 a.m.	Hotel Breakfast Buffet	
Session I – Preserving the Family as the Fundamental Unit of Society		
9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and Mr. Hannibal Uwaifo President of the African Bar Association	
9:30 a.m.	Video	<i>“The Family and Sustainable Development: Strong Families, Prosperous Nations”</i>
9:40 a.m.	Speaker: Professor PLO Lumumba	<i>“Safeguarding the Sovereign Rights of African States Against External Threats”</i>
10:00 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Her Excellency First Lady of Uganda and Minister of Education Janet Museveni	<i>“Safeguarding Africa’s Children and Families”</i>
10:20 a.m.	Statements by African Parliament Speakers <i>(3 minutes at most. Minutes allocated will be adjusted down wards based on the number of reserved speaking slots)</i>	
11:10 a.m.	BREAK (30 minutes)	
Session II – Protecting Children and Youth in Africa		
11:40 a.m.	<i>“Identifying the International, Regional and National Threats to Africa’s Children, Families, and Religious and Cultural Values”</i>	<i>International Expert Deon Ruff, Advisor to the African Group at the United Nations</i>
12:10 p.m.	<i>“When Human Rights Become Human Wrongs: How Distorted SRHR Rights Undermine the African Family”</i>	Richard Kakeeto, <u>Catholic University of Eastern Africa</u> , Council Member African Bar Association
12:30 p.m.	<i>Group Discussion</i>	
1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
Session III – Protecting National Sovereignty		
2:00 p.m.	<i>“Understanding the Hidden Threats in International Agreements and the Role of Parliaments in Counteracting Them”</i>	International Expert and Attorney Greg Scott
2:30 p.m.	<i>“The Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the ACP-EU Agreement”</i>	Honorable Ashems Songwe, Member of Malawi Parliament, Head of Malawi Delegation to the Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement
2:50 p.m.	Statements by Members of Parliament <i>(3 minutes at most. Minutes allocated will be adjusted down wards based on the number of reserved speaking slots)</i>	
3:40 p.m.	<i>“Protecting Children, Life & Family at the African Union”</i>	Dr. Seyoum Antonios Teklemaran Founder of United for Life Ethiopia and Director of Family Watch Africa Meskerem Ritmeester, African Director for Christian Council International
4:15 p.m.	<i>“Protecting Children, Life & Family at the United Nations”</i>	His Excellency Omer Dahab, Former Sudan Ambassador to the United Nations
4:30 p.m.	<i>Q & A – Group Discussion</i>	
5:00	Closing/Wrap Up (5 minutes)	
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Dinner	

Day 3 —Saturday April 1, 2023

8:00 a.m.	Hotel Breakfast Buffet	
Session IV – Protecting Life		
9:00 a.m.	Faith Based Panel <i>“Protecting Life & Family Through Mobilization of the Church and the Community”</i>	<i>Fr Jonathon Opio, CEO of LiFAM- Uganda and Human Life International Uganda</i> Pastor Zacchaeus Kawalala – President of the Evangelical Association of Malawi Stephen Langa – Founder of Family Life Network Uganda Bishop Zach- Nirigiye -
9:45 a.m.	Medical Panel <i>“Protecting Women & Children from Adverse Health Practices: Policies that Work”</i>	Callum Miller, M.D. – Research Associate, University of Oxford Dr. Wahome Ngare – Consultant Obstetrician & Gynecologist- Nairobi
10:30 a.m.	Legal Panel: Protecting Life & Family <i>Case studies: Nigeria , Kenya</i>	Sonnie Ekwowusi – Legal Practitioner in Nigeria, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the African Bar Association Shirley Charles Kanjama SC – Chairperson Kenya Christian Professionals Forum
10:30 a.m.	Health Break	
11:00 a.m.	Parliamentary Deliberations on <i>“Protecting National Sovereignty and the Institution of the Family: An African Imperative”</i>	Presided over by Hon. Thomas Tayebwa- Deputy Speaker Parliament of Uganda and Patron Parliamentary Forum on Protection of the Family
1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
3:00 p.m.	Deliberations on the communique/declaration	
4:00 p.m.	Press reading of the Communique	Hon. Thomas Tayebwa- Deputy Speaker Parliament of Uganda and Patron Parliamentary Forum on Protection of the Family
6:00pm	<i>Closing Dinner</i>	Hosted by Speaker of

Final Agenda



1st African Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Family Values & Sovereignty
 Hosted by
Parliament Uganda
 March 31 – April 1, 2023
 IMPERIAL GOLF VIEW HOTEL, ENTEBBE

Day 1—Friday, March 31

7:00 a.m.	Hotel Breakfast Buffet	
Session I – Preserving the Family as the Fundamental Unit of Society		
8:30 a.m.	<p>Protocol and Introductions</p> <p>Welcome and Official Opening of the Conference</p>	<p>Hon. Sarah Opendi, Member of Uganda Parliament, Chairperson, Uganda Women Parliamentarians Association, Chair, African Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Family Values & Sovereignty</p> <p>Rt. Hon. Anita Annet Among, Speaker of Uganda Parliament</p> <p>Hannibal Uwaifo, President of the African Bar Association</p>
8:45 a.m.	<p>Keynote Speaker: “Safeguarding the Sovereign Rights of African States Against External Threats”</p>	<p>Bishop Lwere Joshua, General Overseer of Born Again and Pentecostal Churches in Uganda</p>

9:15 a.m.	<p><i>“The Child Sexualization Agenda in Africa: Who, What, Why, and How”</i></p>	<p>Sharon Slater, President of Family Watch International, Chair of the United Nations Family Rights Caucus, Advisor to the African Group at the United Nations</p>
10:00 a.m.	<p><i>“When Human Rights Become Human Wrongs: How Distorted SRHR Rights Undermine the African Family”</i></p>	<p>Richard Kakeeto, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Council Member African Bar Association</p>
10:30 a.m.	HEALTH BREAK (20 Minutes)	
10:50 a.m.	<p><i>“Identifying the International, Regional and National Threats to Africa’s Children, Families, and Religious and Cultural Values”</i></p>	<p>Dr. Seyoum Antonios Teklemariam, Founder of United for Life Ethiopia and Director of Family Watch Africa</p>
11:20 a.m.	Q & A	
11:40 a.m.	<p><i>“Cultural Imperialism: The Sexual Rights Agenda”</i></p>	<p>Special Presentation</p>
12:15 p.m.	<p><i>“Safeguarding Africa’s Children and Families”</i></p>	<p>Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Samuel Kazimba Mugalu, Archbishop (chairperson IRCU)</p>
12:30 p.m.	LUNCH	
Session II – Protecting National Sovereignty		
2:30 p.m.	<p>Statements by Members of Parliament</p> <p><i>(3 minutes maximum. Minutes allocated will be adjusted downwards based on the number of reserved speaking slots.)</i></p>	
3:00 p.m.	<p><i>“Identifying Hidden threats: A Focus on the ACP-EU Agreement”</i></p>	<p>TBC</p>
3:30 p.m.	<p><i>“Protecting National Sovereignty: Perspectives from the Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the ACP-EU Agreement”</i></p>	<p>Honorable Ashems Songwe, Member of Malawi Parliament, Head of Malawi Delegation to the Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement</p>
4:00 p.m.	<p><i>“Friendly Forces in Europe”</i></p>	<p>Henk Jan Van Schothorst, Former Senior Staff of the European Parliament and Director Christian Council International</p>
4:10 p.m.	PLENARY	

Day 2—Saturday, April 1

7:00 a.m.	Hotel Breakfast Buffet	
Session III – Protecting Life, Children and Youth in Africa		
8:30 a.m.	Opening of Day 2	Hon Cecilia Ogwal , member of Parliament of Uganda, longest serving woman member of parliament and representative of Uganda parliament to the joint parliamentary assembly of the ACP-EU
8:40 a.m.	United Nations and African Union Diplomats' Perspective	Amb. Emmanuel Mwamba , Former Zambian Ambassador to Ethiopia and the African Union Amb. Hameed Oployeru , Permanent Representative to the United Nations for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), New York
8:50 a.m.	<i>"The Persistent Objector Principle as an Option for Africa: The AfBA perspective"</i>	Mr. Hannibal Uwaifo, President of African Bar Association
PANEL DISCUSSIONS		
9:20 a.m.	Faith-Based Panel <i>"Protecting Life & Family Through Mobilization of the Church and the Community"</i>	Fr Jonathon Opio, CEO of LIFAM - Uganda and Human Life International Uganda Pastor Zacchaeus Kawalala, President of the Evangelical Association of Malawi Stephen Langa , Founder of Family Life Network Uganda Apostle Dr. Joseph Serwadda , Presiding Apostle Born Again Faith in Uganda Antonina Achieng , Chaplain Covenant Treasures School Dr. Joshua Banda , Zambia (by Zoom)

10:10 a.m.	Medical Panel <i>"Protecting Women & Children from Adverse Health Practices: Policies that Work"</i>	Callum Miller, M.D. , Research Associate, University of Oxford Dr. Wahome Ngare , Consultant Obstetrician & Gynecologist, Nairobi
10:40 a.m.	HEALTH BREAK (20 Minutes)	
11:00 a.m.	Legal Panel <i>"Protecting Life & Family Case studies: Nigeria, Kenya"</i>	Sonnie Ekwowusi , Legal Practitioner in Nigeria, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the African Bar Association Charles Kanjama, SC , Chairperson, Kenya Christian Professionals Forum Hon. Sam George , Advocate and MP Hon. Peter Kaluma , Advocate and MP Hon. Asuman Basalirwa , Advocate and MP
12:00 a.m.	Parliamentary Deliberations <i>"Protecting National Sovereignty and the Institution of the Family: An African Imperative"</i>	Presided over by Hon. Thomas Tayebwa , Deputy Speaker Parliament of Uganda and Patron Parliamentary Forum on Protection of the Family
1:00 p.m.	LUNCH	
2:30 p.m.	Deliberations on the Conference Communique/Declaration	
4:00 p.m.	Press Reading of the Communique	Hon. Thomas Tayebwa , Deputy Speaker Parliament of Uganda and Patron Parliamentary Forum on Protection of the Family
4:20 p.m.	Official closing	H.E Jessica Rose Epel Alupo , Vice President of the Republic of Uganda
6:00 p.m.	CLOSING DINNER Hosted by Speaker of Parliament of Uganda	

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1:00 p.m.	LUNCH	
2:30 p.m.	Deliberations on the Conference Communique/Declaration	
4:00 p.m.	Press Reading of the Communique	Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, Deputy Speaker Parliament of Uganda and Patron Parliamentary Forum on Protection of the Family
4:20 p.m.	Official closing	H.E Jessica Rose Epel Alupo, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda
6:00 p.m.	CLOSING DINNER Hosted by Speaker of Parliament of Uganda	

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