



## INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

### World Congress of Families - Madrid, May 25, 2012

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**Endeavour Forum Inc. (Australia)**



1. It is important that parliamentary representatives of all countries ensure that their delegates at UN Conferences, particularly at the UN's Commission on the Status of Women meetings, oppose resolutions defining gender as a social construct rather than a biological reality.

The attempts in many countries to extend marriage to couples of the same sex are based on the concept of a unisex or androgynous society. Sweden has even made up a unisex word "HEN" to refer to both men and women, instead of the gendered pronouns "he" and "she".

2. All countries' delegates should remind UN conferences that the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, binding upon ratifying nations, states gender "refers to the two sexes, male and female, within the context of society". In addition, two non-binding UN documents – the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action and the 1996 Report of the Habitat Conference on Human Settlements in Istanbul consider "gender" to be "understood in its ordinary, generally accepted usage," and that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the foundational document of the human rights system, refers to the "inherent dignity and worth of women and men," not of "hens".

3. All countries represented at the World Congress of Families VI should formulate Declarations and seek signatures from voters to protect life and defend marriage, support families, secure religious freedom and safeguard children. There is The Manhattan Declaration (US), The Westminster Declaration (UK) and The Canberra Declaration. (Australia). Also this year the Australian Family Association branches in South Australia and Western Australia have launched The Australian Marriage Declaration seeking support from other organizations and individuals:

I DECLARE AND AFFIRM THAT:

- marriage is the union of one man and one woman, voluntarily entered into for life;



Co-Organizers:



Co-Conveners:





- marriage-based families are the optimum environment for the raising of children;
- marriage is a fundamental social institution recognised and valued over millenia across races, cultures and creeds;
- marriage precedes and predates the state and cannot be redefined by government; and
- marriage is important enough to decide my vote in elections.

This could serve as a model for other countries to formulate their own Declarations.

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