

AN ANALYSIS OF THE UN 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

The Hidden Threats to Life, Family, and Children

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Executive Summary

This analysis of the SDGs and the UN's 2030 Agenda was created to help UN Member States understand many of the hidden threats contained in the Agenda and to provide suggestions for counteracting these threats.

The report begins with a brief summary of the general nature of the 2030 Agenda and then presents an in-depth analysis of SDG goals, targets and indicators that can easily be used to advance controversial sexual rights relating to abortion, sexual orientation, gender identity, and explicit and harmful sexuality education for children.

Multiple examples are provided showing how UN agencies including UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF and the OHCHR in cooperation with UN Member States are complicit in promoting a radical sexual rights agenda and how, based on their own revealing documents, they will likely interpret intentionally ambiguous terms in the SDG goals, targets and indicators to advance controversial rights.

Of most concern, however, are the open-ended terms in the 2030 Agenda that can easily be used to advance dangerous comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) that sexualizes children and indoctrinates them with radical sexual and gender ideologies. (See ComprehensiveSexualityEducation.org to read excerpts from a number of UN-funded CSE programs that promote abortion, sexual pleasure, sexual orientation, and transgenderism to children.)

The report will also uncover SDG indicators proposed by UN agencies that can lay the foundation for policies that would override the rights of parents and provide children with contraception education, abortions, and controversial sexuality education. SDG indicators will be the focus of SDG implementing bodies and will drive the 2030 Agenda.

After uncovering many of the negative elements in the 2030 Agenda, the report then highlights several of the positive family-related elements including strong provisions calling for respect for national laws and priorities and some positive language relating to the family.

Finally, model reservations are provided that can be used to counteract ultra vires interpretation of terms in the SDGs, and the report ends with a call to nations to ensure that the institution of the family is protected during the implementation of the SDGs.

An Analysis of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: *The Hidden Threats to Life, Family and Children*

I. General Overview of the 2030 UN Agenda

A. Background

The UN sustainable development goals and targets as outlined in the document “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (hereafter the 2030 Agenda) present a formidable plan for how the international community will address and solve many of the world’s problems over the course of the next 15 years.

The Agenda’s 17 goals and 169 targets, collectively known as the “sustainable development goals” (SDGs), set forth numerous lofty objectives¹ that are expected to drive United Nations and Member State policies, programming and spending for the next 15 years. The SDGs are also expected to drive legal reforms in many areas, and billions of dollars in funding will support the implementation of these development goals in countries around the world.

After over two years of negotiations by all United Nations Member States, with much pomp and ceremony, the 2030 Agenda was signed by each of the Heads of State in September 2015, signifying the strong commitment of all UN Member States to fully implement the SDGs. Therefore, because of the 2030 Agenda’s significance and the overwhelming support for it by governments worldwide, it is critical for policymakers and parents everywhere to understand the hidden threats to life, family, and children replete throughout the Agenda. Thus, this report.

It is no secret that the SDGs are intended to have a major and long-lasting impact on the social, political and economic development of UN Member States. For this reason, UN agencies, governments, international institutions, major lobbying groups, businesses, billionaire philanthropists, academic institutions, social justice activists, civil society groups, and others have been very aggressive in seeking to shape the SDGs to advance their own ideologies and positions, which, in many cases, are highly controversial.

The UN 2030 Agenda is nonbinding for UN Member States; nevertheless, it is expected to have a profound influence on laws and policies across the world. Indeed, a number of the goals and targets call for changes national laws and policies.

On a positive note, after much heated debate among stakeholders, explicit references to controversial terms such as “abortion,” “sexual orientation,” “gender identity,” “sexual rights,” “rights” related to “sexual and reproductive health,” and “comprehensive sexuality education” were negotiated out of the final outcome document. On the negative side, hidden references

¹Components of the 2030 UN development agenda presented in the document, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” include: (1) a preamble, (2) a declaration, (3) follow-up and review, (4) means of implementation, (5) a call for action, (6) and, of course, the SDG goals and targets, which are the essence of the 2030 UN Agenda.

advancing these concepts are replete throughout the 2030 Agenda. Also, provisions calling for the protection of the family, recognizing the role of the family in development, reinforcing the rights and role of parents with regard to their children, and provisions encouraging respect for religious and cultural values were all rejected during UN negotiations, despite repeated calls for their inclusion by multiple UN Member States.

B. Areas of Concern for Families

At first look, the majority of the SDG goals and targets do not appear to be controversial at all. For example, Goals 1 and 2 seek to combat poverty and hunger. Goals 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 17 seek to promote global partnerships and to address water, sanitation, energy, economic growth, infrastructure, industrialization, innovation, consumption and production patterns, climate change, biodiversity, and the management of oceans, seas, forests and land. However, a number of the other goals have targets that could be highly problematic, depending upon the way they are interpreted or implemented.

Also, it is clear from the debates that took place during the UN SDG negotiations that some developed countries and UN agencies intend to interpret a number of the SDG targets to encompass controversial sexual and abortion rights, LGBT² rights, and a right to comprehensive sexuality education without the knowledge and consent of parents. Therefore, States should take steps to ensure that the many vague and open-ended terms that appear in the SDGs will not be misinterpreted in ways that are harmful to children and families.

A number of countries made reservations and issued official position statements but only on some of the numerous vague terms used in the SDGs. No country has reserved on all of them. Also, many countries made no reservations at all, and therefore, have no protection against some of the potentially harmful elements outlined in this analysis. And even where countries have made reservations on specific terms, this still may not be enough to protect their citizens against the designs of well-funded implementing and monitoring entities with controversial agendas.

C. Controversial Indicators Will Drive the 2030 Agenda

Of great concern is the fact that at the time the SDG goals and targets were agreed upon by Member States, hundreds of indicators that will be used to measure progress in achieving the SDGs remained undetermined. And herein lies one of the main problems.

Since anti-family activists couldn't get their ideologies and positions adopted during the transparent SDG negotiations, and, in many cases, their controversial proposals (such as references to abortion, sexual rights, sexual orientation, gender identity, and comprehensive sexuality education) were outright rejected, they turned to manipulating the indicators to achieve the same purposes.

² LGBT stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people. Sometimes an "I" (for intersex) is added as in "LGBTI" to include people who are intersex, a rare condition where a person is born with either ambiguous genitalia or characteristics of both male and female genitalia. Sometimes a "Q" (for questioning) is also added as in "LGBTQI" to include people that are questioning or experimenting with their gender identity or sexual orientation.

In fact, a number of controversial indicators have been proposed, and many more will likely yet be proposed and adopted over the next 15 years. Already, some of the proposed indicators, which are supposed to help UN agencies and governments measure progress in achieving the SDGs, go far beyond what nations agreed to when Member States painstakingly negotiated the goals and targets word by word.

For example, indicators have been proposed to measure (i) the attitudes of children toward LGBT issues, (ii) access to abortion and reproductive health services available to children without parental consent, and (iii) the implementation of controversial comprehensive sexuality education or “human rights” programs.

Also of concern are the actions of UN experts, various UN agencies, and treaty bodies (UN committees that monitor the compliance of Member States) that are increasingly acting outside of their mandates to advance controversial sexual and abortion rights that, again, have been repeatedly rejected by Member States. These entities continue to vie for positions of authority and influence in the SDG monitoring process to advance their controversial agendas.

Increasingly, UN entities are violating the UN Charter, which clearly states that it does not authorize “the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state ...” (UN Charter, Article 2.7). Yet, many of the proposed indicators would do exactly that.

II. Hidden Threats to Life, Family and Children

A. Problematic Terms Conducive to Promoting the LGBT Agenda

Multiple terms that appear in the 2030 UN Agenda outcome document are also terms commonly used to advance gay, lesbian and transgender rights. It would be naive to think that the inclusion of these terms was not intentional on the part of the United States, the European Union, and other countries that aggressively pushed for, but failed to get included, provisions that would openly promote LGBT rights in the SDG goals and targets. Indeed, government leaders in several developed countries, including the United States, have declared that promoting LGBT rights in other countries is a top foreign policy priority.³

The following sections highlight the elastic and vague terms strategically placed throughout the 2030 UN Agenda and show how they will likely be used to advance programs and practices worldwide that are destructive to the family, including LGBT rights, abortion rights, and comprehensive sexuality education.

³ Speech delivered by Hillary Rodham Clinton on December 6, 2011 at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva Switzerland at an event commemorating International Human Rights Day.

1. Gender: The Pandora’s Box of Possibilities

Sustainable Development Goals – Gender

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

The term “*gender*” is often used instead of “*sex*” to promote the recognition of diverse genders. While in most cases in the 2030 Agenda “*gender*” clearly refers to male and female only, “*gender*” can also be the Trojan horse to bring in “*transgender rights*” and other controversial agendas depending on how it is interpreted or applied. The developed countries and UN agencies that consistently push to advance LGBT rights will interpret the term “*gender*” in the SDGs in ways that can advance transgender rights and a variety of different “*genders*,” such as any of the 50 genders recognized by Facebook.

The term “*gender equality*” is used throughout the 2030 Agenda. For example, SDG target 5.c calls upon governments to adopt policies and “*enforceable legislation*” for the promotion of “*gender equality*.” Yet many governments are unaware of how this target can be interpreted to promote LGBT rights.

The following examples show how UN agencies and governments have previously interpreted “*gender*” and “*gender equality*” to promote diverse genders or sexual orientations.

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) website states they are working to identify “*policy gaps*” in fulfilling MDG3 (the previous goal on gender equality) by “*sensitizing government representatives and other policymakers on gender inclusive legal reforms, including on the rights and health needs of lesbians.*” Since SDG target 5.c calls for the “*enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality*,” so it is easy to see how UNDP might also interpret 5.c to encompass the promotion of enforceable legislation to protect lesbian rights.
- UN Women, in the document titled, “*The Role of the United Nations in Combatting Discrimination and Violence against Individuals Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity – A Programmatic Overview*” reported that “*a number of UN Women country offices have since 2013 worked on the rights of LGBTI persons*” including by the “*building of gender equality advocate groups, including LGBTI associations, to engage in policy dialogue with the government in Viet Nam.*”
- In this same report, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) stated that “*sexuality cannot be understood without reference to gender and that diversity is a fundamental characteristic of sexuality.*”

- Consider SDG target 4.a that calls for “*education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive.*” Most governments might understand this to mean schools that are sensitive to the needs of women and girls. However, “*Building a Gender-Friendly School Environment,*” a publication supported by WHO and UNESCO, encompasses a broader definition of gender wherein it states: “... *in discussing gender issues in relation to learning institutions, it is important to consider all gender and sexual identities in order to foster the development of all learners ... [and] promotion of the rights of all people regardless of gender or sexual orientation supports this position.*”⁴
- The EU decided to promote transgender rights as part of their “*Gender Equality Strategy.*”⁵ In announcing this change, the chair of the Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee stated: “*I’m convinced that gender equality should not only be considered as a goal but as the golden key which opens all closed doors and invites us to an inclusive society for all—regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity or economic background. All these factors are still grounds of discrimination, and surely we need stronger and more comprehensive EU legislation in this field.*”
- The “*LGBT and Gender Equality Plan of the Netherlands*” combined LGBT equality with gender equality in their government policies from 2011-2015.⁶
- A new enforceable “*Gender Equity Act*” of Taiwan mandates that “*gender equity education curricula shall include sex education, and gay and lesbian education.*”⁷

One of the most problematic references to “gender” in the 2030 Agenda, is target 17.18 calling for “*high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by... gender.*” During the SDG negotiations, proposals to replace “gender” with “sex” in this target were adamantly rejected by the countries most active in promoting LGBT rights. So we should not be surprised if the data and statistics gathered by UN agencies and these countries to implement this goal focus on LGBT populations and are used to support LGBT rights.

Recognizing the potential for deliberate and controversial misinterpretations of “gender” and “gender equality,” a number of countries reserved on the term “gender” in the SDGs, stating that this term is to be understood as referring to male and female only, and the term “gender equality” is to refer only to equality between the two sexes, male and female. However, the majority of countries did not reserve on gender, and the reservations that were issued by some countries are nearly impossible to find, as they are not attached to the 2030 Agenda. This was likely intentional on the part of the developed countries that are seeking to advance LGBT rights.

In light of all of these threats, it would be advisable for States that did not reserve on “gender” in the Agenda, to consider doing so retroactively, and to reserve on other highly problematic terms highlighted in the remainder of this report. While such action may be unprecedented, this strong

⁴ See <http://download.ei-ie.org/docs/IRISDocuments/EI%20Campaigns/EFAIDS%20Programme/2007-00169-01-E.pdf>

⁵ See <http://www.lgbt-ep.eu/press-releases/new-eu-gender-equality-strategy-transgender-people-rights/>

⁶ See http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/lgbt/Source/NTlgbtequalitypolicyplan20112015_EN.pdf

⁷ See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_Equity_Education_Act_\(Taiwan\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_Equity_Education_Act_(Taiwan))

step may be warranted. Suggestions for reservations on “gender” and other problematic terms can be found in Part V of this report.

2. The “Inclusive”/“Inclusion” LGBT Agenda

Sustainable Development Goals – “Inclusive” and “Inclusion”

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Target 4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

The terms “*inclusive*” or “*inclusion*” appear over 40 times in the 2030 Agenda and five times specifically in the goals and targets. While most people understand the term “*inclusive*” to be positive and to advance the goal of leaving no groups out of development, this term is also a key word used to promote LGBT rights. Consider the following examples from UN agencies and other institutions to illustrate this point:

- A 2014 report by USAID, titled “The Relationship Between LGBT Inclusion and Economic Development,”⁸ “*analyzes the impact of social inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people on economic development in 39 countries.*” Some of the headings in their report include:
 - “Linking LGBT Inclusion and Economic Development”
 - “Micro-Level Dimensions of Economic Development and LGBT Inclusion”
 - “Description of Data on LGBT Rights and Economic Outcomes”
 - “Global Index on Legal Recognition of Homosexual Orientation”
 - “Transgender Rights Index”
 - “Statistical Relationship between LGBT Rights and Development”

⁸ See <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/15396/lgbt-inclusion-and-development-november-2014.pdf>

- Since 2013, UNICEF has had an LGBTI working group focused on opening up policy and programming as part of the agency’s equity agenda. According to a UNICEF report, this has led to discussions “*on how UNICEF can address issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity as part of the commitments to equity, social inclusion and upholding the Convention on the Rights of the Child.*”⁹
- A European Union news release announced the launch of a major EU fund for employment and “*social inclusion*” as follows: “*Today, the European Parliament adopted a regulation defining the priorities of the European Social Fund (ESF) for the period 2014-2020. For the first time, the Fund will contribute to combating discrimination based on sex—including discrimination against transsexual persons—and sexual orientation.*”¹⁰
- UNDP sponsored a report on “*Surveying Nepal’s Sexual and Gender Minorities: An Inclusive Approach,*” and has set the goal to establish “*an evidence base on LGBT rights and social issues in Asia-Pacific through convening inclusive national dialogues.*”
- The Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network (GLSEN), a large LGBT rights organization in the United States, has a publication titled, “*Developing LGBT-Inclusive Classroom Resources,*” which provides best practices for “*Inclusive and Affirming Curriculum for All Students.*” Lessons “*include positive representations of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, history, and events*” and expose students to “*LGBT-Inclusive Curriculum.*”
- The 2014 Social Inclusion Index¹¹ published by America’s Society/Council of the Americas says, “*We define social inclusion in a broad range of rights (civil, political, women’s, and LGBT), policies (social investment), conditions ...*”
- Page 70 of the World Bank’s report titled “*Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity*” states that “*Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals are targeted for exclusion in many, if not most, cultures.*” Page 6 of that report indicates, “*Some identities that were not acknowledged as sources of social exclusion or inclusion some decades ago are acknowledged as such today.*”
- More recently, U.S. Comments on Habitat III Issue Papers issued in December of 2015 included the following comment with regard to “*inclusive cities*”: “*Inclusivity should include the concerns and needs of all groups and minorities, regardless of ... sexual orientation, gender identity, and age including youth and the elderly.*”

These examples make it clear that a growing number of Member States, organizations and UN entities define “*inclusive*” development to include the promotion of LGBT rights. With this in mind, some of the other “*inclusive*” language in the 2030 UN Agenda takes on added meaning. For example, goal 16 calls for States to “*Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for*

⁹ See http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Discrimination/LGBT_UN_SOGI_summary12Nov2014.pdf

¹⁰ See <http://www.lgbt-ep.eu/press-releases/major-eu-fund-for-employment-and-social-inclusion-will-combat-discrimination/>

¹¹ See <http://www.americasquarterly.org/charticles/socialinclusionindex2014/overview.php#sthash.12odcP0R.dpuf>

sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive [read: LGBT] institutions at all levels.”

Also paragraph 68 in Agenda 2030 states, “*International trade is an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, and contributes to the promotion of sustainable development. We will continue to promote a ... inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization.*” In the U.S., LGBT lobbyists have pressured the government to refuse to trade with other countries that have laws that discriminate against LGBT people. Fortunately, these lobbyists have not yet succeeded.

3. “Fundamental Freedoms” and “International Agreements”

Sustainable Development Goals – “Fundamental Freedoms”

Target 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Agenda 2030 Paragraph 19: We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.

SDG target 16.10 calls for the protection of “*fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.*” Several UN agencies, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and an increasing number of UN Member States claim that “*fundamental freedoms*” include controversial LGBT rights and suggest that many “*international agreements*” protect these alleged rights as well.

For example, a 2012 OHCHR publication, “*Born Free and Equal: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in International Human Rights Law*” purports to outline “*key obligations of States under international law to protect the rights of LGBT people.*” The OHCHR office also announced that it was “*developing a trainers’ manual on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity as well as a report on good practices by States to promote and protect the human rights of LGBT and intersex people.*”

These kinds of joint UN agency produced documents often cite UN treaty body recommendations, observations, and ultra vires treaty interpretations in reports created by activist UN Special Rapporteurs to support their claims, even though such documents have no legal weight and are nonbinding. These same entities likely will also claim that “*international agreements*” in target 16.10 also protect LGBT rights.

An explicit example of this is a document called “*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender and Intersex People*,” which is part of an OHCHR “*Information Series on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*.” This document states, “*The legal obligations of States to safeguard the human rights of LGBT and intersex people are well established in international human rights law.*”

If the term “human rights” is to be understood as the basic rights of such persons on the same basis as all people, then this statement would be correct. However, this OHCHR document goes much further to promote highly controversial special rights for LGBT persons.

For example, the OHCHR document claims that “*UN human rights treaty bodies have highlighted five key state obligations*” in relation to “*sexual orientation and gender identity.*” These alleged obligations include “*Repeal laws criminalizing homosexuality and cross-dressing, Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity,*” and “*Safeguard freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly for all LGBT and intersex people.*”

The OHCHR document then cites nonbinding treaty body comments and the OHCHR’s own “*Born Free and Equal*” campaign as support for its false claims. With regard to “*discrimination*” the OHCHR document states, “*Gender reassignment therapy, where available, is often prohibitively expensive and State funding or insurance coverage is rarely available*” and claims the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights has established that “*any discrimination in access to health care and underlying determinants of health, as well as to means and entitlements for their procurement, on the grounds ... of sexual orientation*” is problematic.

In other words, the OHCHR is falsely claiming that States are obligated to provide state-funded “*gender reassignment therapies*” (this would include sex-change operations) for transsexuals in order to fulfill obligations under international human rights law.

In fact, the highly controversial sexual rights manifesto known as the Yogyakarta Principles, signed by nine UN Special Rapporteurs, claims to “*reflect the existing state of international human rights law in relation to issues of sexual orientation and gender identity.*” The Yogyakarta Principles claim that the non-discrimination and equality provisions of existing treaties provide protection for LGBT lifestyles and behaviors. However, these concepts have never been included in any binding UN agreement.

UN agencies are also claiming that international agreements including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights carry strong protections for various alleged LGBT rights. With regard to “*human rights,*” Hillary Clinton will most likely always be remembered internationally for her infamous UN speech on International Human Rights Day in which she declared, “*Gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights*”—a statement that sums up how the term “*human rights*” is being interpreted by many. Since even the term “*human rights*” has been co-opted by sexual rights activists, it should therefore always be modified by “*universally agreed*” to help ensure it cannot be misinterpreted. Yet, the term “*human rights*” is replete throughout the 2030 Agenda, in most cases with no clarifying language.

4. Problematic “Discrimination” Provisions

Sustainable Development Goals – “Discrimination”

16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

SDG target 10.3 calls for “*eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices*” without specifying what kind of discrimination it is referring to. This leaves room for broad interpretations to promote LGBT rights. The examples below show that UN agencies are already interpreting nondiscrimination provisions to advance LGBT rights.

For example, in 2012, the OHCHR prepared the first official UN report on violence and “*discrimination*” based on sexual orientation and gender identity (A/HRC/19/41). Then in 2013, the High Commissioner launched their global Free & Equal campaign aimed at “*raising awareness of homophobic and transphobic violence and discrimination.*”

Next, in November 2014, OHCHR issued a major report titled, “*The Role of the United Nations in Combatting Discrimination and Violence against Individuals Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity – A Programmatic Overview.*”¹² This report included input from 12 UN agencies and provided a summary of their work in combatting *discrimination* and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and related work in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and intersex communities around the world.

The report lists as contributing UN agencies: OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, the World Bank, and UNAIDS (the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS).

Then finally, on September 29, 2015, only a week after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda by Heads of State, the UN Secretary-General took part in a high-level UN event on LGBT *inclusion* and the Sustainable Development Goals. The event, titled “Leaving No One Behind,” was intended to link the alleged rights of LGBT people and the sustainable development goals. The UN Secretary-General expressed his strong support for the OHCHR LGBT initiative saying, “*the joint statement showed that support for the rights of LGBT and intersex people wasn't just personal, on his part, but institutional, spanning the UN system.*” Hina Jilani, the former Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders also spoke at the event in support of the *LGBT community*.

¹² See http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Discrimination/LGBT_UN_SOGI_summary12Nov2014.pdf

5. “Or Other Status” to Include “Sexual Orientation” and “Gender Identity”

Sustainable Development Goals – “Or Other Status”

Target 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

The term “*or other status*” in the 2030 Agenda has been highly problematic, ever since the UN committee monitoring the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) treaty issued General Comment #20 declaring that “*or other status*” in the non-discrimination section of that treaty encompasses “sexual orientation and gender identity”—even though this interpretation was never agreed to by Member States when they negotiated this treaty.

Then General Comment #4 on “Adolescent Health and Development in the Context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)” issued by the CRC Committee makes a similar claim—that States cannot discriminate based on the following categories listed in article 2 of the CRC: “*race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.*” Their Comment #4 then adds this ultra vires statement, “*These grounds also cover adolescents’ sexual orientation and health status ...*” Again, the CRC Committee created this interpretation out of thin air as the CRC says nothing about sexual orientation.

“*Or other status*” appears in two places in the 2030 Agenda as follows:

- First, SDG target 10.2 states, “By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.”

So, if the definition of “*or other status*” in Comments #4 and #20 is used for SDG target 10.2, it would be understood to call for the social and political “*inclusion*” of homosexuals, transgenders, bisexuals and other genders, such as any of the 50 plus genders recognized by Facebook.

- Second, “*or other status*” appears in paragraph 19 where it states that it is “*the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.*” [Read as “sexual orientation and gender identity” as per Comment #20 references above.”]

Using the Comment #4 and #20 interpretations, this paragraph would then call for nations to “*respect, protect, and promote*” rights for homosexuals and transgender persons, etc. While most people agree that the basic human rights of LGBT people should be respected for the same reason that the basic rights of all people should be protected, it is likely that “*or other status*” in the SDGs will eventually be used to promote more controversial LGBT rights, including same-sex marriage, adoption rights, and more.

6. “Reduce Inequalities” Within Countries

Sustainable Development Goals – Reduce Inequalities

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

Target 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

Agenda 2030 Paragraph 14: Gender inequality remains a key challenge

Goal 10, calling for governments to “*reduce inequality within ... countries,*” opens a wide door for interpretation since it gives no context for what kind of “inequalities” governments are supposed to reduce. While many governments likely consider this language to refer only to economic inequalities between men and women, goal 10 might also be interpreted to obligate governments to reduce inequalities between heterosexuals and homosexuals and between transgenders and “cisgenders” (a term for someone who is not transgender).

Then SDG target 10.3 seeks to “*reduce inequalities of outcome*” including by “*eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation.*” However, target 10.3 does not specify what kind of unequal “*outcomes*” “*inequalities*” or “*discrimination*” or “*practices*” must be eliminated, thus leaving the door open for this language to be interpreted to obligate governments to change laws and policies that are perceived to discriminate against or create unequal “*outcomes*” for LGBT people. This ambiguity was probably intentional.

In fact, a UNDP report published in 2014 titled, “*Lost in Transition: Transgender People, Rights and HIV Vulnerability in the Asia-Pacific Region*” has already done an analysis on “*the impact of legal frameworks on inequality, marginalisation and health outcomes*” for transgender people in Asia.

7. The “Outcome Documents” Agenda

Sustainable Development Goals – Outcome Documents

Target 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

During the SDG negotiations, States that strongly favor sexual and abortion rights resisted any and all attempts to list the specific review outcome documents to which target 5.6 refers. This is likely because they intend this phrase to encompass the controversial regional and UN-agency review outcome documents of ICPD and Beijing.

For example, the radical outcome documents from UNFPA’s ICPD reviews, including the Bali Global Youth Forum’s 20-year reviews of ICPD. These UN agency-led reviews, as well as some of the regional review documents, are full of references calling for abortion, comprehensive sexuality education, prostitution rights, LGBT rights and more.

In addition, the outcome document of UNFPA’s review titled, “ICPD Beyond 2014” contains more than 500 highly controversial references, including 391 references to “sexual,” 25 references to “sexual orientation,” 6 references to “prostitution,” 4 references to “transgender,” 18 references to “comprehensive sexuality education,” 44 references to “sexual and reproductive rights,” and 173 references to “abortion.”

The Bali Global Youth Forum review outcome document (reviewing ICPD) from a youth conference organized by UNFPA calls for the legalization of prostitution, same-sex marriage, abortion, the abolishing of parental consent laws, access for youth to abortion and comprehensive sexuality education, LGBT rights, and more.

Since “*the outcome documents of their review conferences*” modifies “*reproductive rights*” in goal 5, and since a number of these outcome review documents promote LGBT and abortion rights, this could be used to interpret “*reproductive rights*” to include access to abortion and access for LGBT persons to reproductive technologies, surrogacy arrangements, or the adoption of children. In fact, the term “*reproductive rights*” alone has even been used to promote such rights for LGBT persons.

To understand how UNFPA interprets “*reproductive rights*” in the context of “*human rights*,” one need look no further than the UNFPA report, “*ICPD and Human Rights: 20 years of advancing reproductive rights*.” This UNFPA document includes 11 positive references to “*sexual orientation*,” 6 references to “*transgender*,” and 5 references to “*gender identity*,” and has multiple references to decriminalizing same-sex behavior and implementing public

campaigns to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity—all this under the banner of advancing reproductive health rights.

UNFPA also lists “*restrictive abortion laws*” and “*illegal abortion*” as barriers to “*reproductive rights*.” Therefore, the report sends a clear signal that UNFPA will use the “*reproductive rights*” SDG target 5c to pressure countries to change any “*restrictive*” abortion laws. So the inclusion of “*reproductive rights*” in the SDGs is sure to open up a Pandora’s Box of controversial legal and policy battles related to human reproduction.

Finally, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine also claims the term “*reproductive rights*” includes rights to “*assisted reproduction for gay, lesbian and unmarried persons*.” Yet, these arrangements violate the rights of the child to “*know and be cared for by his or her parents*” as specified in article five of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, since children adopted to same-sex couples are usually severed legally from at least one of their biological parents with no choice in the matter whatsoever.

B. How the Agenda Promotes “Comprehensive Sexuality Education”

A large group, made up mostly of developed countries, supported by UN agencies and sexual rights activist NGOs, issued a joint statement¹³ during the SDG negotiations calling for an education target on “*universal access to comprehensive sexuality education*” (also known as CSE). CSE is their main tool to mainstream LGBT and abortion rights in society. When this group failed to get a CSE target due to great opposition from developing countries, they were not happy.

However, they had a back-up plan. While they failed to get a specific CSE target, they succeeded in inserting vague and elastic terms into several of the negotiated targets that they could later easily interpret to call for CSE.

So what’s the big deal with “*comprehensive sexuality education*,” and why were mostly developed countries and UN agencies so adamant that it had to be included in an SDG target? In addition, why has CSE become one of the most controversial terms at the UN with developing countries strongly opposing it and developed countries and UN agencies all working together to force it on children in the developing world? Controversy over CSE was in a large part why the yearly UN Commission on Population and Development was unable to come to agreement on outcome documents both in 2015 and 2017. The African Group and others refused to accept CSE, while the European Union insisted it had to be included.

¹³ See Joint Statement to the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13th Session, July 14-18, 2014 – United Nations, New York--Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Nozipho Mxakato-Diseko of South Africa on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vanuatu. <http://iglhrc.org/content/joint-statement-open-working-group-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs>

Throughout the SDG negotiations, many statements were given claiming that CSE will lift people out of poverty, promote gender equality, and prevent teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, violence against women, and much more. CSE is often promoted as the panacea for almost every world problem, yet quite the opposite is true.

1. CSE Designed to Sexualize Children

Comprehensive sexuality education is one of the greatest assaults on the health and innocence of children. This is because, unlike traditional sex education, CSE uses explicit materials to promote promiscuity and high-risk sexual behaviors to children as healthy and normal. CSE programs have an almost obsessive focus on teaching children how to obtain sexual pleasure in various ways, including through masturbation, anal and oral sex, and homosexual sex. The ultimate goal of CSE is to change the sexual and gender norms of society, which is why CSE could be more accurately called “abortion, promiscuity, and LGBT rights education.”

One of the largest providers of CSE is Planned Parenthood, a multi-billion dollar organization that profits from sexualizing children by selling them condoms, contraception, sexual counseling services, abortion and lucrative HIV/AIDS testing, treatment and care. Planned Parenthood’s lawyers were out in force, trying to ensure that CSE made it in one of the SDG targets. (See ComprehensiveSexualityEducation.org for extensive documentation on highly inappropriate UN-supported CSE programs that sexualize children.)

The World Health Organization’s standards for sexuality education for Europe caused a major uprising from parents in Poland when they learned of its explicit content. WHO’s standards actually recommend teaching children from newborn to 4 years old about masturbation, ages 4-6 about “*different norms regarding sexuality,*” ages 6-9 about “*different methods of contraception*” and “*love towards people of the same sex,*” ages 9-12 about “*pleasure, masturbation, and orgasm,*” and “*sexual rights as defined by the International Planned Parenthood Federation,*” ages 12-15 about “*sexual orientation and gender identity,*” ages 15 and up are to be taught “*a critical view of different cultural/religious norms*” and to accept and celebrate “*sexual differences.*”

And this is the kind of education many of the developed countries were trying to get directly into the SDG targets but only managed to get in indirectly.

2. Sexual and Reproductive Health Education Includes CSE

Sustainable Development Goals – Sexual and Reproductive Health

Target 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

SDG target 3.7 calls for “*sexual and reproductive health care services including for family planning, information and education.*” If you reverse the order of this wording, you can easily see that target 3.7 calls for “*information and education*” on “*family planning*” and “*sexual and reproductive health,*” which is exactly what CSE programs claim to provide.

In fact, evidence that this target can be interpreted as a call for CSE can be found in the results of a survey conducted by the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth.¹⁴ Under the heading of “Sexual and Reproductive Health Education” one respondent called for “*making comprehensive sexuality education a mandatory part of primary and secondary school curricula (51.3%) as the most important actions to ensure effective sexual and reproductive health education for youth.*”

And it is clear that the plan is to get controversial CSE programs to children without their parents’ knowledge or consent. In fact, a General Comment issued by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child¹⁵ makes the following false claims that violate existing treaty obligations to protect parental rights:

“In light of article 3, 17 and 24 of the Convention [the CRC], States Parties should provide adolescents with access to sexual and reproductive information ... States Parties should ensure access to appropriate information regardless of marital status, and prior consent from parents or guardians. (para. 24)

In other words, the CRC Committee is falsely claiming that children have a right to “sexual and reproductive health information” [read: CSE] without parental knowledge or consent.

Of great concern also is the 2015 report the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief submitted to the UN General Assembly.¹⁶ Citing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC),¹⁷ the Rapporteur states:

“the right to education has the component of compulsory primary education, which by implication can also be enforced against the will of the parents or guardians.” Then he

¹⁴ See <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/ReportonSWAPsurvey.pdf>

¹⁵ General Comment # 4 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, on “Adolescent health and development in the context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.”

¹⁶ Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance, (A/70/286).

¹⁷ CRC, Article 28, paragraph 1 (a).

continues, “*With regard to adolescents, the Committee on the Rights of the Child [the UN Committee that monitors compliance with the CRC] emphasizes that States parties should provide them ‘with access to sexual and reproductive information, including on family planning and contraception, the dangers of early pregnancy, the prevention of HIV/AIDS and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).’” He then adds, “In that context the Committee insists that adolescents should ‘have access to appropriate information, regardless of ... whether their parents or guardians consent.’”*

Nothing in the CRC suggests that adolescents have a right to such information.

3. “Inclusive” Education Goal Promotes CSE

Sustainable Development Goals – Inclusive Education

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

Goal 4 that calls for “inclusive education” for all, and target 4.a that calls for “inclusive” learning environments in the schools, can be interpreted as mandates for LGBT-inclusive education, which is a key component of comprehensive sexuality education.

In fact, shortly after the 2030 Agenda was adopted by all heads of state at the UN in New York, the state of California passed a bill mandating *LGBTQ-inclusive sex education*. According to the Human Rights Campaign, the new law mandates that all public schools include “*comprehensive information on sexual orientation, gender identity and HIV prevention*” for all students in grades 7 through 12.

Regarding this new legislation, California’s State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson said, “*By affirmatively recognizing that people have different sexual orientations and teaching pupils about gender identity, LGBTQ youth will be safer in school.*”

A second example of how the term “*inclusive*” is used in a sexuality education program in the United States comes from the Minnesota-based *Birds & Bees Project* curriculum guide, titled *Educator’s Guide to Reproductive Health*, which states:

“It is important to use inclusive language when discussing abstinence. Many abstinence programs ... define sex as penile-vaginal. These definitions exclude GLBTQ youth and reinforce stereotypes about gender and sexual orientation. We highly recommend language and definitions that apply to all youth, regardless of their sexual orientation ...

defining sex as oral, anal, and vaginal rather than just vaginal ... will help to create a respectful and inclusive classroom environment."¹⁸

Keeping in mind that SDG goal 4 calls for “*inclusive education*,” it is also easy to see how SDG target 4.7 that calls for education on “*human rights*,” “*gender equality*,” and “*cultural diversity*,” and SDG target 4.a calling for education facilities that are “*gender sensitive*” and “*inclusive*” could be interpreted as a call for CSE, especially since most CSE programs claim to cover these concepts.

4. UN Agencies Using Indicators to Promote CSE

In an UN interagency report titled, “The Role of the United Nations in Combatting Discrimination and Violence against Individuals Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity,” UNFPA is quoted as stating that UNFPA “*promotes the implementation of the UNESCO guidelines on comprehensive sexuality education*.”

This is quite alarming since UNESCO’s sexuality education guidelines address controversial topics, stating, among other things:

- “*Respect for human rights requires us to accept people of differing sexual orientation and gender identity*” (Vol II p. 17)
- “*Many boys and girls begin to masturbate during puberty or sometimes earlier* (Vol II p. 26)
- “*Masturbation does not cause physical or emotional harm*” (Vol II p. 26)

The UNESCO sexuality education guidelines also refer readers to the “The Pleasure Project,” which includes “Global Mapping of Pleasure: A directory of organizations, programmes, media and people who eroticize safer sex.”¹⁹ This website outlines activities to “*break the inhibitions ... with terms around sex, sexuality and pleasure*” and describes a group activity to learn about words for describing “*sexual acts, sexual organs and pleasure*.”

With all this in mind, it should be alarming that UN agencies proposed several indicators to measure the number of children receiving sexuality education (which were subsequently adopted, see below) under the SDG goal 4 education targets, even though the SDGs say nothing about sex, sexuality, or sexuality education at all. It is likely these UN agencies will then use the data they gather to claim that not enough children are receiving CSE and to pressure governments to provide CSE to more children. A very clever plan.

It is clear that UNFPA will interpret SDG target 5.6 on “*sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights*” to encompass CSE. This is because their 2014 report, “ICPD and Human

¹⁸ *The Birds & Bees Project* "Educator's Guide to Reproductive Health", 2006, p. 28.

¹⁹ Available at http://www.thepleasureproject.org/content/File/Global%20Mapping%20of%20Pleasure_2nd%20Ed_Nov09.pdf

Rights: 20 years of advancing reproductive rights” reveals their plans to:

- Remove “barriers to sexuality education such as parental consent.” [This is an actual quote from their report.]
- Remove “barriers to accessing safe abortion services, such as third-party authorization requirements” [read: parental consent for abortion];
- Remove “barriers [read: parental consent for adolescents]in accessing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services”; and
- Abolish “laws denying adolescents decision making capacity or requiring that they obtain parental consent.”

This assault on parental rights and on the health and innocence of children is unprecedented. Multiple UN treaties and consensus documents call for respect for the rights, responsibilities and duties of parents.²⁰ For example, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that “Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children,”²¹ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights calls for “respect for the liberty of parents ... to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.”²²

Therefore, any targets or indicators that promote sexual and reproductive health or services or sexuality education for children without their parents’ knowledge or consent are in violation of the universal rights of parents to direct the education of their children.

OHCHR Promotes CSE

A paper issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on adolescents’ sexual and reproductive health, declaring, “Requirements of third-party consent for access to certain services are contrary to human rights.”²³ Who are the “third parties?” Whose “consent” should not be needed for “certain services?” And what are these “certain services” that might require consent?

The OHCHR document also claims “States are required to ensure that adolescents are not deprived of sexual and reproductive health information, goods and services, such as contraceptives and family planning, due to health providers’ conscientious objections.” Yet this statement does not give us a clear idea of what kind of sexual and reproductive information is to be provided. This is likely intentional. Of great concern is the fact that it also states, “Requirements of third-party consent [read: parents] for access to certain services are contrary to human rights.”

²⁰ CRC (1990), Articles 5, 14-2; ICPD (1994) 7.45; ICPD +5 (1999) 73(e); ICESCR (1976), Article 13-3, 18-4.

²¹ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26 (3).

²² ICCPR (1976), Article 18-4.

²³ See http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/SexualHealth/INFO_Adolescents_WEB.pdf

These statements are aimed at eliminating parental consent for controversial services, such as abortion, sexuality education or sexual counseling.

UNFPA Proposed Indicators Advance CSE

The following SDG education indicators were proposed by UNFPA and UNESCO:²⁴

- UNFPA proposed indicator 4.7.1 to measure the “*percentage of schools that provided life skills-based HIV and sexuality education.*” This shows that UNFPA plans to interpret education on “*human rights,*” “*gender equality,*” and “*cultural diversity*” in SDG target 4.7 to mean “*sexuality education.*” Again, most CSE programs claim they address all of these issues, which is likely why these terms were strategically placed in SDG target 4.7 in the first place. Alarming, UNFPA says their proposed 4.7.1 sexuality education indicator is already in a “*testing phase with the infrastructure in place.*”
- SDG target 4.a aims to “*Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive²⁵ ... and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.” UNFPA’s proposed indicator to determine progress for this target would measure the “*Percentage of students experiencing bullying, corporal punishment, harassment, violence, sexual discrimination and abuse.” Most CSE programs are designed to address sexual discrimination by promoting acceptance of LGBT sex and lifestyles.**
- UNFPA also proposed an indicator to measure compliance with SDG target 4.7 by measuring the number of “*countries implementing the framework on the World Programme on Human Rights Education.* Of concern is the fact that principle nine of the OHCHR “*human rights*” education program states that “*Educational activities within the World Programme*” shall “*foster respect for and appreciation of diversity, and opposition to discrimination on the basis of race, sex, gender, ... or sexual orientation and on other bases.”*

Also, UNFPA has stated that their proposed indicator on human rights education is consistent with indicator 29 of the Framework for Action of the Post-2015 Education agenda. The agency then references an International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS) assessment²⁶ that includes the following controversial questions:

- “*At your school, how much have the following issues been discussed?*”

“Integration of people with different sexual tendencies and orientations in the community”

²⁴ Other revealing indicators under Target 4.7 proposed by UN agencies can be found on the UN website at: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/2015/06/16/detailed-inputs/>

²⁵ “Gender sensitive” facilities likely will be interpreted to mean special or gender-neutral bathrooms for transgenders who identify as the sex opposite that of their birth as this is a common way to refer to such bathrooms.

²⁶ See http://www.iea.nl/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/Electronic_versions/ICCS_2009_Technical_Report.pdf

“Discrimination against people with different sexual orientation”

- *“How much would you like or dislike having neighbours belonging to the following groups? Homosexuals or lesbians.”*

The ICCS survey also asks students if they: “*Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree*” with the following statements:

- *“People of same sex right to marry”*
- *“Morality suffers due to homosexuality “*
- *“People of same sex deserve same rights”*
- *“People of same sex not accep [SIC] in school”*
- *“Homosexuality as a mental illness”*

These kinds of surveys will lay the foundation to call for LGBT sensitivity programs (i.e., CSE programs), which sometimes also come under the banner of anti-bullying or diversity programs in the schools. There is a major push for these kinds of programs in many school systems in the West. Thus, the UN agency-proposed indicators relating to SDG target 4.7, along with their surveys and questions asking children about their values and attitudes or views on controversial issues of human sexuality, contravene the UN Charter that clearly states that the UN is not to interfere with domestic matters. Such surveys also clearly interfere with the well-established rights of parents to direct the education of their children and interfere with matters that should be left to the parents and States—controversial issues that are not within the competence or mission of the United Nations.

C. “Reproductive Health” and “Reproductive Rights” Targets Advance Abortion

Sustainable Development Goals – Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights

Target 3.7- By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

Target 5.6 - Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

The terms “*sexual and reproductive health*” (SRH) and “*reproductive rights*” (RR) are often interpreted to include abortion. For example, Hillary Clinton is on record in a U.S. Congressional hearing stating that the U.S. defines “*reproductive health*” to include abortion.

The Center for Reproductive Rights, one of the most active abortion rights NGOs, interprets “*reproductive rights*” to include a right to abortion and advocates for this interpretation in courts and legislatures worldwide. Also as mentioned previously, “*reproductive rights*” is also a banner under which homosexual couples are claiming a right for surrogacy arrangements or a right to adopt children.

UN Women has proposed indicators that would measure:

- “*Proportion (%) of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee all women and adolescents access to sexual and reproductive health services, [read: abortion and contraception] information and education” [read: comprehensive sexuality education]*
- “*Proportion (%) of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee all women and adolescents access to sexual and reproductive health services, information and education” [read: abortion and CSE]*

UN Women also has proposed that the legal/regulatory frameworks covered by this indicator include “*laws and regulations that explicitly guarantee*”:

- “*Access to SRH services without third party authorization (from the spouse, guardian, parents or others)*”;

[COMMENT: This indicator actually lists “*spouse, guardian, parents or others*” as people who should not be consulted when governments provide access to SRH services. Knowing that SRH services include contraception, sexual counseling, and abortion, and that this indicator does not exclude children, if implemented it would clearly violate parental rights.]

- “*Access to SRH services without restrictions in terms of age and marital status.* [read: abortion and contraception for minors];
- “*Access by adolescents to SRH information and education.* [read: comprehensive sexuality education]

Also revealing is the adopted SDG indicator 5.6.1, which measures the “*Proportion of women aged 15-19 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care.*” This indicator is intended to advance the rights of “*girls*” to access contraception and abortion without parental consent. First of all, implicit in this indicator is the idea that children as young as 15 should have sexual freedom and abortion rights or should be able to “make their own” “sexual” “decisions” and “reproductive decisions” without parental consent.

Second, to measure this, UNFPA has proposed that girls as young as age 15 be asked if they are allowed to make their own “*decision concerning using or not using contraception*” or *decisions about “reaching sexual and reproductive healthcare”* (read: abortion).

For all of these reasons, a number of Member States reserved on “*sexual and reproductive health*” and “*reproductive rights,*” noting that these terms do not include a right to abortion. But

as the evidence has shown, these terms are meant to encompass a lot more than just abortion.

III. National Sovereignty and National Laws

Sustainable Development Goals – National Sovereignty and National Laws

Target 17.15 Respect for each country’s policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development”

Multiple Provisions Affirm National Laws

On a positive note, in addition to SDG target 17.15 calling for respect for “each country’s policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development,” the UN 2030 Agenda has many other references supporting national policies and priorities as follows:

- Paragraph 38 reaffirms *“the need to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of States,”*
- Paragraph 40 recognizes *“that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development,”*
- Paragraph 46 stresses *“the importance of strengthened national ownership and leadership at the country level.”*
- Paragraph 47 specifies that governments have the primary responsibility *“for follow-up and review in relation to the progress made in implementing this agenda for the next 15 years,”* and stresses *“the importance of national ownership and leadership.”*
- Paragraph 55 specifies that *“Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each Government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. Each Government will also decide how these aspirational and global targets should be incorporated into national planning processes.”*
- Paragraph 74 (a) affirms the *“voluntary nature of the follow-up and review processes”* that are to be *“country led”* and that will respect *“each nation’s policy space and priorities”* recognizing that *“national ownership is key to achieving sustainable development.”*

There are many more such encouraging references that can and should be used by Member States to protect their citizens against anti-family interpretations and applications of SDG goals,

targets and indicators.²⁷ We know, however, that powerful actors with strong agendas have ignored such protections for national sovereignty in other UN documents, claiming that the controversial agendas they are promoting under the banner of alleged “*international human rights*” trump all other rights. We also know from some of the indicators that have been proposed that a number of UN agencies and countries already plan to disregard the religious and cultural values and parental rights of countries and peoples with intrusive surveys and measuring processes that will facilitate controversial agendas.

IV. The Family and the 2030 Development Agenda

A. The Essential Role of the Family

There is good news and bad news with regard to the inclusion of “*the family*” in the 2030 Agenda. On the negative side, direct references to the protection of “*the family*” or the critical role of the family in implementing the SDGs were rejected during the SDG negotiations.

This was in spite of the fact that a 2015 UN Human Rights Council resolution (i) expressed concern “*that the contribution of the family in the society and in the achievement of development goals continues to be largely overlooked and underemphasized,*” and (ii) had called upon Member States “*to take into account the role of the family, as a contributor to sustainable development, and the need to strengthen family policy development, in their ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, and future United Nations Development goals.*”²⁸

The resolution also invited “*States to consider mainstreaming the promotion of family-oriented policies as a cross cutting issue in the proposed goals and targets of the post-2015 agenda,*” recognizing “*that the family can contribute to eradicating poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combatting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.*”²⁹

So why was the protection of the family and a recognition of the essential role of the family in development left out of the 2030 Agenda, despite strong support for its inclusion by a number of UN Member States?

It was largely due to the insistence by LGBT-supportive countries during the negotiations that the phrase “*the family*” must be changed to or modified with language recognizing “*various forms of the family,*” in order to recognize LGBT families. This was a huge point of contention

²⁷ 2030 Agenda, par. 3 (different levels development and capacities); 5 (respecting national policies and priorities); 21 (different national realities); 55 (national realities, capacities and priorities); 59 (national circumstances and priorities); 5.4 (and the family as nationally appropriate); 5.a (in accordance with national laws); 8.1 (in accordance with national circumstances); 9.1 (in line with national circumstances); 10.b (national plans and programmes); 12.7 (national policies and priorities); 12.c (national circumstances); 16.10 (in accordance with national legislation); 17.18 (relevant in national contexts); 74.a (respect policy space and priorities); 74.f (national needs and priorities); 79 (circumstances, policies and priorities);

²⁸ This same call was also issued in 2014 in resolution PP9 C-SOCD E/CN.5/2014/L.5.

²⁹ This exact language was also included in the 2014 resolution, PP9 C-SOCD E/CN.5/2014/L.5.

during the SDG debates, and in the end, the only direct reference to “*the family*” having an important role in sustainable development was removed from the final SDG document.

B. “Family,” “Families,” “The Family”

Less controversial family-related language that did make it into the Agenda includes one direct reference to “*the family*” in the context of shared responsibilities in the household (SDG target 5.4), a reference to “*family farmers*” in relation to increasing family farm productivity and incomes (SDG target 2.3), and a reference to “*families*” in relation to contributing to a nurturing educational environment for children as follows: “*We will strive to provide children and youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities, helping our countries to reap the demographic dividend, including through safe schools and cohesive communities and families.*”

However, notice that “*families*” is mentioned last after “*safe schools*” and “*cohesive communities.*”

C. The Family Affirmed Indirectly

On another positive note, the Agenda reaffirms multiple UN documents that strongly affirm the institution of the family. For example, paragraph 10 states that the 2030 Agenda is “*grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and international human rights treaties,*” and Article 16.3 of the UDHR states, “*The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.*” And since paragraph 10 also affirms “*international human rights treaties,*” it is important to understand that such treaties strongly affirm the family, as follows:

- **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**, Article 10-1: “*The widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, which is the natural and fundamental group unit of society.*”
- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**, Article 23-1: “*The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.*”
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child**, Preamble (paragraph 6): “*Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community.*”

Paragraph 11 of the 2030 Agenda also reaffirms the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits, including the World Summit for Social Development, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Beijing Platform for Action. These documents also affirm the family as follows:

- **World Summit for Social Development, 80:** *“The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support.”*
- **Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, Principle 9:** *“The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support.”*
- **Beijing Platform for Action, 29:** *“The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support.”*

Paragraph 11 of the 2030 Agenda continues, *“We also reaffirm the follow-up to these conferences.”* These follow-up conference documents include:

- **Social Summit +5, 25:** *“There has been continued recognition that the family is the basic unit of society and that it plays a key role in social development and is a strong force of social cohesion and integration.”*
- **Beijing +5, 60:** *“The family is the basic unit of society and is a strong force for social cohesion and integration and as such should be strengthened.”*

Even though a direct reference to the protection of the family or the vital role of the family in development is not included in the UN’s Agenda 2030, this in no way means that nations must leave the family out of their national development plans. States should be strongly encouraged to place the protection of the family at the center of their post-2015 development efforts and to assess all development policies and programs for their impact on the family while working to empower families to realize their full potential as critical contributors to sustainable development.

Call to Action

While there are a number of strong references in the 2030 UN Agenda respecting national laws, capacities, circumstances, priorities, and policies in implementing the sustainable development goals, the Agenda 2030 outcome document is also replete with vague terms that can be used to advance controversial sexual rights that undermine the family.

The 2030 Agenda also fails to recognize the family as the fundamental unit of society or as a major contributor to development. In other words, unless decisive action is taken by UN Member States, the family will be left out completely UN’s post-2015 agenda.

The following actions can be taken to ensure that children and the family are protected in future UN negotiations:

1. **States can join the “friends of the family” coalitions of UN Member States in both Geneva and New York.** They can then issue joint statements as a group

declaring their firm positions on family issues before, during, and at the close of UN negotiations making it clear that controversial concepts will not be accepted. For example, if a critical mass of States were to consistently issue the same exact opening statements at the beginning of each negotiation in both Geneva and New York, this would make it more difficult for other States to break the consensus of pro-family governments.

2. **States can consistently issue joint reservations.** (See Part V of this report for suggested reservations.) To be most effective it would be important to issue the exact same reservations each time and to do this jointly with other like-minded governments, thereby creating an understanding that a critical mass of governments will not accept controversial interpretations of past, present, or future negotiated outcome documents. States can make it clear they will not tolerate controversial language that undermines family, life, or the health and innocence of children

Poland provides a good example of how Member States can push back against the use of new terms or misinterpretations of existing terms to advance alleged sexual rights. In an October 14, 2013 statement to the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, Poland put on record “for the purpose of that meeting and future meetings held in the framework of the UNGA, its committees, the ECOSOC and other UN bodies” that Poland “objects to any interpretation of references to SRHR/SRHS used in international documents as including abortion on demand.”³⁰

A similar global statement citing all of the controversial SDG terms highlighted in this report—asserting that none of these terms can be interpreted to include, recognize, promote or advance LGBT rights, comprehensive sexuality education, or abortion—could be a powerful tool to counteract the sexual rights agenda, especially if signed by a critical number of UN Member States.

3. **States can take advantage of the International Day of the Family.** On May 15th of each year States could hold a high level meeting that celebrates the family and recommends adoption of positive and constructive family-supportive policies.
4. **States can issue joint statements to the UNGA each year reaffirming the HRC Protection of the Family resolutions.** States should also repeat the excellent family-supportive language from this resolution in new UN outcome documents.
5. **States can establish voluntary review committees to monitor and analyze the actions of various UN entities that promote sexual rights.** These committees could investigate the actions of UN agencies, UN Special Rapporteurs, and treaty body monitoring committees.
6. **States can issue reports and joint statements calling out UN agencies that overstep their mandates.** States can organize a coordinated, formal pushback calling out agencies for acting outside of their mandates in promoting the sexual rights

³⁰ See <https://papersmart.unmeetings.org/media2/433097/statement-by-poland-item-28.pdf>

agenda. This could also be done in the form of a joint statement to the UNGA putting UN entities on notice that States will no longer cooperate with or fund UN entities that continue to overstep their mandates. These reports could outline recommendations for reform. NGOs could play a key role in helping to collect data for such a report.

7. **States should cease funding UN agencies that undermine the family.** States should consider withdrawing funding from UN entities that consistently work to undermine their national laws, values and cultures.
8. **States can mainstream the family at the UN in positive ways by consistently linking the family to all development issues in their national statements.**
9. **States can organize and/or sponsor highly visible side events in support of the family.** For example, States can sponsor or co-sponsor side events in support of the family, which explore the benefits of mother/father families in creating stable and sustainable societies as demonstrated by available social science data, thereby creating a UN culture that is positive toward the family.
10. **States can issue national declarations in support of the family in their capitals.** Heads of State of family-supportive countries can issue national declarations regarding the importance of the family as an institution and call upon their people to strengthen their own families as the best means to achieve societal development.

Family Watch International and the UN Family Rights Caucus call upon government leaders to assert their national sovereignty and use whatever political means are at their disposal to (i) safeguard their families, cultural norms, and religious values, and (ii) protect them from activists that try to exploit the 2030 Agenda to advance hidden and harmful agendas.

As governments empower the family as the fundamental unit of society to contribute in meaningful ways to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in their countries, they are sure to have greater success in achieving the development goals.

Therefore, we further call upon nations to place the family at the center of their domestic development agenda and to assess the impact of SDG goals, targets and indicators on the institution of the family prior to their implementation.

We affirm that the goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda are voluntary in nature and are to be implemented with full respect for the national laws, policies, and priorities of Member States.

V. Reservations to Protect Life, Family, and Children

1. Proposed Reservation to Protect National Sovereignty and Religious and Cultural Values: We reaffirm the sovereign right of our country to implement the goals and targets and objectives of the Post-2015 development agenda as outlined in the present document,

“Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of our people. (Based on ICPD (1994), Chapter II, Principles) Nothing in the 2030 Agenda shall be construed to create any new rights.

2. Proposed Reservation on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive

Rights: Any terms related to sexual and reproductive health or reproductive rights must not be understood to include a right to abortion or to impose a burden on our government to provide access to or to fund abortions or change our laws relating to abortion. Also, references to “*the outcome documents of their review conferences*” of Beijing and ICPD, in relation to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, are to be understood to refer only to outcome documents negotiated by ECOSOC commissions or the full body of UN Member States and subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly. This term should not be construed to refer to regional or other unspecified outcome review documents.

3. Proposed Reservation on “Gender,” “Gender Equality,” and “Or Other Status”: The term “*gender*” throughout the 2030 Agenda is to be understood to refer to male and female only. The term “*gender equality*” refers to equality between the two sexes and should not be construed to refer to any genders other than male or female. Similarly, the terms “*or other status,*” “*inequality,*” “*discrimination,*” “*inclusion,*” “*inclusive*” or targets regarding “*gender equality*” or “*human rights*” should not be interpreted to refer to or to include the concepts of sexual orientation or gender identity or any rights related to such.

4. Proposed Reservations on Education and the Protection of Children: References prohibiting discrimination based on age cannot be construed to create a right for children or an obligation for States to provide access for children to sexual information or sexual and reproductive health services or related education for children, especially without the guidance of parents. References in SDG targets 3 and 4 regarding information or education on family planning, reproductive health care services, human rights, gender equality, or cultural diversity should not be understood to create rights for children to receive or access comprehensive sexuality education or similar programs or information. Similarly, SDG target 4.a with regard to creating a “*safe*” and “*gender sensitive*” school environment should not be understood to encompass any materials or programs such as anti-bullying programs that promote acceptance of or rights related to various sexual orientations or gender identities or other sexual minorities. All education shall be given to children under the direction and guidance of parents, and with full parental knowledge and consent.

5. Proposed Reservation on the Inclusion of the Family in the Post-2015 Development

Agenda: In accordance with States’ obligations under five binding treaties to protect the family as the fundamental unit of society, we affirm that the implementation of the 2030 agenda in [NAME OF COUNTRY], including the implementation of all the SDG goals and targets, should be conducted in a manner that is supportive of the family based on marriage between a man and a woman and that all policies and programs established to implement the 2030 agenda should first be assessed for their family impact, should be family-friendly, and should not contribute to family disintegration.