



3 April 2017

The Honorable Nikki Haley
U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations
United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Haley,

We write to follow-up discussions we had with the United States Mission to the United Nations during the 61st UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) outlining our deep concern with the appointment of the Center for Family and Human Rights (C-Fam), a recognized hate group, to the official US delegation. Our four American organizations now jointly write to provide you with a summary of C-Fam's violent homophobic and transphobic positions and to urge you to ban C-Fam from future US delegations.

We have been pleased by your public commitment to the principle of non-discrimination on any grounds. We also appreciate the explanation provided by the US representative at the close of the CSW Agreed Conclusions negotiations which explicitly recognized the vulnerabilities to discrimination faced by people based on sexual orientation and gender identity. These are positions we hope you and the US Mission to the UN will continue to uphold. We are concerned, however, that these principles cannot be upheld when C-Fam is on any official US delegation to the United Nations.

The appointment of C-Fam to an official US delegation to the UN is in direct conflict with your commitment to the principle of non-discrimination. Beyond the troubling optics of appointing an organization known for its violent views about people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT), the appointment of C-Fam substantively promotes, supports and facilitates its access to influence UN processes on behalf of the United States. Because of their extreme rhetoric and active demonization of LGBT people, C-Fam has been classified as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center for half a decade. This classification has not tempered C-Fam's activism. Indeed, C-Fam, led by its president, Austin Ruse, continues both negating the lived realities and experiences of LGBT people and also propagating false, dangerous, and vitriolic information about the LGBT community.

We have heard that the US may have been unaware of the extent of C-Fam's homophobic and transphobic views. In response, we are providing a detailed annex of articles and statements by C-Fam, its president Austin Ruse, and others employed or representing the organization (attached). The examples are non-exhaustive; we can provide abundantly more information quoting directly from C-Fam officials. The following are several excerpts from C-Fam's hateful--and dangerous--rhetoric against the human rights of LGBT people:

- C-Fam has a history of insisting that homosexuality and transgender identity are "disorders" that can be reversed. This position goes against the standards set by the World Health Organization and agreed international human rights standards.

- C-Fam advocates for the criminalization of homosexuality. C-Fam President Austin Ruse has said, *“The penalties for homosexual behavior should [be]...having some laws on the books, even if unenforced, would help society to teach what is good, and also would prevent such truly harmful practices as homosexual marriage and adoption”*.
- C-Fam is so extreme that in 2013, Ruse and other several anti-LGBT groups were barred from a Senate meeting by the office of Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL). Kirk explained that he *“does not affiliate with groups that discriminate.”* Ruse’s agenda was to discuss how American social conservatives can learn from Russia’s anti-LGBT laws that criminalize free speech. It must be noted that Russia’s anti-LGBT laws have led to an increase in violence against the LGBT community and to arrests of people for simply wearing a rainbow on their clothes.
- C-Fam’s president’s comments about transgender people have been extreme by any measure. In reaction to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act passing in the Senate in 2013, Ruse said, *“If pushed by the Justice Department, Hobby Lobby’s only line of defense would be to trot out the transsexuals. They don’t even have to know how to type as long as they have lopped off their penises or at least wear dresses...Most Americans are rightly put off by such displays of obvious psychological disturbances.”*

We recognize that we may not agree on all issues, for example sexual and reproductive health and rights or the importance of the UN system more broadly. However, we hope that our shared commitment to basic American values, including respect, dignity and freedom from discrimination of any kind, means we can agree that C-Fam’s extremism should exclude them from future appointments. C-Fam’s use of inflammatory language, application of discredited science, and incitement to violence means they have no place formally representing the interests of the United States in any forum, much less at the United Nations.

In light of this evidence and your strong commitment to nondiscrimination, we seek your guarantee that C-Fam will not be part of any future US UN Delegation during this administration. We also reiterate our request for a meeting to speak with you about these matters. We are counting on you to keep your commitment to protecting everyone from discrimination.

Sincerely,

International Fellowship of Reconciliation (USA)
Ipas (USA)
OutRight Action International (USA)
Southern Poverty Law Center (USA)

CC:
Steven Groves, Chief of Staff to Ambassador Haley

Appendix attached.