

Howard Center Commentary, April 25, 2016

International Day of Families: Mayday!

By [proclamation](#) of the United Nations General Assembly, May 15th is designated as the annual International Day of Families.

The UN [background note](#) on this year's observance rightly emphasizes the critical role of the family in achieving the newly enacted Sustainable Development Goals of, among other things, ending poverty, increasing prosperity, and furthering social development.

But in light of the incessant attacks on the family, it may be more appropriate to herald this coming day in May by using the word for the international distress call: *Mayday!*

The word—normally used thrice: *Mayday! Mayday! Mayday!*—signals a dire and often life-threatening emergency requiring immediate assistance. Nothing could better describe the crisis threatening our most basic institution, the family.

Already weakened and depleted by a host of factors like divorce, pornography, and absentee fathers, the family is also in the cross-hairs of those who would devastate or destroy it by policies cunningly described by the rhetoric of rights.

The perpetrators of policies like comprehensive sexuality education, same-sex marriage, and abortion will brook no opposition as they seek to demonize and even criminalize any dissent in a crescendo attack on what the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) calls “the natural and fundamental group unit of society...entitled to protection by society and the State.”

The implication of those wise words, as noted in our statement [The Family in the United Nations](#), is that “the family thus exists prior to the State, which is obligated to protect the family as the keystone of human rights and the irreplaceable foundation of civilization.”

How ironic that the State, with merciless force and fury, now seems to be doing exactly the opposite—waging full-scale war on the natural family.

“We declare,” says our [World Family Declaration](#), “that the family, a universal community based on the marital union of a man and a woman, is the bedrock of society, the strength of our nations, and the hope of humanity.”

And “we recall the sobering observation that ‘throughout history, nations have been able to survive a multiplicity of disasters— invasions, famines, earthquakes, epidemics, depressions—but they have never been able to survive the disintegration of the family.’”

We must now face the stark reality that the family is in dire danger. We must, as the [World Family Declaration](#) further urges, “place as [our] highest priority the protection and

strengthening of the family as the irreplaceable foundation of civilization and our only hope for prosperity, peace, and progress.” *Mayday!*

Sincerely,

E. Douglas Clark