



Resolution

We Choose to Stand with Children

Whereas human rights are derived from what is common and what is good for the flourishing and development of every person without exception;

Whereas it is common for every person to have a mother and father, and whereas it is in the nature of every person to desire a married mother and father;

Whereas 40% of children are born out of wedlock and 34% live apart from their biological fathers;

Whereas marriage is increasingly being presented as a lifestyle choice – equivalent to cohabitation and other relationships;

Whereas reproductive acts outside of marriage have the potential for generating new life (even with contraception) and resulting in more out-of-wedlock births and children without married mothers and fathers.

Whereas families are seeing increasing numbers of grown children experiencing divorce or cohabitating and having children out-of-wedlock;

Whereas there is a high correlation between marriage breakdown and poverty, delinquency, school dropout rates, and teen pregnancy;

Whereas there is a growing marriage gap – the cohabitation rate for high school dropouts has reached 60% (compared to 37% for college graduates) and 44% of high school dropouts are single mothers (compared to 12% for college graduates);

Whereas children depend on adults to advocate policies for their common interest and good, which sometimes conflict with the private interests of particular adults;

Therefore be it resolved:

We choose to *Stand with Children* and their common interest in having a married mother and father. We support the following principles:

- The family is the foundation of social justice – the original cell of social life – the first school of love, peace and justice;
- Married mothers and fathers are good for the development of children and provide anchors for the nuclear and extended family;
- As a matter of social justice, the clear and unequivocal public interest in marriage for people who engage in reproductive acts must be established in the culture and in public policy.
- Social institutions should be judged by how well they support the family;

Adopted by _____

Date _____

Signed _____