

To the Croatian Member of the
European Parliament
60, rue Wiertz
1047 Brussels
Belgium

22 November 2013

77 Human Rights organisation support constitutional referendum in Croatia

Dear MEPs of the Republic of Croatia,

On Sunday, December 1, the citizens of your country will be called to a referendum on the question whether marriage shall be “a life union of a woman and a man”.

We, the undersigned, as representatives of 77 human rights organizations from all over Europe and beyond, welcome the referendum as an effort to safeguard and strengthen the most basic institutions of human civilization: marriage and the natural family.

While there is no EU competence with regards to the definition of marriage, we would like to encourage you to stand with your fellow citizens and support them in every possible way as their official representatives in the Europe Parliament. The referendum is perfectly compatible with Croatian and EU law.

There has been overwhelming mobilisation at the grass-roots level on behalf of the institution of traditional marriage; this does not constitute any act of discrimination, as some have suggested. On the contrary, it is a reflection of the understanding that people have that marriage can be nothing more than a union between a man and woman, and that this is a basic good for society as a whole.

Accepting this understanding of marriage does not take away anyone’s rights. It simply preserves and protects the best and most necessary context for the procreation of children, and for the raising and formation of future generations.

The objectives of the December 1 referendum are solidly backed by international law. It reflects both the maturity of the Croatian people and of Croatian democracy itself, as it truly aims at the common good—not just for one part of society but for all and for the country as a whole.

We, the representatives of human rights organizations from across Europe and beyond, firmly support Croatia in this referendum. And we congratulate you for having citizens who are publicly engaged and who actively participate in your country’s democracy.

Yours sincerely,

Sophia Kuby, Executive Director
European Dignity Watch, Brussels, Belgium
Rue Limauge 14, 1050 Brussels
Phone: +32 477 57 00 46
Email: skuby@europeandignitywatch.org
(Contact on behalf of the signatories)

Antoine Renard, President
Federation of Catholic Family Associations, Brussels, Belgium

Daniel Wisniewski, Director
World Youth Alliance, Brussels, Belgium

Hedwig von Beverfoerde, Board member
Initiative Familienschutz, Germany

Anne Giraud, President
Femina Europa, France

Aleksander Stępkowski, President
Ordo Iuris Institute for Legal Culture, Poland

Ben Harnwell, Founder
Dignitatis Humanae Institute, Rome, Italy

Peter Cameron Smith, Chief Administrative Officer to the UN for IRLF
The International Right to Life Federation

Johannes de Jong, Board Member
European Christian Political Foundation, Netherlands

Luca Volontè, President
Novae Terrae Foundation, Italy

Edmund P. Adamus, Director
Marriage&Family Life Archdiocese of Westminster, United Kingdom

Tomasz Sieniow, President
The Rule of Law Institute, Poland

David Freeman Prentis, President
Liga pár páru České republiky, o.s., Czech Republic

Ieva Berzina, Chair of the Board
Latvian Identity Support Association, Latvia

Leonor Tamayo, Head of International Area
Profesionales por la Ética, Spain

Pavel Kutina, Member of Elders Council
Úhelný Kamen, Czech Republic

Carlos Eduardo Schaffer
Österreichische Gesellschaft zum Schutz von Tradition, Familie und Privateigentum, Austria

Lina Galgatāvičūte, Member of the board
Kristīgo juristu asociācija (Cristian Lawyer association), Latvia

Ignacio Arsuaga, President
HazteOir.org, Spain

Guido van Beusekom, General Manager and Board Member
European Christian Political Movement, Netherlands

Alvaro Zulueta, Executive Director
CitizenGo, Spain

Radim Ucháč, President
Hnutí Pro život Czech Republic

Gábor Joya, President
Drecho a Vivir, Spain

David Manly, Director
Family & Life Ireland

Austin Ruse, President
Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, New York, USA

Mechthild Löhr, President

Christdemokraten für das Leben, Germany

Kateřina Ucháčová, President

Res Claritatis, Czeck Republic

Christine de Marcellus Vollmer, Presidente

Alianza Latinoamericana para la Familia

James P. Kelly, III, President

Solidarity Center for Law and Justice, P.C., USA

Igor Vovk, Director

Zavod iskreni.net, Slovenia

Roger Kiska, Senior Legal Counsel

Alliance Defending Freedom, Austria

Michael van der Mast, General Council

Schreeuw om Leven / Cry for Life, Netherlands

Isilda Pegado, Presient

Federação portuguesa pela Vida, Portugal

Inês Avelar Santos, President

Vida universitária, Portugal

Pavel Parfentiev, Presient

For Family Rights NGO, Russia

Maria Tatiana Jaroszynska, President

Fundacja Ruchu ku Cywilizacji Milosci im. St. Pruszyńskiego, Poland

Jana Jamborová, Secretary General

New Women for Europe, Brussels, Belgium

Antonio Pinheiro Torres, President

Juntos pela Vida, Portugal

Alexey Komov, Presient

Family and Demography Foundation, Russia

Raul Sanchez, Secretary General
European Large Families Confederation (ELFAC), Spain

Ruslan Tkachenko, President
Moscow City Parent's Committee, Russia

Marija Marolt, Director
Zavod Božji otroci, Slovenia

Dr. Ing. Marie Oujezdská, Director
National centre for family- Czech republic

Mariusz Dzierżawski, Member of Foundation Council
Fundacja Pro - prawo do życia , Poland

Anna Zdort, Board Member
Stowarzyszenie Rodzin im. bł Mamy Róży, Poland

Paweł Woliński, President
Fundacja Mamy i Taty , Poland

Elisabeth Montfort, President
Nouveau Féminisme Européen, France

Krystyna Kalagasidis, President
Catholic Families Association of Legnicka Diocese, Poland

Dr. Ulrich und Maria Wolff
Institut der Schönstattfamilien, Germany, Austria, Switzerland

Tomasz Elbanowski and Karolina Elbanowska
Stowarzyszenie i Fundacja Rzecznik Praw Rodziców , Poland

Małgorzata Luser, President
Stowarzyszenie Głos Rodziców, Poland

Marcela Dobešová, President
Fórum života, Slovakia

Gustavo Berton, President
Movimiento Embrión Humano, Spain

Mila Todorovic, President

Centre for Reproductive Ethics PRO BABY, Belgrade, Serbia

Jesús Herrera, President

Voto Católico, Colombia

Cornel Barbut, Vice-President

Association of Catholic Families "Vladimir Ghika", Romania

Dieter Endres, Founder

Family Life Mission, Germany

Mihaela Djorgova, Vice Chairman & Executive Director

Association Society and Values, Bulgaria

Toma Bružaitė, Executive Director

Free Society Institute, Lithuania

Paul Moynan, President

Hope Alive, Belgium

Rainhard Kloucek, Secretary General

Paneuropa Movement, Austria

Amparo Medina Guerrero, Coordinadora

Red Vida y Familia, Ecuador

Nuno von Amann de Campos, President

ACMedia – Associação Portuguesa de Consumidores dos Media, Portugal

CNAF – Confederação Nacional das Associações de Família, Portugal

Fernando Ribeiro e Castro, President

President of apfn - portuguese large families association, Portugal

Norberto Dominguez, President

Impulso Joven, Spain

Vjačeslavs Kotigovs, Member of the board

Family Foundation Latvia

Alexandra de Skinner-Klée, President

Asociación La Familia Importa, Guatemala

Carmen Croxatto, President

Red por la Vida y la Familia, Chile

Karina Ordoñez, President
Instituto de Política Familiar, Chile

Steven W. Mosher, President
Population Research Institute, USA

Carlos Polo, President
IDEAS para América Latina, Perú

Jesús Magaña, President
Unidos por la Vida, Colombia

Miguel Hazim R., President
Movimiento de Accion Cristiana, Dominican Republic

Arvids Ulme, Chairman
The Environmental Protection Club of Latvia

Julia Regina de Cardenal, President
Fundación Sí a la Vida, El Salvador

Jorge Nicolás Lafferriere, Director
Centro de Bioetica, Persona y Familia, Argentina