

# Focus on the Family; a Plea for the ‘Father-Mother-Child’ Principle

Giessen, Germany, 11. October 2014



The Giessen branch of the UPF organized a conference on 11 October on the topic “Focus on the Family; a Plea for the ‘Father-Mother-Child’ Principle”. Even before this conference, we had a lot of material to reflect on, since UPF Giessen, initiated by the Women’s Federation, had previously hosted an event on the topic of ‘Gender Ideology’.

Benedikta Becker (Youth UPF) moderated the conference and also provided musical accompaniment.

The first presenter was Hildegard Piepenburg, mother of 4 grown children and just completing her Bachelor studies in Psychology. She outlined the historical development of the family from the Stone Age and Ancient Greece and Rome, through the Middle Ages and up unto the present time. Whereas in early days the family structure was marked by matriarchal or patriarchal characteristics, the structure of today’s family, the so-called ‘nuclear family’ developed in Europe from the Middle Ages onwards because of the feudal system and Christianity. In 1275 the Council of Lyon declared marriage to be a sacrament, where a man and a woman enter marriage as equal partners. So the modern nuclear family is a cultural achievement centered on a couple.

The second presentation was delivered by Karl-Christian Hausmann, deputy district chairman of the CDU in

Stuttgart, and chairman of UPF Germany. He highlighted current tendencies that weaken the family and down-play its importance in society, and commented on new trends in family politics. Instead of stressing the importance of a young (0-3 year old) child’s bonding with its parents, especially the mother, emphasize is given to day-care center education. In ‘Einstein’s Day-care Center’, children should become smart. This distortion of childhood needs has a negative impact on the further development of children and young people. The ‘modern’ woman’s value should come not from her role as mother, but almost exclusively from her role as a wage earner. Thus the establishment of day care facilities is expedited, and there is an ‘outsourcing’ of education, away from the family and towards state-run establishments.

Therefore the emphasis needs to put the family back in the forefront and to strengthen and protect the authority of the education it offers. Thankfully more and more people are ready to stand up against interfering state paternalism. In demonstrations, in the social media, in talk-shows and in books-more and more reference is being made to the family of origin and its meaning for society. And indeed, the call is for every single one of us to involve ourselves with this issue.