

FFWPU and UPF New Zealand: Celebrating the International Day of Families

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May 16, 2026



On Saturday, 16 May 2026, the Western Springs Garden Community Hall in Auckland was filled with warmth, hope, and community spirit as families and supporters gathered for the UN International Day of Families Commemorative Event. The afternoon also marked the official launch of the National Family Day Petition. Held from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, the programme brought together people from diverse backgrounds to celebrate the importance of family in Aotearoa New Zealand and to encourage a renewed commitment to strengthening family life within our communities.

Blessed with a beautiful, sunny Saturday afternoon, the event welcomed more than 50 participants whose joyful presence created an uplifting, family-centred atmosphere.

Event Highlights

Keynote Address: Mr. Adel Jamati, Director of Education for UPF New Zealand, delivered an inspiring speech titled "The Family Is Our Kiwi Saviour," offering an encouraging message on the vital role families play in shaping a strong, caring nation.

Petition Launch: Mr. Kenji Watanabe, Chairman of UPF New Zealand, officially kicked off the National Family Day Petition, inviting attendees to support a shared public voice affirming the value of family in nation-building.

Voices of Family Session: This segment added real depth and heart to the afternoon, featuring diverse personal reflections:

Daymon Nin shared a parental perspective from the community.

Ray Calver offered a vibrant youth perspective.

Anne Degia-Pala spoke from a grandparent and multigenerational viewpoint.



Cultural Celebrations

The heartfelt reflections were complemented by lively cultural performances that showcased the rich diversity of the community. Attendees enjoyed a traditional Indian dance, a presentation by the West Auckland Chinese Association Group, and a Tongan dance performed by Moana and Rachael.

Together, these contributions made the event not only informative but also deeply moving, joyful, and memorable. The gathering stood as a wonderful reminder that when families are uplifted, the wider community is strengthened as well.