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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—September 22, 2015

CONTACT—Benjamin May
bmay@policyimpact.com
 (202) 737-5339
www.wcf9.org

Additional Speakers and Panelists Announced for World Congress of Families IX, October 27-30, in Salt Lake City

SALT LAKE CITY— Today the World Congress of Families (WCF) announced the latest round of speakers and panelists who will participate in WCF IX this fall. The global gathering will bring together scholars, religious leaders, motivational speakers, youth, and pro-family advocates to affirm, celebrate, and encourage the natural family on October 27-30, 2015, at the Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah.

“Our excitement is only increasing as WCF IX draws closer, with even more supporters joining the cause each week,” said Janice Shaw Crouse, executive director of WCF IX. “The range of participants at this year’s congress will provide inspiration and insight into strengthening the family at all levels of society.”

The additional speakers and panelists announced this week include the following:

Stephanie Nielson is famous for her "The NieNie Dialogues" blog, which attracted thousands of followers because of her focus on her experiences as a mother and a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) community. Now, Nielson is even better known as a survivor of a terrible plane crash that left her with severe burns. Her injuries were so bad that family members could recognize her only by the nail polish on her toes. Stephanie’s father predicted that God would perform a miracle. She and her husband, Christian, inspire audiences around the world with the story of their survival and triumph over incredible trauma and devastating burns and injuries.

Margaret (Peggy) Hartshorn, Ph.D., has served as president of Heartbeat International since 1993. Under Dr. Hartshorn’s leadership, Heartbeat has grown from 250 members to become the largest and most expansive network of Christ-



centered, life-affirming pregnancy help ministries in the world. Today, Dr. Hartshorn travels and speaks extensively, sharing her hands-on experience with pregnancy help ministries as they develop programs on abortion, abortion recovery, sexual integrity, adoption, and alternatives to abortion. Her book, *Foot Soldiers Armed with Love*, details the 40-year history of the pregnancy help movement.

Alex Schadenberg, executive director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC), works in his home country, Canada, as well as with activists in other countries in reaching parliamentarians and opinion leaders arguing against the legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide. Schadenberg is often described as one of the world's foremost anti-euthanasia activists because of his work around the world spreading hope to those who have given up or believe that there is no hope. Sometimes, assisted suicide is called "mercy killing" and those who are most vulnerable—the disabled and terminally ill—need to know that there are compassionate care community services available as alternatives. Alex and the EPC work to provide information, educate the public, and increase public awareness of the many alternatives as well as the legal and ethical ramifications.

Joseph Meaney, Ph.D., is the director of international coordination at Human Life International (HLI). As one of the world's leading experts in bioethics, Dr. Meaney's career has included lectures and investigative journalism missions on all continents and more than 74 countries. He is an established author whose work has been featured in international professional journals, as well as in academic and scholarly publications. He was featured in the documentary, "Silent Fall," and in other pro-life documentaries broadcast around the world.

The previous lineup of speakers and participants can be viewed on WCF IX's website at wcf9.org/news-releases/. WCF will continue to announce four new participants every week.

WCF is the largest gathering of pro-family advocates in the world. WCF IX will seek to provide participants with sound scholarship and effective strategies, as well as mobilize intellectual and advocacy resources to affirm and defend the natural family.

For more information, please visit wcf9.org or follow WCF on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).