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World Congress of Families IX Announces Latest Speakers and Panelists

Advocates of the natural family will unite in Salt Lake City later this month

SALT LAKE CITY—Today the World Congress of Families (WCF) announced the names of four additional participants who speak and present at the ninth World Congress of Families this fall. The global gathering will unite religious leaders, scholars, and pro-family advocates to affirm, defend, and celebrate the natural family as the fundamental unit of society on Oct. 27-30 in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the Grand America Hotel.

“The opening day to the historic ninth World Congress of Families is fast-approaching, and we are eagerly anticipating the gathering of our friends in the pro-family movement here in Salt Lake City,” said Janice Shaw Crouse, executive director of WCF IX. “We hope to have exciting meaningful and enjoyable four-day event during which we can strengthen the position of the family in culture and in society.”

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

Jenet Erickson, Ph.D., teaches in the School of Family Life at Brigham Young University. Before coming to BYU, she completed a doctorate in family social science at the University of Minnesota and a fellowship with The Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., where she studied the well-being of mothers and children. Prior to earning her Ph.D., Dr. Erickson received a bachelor’s degree in nursing and a master’s degree in linguistics-TESOL. She and her husband, Michael, write a popular column for the Deseret News.

Laura Bunker is the president of United Families International (UFI). After a successful meeting with UFI President Carol Soelberg in 2007, Bunker helped establish United Families Utah (UFU). She served as the director of UFU from 2008-2013, during which time she helped organize a statewide coalition of pro-



family legislators and organizations, testified at Utah Legislative Committee hearings, and was interviewed by local and national news media.

Suja Koshy, Ph.D. is an associate professor and head of the Department of Human Development at the Sir Vithaldas Thackersey (SVT) College, SNDT Women's University in Mumbai, India, where she has worked for the last 30 years. Previously, Dr. Koshy started her career working in a children's guidance clinic. Her special expertise is developmental counseling, wherein she has conducted innumerable preventive workshops for parents, teachers, and children on topics related to parenting, emotional intelligence, social skills, self esteem, emotional well-being, family stressors, and academic functioning.

Glenn Stanton is the director of Global Family Formation Studies at Focus on the Family and a research fellow at the Institute of Marriage and Family in Ottawa, Ontario. He debates and lectures extensively on the issues of gender, sexuality, marriage and parenting at universities and churches around the world. Stanton served the George W. Bush administration for many years as a consultant on increasing fatherhood involvement in the Head Start program. Stanton is also the author of a number of books on various aspects of marriage and families. His recent books are "Loving My (LGBT) Neighbor: Being Friends in Grace and Truth," an exploration of how Christians should interact with their gay or lesbian neighbors, and "The Family Project," a theological, anthropological and sociological look at the essential human institution of the family.

WCF IX has a full lineup of speakers and participants that can be viewed on WCF IX's website, wcf9.org/schedule/. WCF will continue to announce four participants every week leading up to the conference.

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](#).