

UPF holds Family Leadership Summit in Abuja - International Day of Families

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Abuja, Nigeria—During the Family Leadership Summit held in Abuja on May 17, 2016, to commemorate the United Nations International Day of Families 2016, the Universal Peace Federation of Nigeria announced the commencement of formal activities of the UPF Nigeria National Directorate of Marriage and Family Affairs in the Office of the Secretary General of the Peace Federation.

Inspired by the exemplary true family values initiatives and works of Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Universal Peace Federation of Nigeria created the National Directorate of Marriage and Family Affairs to initiate, develop, implement and coordinate activities to promote and practice intra-national and international marriages and family building programs that will facilitate national harmony and cooperation, which we consider as essential for advancing human well-being, global peace and unification as well as sustainable development at all levels of human existence.

By this announcement, the UPF Directorate of Marriage and Family Affairs shall be carrying out programs and services that will strengthen and support marriages and families in Nigeria and shall partner with family-based organizations and marriage registries all over the country on marriage and family matters.

The directorate shall continue to advocate for the creation of a national assembly committee on family affairs by bringing together the committees on women and youth affairs. Also, proposals for the merging of the Ministries of Women's Affairs, Youth Development and Social Services to become the Ministry of Family Affairs shall be submitted to the federal and state governments. The directorate shall also liaise with the Ministry of Education, the National Commission for Adult and Non-Formal Education and the Ministry of Interior on the need for the introduction of family education in schools and non-formal educational programs as well as the advocacy for couple degree programs as a post-graduate program in tertiary institutions.

The directorate shall provide marriage preparatory programs for unmarried men and women as well as marriage education for already married couples. The directorate shall begin a nationwide campaign for the registration of single men and women who are seeking marriage partners and work with professional matchmakers to find spouses for such persons. By 2017, the UN International Day of Families shall be commemorated with a national unification marriage program featuring a mass wedding of national couples and other family-building services.

All chapters of UPF Nigeria and Ambassadors for Peace are requested to consider launching the directorate in their states and local government areas and to seek partnership with marriage registries and other family-focused organizations to commence family-building program, please.