

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Response To Scandalous Bias

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September 8, 2023



Scandalous bias as Japanese authorities ask for info about private lives of members



From the header of ffwpu.jp, the official homepage of the Family Federation of Japan.

7th September 2023 the [Family Federation](#) of Japan issued a press release in response to recent scandalous bias in media reports that the [Federation](#) had failed to report sufficiently and that the materials submitted "were scarce".

The media did not mention that some of the questions from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) put the [Family Federation](#) in an impossible situation as it would be forced to disclose private matters from the lives of the members. That would indeed represent a serious infringement of human rights and religious freedom.



Sankei News reported that the Agency for Cultural Affairs, a special body of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), would order the [Family Federation](#) to pay a fine for not having responded properly. According to the Sankei article, it appears that the source of the scandalous bias may well be found within the Agency for Cultural Affairs itself.

The press release was written by the [Family Federation](#)'s public relations office.

Here is the text in English:

"View of the media on the Family Federation's response to the 'exercise of the right to question' is insincere.



Currently, amid various media reports regarding the 'exercise of the right of questions' by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to this religious corporation [[Family Federation](#)], multiple media have stated that 'at the beginning the Agency for Cultural Affairs received 8 cardboard boxes, but the amount gradually decreased to one envelope', as if [this corporation](#) had responded dishonestly. It must be said that such reporting is biased and arbitrarily twists the facts. We will explain in detail below.

First of all, it is clear that the 'volume' of responses cannot be used to determine whether or not we answered appropriately.



Symbol of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) initially required [this corporation](#) to submit a wide range of basic materials, but since the third 'exercise of the right to ask questions', more specific questions have come in. This is the primary reason why the volume of responses gradually decreased. As the questions were asked, the range of answers required became

narrower, so it is natural that the overall volume of answers decreased.

In addition, it has been reported that [this corporation](#)'s answers to the 4th and 5th 'exercise of the right to ask questions' are 'one envelope', but in reality, it was a 'letter pack' and contained about 100 pages of A4 size paper. It may not be wrong to report it as an 'envelope', but it gives the impression that [this corporation](#) is not answering properly. Similarly, for the sixth and seventh responses, what is reported as an 'envelope', is a 'letter pack').



Toru Goto, a member of the [Family Federation](#), after having being held captive by professional deprogrammers for 12 years and 5 months! He won an important court case against his captors. But according to MEXT staff, it appears that records of victories in court cases are not so important

On the other hand, TV Asahi's information programs 'Good! Morning' (aired on 5th September) and 'Morning Show' (broadcast on 6th September) introduced comments from MEXT staff, saying, 'Since there were many records and pamphlets about their victories in court cases, most of the answers did not have so much content.'

This is clearly an arbitrary way of picking up the story that gives the impression that we are not answering in good faith, and it misleads viewers.

We call on the press to report fairly based on facts.

Among the questions from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) were

- (1) related to the privacy and religious freedom of believers,
- (2) were clearly unrelated to civil law torts,
- (3) repeated questions that had already been answered, and
- (4) questions related to pending trials.

We, [this corporation](#), have sincerely responded to the enormous number of questions and requests from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology by spending a huge amount of time and effort while sacrificing our regular operations.

Nevertheless, the attitude of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) that [this Corporation](#) 'does not answer questions appropriately' is extremely regrettable."

Featured image above: Toru Goto, member of the [Family Federation](#), held captive for 12 years and 5 months by professional deprogrammers in league with activist lawyers, some of whom are now advisers to the Japanese government. Now Toru Goto and fellow members are suffering from a scandalous bias in the media, supported by the authorities. Photo from April 2023: [FOREF](#)

"Response to Scandalous Bias" - Introductory text: Knut Holdhus. Translation: Tiara Boysen



Family Federation

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification is a global federation of individuals and families who aim to create a world of peace and unity beyond national, cultural, religious and ideological barriers, a world where everyone may live together in peace and harmony.



Father and Mother Moon 1st August 1996.

In a nutshell

Name: Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

Founded: 1996

Founders: Rev. [Sun Myung Moon](#) (1920-2012) and Dr. [Hak Ja Han](#)

Teachings: [Unificationism](#), a long series of revelations received by [Sun Myung Moon](#). See: [Brief about the Teachings](#) of the Family Federation

Goal: The [Kingdom of Heaven](#) on Earth. A harmonious world family, where everyone may experience peace, security, freedom and love.

Strategy: Unite all good forces

Distribution: Largest in South Korea and Japan, but found in most nations.

Background: The Family Federation took over many of the functions of the [Unification Church](#) and its basic teachings.

Frequently asked questions: See: [Faq](#)

Three ideals

As the name indicates, the Family Federation is based on three ideals – family, world peace, and unification.

- **The family ideal.** Most religions focus on the individual and its spirituality. The Family Federation teaches a broader concept of spirituality, where your [relationships](#) to your loved ones are of decisive importance for your eternal life. As [God](#) is the source of love, [marriages](#) blessed by [God](#) and families full of [true love](#) are the very foundation for the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) that [God](#) longs for. It is a love kingdom, and the family is a [school of love](#).
- **World peace.** If there is love and peace in the home, there is hope that we may also create societies and nations with peace. The family is the fundamental social institution. If we can learn to love our fellow human beings on micro-level, in a family, we may also do so on macro-level, i.e. in the society around us and in the big world we live in. Well-functioning families are the very key to reducing crime, alcohol and drug abuse, the number of suicides and many other social problems.

- **Unification.** We talk about unification on all levels, from the individual to the global level. [God](#) is the source of unity, evil the source of division. Therefore, the goal of the Family Federation is to remove the barriers and create a world of unity, a social unity, such as that between husband and wife, between parents and children, different social groups, nations and religions, but also unity between the inner world and the outer, between mind and body, spirit and matter, religion and science.

The inauguration

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification was first founded in the USA 31st July 1996 by [Sun Myung Moon](#) and his wife [Hak Ja Han](#), and in many European nations soon after that.

As co-founder, [Mother Moon](#) gave the inaugural address titled "View of the Principle of the Providential History of Salvation", reading a prepared text. [Father](#)

[Moon](#) spoke without a script at the closing banquet the following day, 1st August, at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. His speech was titled "In Search of the Origin of the Universe".



The Inaugural World Convention of the Family Federation 31st July 1996

Gerald Ford, U.S. President 1974-1977, spoke at the inauguration 31st July 1996. He said,



Gerald Ford 31st July 1996

"While the world's finest athletes test themselves in Atlanta, this gathering is sort of a spiritual Olympics. Like the Olympians, you have assembled from all over the world to further the cause of peace among nations.

But while those Olympians are dedicated to gold and glory, you in this room pursue other objectives. The glory you seek, comes from God, not gold.

I sound a bit like an Old Testament prophet, it's because there is nothing about which I feel more strongly, more deeply, than the survival and the strengthening of the family. No civilization that neglects the family, can be called civilized for long, and no political philosophy that takes the family for granted, will be taken seriously by anyone who values morality, compassion and peace."

The chronicle "40 Years in America" describes the event,



Mother and Father Moon 31st July 1996

If at times



National Building Museum, Washington DC. [Public domain](#) image. Cropped

"The movement's most spectacular world convention was held in Washington, D.C. from July 30-August 1, 1996, inaugurating the Family Federation for World Peace (FFWP).

This event included a cast of luminaries rivaling anything the movement had yet undertaken: two former Presidents of the United States, Gerald Ford and George Bush; former President and Nobel Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias of Costa Rica; former Prime Ministers Edward Heath of Great Britain and Brian Mulroney of Canada; thirty-six one-time heads of state or governments; university presidents including Boston University's John Silber; Christian television personality Robert Schuller; Christian Coalition Executive Director Ralph Reed; Coretta Scott King, the widow of Martin Luther King, Jr.; Maureen Reagan, the daughter of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan; well-known comedian Bill Cosby; and Christian singer-actor Pat Boone. In addition, the main proceedings were covered live by C-SPAN television network. (p.443) [...]

The establishment of the FFWP represented a new stage in the movement's development. Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak, who was appointed International President, maintained that the FFWP was more important than the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC) or [Unification Church](#). HSA-UWC, he noted, was "not [True Parents'](#) ultimate organization".

The rationale for this assertion was connected to the historic shift that underlay the emergence of the Completed Testament Age. As noted previously, Rev. Kwak



[Completed testamentary.](#) As noted previously, Rev. Kwak explained,

'Religious organizations have always been centered upon the salvation of the individual, but we have now progressed to the salvation of the family. [...] Such an organization is not a church; it is the Family Federation for World Peace.'



[Sun Myung Moon](#) 1st August 1996



From the Inaugural Convention 31st July 1996.

Given this understanding, it wasn't surprising that the FFWP rather than the [Unification Church](#) was the main sponsor of the World Culture and Sports Festivals and International [Marriage Blessings](#) after 1996." (p.444) (From the section "Federations for World Peace and Unification", in "40 Years in America – 1959-1999 – An Intimate History of the Unification Movement", by Michael Inglis and Michael L. Mickler, published by HSA Publications Oct. 2000, 624 pages.)

The Family Federation was launched on the foundation of the [Unification Church](#), a spiritual movement [founded](#) in South Korea in 1954. The original intention was neither to establish a church nor a new religion.

The Family Federation took over many of the activities and tasks of the [Unification Church](#) and the same basic teachings, but has a pronounced goal of creating a world of peace and unity based on well-functioning families.

[More](#) about the Family Federation

Text: Knut Holdhus



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