

Peace starts with ME...

....and with my family

UN Security Council hall

mural by Per Krohg



The Stuttgart Group

Historic First HRC Resolution on "Protection of Family" June 26, 2014

- *Reaffirming* that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection .. (Article 19 UDHR)
- *Reaffirming* that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all humans
- *Recognizing* that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children... (who) should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding
- *Convinced* that the family, as .. the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community

Governments on “Family” - References in National Constitutions

- “Constitutes the principle framework of our coexistence(whose) fundamental cohesive values are fidelity, faith and love, shall protect the institution of marriage as the union of a man and a woman...and the family as the basis of survival of the nation” (Hungary)
- “Natural and fundamental group unit of society” (Portugal, Burundi, Eritrea, Moldova,)
- “Moral institution possessing inalienable rights, antecedent and superior to all positive law” (Ireland)
- “Fundamental for the preservation and growth of the nation” (Estonia)
- “Cornerstone for preservation and advancement of the nation” (Greece)

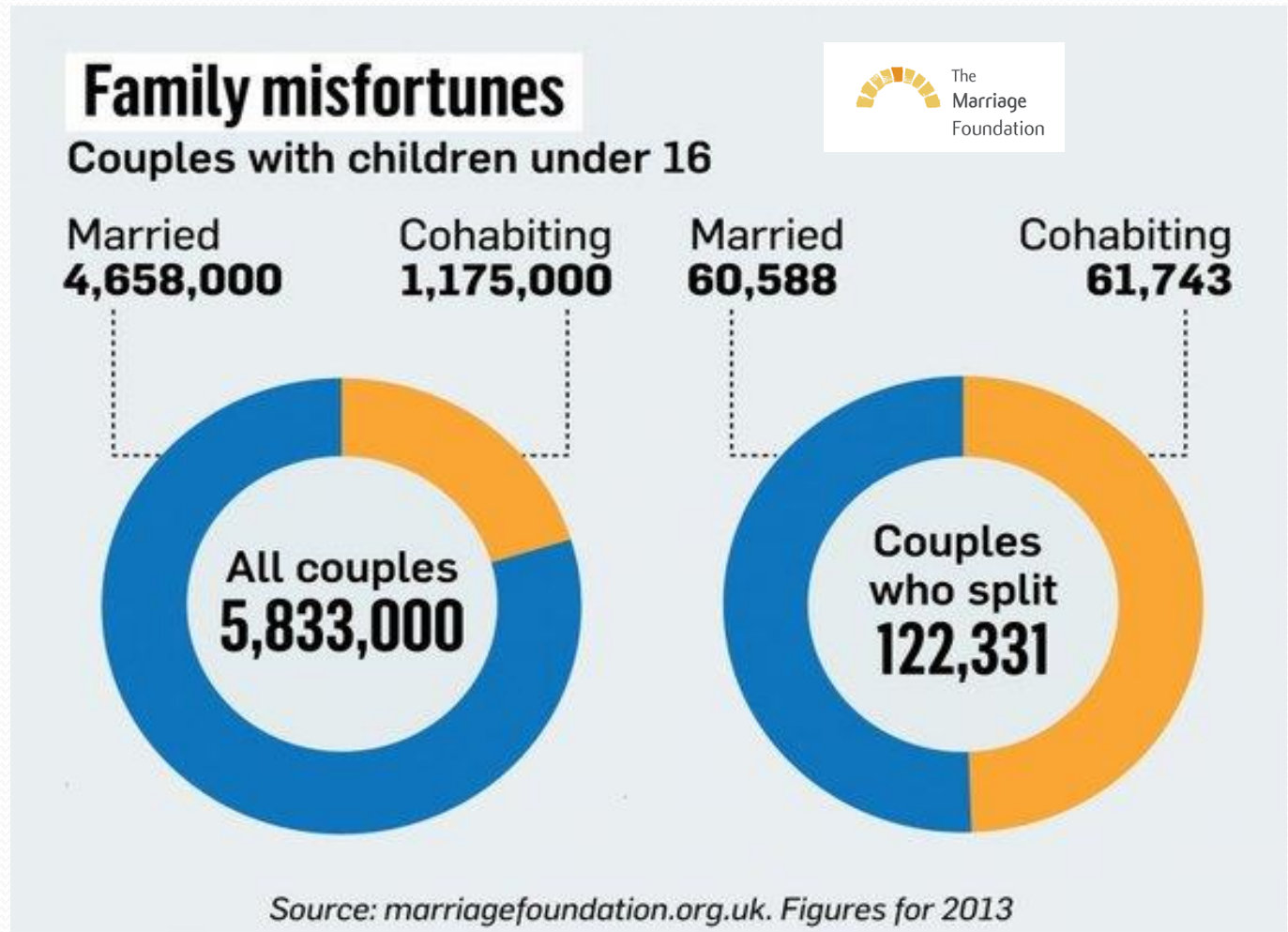
The Family: A Few Thoughts

- “Let us strive to strengthen these small but critical units found in every society so that we may advance as one human family toward greater progress”. UN SG Ban Ki Moon
- “..natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and state”. UDHR Article 16
- Many Internationally agreed documents refer to “human family” as ultimate goal. UN Charter
- “Even in most dire situations of poverty and crisis, the single most important factor influencing social outcomes for individuals is whether they are members of a strong family.” UN University 1994

The Importance of Empowering Families

- A citizen is considered empowered when he/she is not a burden, but a contributor to the whole
- Similarly, families are assets when they are sharing their benefits with the community around them.
- Values learned and lived in the family should guide members to be contributors
- Empowered families are a resource of nations and have an incredible resilience and capacity to defend and absorb against attacks.

Marriage and Family Stability – some statistics from the UK



*Graphs, Sunday
Times; UK*

Towards a Global Ethic

- Most religions share paradigm of marriage and family, therefore a natural coalition is possible
- Many internationally agreed documents hold the vision of « Family » as paradigm for World Peace.
- International language (HR) holds key to establishing a future peaceful society through expanding the notion of nuclear family

Masculinity and Femininity – Universal Core Principles

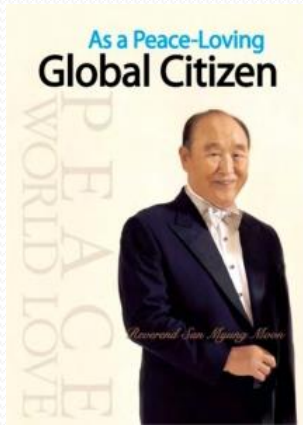


Pope Francis

“When God created humanity in his image, he did so for man and woman together, as a “couple”, in a state of sharing and harmony...”

“Sexual differentiation, therefore, exists not for creating conflict or a situation of subordination, but for reciprocity and fruitfulness -- "for communion and generation, always in the image and likeness of God.”

(Pope Francis, Catholic News Service, April 15, 2015)

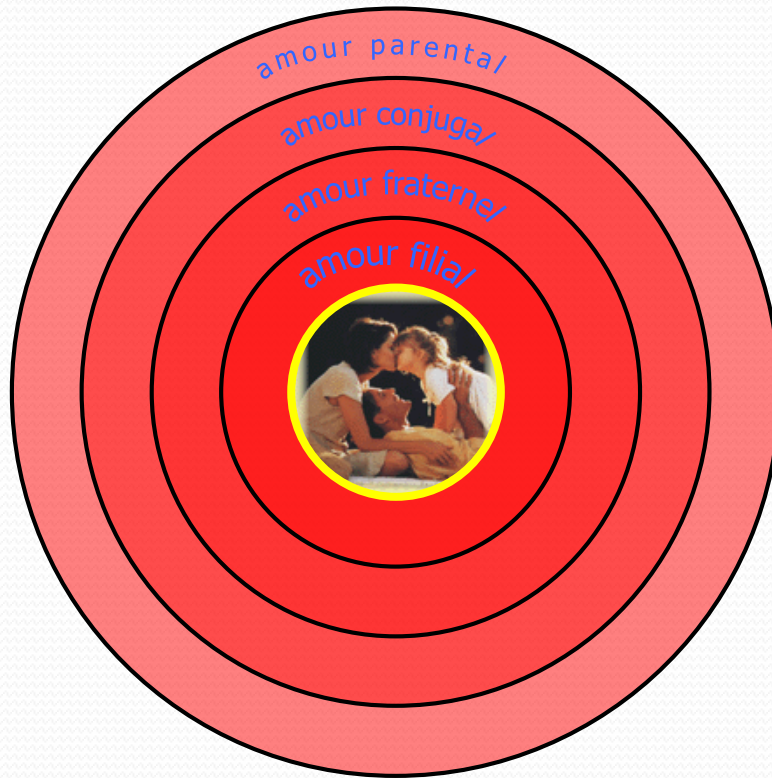


Sun Myung Moon

“In order for us to realize God's ideal, we were created *masculine and feminine*. Unless male and female beings come together and are united, there is no way for God to express His love ultimately. Unless you find oneness, you cannot find joy. When you are one with a person, you don't want to be parted; you want to be with each other for eternity. You never tire of each other.”

(Sun Myung Moon, on Heart, 1992)

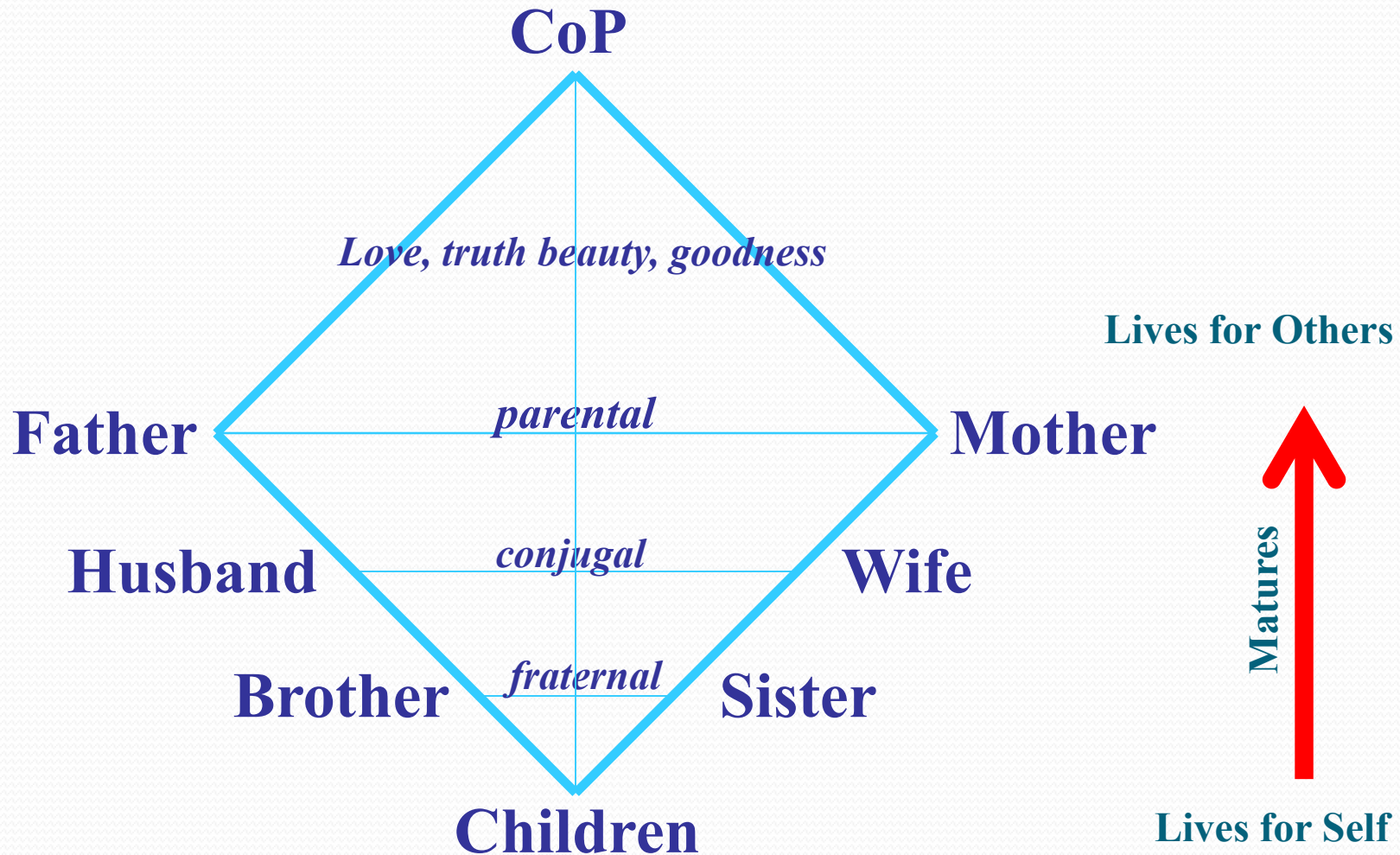
Family is the School of Love



- **Children's Love**
- **Siblings' Love**
- **Conjugal Love**
- **Parental Love**

The Family is the most Complete Model and Strategy for a Culture of Peace

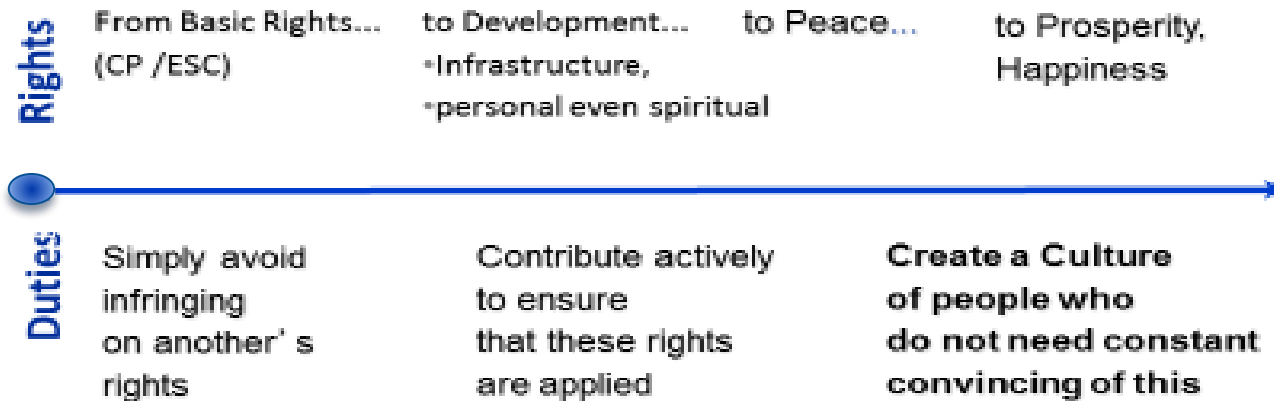
Four Realms of Heart and Love



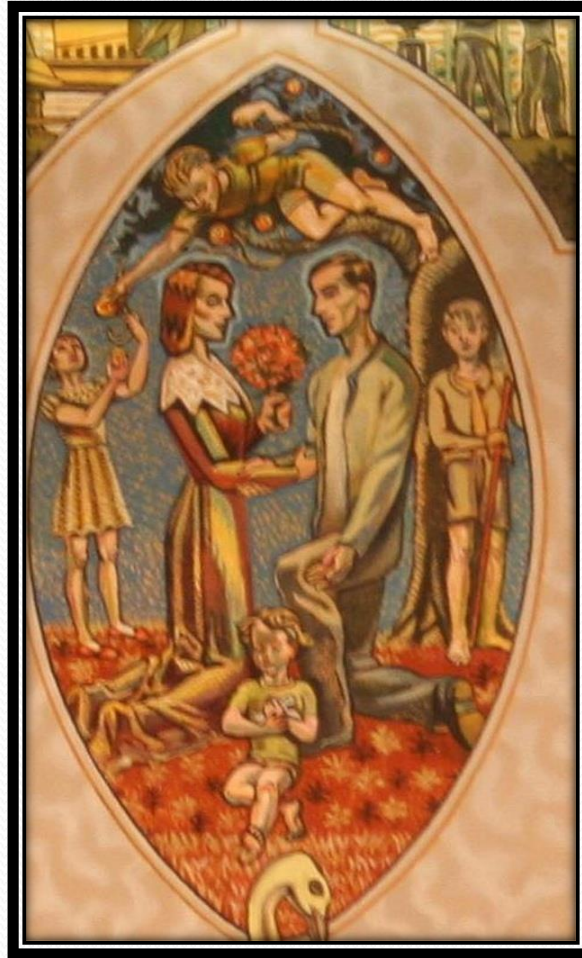
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Justification of Conjugal Family as Foundation for a Culture of Peace

Evolution of Human Rights Concepts... and how families are important



Thank you for your attention!



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