



THE 58TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

BY: Cecilia Forsyth
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The 58th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was held in New York from March 10–21, 2014. The CSW consists of 45 member states, and is a global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The 2014 priority theme was: ‘Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls’. The agreed conclusions at the end of an annual CSW is called the “outcome document”. The language in the outcome documents becomes known as ‘customary international law’ and will influence the attitudes, policies, and laws of countries around the world.

As a non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, REAL Women sends representatives to the CSW. Karen Lilly, Saskatchewan Chapter Board member and I attended the first week because our NGO speaker event was scheduled during that week.

NGO’s from around the world sponsor information programs with many different events at the same time throughout a day at three different locations in New York City. Competition for attracting a respectable audience is fierce. We have learned that the most effective way to promote an event is to hand out flyers on a one to one basis. We thank Beth King-Howard and her 16 high school girls from Atlanta, Georgia for their valuable assistance in distributing our flyers at all three NGO sites. For the past three years, REAL Women has co-sponsored an NGO speaker information program with the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute. Our 2014 event featured the award winning short film, *Crescendo*, with two guest speakers—Jason Jones, the film producer, and Arina Grossu from the Family Research Council.

We had an over flow attendance of 80 women with over 20 standing. *Crescendo* is an internationally acclaimed film with a powerful pro-life message. (www.cpcmovie.com). The

producer, Jason Jones, gave an inspiring talk on his personal life story and on making the film. At the age of 17, he committed his life to the protection of human life after losing a child to abortion. For more details, go to www.iamwholelife.com.

Arina Grossu is a lovely young woman, who gave an excellent power point presentation on maternal mortality. She effectively dispelled the notion that abortion is necessary to reduce maternal mortality. She clearly showed that countries with loose abortion laws have higher rates of maternal mortality than countries with restrictive abortion laws. We ended the program with the statement, “Abortion harms women and kills babies. It is not a solution, and does not belong in a UN document.”

Since this CSW was to focus on the Millennium Development Goals, which expire in 2015, and will be re-written as post-2015 Sustainable Development goals, I prepared a position paper on the eight goals for REAL Women to present to the Canadian Embassy. Unfortunately, we were unable to secure an appointment with anyone at the Embassy office, so we hand delivered the paper. Feminists claim that gender equality and empowerment of women must be foremost and will lead to achieving other goals. My position was the opposite: It is poverty reduction, education, shelter, water, genuine health care for women and girls, etc. that will

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lead to equality and empowerment. To obtain an email copy of our paper, please send a request to our national office.

Canada's Minister of Status of Women, Ontario MP, the Hon Dr. Kellie Leitch, was in New York while we were there, but we did not see her. We know she did meet with some Canadian NGO women for a Round Table Discussion because the Canadian Embassy receptionist told me. Prior to CSW, I phoned to follow-up my email, requesting an appointment to discuss our paper on The UN Millennium Development Goals. The woman who answered the phone said, "Oh, I saw your name. You are scheduled for the Tuesday afternoon Round Table Discussion". After, I replied, "I did not know anything about it", she apologized "for speaking out of turn." Apparently, she had seen my name, but not on the Round Table List. This is no surprise. The pro-family NGO's are never invited to Canadian functions or informed of the daily UN Canadian delegation briefings on the UN negotiations.

Since 1994, pro-family NGOs have joined forces, as the Pro-Family Coalition, to support UN delegates to defend the interests of the family, parental rights, marriage and the sanctity of human life at UN Conferences. The radical feminists and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer advocates were out in full force this year, especially during the last two days of the session when they wore paper masks, chanted, heckled and jeered to intimidate the pro-family coalition and the UN delegates. There was an orchestrated attempt by them and also some UN member countries to promote sexual rights and water down language relating to the natural family.

The Pro-family Coalition found the deception, dishonesty and personal attacks around a resolution on "Women, Girls

and HIV and AIDS" very disturbing. The resolution put forward by the South African Development Committee called for the "delay of sexual debut" and for "sex education" as a way to combat HIV/AIDS. The African countries view AIDS as a serious public health issue, not a sexual rights issue.

The Netherlands proposed last-minute hostile amendments to the African HIV/AIDS resolution. The amendments deleted "the delay of sexual debut" and changed "sex education" to "comprehensive education on human sexuality". The chair called for a vote, which approved these changes. As a result, the African countries withdrew their sponsorship of the resolution, but the chair ruled it approved.

Comprehensive sexuality education goes far beyond sex education. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines sexuality as: "sexuality encompasses sex, gender identities and roles, sexual orientation, eroticism, pleasure, intimacy and reproduction. Sexuality is experienced and expressed in thoughts, fantasies, desires, beliefs, attitudes, values, behaviours, practices, roles and relationships."

We should definitely be concerned about

the term comprehensive sexuality education. No wonder the African countries refused to support it.

When marathon negotiating sessions did not produce an agreed conclusion, it was up to the Chairman to prepare a final document. The chair deleted all positive references to the role of mothers. A new provision portrayed motherhood in a negative way by calling for the elimination of gender stereotypes "that limit women's roles to being mothers and caregivers".

The good news is the final CSW outcome document recognizes "the family as a contributor to sustainable development, including in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals for women and girls". It also recognizes the need for "appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians" with regard to sexuality education. In addition, references to "sexual orientation and gender identity" (SOGI) as well as "various forms of the family" and references to "diversity", which were to advance the LGBT agenda, were removed from the final text. Reproductive rights and reproductive health services were limited in scope.

The devious methods of the anti-family forces, in ramming through their ideologically based language on family issues, expose their goal to achieve their radical "sexual rights" agenda world-wide at any cost. The stakes are high for what will be included in the UN post-2015 development agenda. The pro-family coalition will continue its efforts to defend life and the family at the CSW and other UN Conferences. †

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› This cartoon first appeared in The Calgary Herald on March 28, 2014.

BIG MONEY MADE ON DRUG ADDICTS



It is a tragedy that people, who publicly champion society's poorest, are permitted to privately live like kings and queens on the public dime.

Looking after drug addicts and the poorest of the poor in the Vancouver downtown eastside (DTES) sure pays well. The Portland Hotel Society (PHS), which manages the Vancouver drug injection site, called Insite, and other social services in that downtrodden area receives approximately \$21 million a year from the federal and provincial governments, but receives less than \$100,000 from private donations, according to its 2012 financial statements.

In 2008, when the Conservative government was considering shutting down Insite, PHS hastened to court to prevent this from happening. Thanks to the Supreme Court of Canada, it was successful in keeping Insite open, and the government funds continued to flow uninterrupted. The court costs, of course, were paid by the taxpayer, courtesy of government grants.

Stories had been circulating for years about the executives and directors at PHS living the high life from these government funds.

In November, 2013 an audit of PHS finally took place, and it would appear that the rumours about the high-living directors and executives at PHS do not begin to match the reality of how they have abused government grants. Wining, dining, travelling, staying at luxury hotels, flower arrangements, hair salons, spas and limousines, all were put on the business credit card of PHS.

Consequently, due to the continued use of drugs by the addicts, which perpetuates the drug culture, Mark Townsend, the co-executive of PHS, with his wife, Liz Evans, and the other directors of PHS had a never-ending source of funds to personally live the grand lifestyle. For example the audit revealed:

- \$15,749 was spent on a trip to Paris, in May, 2010, for undisclosed reasons on Mr. Townsend's platinum business credit card: no documentation or financial oversight was provided for this trip;
- Mr. Townsend and his wife, Liz Evans, each received approximately \$160,000 per annum in salary and perks (a high for the industry). They then charged PHS \$1,400 to \$1,600 each month for the use of their "home office" in the basement of their home;
- Mr. Townsend and Ms. Evans billed \$11,000 each year to have the basement space cleaned;
- In November, 2009, Mr. Townsend and Ms. Evans took a trip to New York City and stayed at the luxury Plaza Hotel at a cost of \$9,266. Ms. Evans spent another

\$250 in New York city salons;

- 764 restaurant charges by PHS officials totalled approximately \$69,000 over 3 years, averaging \$1,927 per month;
- \$5,832 was spent on a Danube River cruise for a PHS Manager;
- A Disneyland vacation for another PHS Manager and his wife and two children cost \$2,700 in May, 2012;
- Trips to Vienna, Paris and Istanbul, Los Angeles, Banff and Ottawa, at a cost of \$69,000 over three years by PHS directors had no supporting documentation or financial oversight;
- In 2013, \$8,600 was spent on limousine rides; and
- A stay for undisclosed reasons, in 2013 in the UK, by a director cost \$900 per night—no documentation provided.

There were many more such expenses revealed by this audit. All these personal expenses, paid by PHS according to the audit, left the organization in a "weak financial condition" so that PHS had difficulty paying its obligations in 2013.

Mark Townsend was one of the most prominent promoters of harm reduction policies in Vancouver. Harm reduction is the notion that addicts are going to take drugs anyway, so we should just learn to live with the use of illicit drugs and reduce the "harms" surrounding their use. That is, under harm reduction, addicts are permitted continued use of the drugs that are killing them, but harm comes from the drug itself, not from controlling its use. Harm reduction is a creative way to dismantle legal restrictions on the use and sale of drugs.

Some of the harm reduction provided by PHS included providing crack pipe kits in vending machines at a cost of 25¢; teaching alcoholics how to make their own beer; free needles for drug injections (PHS cornered the market on this) and placing addicts on the drug methadone for life, thereby condemning them, without hope of recovery, for the rest of their lives.

On May 29, 2008, Liz Evans, co-executive director of PHS, testified before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health, which was reviewing Insite, a major part of the work of PHS. During her testimony, Ms. Evans piously claimed that Insite offered "real help" to addicts to "stay healthy and stay alive". The truth is that Insite and the other services provided by PHS were keeping her and the other directors "healthy", receiving entitlements on which they lived the high life. Did these services help the addicts? No, they just perpetuated their addiction.

It is a tragedy that people, who publicly champion society's poorest, are permitted to privately live like kings and queens on the public dime. †

THE WELL-FUNDED DRUG LOBBY

Many Canadians have accepted the widespread story that drug use and, particularly, marijuana use, is not harmful. They believe that the criminal justice consequences of drug use, not the drug use itself, is the problem.

The fact is that the well-funded drug lobby has done a great job of marketing this message. Hungarian born, American billionaire, George Soros, is revered by some because he has changed many of the public's perceptions on drug use by sending out this wildly inaccurate message.

Mr. Soros and his enablers have also promoted the notion that people are being locked up for long periods of time because of their drug use. This is a complete distortion of the facts. Few are imprisoned for possession of drugs. Those imprisoned are there because of trafficking in drugs. Individuals who are jailed for drug possession have invariably committed other crimes and have prior criminal records. In fact, in the U.S., only about 1.5% of people in jail are there for possession of small amounts of drugs.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTS ADDICTS

The criminal justice system today is the major engine to get addicts into treatment and recovery. The drug courts play an important role, making recovery possible for thousands of offenders each year. In fact, according to experts in the field in the U.S., 50% of people in treatment are there because of referral by the criminal justice system. This is because those arrested for drug possession are given a choice of treatment or a criminal record. Needless to say, treatment is usually the choice.

COLORADO AND WASHINGTON

In November, 2012, the states of Colorado and Washington were the first places in the world to legalize marijuana for recreational purposes. This vote was carried by generous campaign funds provided by Mr. Soros and others, amounting to millions of dollars.

Although the State of Washington has been authorized to permit marijuana for recreational use, it has not yet fully implemented this law to the degree that has occurred in Colorado. The State of Colorado has acted quickly to allow individuals to use and possess an ounce of marijuana and to grow up to six plants. The amendment also permits

licensing marijuana in retail stores, cultivation operations, and marijuana edible factories and testing facilities.

In just a few months, the product development, marketing and advertising in Colorado have become alarming. It is big business. For example, a group in Colorado, calling itself "420 Tours", offers to pick up travellers at the airport, bring them to their marijuana friendly hotels and shuttle them around to marijuana shops and events.

Further, although the implementation of the new marijuana law in Colorado is only a few months old, since January, 2014, half of the drivers involved in traffic fatalities have tested positive for marijuana. This is an incredible increase.

This legalization of marijuana has also created problems that no one had anticipated. For example, the number of emergency room admissions for children, related to marijuana, has increased. The number of emergency visits to veterinary clinics for pets, related to marijuana, has also increased. The level of intoxication and impairment from marijuana is approaching that of heroin.

It has been said that the worst thing that can happen for those pushing for the legalization of marijuana is that they get their way. This may well be the case. †



† This cartoon first appeared in the [Toronto Star](#) on January 9, 2014.

MAKING A GIFT UNDER YOUR WILL TO REAL WOMEN OF CANADA

Making a gift under your Will to REAL Women of Canada is a lasting gift, not just to REAL Women itself, but also to Canada as a whole.

Canada needs strong families, especially now, when the fabric of society is being torn apart by materialism, selfish individualism, and disrespect for human life.

REAL Women's efforts on behalf of the traditional family have never waived. Through turmoil and adversity, we have put forward our voice on behalf of the family in a clear and uncompromising manner. We can only continue this vital work for many generations to come with your help.

When preparing your Will, please consider assisting REAL Women by making a bequest to our organization so that we can continue with our crucial work. †

WEALTHY MEN BEHIND POPULATION CONTROL

There is more than a whiff of ruthless control and self-interest being exerted by these men, who have decided that babies conceived in poverty should be dead babies.

The push for population control isn't coming from ordinary folks. It is coming from enormously wealthy men in the U.S. who believe that the elimination of the poor, as fast and furiously as possible, is much more efficient and effective than trying to eliminate poverty itself. There is more than a whiff of ruthless control and self-interest being exerted by these men, who have decided that babies conceived in poverty should be dead babies.

Who are these rich, elite men? They include:

- **Warren Buffett:** He is the 83 year old, second richest man in the world, worth \$63.4 billion. He has a vast empire of financial interests world-wide. He is the CEO and largest shareholder of Berkshire Hathaway.

Mr. Buffett formed the Buffett Foundation to which he pledged most of his wealth. In June 2006, however, he announced that 83% of his fortune would go to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. (See below)

Mr. Buffett gave \$115 million to organizations advocating abortion, more than \$21 million of which went directly to poor women to pay the cost of aborting their babies.

He is the father of three children.

- **George Soros:** He is a Hungarian born, U.S. citizen. He uses his money as a tool to manipulate public policy globally, in order to overturn any laws which he believes are "restrictive". Such laws include any restrictions on abortion, drug use, assisted suicide, etc. It is ironic, therefore, that the only laws he seems to want in place are those restricting the birth of the children of the poor.

In 2003, it was estimated that Mr. Soros had given away \$4 billion. In recent years he spent approximately \$500 million annually on his favourite projects.

Mr. Soros is the father of five children.

- **Bill Gates III:** He is a U.S. business magnate, philanthropist, investor and the former chief executive and chairman of Microsoft, the world's largest personal-computer software company. He is consistently ranked in the Forbes list of the world's wealthiest people. In 2013 and 2014 he became the world's richest person.

In 2000, Mr. Gates and his wife Melinda formed the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Gates Foundation has pledged \$1 billion over the next ten years to fund contraceptives and abortions for population control purposes in developing countries.

In 2012, the Foundation organized a huge family planning conference in London, England to push governments and other philanthropic organizations to target the developing world for population control. This conference raised \$4.6 billion to carry out population control policies.

Mr. Gates is the father of three children.

- **Chuck Feeney:** An Irish-American, 82-year old billionaire who kept his philanthropy secret for 15 years has given away \$7.5 billion—and plans for it all to go to charity before he dies. He made his money on duty-free stores. In 1982, he formed the Atlantic Philanthropies and has given 99% of his fortune to health, science, education and civil rights causes around the world.

Mr. Feeney is the father of five children.

- **Henry Ross Perot:** Mr. Perot was born on June 27, 1930. He is an American businessman best known for being an independent presidential candidate in 1992 and 1996. During his election campaigns, he took a firm pro-abortion stance and advocated environmental protection. With an estimated net worth of about U.S. \$3.5 billion in 2012, Mr. Perot is ranked by Forbes as the 134th-richest person in the U.S.

He formed the Perot Foundation to provide "medical research, for improving public education and for assisting wounded soldiers and their families".

Mr. Perot is the father of five children.

- **Ted Turner:** Ted Turner is 78 years of age. His company, the Turner Broadcasting Company, founded the first 24-hour cable news network, CNN, which debuted in 1980. Time Warner purchased Turner Broadcasting for \$7.5 billion in 1996.

In 1990, Mr. Turner created the Turner Foundation to support environmental and population causes. In 1998, Mr. Turner pledged \$1 billion to the UN and its agencies for activities, which include the promotion of abortion, sex education and contraception for minors, and homosexuality and same-sex marriage. Mr. Turner advocates that Americans have no more than two children.

Mr. Turner is the father of five children.

GENEROSITY IS MISDIRECTED

There is no question that these men have been generous with their money to support causes that they care about. However, their generosity has been directed at so-called "social justice", politically correct matters, including homosexuality, abortion rights and contraception, and population control, while excluding the humanity of the unborn. Their generosity also excludes the rights of couples to decide themselves, according to their faith and culture, the number of children they want. This is a right which these wealthy men certainly have asserted for themselves. The UN, in its many documents since 1968, e.g.

UN General Assembly, 1969 Resolution on Social Progress and Development, has supported the right of parents to determine the number of their children. The 1969 Resolution provided:

Parents have the *exclusive* right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children. (Italics added.)

No UN document refers to abortion or sexual orientation.

These wealthy men are using their money for measures that undermine the dignity and humanity of men, women and children, born and unborn. Their actions, although, perhaps, well-intended, reflect the selfish, hedonistic culture that is on the rise today. Their charity is being used to impose this western culture on the developing world and thereby undermining their culture and values. †

BOOK REVIEW—FREE AT LAST

FREE AT LAST

By: **Lynne Cohen** • Published By: **Freedom Press**,
12-111 Fourth Ave., Suite 185, St. Catharines, ON L2S 3P5
Cost: **\$21.36 CDN, \$9.99 Kindle edition**

What the author calls an “out-of-the-wreckage” story is a chronicle of her break from the seductions of liberalism, feminism, communism, hedonism, drug addiction and intense anger. Addiction recovery programs directed her towards God and truth, a return to her orthodox Jewish faith, and eventually to a political transformation from a liberal to a political conservative. This change rewarded her with sobriety, a more peaceful life and an appreciation of family and her religious faith.

The author, who is a journalist and lawyer, uses her considerable writing talent, energy, insight and intelligence to defend traditional positions on a whole range of contemporary controversies—the death penalty, abortion and demographic decline, redefinition of marriage, legalization of drugs, euthanasia, environmentalism, and more.

The book is candid, humorous, and quick-paced. What comes through, among countless anecdotes, is the amazing resilience and joys that old-fashioned family life provided Lynne during her early years, but from which she was deprived in her adolescence. Her feminist mother encouraged Lynne’s promiscuity, alcohol consumption and drug use—the very activities that the mother herself was indulging in. Lynne’s parents divorced, and the suicide of both her mother and her 16 year old brother had a devastating

impact on her. Her reaction through all these tragedies was to become depressed, and to become increasingly angry as the inner chaos and confusion in her life increased.

The family is the bulwark against the onslaught of unreasonable ideologies and lifestyles that the young generations are facing, such as liberalism, which is overturning centuries of family stability and learned values. Lynne did not have this stability for much of her life and suffered intense pain as a result.

Lynne quotes William John Bennett, Ronald Reagan’s Secretary of Education, on drug use: “...drug use is wrong because it is immoral, and it is immoral because it enslaves the mind and destroys the soul”, as the author has personally experienced.

Her recognition of the contribution made to society by chaste celibates, using examples of an aunt and uncle, is unpretentious and charming—a unique tribute to such valuable individuals, who are ignored in our sex obsessed society.

Among her many memorable statements, one stands out: “Abortion crushes these muckkins before they’ve had a chance to make us fall in love”.

This is a book which offers hope to those snagged by the perils of our modern, rudderless culture of liberalism, feminism and hedonism, which leads to such unhappiness and destruction.

The book, too, is a tribute to the human spirit because, despite such an unhappy, desperate background, Lynne was able to finally pull her life together to become a strong and faithful woman with much to contribute to society. †

MESSAGE BOARD

- Cecilia Forsyth announces her retirement as president after serving for five years: *I will still volunteer for facebook, website, and other activities. I have many wonderful memories of the people I have met and worked with.*
- A special thank you to members for your financial donations. We deeply appreciate your support of our work to build a society that values life and family. As we near summer, please remember our needs.

REALity is a publication of **REAL Women of Canada**

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