



OUTRIGHT
ACTION INTERNATIONAL

March 17, 2017

The Honorable Nikki Haley
U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations
United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Haley,

OutRight Action International is a 27-year old international human rights organization focused on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights. Headquartered in New York City, we have staff and offices around the world. We are the only US-based LGBTI organization to have ECOSOC status, so much of what we do is focused in and around UN headquarters.

I write to express our deep disappointment at the inclusion of C-FAM on the US delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women. Our disappointment is based on their history of promoting discrimination of LGBT people, defending criminalization of homosexuality and supporting the Russian law that equates information about LGBTI health and rights with “propaganda.” We are also concerned about the C-FAM President’s violent statement about how he wished his children would attend private colleges, “to keep them so far away from the hard left, human-hating people that run modern universities, who should all be taken out and shot.”

Our concern deepened further when we saw the statement C-FAM issued earlier this week condemning OutRight and at the same time asking their supporters to pray and *donate*. They said, “support us right now at [*link removed*] and support us as much as you can.”

The question we are asking now is: is it ethical for a civil society representative to directly profit from the appointment to a US government delegation, or is this a conflict of interest?

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To us, this seems very much like a conflict of interest, and we urge you, as head of the delegation and Ambassador to the UN, to please remove C-FAM from the US delegation to the Commission on Status of Women.

At yesterday's civil society briefing held at the US Mission to the UN on the CSW, I requested an opportunity for OutRight and the organizations with which we work to meet with you about this issue and a broader human rights approach to the UN. I hope I will hear from you soon. I am reachable at [redacted] and [redacted].

Sincerely,

Jessica Stern
Executive Director

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