



UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

A Complete Education for A Complete Person



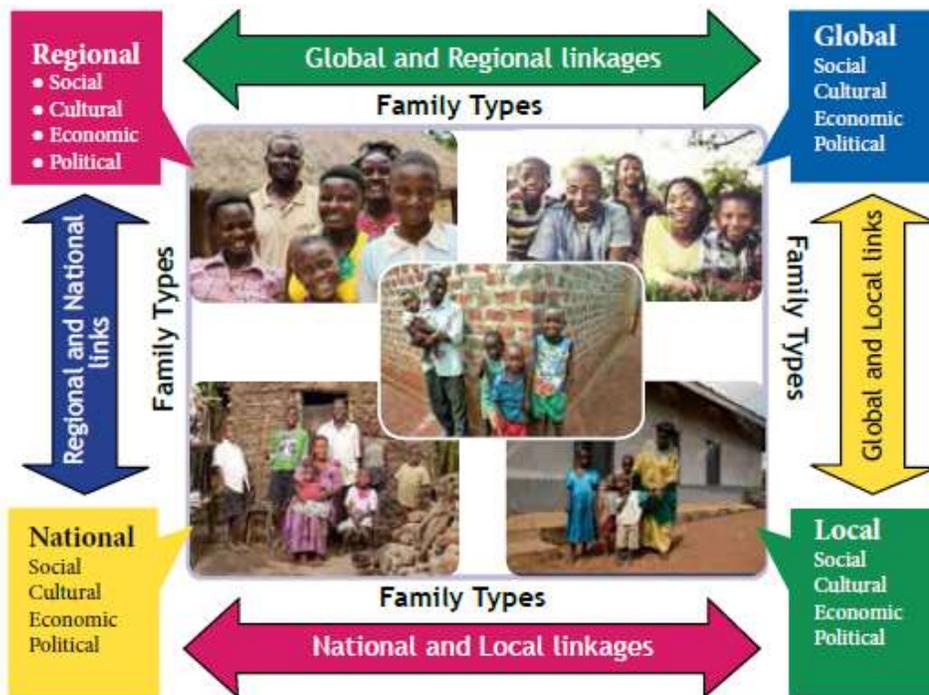
AfriChild

Research. Policy. Impact.
The Centre for the study of the African Child

FAMILY CONFERENCE 21-22 MAY 2018

THEME

THE FAMILY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: STRONG? IN CRISIS? CHANGING? What is the future of this foundational unit of life in community and nation?



VENUE: UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY - MAIN CAMPUS MUKONO

ABOUT THE FAMILY CONFERENCE

Pursuant to the declaration of 2017 as the Year of the Family in Uganda by the President of Uganda and the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, with the latter extending the year of family to 2018; Uganda Christian University (UCU) in collaboration with the AfriChild Centre have organized a Family Conference. Conversely the Family conference strategically celebrates the International Day of Families also commemorated in the same month of May. The 2018 UN theme for the International Day of Families is: “Families and Inclusive Societies”.

The two day conference is scheduled to take place on 21 and 22 May 2018. It provides a forum to dialogue on the deconstruction of traditional treasured norms and values regarding the family in the present age and yet the Church and her institutions seek desperately to uphold the latter given the time-tested results of such values in helping to develop nations. The fundamental question that the conference seeks to respond to is **‘What is the future of the family as the foundational unit of life in Africa today?’**

The stability of a nation relies on the families. Individuals including adults derive a sense of belonging and purpose from the institution of the family. Additionally, the family has the most important influence in a child's life. From their first moments of life, children depend on parents and family to protect them and provide for their needs. Owing to this critical need of families' involvement in children's lives, the AfriChild Centre conducted studies on parenting practices in Uganda and other child focused studies highlighting parents' critical role in promoting children's health, development, education and protection. These study findings will constitute some of the papers that will be shared during this conference.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The highly interactive national event will bring together key societal delegates including religious, political and cultural leaders; government officials, researchers and civil society organizations/non-governmental organizations to reason together about the situation of the family. This is an exciting and an ideal opportunity, to listen, share, discuss and learn.

CONFERENCE AIMS AT PROVIDING A FORUM TO DISCUSS:

- I. The Ugandan family situation-how has the family been? How is it now? How will it be?
- II. Family, freedom and children's development
- III. Family and socio-cultural space: opportunities and challenges (Involving monogamous vs. polygamous families; single moms vs. married moms; biblical self-esteem vs. secular teaching.)
- IV. Developing a road map to strengthen families
- V. Mainstreaming family issues at policy level

CONFERENCE THEMES AND TOPICS

There will be a variety of presentations including key note addresses, research/scientific papers, and opinion papers/ anecdotes in the form of narratives as well as moderated panel discussions. The narratives by experienced personalities will evoke the African story telling tradition! Presentations will cover various areas of critical concern to the socio-cultural, political, technological and economic nexus of the family under 13 topics consolidated in 4 broad themes.

Proposed Topics for the Conference Sessions

1. Culture, Education and Family Formation
2. Marriage and Parenting
3. Family and Religion
4. Family/Household, Land Holding and [Food] Production and Wealth Creation:
5. Work and Family Stability
6. Technological “Access and Consumption” [media and communication] and the Family:
7. Family and Disability Management
8. Alcohol and other Drugs/Substance Abuse (AoDA) and the Family
9. Family Health and Surviving strategies
10. Family Planning vs Planning Family
11. Family and Migration (internal and international) and Refugees
12. Family in the Crucible of Politics and governance
13. Family Vital Records and Histories

Broad Themes

1. Family and Socio-Cultural Space: Opportunities and Challenges
2. Mainstreaming family issues at Policy level
3. Family, Freedom and Children’s Development
4. Developing a Road-map to Strengthen Families

EXPECTED CONFERENCE OUTPUTS

- Church of Uganda in partnership with other evangelical catholic churches will spearhead the enactment of ‘State of the Family Declaration’ for East African countries based on conference deliberations. These will underscore: Definition of the family, Constructive African family Norms and Values that corroborate with the Christian ethos for families and lends to the stability of families as the core of society leading to development.
- Continued exploration of the institutional importance of the Family (in Africa) to the development of her nations and the cardinal role that the evangelical catholic churches can lend to this.
- Regularization of the family conference (such as frequency of occurrence)
- More collaboration with like-minded organizations to create working relationships in the area of family both locally and internationally.
- Curricula avenues for institutions of higher learning
- Two publications: one of which is a book containing all abstract papers presented at the conference. (conference report and Journal of conference presentations)

In the medium term, the Family Conference will generate a pool of professionals with extensive research, policy and programmatic expertise in the field of family studies, working towards the empowerment of various societal systems that can in turn create mechanisms for directly empowering a child centered African family.