



Anything But Pro-Life: Anti-Abortion Centers in the United States and Mexico

Introduction + Methodology

A Green Wave Movement is sweeping through the Americas, beginning with Argentina decriminalizing abortion in 2020, the upholding of legal abortion in Colombia in 2022, and the ongoing efforts to decriminalize abortion across all of Mexico. As abortion is increasingly decriminalized in Latin America, extremist U.S.-based anti-abortion organizations are seemingly doubling down to bolster and influence anti-abortion efforts in the Americas. Among those is the expansion of crisis pregnancy centers (CPC), also known as anti-abortion centers.

Equity Forward (EF) conducted an in-depth investigation into U.S.-based anti-abortion organizations in Mexico to identify the strategies, tactics, and trends in how these organizations attempt to thwart reproductive freedom, spread disinformation, and skirt government oversight and accountability. EF facilitated the research beginning in 2021 through early 2023, focusing on 17 organizations, including Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), Capitol Ministries, Center for Family and Human Rights (C-FAM), Centros de Ayuda para la Mujer (CAMs), Choose Life, Concerned Women for America (CWA), El Manto de Guadalupe, Enfoque a la Familia, Focus on the Family (FOTF), Global Center for Human Rights (GCHR), Heartbeat International, Human Life International (HLI), International Organizations Law Group, Political Network for Values (PNfV), Red Familia, Vida y Familia, AC (VIFAC) and World Congress of Families (WCF).

Key Learnings

Since the late 1960s, anti-abortion centers (AACs) have existed in the United States, targeting low-income people facing unplanned pregnancies to prevent them from accessing abortion and contraception. AACs use deceptive and coercive tactics and medical disinformation, wrongfully presenting themselves as medical facilities. AACs are a well-resourced arm of the global anti-abortion movement, spreading evangelical, Catholic, and Christian nationalist activism that is against reproductive freedom and forcing pregnant people to give birth.

This brief exposes the various ways in which U.S.-based anti-abortion networks are supporting and funding anti-abortion organizations across Mexico in a well-coordinated and well-funded way, using similar U.S.-centric strategies, messages, and tactics to deceive people seeking reproductive healthcare in Mexico and Latin America.

Transnational Ties Hidden By “Grassroots” Model: Many U.S. headquartered organizations, including **Focus on the Family**, **Heartbeat International**, and **Human Life International (HLI)** use affiliates and partnerships with local entities to influence change in countries with a “localized” approach, oftentimes failing to disclose ties to transnational and larger organizations.

Centros De Ayuda Para La Mujer (CAM), a network of anti-abortion centers across Latin America, is essentially just an arm of Heartbeat International and HLI in the region. **Enfoque a la Familia** is the Latin American regional branch of the extremist right-wing fundamentalist Christian organization **Focus on the Family**, which shares the same name in English. And **Vida y Familia, AC (VIFAC)** is an anti-abortion organization of CAM's working across Texas and Mexico, dedicated to criminalizing abortion and steering pregnant people toward adoption.

Misinformation, Disinformation, and “Pro-Family” Rhetoric: *Anything But Pro-Life* shares how the anti-abortion organizations working in Mexico use similar ruses from the United States to disseminate misinformation, medical disinformation, and ideological messaging. Many organizations employ narratives using junk science to further their anti-abortion aims that wrongfully provide a sense of legitimacy. The organizations also use a well-aligned, consistent framing around “pro-family,” “pro-parent,” “pro-children” and “natural family doctrine” values to promote their work.

ADF holds extremist and debunked views on abortion, ranging from equating abortion to genocide, spreading false medical claims about abortion leading to injury or death to the pregnant person, and propagating lies about Planned Parenthood among other pro-abortion organizations.

Heartbeat International spreads its extremist anti-abortion propaganda through an international network of crisis pregnancy centers that target vulnerable women using evangelical Christian rhetoric and medical misinformation. Heartbeat International has a growing influence in Latin America through its partnership with Centro De Ayuda Para La Mujer Latinoamericana.

Red Familia, a right-wing organization that seeks to connect anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQ+, and other anti-rights actors in Mexico, uses its connections to effectively spread its hate and enact it into policy. The organization's staff has a history of spreading extremist views about abortion, LGBTQ+ individuals, and even divorce, with Red Familia's President Mario Romo Gutierrez referring to sexual and reproductive rights as “false rights” and spokesperson Ruben Rebolledo claiming that exposing children to LGBTQ+ people “induces” queerness.

World Congress of Families (WCF) uses rhetoric and disinformation to spread falsehoods about reproductive freedom. The organization coauthored an anti-abortion “U.N. Negotiating Guide,” a comprehensive text that advises anti-rights—including ‘pro-life’—actors on negotiating tactics, key talking points, and ‘consensus language’ to further their advocacy at the United Nations.

Influence Within Country Governments and International Human Rights Organizations: Anti-abortion organizations examined in this brief are wielding power within country governments, in the Americas and around the globe, and are also infiltrating international human rights bodies, such as the United Nations, to seek and exert influence worldwide.

Since 2010 **Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)** has held consultative status at the United Nations, allowing the organization access to treaty and convention drafting meetings. ADF is also active in other international fora such as the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights.

Capitol Ministries is an evangelical Christian non-profit that strongly opposes abortion,

reproductive health, rights and justice, and other countless progressive issues. It operates a Latin America Project reportedly founded with Trump's White House's Faith and Opportunity Initiative. The organization was started in 1996 by Ralph and Danielle Drollinger and provided weekly Bible studies to the entire Trump Administration cabinet and currently has ongoing Bible studies in over forty U.S. state capitols, including Washington D.C., and dozens of foreign federal capitols including Mexico.

Under Trump's State Department, the **Center for Family and Human Rights (C-FAM)** was named U.S. Emissary to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women in March 2017, an annual set of high-level meetings on women's equality and empowerment, where the organization pushed its agenda on Trump U.N. delegates during negotiations, sharing talking points that called for striking "sexual and reproductive health" and "gender" from U.N. documents – a blatant attempt to undermine rights for women and LGBTQ persons.

El Manto de Guadalupe is an anti-abortion non-profit organization founded in March 2011 by Eduardo Verástegui, who is an anti-abortion advocate and a former member of Trump's Advisory Commission on Hispanic Prosperity.

Enfoque a la Familia, the Latin American regional branch of U.S.-based Focus on the Family, is recognized by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a special adviser. **Vida y Familia, AC (VIFAC)** also holds consultative status with the United Nations Economic And Social Council and has previously attempted to influence the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women by submitting problematic statements, including a 2011 statement that seemingly rationalized gender-based violence as a result of a "masculinity crisis" rooted in men no longer being heads of households, among other egregious arguments.

Legal Strategy, Capacity Building, and Training: Similar to how the U.S. anti-abortion movement has used legal strategies to dismantle abortion rights, many of the organizations included in this brief use litigation and amici strategies, as well as programs to build the capacity of anti-abortion and anti-LGBTQIA+ lawyers and legislators to thwart efforts to advance reproductive freedom and human rights.

ADF has argued against abortion access before the Mexican Supreme Court and funds a scholarship for aspiring anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQIA+ lawyers in partnership with Universidad Panamericana in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Concerned Women for America (CWA), an evangelical non-profit that strongly opposes abortion, women's rights, and LGBTQIA+ rights originally founded to fight against the Equal Rights Amendment in the United States, partners with international anti-abortion organizations and other aligned organizations to provide trainings in Mexico. In July 2021, CWA and Red De Acción Ética Política ([RAEP](#)), a coalition of legislators, politicians, and representatives from the private sector that operates in Mexico to promote traditional values, cohosted The "Parliamentarian Action On The International Law of Human Rights" Forum in Mexico City. The event's main objective was to train recently elected Mexican senators and representatives to defend their national law and oppose international organizations and the U.S. government.

International Organizations Law Group (IOLG) is one of the names that C-FAM has used to describe its anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQIA+ legal work internationally. IOLG has filed amici briefs before the Mexican Supreme Court to argue against abortion as an international human right.

Political Network for Values (PNfV), a global coalition of legislators that promote Christian right values at the domestic, regional, and international level, has strong links to far-right organizations in Mexico. PNfV organizes annual meetings to build its network of anti-rights legislators.

World Congress of Families (WCF) maintains an international coalition to promote extremist tenets of the Christian far right. WCF exerts influence with its international conferences, or “Congresses,” that function as key sites of right-wing strategy development and dissemination. The events attract thousands of participants and build WCF’s international influence by bringing together sympathetic elected officials, religious leaders, scientists, scholars, and civil society from around the world.

Shady IRS categorizations, conflicts of interest, and financials

Our research uncovered that anti-abortion centers in Mexico and around the world are being funded and supported by large, well-established anti-abortion networks and religious institutions in the United States, many of which are designated 501(c)(3)s and are well-known members of the anti-abortion extremist movement. As noted earlier, these large networks are affiliated with more local or grassroots organizations in Mexico (or replicate themselves under Spanish names) so as not to bring attention to themselves but in reality, they are using exactly the same strategies, messaging, and methods to deceive Mexican women as they are with women living in the U.S. Just as concerning, the research has uncovered disturbing instances of shady IRS activity and illicit lobbying efforts by the organizations behind these anti-abortion networks, finding that many have likely violated their 501(c)(3) status.

Funding/Operating Anti-Abortion Centers: **Human Life International (HLI)** takes credit for bringing the anti-abortion center model to Latin America in the 1980s and is one of the most active supporters of the anti-abortion movement in the region. HLI helped establish a network of anti-abortion centers, **Centros de Ayuda para la Mujer (CAM)** in Latin America, with the first CAM opening in Mexico City on August 15, 1989. According to IRS tax documents reviewed by [The Guardian](#), HLI funneled more than \$1.3 million to anti-abortion partners in Latin America and the Caribbean between 2010 and 2015.

In 1985 the anti-abortion organization **VIFAC (la Vida y Familia, AC)** was founded in Mexico by Marilú Mariscal, a conservative nurse. Over nearly four decades, VIFAC has expanded its influence, opening 37 centers across 24 Mexican states. In 2016, it began operating in the United States, opening a center in Brownsville, Texas. The organization operates centers that are both anti-abortion centers and so-called “maternity homes,” deterring pregnant people from abortion and then housing them through birth—and then encouraging, or reportedly coercing, these often low-income, new parents to give their babies up for adoption.

Lobbying Without 501(c)(4) Registration: From a review of public records, researchers discovered that many anti-abortion organizations do not have registered lobbying arms yet overtly engage in lobbying efforts with elected officials in other countries and, by their own accord, seek to influence legislation.

As noted earlier, **Capitol Ministries** hosts weekly bible studies to directly evangelize and influence the U.S. government and up to 200 international governments. The organization currently hosts discipleship Bible studies for the political leaders of 24 foreign nations across four continents, including the Latin American countries of Honduras, Mexico, Brazil, Peru,

Uruguay, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Costa Rica. And, while the organization claims to “stay away from politics and concentrate on the hearts of leaders” [reporting by the Intercept](#) shows that the “evangelical lessons are carefully catered to conservative ideology, with a focus on interpreting current events through a partisan lens. The organization’s study guides have provided biblical justification for the [Trump Administration’s undocumented immigrant child separation policies](#) and arguments in favor of [lower taxes on the wealthy](#). Capitol Ministries is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) however does not have a 501(c)(4) status despite courting many lawmakers across the globe.

World Congress of Families (WCF) petitioned the Mexican Government to “save marriage in Mexico City,” calling on the government of Mexico City to refrain from implementing same-sex marriage and demanding that the issue be decided at the national level, “with due regard to the nation’s religious traditions, the wishes of the Mexican people and the needs of children and families, and consistent with Mexico’s Constitution.” WCF, a project under the International Organization for the Family, is established as a 501(c)(3) without a 501(c)(4) arm.

IRS Discrepancies: Related to lobbying without 501(c)(4) registration, we noticed a number of shady categorizations with regard to organizations’ IRS categorizations, legal arms, conflicts of interest, and financials.

C-FAM is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt organization in New York, New York. 990s from the last decade show C-FAM’s budget has stayed largely the same year after year, between \$1.1 million and \$1.8 million, with some fluctuation between years, trending downward recently. According to [NBC News reporting](#), C-FAM was one of seven groups to receive nearly \$2.5 million combined in government support via The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) which was intended to help small businesses amid the Covid-19 crisis.

Focus on the Family (FOTF), one of the largest socially conservative evangelical organizations in the United States, extends its influence in Latin America with **Enfoque A La Familia**, a specific FOTF project headquartered in Miami, Florida. Enfoque does not have a separate legal status and via FOTF is a 501(c)(3) designated organization with a 501(c)(4) designated arm that focuses on lobbying called the Family Policy Alliance (FPA). FPA is where the bulk of FOTF’s political influence comes from. FPA has endorsed political candidates and has been active in submitting amicus briefs (in opposition to reproductive rights) for Supreme Court cases involving reproductive rights. In 2017, Focus on the Family declared itself to be a church in order “to protect the confidentiality of our donors”. Consequently, FOTF is largely shielded from IRS audits.

El Manto de Guadalupe was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in Los Angeles, California. As 990s below show, the organization seemed to be grossing over \$100K a year in contributions leading up until 2016, when its contributions were about \$119,000, and then the money significantly decreased to about \$42,000 in 2017 and \$12,000 in 2018. There are no filings past 2018. Also of note is that the organization is categorized as an “Ambulatory Health Center, Community Clinic.”

AAC Snapshots

Alliance Defending Freedom

[The Alliance Defending Freedom](#) (ADF) is a conservative Christian legal organization that was established in the early [1990s](#) by a group of influential Christian leaders, including James Dobson of Focus on the Family, Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ, and Alan Sears, co-author of *The Homosexual Agenda: Exposing the Principal Threat to Religious Freedom*. The organization emerged in response to concerns from the Christian right regarding LGBTQIA+ and reproductive rights movements, as well as the increasing secularization of public life.

Over the past 30 years, the ADF has become a powerful force, mainly known for [opposing LGBTQ rights](#), and has been classified as a [hate group](#). The ADF has used "[religious freedom](#)" to attack abortion and [birth control access](#), as well as the civil rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals and the separation of church and state. Notably, ADF won a [Supreme Court case](#) that allowed a business owner to refuse services to LGBTQIA+ people based on his "religious freedom." The organization has grown quickly over the past three decades with over [3,000 "allied attorneys"](#) opposing [marriage equality, abortion access, and gender identities](#). As of 2017, ADF had won [49 Supreme Court cases](#) and provided more than [1 million hours of free legal support](#) for their discriminatory causes.

[Internationally](#), the ADF operates in Mexico, Canada, South America, and Europe. They provide substantial funding for activities abroad, particularly in Mexico. They influence international discussions and organize conferences that bring together far-right-wing politicians to promote their extreme ideologies, including in [Mexico City](#). ADF lawyers have also argued [against abortion access](#) in Mexico's Supreme Court, and the organization [funds a scholarship](#) program to train lawyers opposing abortion and LGBTQIA+ rights in partnership with a Mexican university.

Capitol Ministries

[Capitol Ministries](#) is a non-profit organization founded in 1996 by Ralph and Danielle Drollinger with the aim of promoting evangelical Christian values among political leaders worldwide. The organization conducts weekly Bible studies for policymakers across different levels of government, with the goal of shaping policies in line with their biblical teachings. They emphasize personal transformation through evangelism and discipleship.

Capitol Ministries currently has ongoing Bible studies in over 40 U.S. state capitols, including Washington D.C., and dozens of foreign federal capitols, including Mexico. Notably, they provided weekly Bible studies to the entire [Trump Administration cabinet](#).

The organization reportedly founded a Latin America Project with the help of the Trump Administration's Faith and Opportunity Initiative. Former Vice President Mike Pence and former CIA Director Mike Pompeo, both known for their conservative stances on issues like abortion and LGBTQIA+ rights, were reportedly involved in the project's formation. The Latin America Project has extended the organization's influence in the region, including its infiltration of the Mexican government.

Centros De Ayuda Para La Mujer

Centros De Ayuda Para la Mujer (CAMs) are a [network of anti-abortion centers](#) (AACs) in Latin America. They were [first established](#) in 1989 by Jorge Serrano Limón, who was inspired by a

conference held by the anti-abortion group Human Life International (HLI) in the United States. With the support of HLI and its Hispanic arm, Vida Humana Internacional, the network of CAMs [claims](#) it has expanded to [over 100 locations in more than 20 countries](#) across Latin America.

The CAM network, along with organizations like HLI and Heartbeat International, have taken their aggressive tactics against abortion from the U.S. and replicated them in Mexico and other parts of Latin America. The jointly-run anti-abortion center networks are adapted to fit the cultural context of each country, all with the goal of targeting pregnant individuals seeking care while posing as [“caring providers.”](#)

Despite anti-abortion activists in Latin America accusing the U.S. of imposing its beliefs on the region, CAMs receive support, money, and resources from U.S. organizations to continue their work. CAMs promote an [extremist view](#) on abortion and aim to ultimately ban abortion entirely.

Center for Family and Human Rights

[The Center for Family and Human Rights](#) (C-FAM) is a research institute founded in 1997 by Human Life International (HLI) [after a wave of corruption and anti-semitism scandals struck](#) the organization. [Austin Ruse](#), a former journalist, leads C-FAM as its President, using his position to spread false information and promote hate speech against [women](#), [people of color](#), the [LGBTQIA+ community](#), and other groups.

During the Trump administration, C-FAM saw a significant increase in its influence over its [approach to human rights](#) at the United Nations (U.N.). Ruse played an advisory role in [Trump's 2016 campaign](#), which helped C-FAM gain direct access to the U.S. Department of State. The State Department even designated C-FAM as a representative to the [U.N. Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW) and provided talking points intended to [undermine the international rights of women and LGBTQIA+ individuals](#). C-FAM encouraged the State Department to align with authoritarian governments, ostensibly to curtail the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ communities in the U.N. sphere.

Apart from advocating against rights at the U.N., C-FAM has also involved itself in abortion discussions in specific countries. Notably, they sponsored a large anti-abortion protest in Spain and submitted legal documents opposing abortion in Mexico and Costa Rica. C-FAM operates as a "front" organization, and its legal work is primarily carried out through its affiliated entity, the [International Law Group Organization](#).

Choose Life

[Choose Life America](#) is a national license plate campaign organization whose proceeds fund crisis pregnancy centers and anti-choice adoption agencies. The organization stemmed from Choose Life Inc., established by Florida Commissioner Randy Harris in 1997.

These license plates are offered in [33 states](#), with most states allocating a portion of the revenue to crisis pregnancy centers and agencies advocating adoption as an alternative to abortion. Choose Life America reports that these plates have collectively raised [over \\$28 million](#) nationwide. Efforts to introduce the Choose Life plate in various states have garnered support

from both local [Choose Life affiliates](#) and international anti-abortion organizations, including the World Congress of Families and Heartbeat International.

Although not verified, there are indications that the funds raised through the sales of Choose Life license plates may be channeled through major anti-choice organizations, leading to the possibility of these funds ending up supporting crisis pregnancy centers overseas.

Concerned Women For America

[Concerned Women for America](#) (CWA) is a national network of conservative Christian women founded in 1979 by Beverly LaHaye. Initially focused on upholding biblical values and opposing the Equal Rights Amendment, CWA now addresses various issues including [the family, the sanctity of human life, religious liberty, education, and more](#).

With over [500,000 members, 300 Prayer/Action Chapters, and 50 Young Women for America Presidents or Ambassadors](#), CWA gained prominence during the rise of the Christian Right in the [late 1970s](#). It opposes abortion and same-sex marriage in the U.S. CWA deploys a grassroots model, training volunteer lobbyists to advocate for biblical values in state legislatures and Congress. They also endorse candidates through their arm, CWA Legislative Action Committee.

Internationally, CWA supports policies like the Global Gag Rule and opposes U.S. ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. They recently held a forum in Mexico City to train elected officials. In 2016, the [FBI initiated an assessment](#) related to potential financial misconduct in CWA. This was disclosed in 2021 through a FOIA request. [Reports](#) indicate a decline in CWA's funding and staffing over the past decade, leading to partnerships with well-funded groups to sustain their efforts.

El Manto De Guadalupe

El Manto de Guadalupe is a non-profit organization that was founded in March 2011 by Mexican actor and former member of President Trump's Advisory Commission on Hispanic Prosperity, Eduardo Verástegui. The organization's mission is to [provide alternatives to abortion](#) and Verástegui has discussed opening anti-abortion centers as part of its work.

However, as of January 2022, El Manto de Guadalupe's current status is unclear. Its [Facebook](#) page is inactive and the organization no longer has a website. Additionally, its contributions have decreased significantly, with [no IRS filings past 2018](#). It is uncertain whether the organization still exists.

In 2019, Eduardo Verástegui founded another organization called [Movimiento Viva Mexico](#), which is based in Mexico. Its mission is to use civil society to solve social problems, including abortion. Of note, Verástegui recently [filed as an independent candidate for President of Mexico in the 2024 general election](#).

Enfoque a La Familia

Enfoque a la Familia, the Latin American arm of the extremist right-wing fundamentalist Christian organization Focus on The Family (FOTF), is an anti-abortion organization spreading anti-abortion views in Latin American countries like Mexico, Costa Rica, and Ecuador. It holds special adviser status with the [U.N. ECOSOC](#).

Led by Sixto Porras, Enfoque a la Familia shares FOTF's [mission](#) to “spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and defend the family institution worldwide.” They advocate for creationism, abstinence-only sex education, anti-LGBTQIA+ ideologies, rigid gender roles, and an extreme anti-abortion stance from conception to natural death. The Southern Poverty Law Center has identified FOTF as a major driver of the religious right's anti-gay campaign.

Enfoque a la Familia disseminates its ideology through [radio shows, podcasts](#), educational materials, webinars, courses, and social media. Their [Facebook](#) page has over 800,000 followers, and their [Instagram](#) has almost 100,000 making them prominent Spanish-language anti-rights platforms.

FOTF, a 501(c)(3) designated organization, has a lobbying arm called the Family Policy Alliance (FPA) in the U.S. In 2017, FOTF declared itself a [church](#), providing significant financial protection. This complicates tracking Enfoque a la Familia's finances, as it operates from Costa Rica but receives funding from the U.S. branch.

Focus On The Family

Focus on the Family (FOTF) is a fundamentalist Christian organization led by Jim Daly that [aims](#) to “spread the Gospel and defend family values worldwide.” FOTF is one of the largest socially conservative evangelical organizations in the United States. The organization promotes [creationism, abstinence-only sex education, traditional gender roles, and opposes abortion from conception to natural death](#).

According to the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), FOTF is a [significant player in the religious right's anti-LGBTQIA+ efforts](#). FOTF's main outreach is through radio shows, podcasts, and educational materials, including the podcast hosted by CEO Jim Daly, called [Focus on the Family Broadcast](#).

Focus on the Family operates as a 501(c)(3) organization and has a lobbying arm, FPA, that holds significant political influence. FPA endorses candidates and files amicus briefs in Supreme Court cases, often related to reproductive rights. In 2017, FOTF [declared itself as a church](#) to [safeguard donor confidentiality](#), providing substantial protection from IRS audits.

In addition to its domestic efforts, FOTF runs a Latin American anti-abortion branch called "Enfoque a la Familia," which is recognized as a [special adviser](#) by the U.N.'s ECOSOC.

Global Center For Human Rights

[The Global Center for Human Rights](#) (GCHR) is a Washington, D.C.-based organization that operates primarily in Latin America. It is led by Sebastien Schuff and Neydy Casillas, who are married to each other and are influential figures in the anti-abortion and anti-LGBTQ+ movements. GCHR has gained traction since late 2022 despite being relatively new and small.

Despite having a [small team of four](#), GCHR has managed to wield significant influence. Schuff has established a number of anti-abortion groups in Argentina, while Casillas previously worked with ADF International and CWA. They first gained attention after the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision.

One of GCHR's main impacts so far has been a [study](#) that critiques funding sources for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Court, alleging a lack of transparency and "[ideological colonialism](#)." This study has [gained significant traction](#) within [right-wing media](#) and [politics](#) thanks to Schuff's and Casillas' connections.

Besides influencing regional discussions, GCHR [focuses](#) on strategy, training, and advocacy to further its anti-rights agenda in Latin America through research, legislative training, and legal advocacy.

Heartbeat International

[Heartbeat International](#) is a Christian network of anti-abortion centers based in Columbus, Ohio. [Founded in 1971](#) by Dr. John Hillabrand and Lore Maier as "Alternatives to Abortion," it evolved into an [international organization](#) providing support and education to pregnancy centers. Their aim is to make abortion "[unwanted and unthinkable for future generations](#)."

The [network](#) spans almost 3,000 AACs in 68 countries, with the United States, Italy, Mexico, South Africa, and Canada hosting the most. They [claim](#) 42% of global AACs, indicating significant influence. Heartbeat International collaborates with [CAMs](#), a Mexican organization running Christian anti-abortion centers in Latin America.

It serves as a fundraising and support hub, disbursing funds and [providing training, legal advice, and organizational help](#). However, their educational material contains [misinformation](#) and offensive statements about abortion. They also oversee the [Abortion Pill Rescue Network](#), which has expanded under their management.

[Originally secular](#), Heartbeat International has become explicitly Christian, prioritizing spreading evangelical [Christian beliefs](#) over providing comprehensive healthcare. Their [mission](#) and counseling often incorporate [religious conversion themes](#). The organization has also displayed [homophobia](#) and engaged in campaigns based on racist assumptions about [Latinas and Black women](#).

Human Life International

[Human Life International](#) (HLI) is an anti-abortion, anti-birth control, and anti-LGBTQIA+ nonprofit organization founded in Front Royal, Virginia, in [1981](#). Despite being relatively

unknown in the United States, HLI has gained international notoriety for its [extremist views and frequent inflammatory public comments](#) about anti-abortion advocacy.

According to previous [Equity Forward research](#), while not openly advocating for the criminalization of abortion seekers, HLI discreetly funnels millions into campaigns supporting such efforts abroad. Immediately after its founding, the organization swiftly [established affiliates](#) across Latin America and beyond, educating local leaders on [Catholic views regarding contraception, abortion, marriage, reproductive technologies, and euthanasia](#). These affiliates strongly advocated for anti-reproductive health policies in their respective countries.

In addition to advocating for restrictive abortion bans, HLI's involvement in [foreign election-related activities](#) raises questions about its 501(c)(3) tax status in the U.S. The true extent of HLI's influence, both domestically and internationally, remains unknown. However, what is clear is HLI's unwavering dedication to criminalizing abortion.

HLI's overseas activities are alarming due to its support for extreme laws, the discrepancies between its documented views and endorsed policies, and its engagement in local politics. This warrants scrutiny by the IRS, especially in cases where HLI affiliates, as in the Philippines, appear to endorse and promote specific candidates in potential violation of the "Restriction of Political Campaign Intervention."

HLI shares close ties with C-FAM, a designated hate group, and advocates for an anti-abortion agenda at the U.N. It has worked with [Mexican anti-abortion leader Jorge Serrano Limón](#) to establish and strengthen Mexico's network of AACs or CAMs.

International Organizations Law Group

The International Organizations Law Group (IOLG), or *Grupo de Organizaciones Internacionales de Derecho* in Spanish, is the [legal arm](#) of C-FAM. It used to be called The Law Group and is now known as the Center for Legal Studies. In Mexico, it operates under the name IOLG for anti-abortion legal work.

IOLG was established in March 2008 by Piero A. Tozzi, a former general counsel for C-FAM. It's presented as C-FAM's [public interest law firm](#), aiming to interpret international laws in a way that respects national sovereignty and cultural values. IOLG actively [challenges](#) the idea that governments must allow access to abortion and recognize LGBTQIA+ rights under international law through various means.

Tozzi, along with Neydy Casillas, a notable Mexican anti-abortion advocate and former C-FAM counsel, submitted two legal opinions to the Mexican Supreme Court on behalf of IOLG, arguing against abortion as an international human right.

While C-FAM's legal arm [continues to submit to the U.N.](#), it hasn't [publicly](#) shared legal opinions since 2012. At that time, it collaborated with anti-abortion organizations ADF and Americans United for Life in a [brief](#) filed in Costa Rica. This brief argued that Costa Rica's ban on in vitro

fertilization didn't violate human rights, claiming in vitro procedures harm the unborn. In this case, [Tozzi](#) represented ADF and IOLG identified itself as the "Center for Legal Studies at C-FAM."

Political Network For Values

The Political Network for Values (PNfV) is a coalition of legislators that promotes [Christian right values](#) across the world. It was established in [2014](#) by Jaime Mayor Oreja, Lola Velarde, and Rodrigo Ivan Cortés, who are representatives of ultra-Christianism and the far-right in Spain and Mexico. The group is known for opposing reproductive and LGBTQIA+ rights, while strongly advocating for religious freedom, conscientious objection, and the Christian notion of family.

PNfV has close ties with far-right organizations in Spain, Hungary, Mexico, and the United States. As of March 2021, PNfV is not registered as a civil society organization at the U.N., the European Commission, or the OAS.

Unlike other anti-rights groups, the PNfV is primarily composed of [politicians and legislators](#) who steer the coalition. It operates as a platform for international meetings and networking, often organizing formal "Transatlantic Summits" that convene legislators and members of anti-rights civil society organizations worldwide to collaborate and exchange "best practices" on issues they perceive as threats to life and family.

Red Familia

[Red Familia](#) is a Mexican right-wing conservative group that [acts as a central link](#) and coalition-building network for organizations promoting anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQIA+, and anti-comprehensive sex education policies. While its activities are known, its institutional history remains deliberately obscured, a common trait among anti-rights actors.

Key figures within Red Familia, including its founding director, [Paz Gutiérrez Cortina de Fernández Cueto](#), and president of the Council of Red Familia, José Manuel Campero Pardo, have strong ties to influential anti-abortion networks. [Patrick Slim Domit](#), son of Mexican business mogul Carlos Slim, [supports](#) Red Familia and similar movements globally. These individuals provide a glimpse into Red Familia's extensive connections and influence.

They have actively united anti-rights organizations, advancing their agenda in Mexico. This includes financial support for [conferences](#) and efforts to [restrict LGBTQ+](#) and reproductive rights protections. They maintain ties with right-wing parties in [Mexico](#) and [Spain](#) and have [received support](#) from the Mexican Catholic Church for anti-rights advocacy. Notably, Red Familia played a pivotal role in anti-comprehensive sex education campaigns and [curriculum implementation](#) in Ecuador and Mexico.

Red Familia's social media [claims](#) to reach nearly 4 million people annually. Concerningly, Red Familia claims to have trained nearly 50,000 social and political leaders and nearly 60,000 youth to proliferate its anti-rights agenda. Their work is deeply entrenched in influencing public opinion, anti-rights networks, and policy, with a significant impact on dangerous agendas.

Vida y Familia, AC

[Vida y Familia, AC](#) (VIFAC) is an influential organization that has been operating anti-abortion centers and maternity homes in Mexico for almost four decades. The organization was established in Mexico back in 1985 by Marilú Mariscal, a conservative nurse. Over the years, VIFAC has grown and now has [37 centers](#) in 24 Mexican states. In 2016, it extended its operations to the United States with a center in Brownsville, Texas.

[VIFAC](#) deters pregnant people from abortion and then houses them through birth—and then steers these often low-income, new parents toward giving up their babies for adoption. Their tactics range from [intimidation](#) to a religious education program called [Formando Corazones](#), which spreads misinformation and fear, and even [obstructs](#) legally permissible abortions for rape victims.

Despite being investigated for [alleged involvement in child trafficking schemes](#), where [low-income mothers were reportedly deceived and babies sold to Irish families](#), VIFAC maintains strong government relationships and [receives funding](#) from both Mexican state and federal sources. The primary recipient is Formando Corazones, which VIFAC has successfully introduced in [public schools](#).

Corporate donations also support VIFAC, including contributions from [Home Depot](#) and a Citigroup subsidiary. VIFAC is [affiliated](#) with the globally recognized anti-abortion conglomerate, [Heartbeat International](#). It has connections to other international anti-abortion organizations active in Mexico, such as [ADF](#) and WCF. Additionally, VIFAC holds consultative status at ECOSOC and has submitted numerous anti-abortion and "pro-family" statements to the U.N., including at the [CSW](#).

World Congress Of Families

The World Congress of Families (WCF) is a U.S. organization formed in Russia in 1997 by Allan Carlson, a Reagan appointee and former Howard Center President, and Russian intellectuals Anatoly Antonov and Viktor Medkov. The organization promotes extremist beliefs of the Christian far right through an international coalition. It is also a project of the [Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society](#), which is now called the International Organization for the Family.

The WCF advocates for a "[natural family doctrine](#)" that blames sexual and feminist liberation for demographic decline. Their mission is to counter this perceived decline by reinforcing traditional family values. As a result, they have supported legislative and cultural efforts against reproductive rights. As of September 2016, WCF has [35 organizational partners](#) based in various countries worldwide.

The organization hosts conferences where speakers with anti-LGBTQIA+ and reproductive rights views have been featured, including [Mark Regnerus](#), known for a controversial 2011 study on LGBT parenting. Other speakers include figures known for far-right, anti-immigrant, and anti-abortion views.

The WCF collaborates with [global parliamentary members](#) to advance pro-family legislation. The organization has strong ties with the Russian government, particularly President Vladimir

Putin and MP Yelena Mizulina. They've also expanded their presence in African countries, holding regional conferences annually. WCF has a network of regional allies, such as Theresa Okafor in Africa, [Enrique Gomez Serrano](#) in Mexico, and Alexey Komov in Russia, who tailor the organization's messages to appeal to local communities.

Despite its controversial stances, WCF receives support from mainstream conservative organizations in the United States. In 2004, a conference in Mexico City featured an endorsement from [President George W. Bush](#). In 2022, WCF [returned its conference](#) to Mexico City for the first time since 2004.

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