

**FAITHFUL AMERICA • GLAAD • HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
NAACP • NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA
PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY • SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER**

October 4, 2013

Dear Values Voter Summit speaker:

We understand that you've been invited to speak at the upcoming Values Voter Summit being held in Washington, D.C., from Oct. 11-13. Given the demonizing lies about the LGBT community spread by the host, the Family Research Council (FRC), and another major sponsor of the event, the American Family Association (AFA), we urge you to not lend the prestige of your office to the summit.

The FRC has amassed an extensive record of vilifying gays and lesbians with falsehoods – portraying them as sick, evil, incestuous, violent, perverted, and a danger to the nation. Perhaps its most insidious claim is that gay men molest children at a far higher rate than heterosexual men – a claim refuted by all credible scientific authorities, including the American Psychological Association. Yet the FRC has continued to smear gays and lesbians by claiming that pedophilia, in the words of FRC President Tony Perkins, “is a homosexual problem.”

Perkins also says the “It Gets Better” campaign, an initiative designed to give LGBT students hope for a better tomorrow, is “disgusting” and part of a “concerted effort” to “recruit” children into the gay “lifestyle.” One senior FRC official has even argued that homosexuality should be illegal.

The AFA's Bryan Fischer, who serves as the group's spokesman and director of issue analysis, frequently blames homosexuality for the Holocaust and Nazi Party: “Homosexuality gave us Adolph Hitler, and homosexuals in the military gave us the Brown Shirts, the Nazi war machine and 6 million dead Jews.” He also promotes the views of the American architect of the “Kill the Gays” bill in Uganda.

Demonizing the LGBT community has consequences. As FBI data demonstrate, it is one of the groups most likely to be victimized by violent hate crimes. Defaming them publicly day after day – as the FRC and the AFA do – only throws fuel on the fire.

The bigotry of the FRC and the AFA is not limited to gays and lesbians. Fischer, for example, has said that African Americans “rut like rabbits” and argued that women should be kicked out of politics and the military. He's also stated that Hispanics are “socialists by nature” and come here to “plunder” our country. The FRC's executive vice president, Lt. Gen. Jerry

Boykin, has said Jews must be converted to Christianity and has argued that “Islam is not a religion and does not deserve First Amendment protections” – a statement that is antithetical to American ideals.

Most elected officials have been careful not to align themselves with racial bigotry. In 1999, for example, then-RNC Chairman Jim Nicholson called on party members to shun the Council of Conservative Citizens, a group that has described African Americans as “a retrograde species of humanity,” arguing that a “member of the party of Lincoln should not belong to such an organization.” Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and Rep. Bob Barr, both of whom had spoken at CCC events, immediately distanced themselves from the group and said they had been unaware of the group’s racism.

Last year, RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said that “people in this country, no matter straight or gay, deserve dignity and respect.” The question before you today, therefore, is where the party of Lincoln stands in 2013 on vilifying the LGBT community. You can help answer that question by saying no to bigotry and declining the invitation to speak at the Values Voter Summit.

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Citations

1. FRC President Tony Perkins writes that pedophilia is “a homosexual problem.”
Source: Tony Perkins, “Cardinal Ruffles Gay Feathers,” April 16, 2010,
www.academia.org/cardinal-ruffles-gay-feathers/
2. FRC President Tony Perkins writes that the ‘It Gets Better’ series of videos is “disgusting” and part of a “concerted effort to persuade kids that homosexuality is okay and actually to recruit them into that lifestyle.”
Source: Family Research Council fundraising letter, August, 2011,
www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-files/groups/family-research-council
3. FRC official Peter Sprigg calls for criminalization of homosexuality. Sprigg, FRC’s senior fellow for policy studies, says that gay behavior should be outlawed and that “criminal sanctions against homosexual behavior” should be enforced.
Source: MSNBC’s “Hardball with Chris Matthews,” Feb. 2, 2010,
www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35224225/
4. The American Psychological Association concludes: “Despite a common myth, homosexual men are not more likely to sexually abuse children than heterosexual men are.”
Source: American Psychological Association, “Understanding Child Sexual Abuse: Education, Prevention, and Recovery,” www.apa.org/pubs/info/brochures/sex-abuse.aspx#
5. Bryan Fischer writes, “Homosexuality gave us Adolph Hitler, and homosexuals in the military gave us the Brown Shirts, the Nazi war machine and 6 million dead Jews.”
Source: Bryan Fischer, “Homosexuality, Hitler and ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,’” May 27, 2010,
www.afa.net/Blogs/BlogPost.aspx?id=2147494882
6. Bryan Fischer writes that black people “rut like rabbits.”
Source: Bryan Fischer, “Rightly Concerned,” Apr. 5, 2011, www.rightwingwatch.org/content/fisher-goes-too-far-blog-post-changed-remove-rut-rabbits-comment
7. Bryan Fischer says that Hispanics are “are socialists by nature” and come here to “benefit from the plunder of the wealth of the United States.”
Source: Bryan Fischer, “Focal Point,” Nov. 9, 2012
www.rightwingwatch.org/content/fischer-weve-got-clamp-down-immigration-because-socialist-hispanics-vote-democratic#sthash.cMVvk84z.dpuf
8. FRC’s Lt. Gen. William Boykin says that “Islam is not a religion and does not deserve First Amendment protections”; says Affordable Care Act creates shadow police force that he compares to Hitler’s “Brownshirts.”
Source: “Family Talk,” February 2012, www.rightwingwatch.org/content/dobson-and-boykin-expose-muslim-conspiracy-take-over-world