Conservative religious groups have for years engaged in clashes over family policy. Much of their activism aims to preserve traditional families against what they decry as an *onslaught of feminism, abortion and gender politics* (emphasis added; Bob, 2012: 14–15)

While health policy is usually framed as a part of the secular political domain, it touches upon combustible religious values and engages powerful alliances across religious divides. *Catholics and Mormons; Christians and Muslims; Russian Orthodox and American fundamentalists find common ground on traditional values and against SRHR issues at the UN* (emphasis added; NORAD, 2013: 1)

The current chapter and the two that follow share a common aim: to examine FBO engagement in various controversial issues at the UN. Chapter 4 engages with the topic of women’s sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). The issue is especially controversial as both conservative and liberal FBOs lock horns on this key human rights
issue: that is, “a woman’s right to choose” versus the “rights of the unborn child.” As the quotations above indicate, what Bob calls “conservative religious groups” focus on “family policy,” incorporating a range of issues, including “feminism, abortion and gender politics.” The second quotation, from a recent Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) report, emphasizes that the SRHR “health policy” issue straddles the intellectual and conceptual division between secular and faith, bringing together both conservative and liberal entities at the UN in pursuit of certain goals.

Chapter 5 examines how FBOs engage at the UN on the issue of how to improve human development, especially in the developing world. Despite the global attention on the topic, surveyed in chapter 4, initially there was no explicit sexual and reproductive health objective in the original Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of 2001. However, following the Millennium Project’s three-year study on implementing the MDGs and a period of considerable activism, the integral link between reproductive health and development as originally set out at Cairo in 1994 was internationally reaffirmed at the World Summit of 2005. Finally, in 2008, universal access to reproductive health by 2015 became a late, yet important, global development target under Goal 5 on Maternal Health. Chapter 5 examines differing views between conservative and liberal FBOs on the “right” to development, with each highlighting the moral and ethical necessity of advancing the position of the poorest people. The chapter surveys FBO involvement in formulation and development of the Millennium Development Goals (2000–2015), a major example of seeking to improve outcomes in international development, a key global social justice issue, seeking to improve the lot of the world’s poorest people. The case study in the chapter is on the stormy relationship