A free-for-all at Chicago Hindu meet

Gives call to produce more children while posters deride interfaith marriages

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The three-day World Hindu Congress (WHC) organised by Sangh Parivar affiliates concluded on Sunday with calls for Hindu unity and resurgence.

Several delegates called upon Hindus to produce more children to protect their “social and territorial” integrity. The media track of the convention resolved to “fight fake news” and “fake narratives” in the mainstream media and create alternative narratives with a “Hindu perspective”.

At least one speaker – François Gautier – called for the use of force by the Hindus, who most speakers said were under attack.

“Only Hindus bought into the foolish thought of population control that was propagated. If the Hindus do not reverse this trend, this will be disastrous, and every Hindu should take pride in having more and more children,” said Sadhu Madhu Pandit Dasa, president of ISKCON Bangalore.

The WHC on Sunday evening pulled from its website posters deriding interfaith marriages, produced by Dilip Amin, ‘Dharma Ambassador’ of the Hindu American Foundation. The posters, not part of the exhibition at the venue, questioned Sharmila Tagore’s marriage to Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi and wondered if their son, Saif Ali Khan, would force his wife, Kareena Kapoor, to convert.

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu addressed the convention on Sunday, and government sources sought to distance themselves from the controversy. “We are not aware of any such poster when VP was present,” an official said.

The posters were titled “Interfaith marriages: silent holocaust of Hindus”.

In the media track, participants cited the creation of the ‘urban naxal’ narrative – the idea that people who raise civil rights issues are closet supporters of Maoist insurgents – as the model to emulate.