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Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

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Dear Readers of Families International,

'Family Tasks in Transitions' is the text of a presentation by Prof. Roswith Roth of the University of Graz in Austria, at an International Forum during a Full Committee Meeting of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family at the Vienna International Centre of the United Nations and deals with the psychological term of "family" as with various aspects of 'Gender Bias' or 'Gender Blindness'. Prof. Roth's research also looks at the consequences of the fact that "families go through certain phases and have to deal with emotional processes and adaption depending on their stage of development from building a pair, cohabiting and/or marrying, getting children or not etc." The presentation sums up with reflections on, amongst others, the role of "Feelings of justice and satisfaction with the division of homework" and on the reconciliation of work and family life, to "really correspond with the needs of working parents".

The Commission for Social Development (CSD) of the United Nations meets traditionally each year in February in New York and at its 47th session this year focussed on 'Social Integration' taking into account the relationship with poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all and approved texts on Africa, Ageing, Decent Work and Youth Programmes. Included in this issue are information documents on the CSD as well as the text of a statement from the Civil Society Forum on the theme of the 47th CSD. Information on the CSD is available at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/>. Further texts from the United Nations, on the inclusion of women in solving the global economic crisis, and on 'child soldiers', can also be found in this issue.

Extensive information is included on recent and upcoming events, conferences and workshops, dealing with issues relating to families. We would be happy to include information from your organisation with regard to such events or an information text to introduce your organisation to our world-wide readership. We can be contacted at: famcom.vienna@utanet.at

Peter Crowley
Executive Editor

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NGO Committee on the Family

Presentation at an International Forum

Full Committee Meeting

Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

United Nations Vienna International Centre 17.11.2008

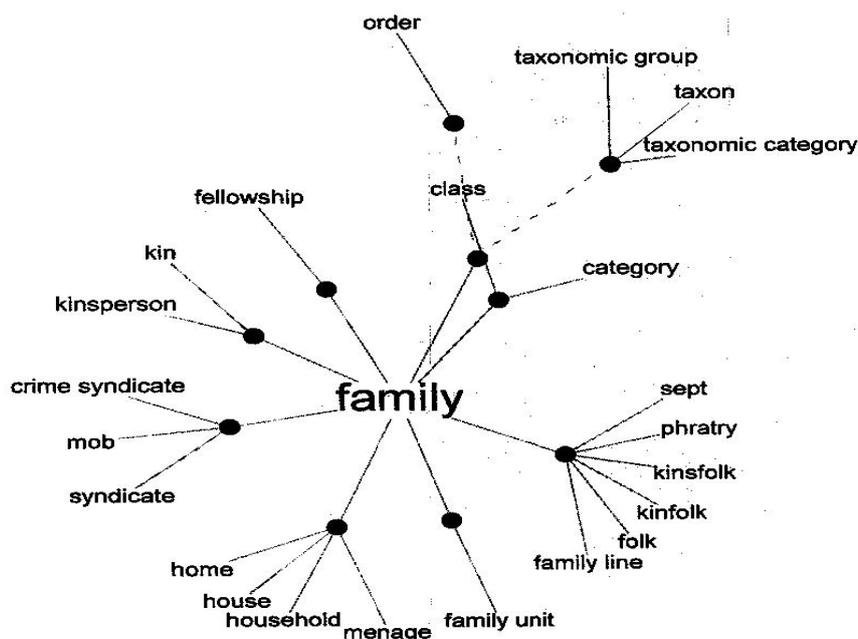
Professor Roswith Roth

Institute of Psychology, Health and Gender Section, University of Graz, Austria

'Family Tasks in Transitions'

I would like to thank Dr Schwartz for the invitation to this meeting; it is an honor to me to be able to give my thoughts about some family issues in this forum.

There are a lot of family definitions; a visual thesaurus presents the various groups of meaning starting from the main term "family" (<http://www.visualthesaurus.com/>)



Family denotes a group of persons united by the ties of cohabitation, marriage, blood, or adoption, constituting a single household and interacting with each other in their respective social positions, usually those of partners, spouses, parents, children, and siblings. The family group should be distinguished from a household, which may include boarders and roomers sharing a common residence. It should also be differentiated from a kindred (which also concerns blood lines), because a kindred may be divided into several households. Frequently the family is not differentiated from the (marriage) pair, but the essence of the family group is the parent-child rela-

tionship, which may be absent from many (marriage) pairs (ÖIF, 1996).

At its most basic, then, a family consists of an adult and his or her offspring. Most commonly, it consists of two (married) adults, usually a man and a woman (almost always from different lineages and not related by blood) along with their offspring, usually living in a private and separate dwelling. This type of unit, more specifically known as a nuclear family, is believed to be the oldest of the various types of families in existence. Sometimes the family includes not only the parents and their unmarried children living at home but also children that have married, their

spouses, and their offspring, and possibly elderly dependents as well; such an arrangement is called an extended family.

I would like to deal with the psychological term of „family“ which allows to subsume a variety of family compositions as the nuclear family, one parent families, step families, patchwork families etc.

In my research I am also interested in gender:

Research findings, data and also policies can be influenced by what is known as Gender Bias. This is a systematic distortion effect which impairs knowledge and perception and can therefore have detrimental effects in the social utilization of research findings.

I will only focus on one kind of gender bias (Eichler, 1991, 1997, 1999; Eichler et al., 2000; Roth, 2002):

Gender insensitivity or Gender blindness

Gender insensitivity is present if biological sex or social gender is ignored as a variable. This phenomenon is also described as gender blindness. The following three sub-forms can be observed:

- **Familialism:** „Household“ or „parents“ are used as the smallest unit for analysis. Research-relevant information affecting individual members of the household or family differently according to their gender are thus neglected.
- **Decontextualization:** No attention is paid to the fact that similar situations can have different effects for genders. For example, questions as to the compatibility of career and family affect mothers and fathers in different ways. Conventional norms require that women decide in favor of child-rearing and against paid employment – in the Eurostat news December 2007 e.g. these women are called „inactive“ (sic!) due to family responsibility - while men are assigned the role of family breadwinner.
- **Assumption of equality of women and men:** Assumptions of equality in areas in which it may not exist. Women and men are, however, affected to different degrees by restrictions existed in the sphere of employment because of unpaid work. Analyses of the employment situation mostly focus, however, on integration into employment and thus ignore unpaid work (housework, childcare and nursing caring). If a gender-differentiated comparison of participation in employment fails to take account of this, the research findings will be biased as far as gender equality is concerned and thus of little value

Like individuals who face particular developmental tasks at certain ages over their lifespan, families go through certain phases and have to deal with emotional processes and adaption depending on their stage of development from building a pair, cohabiting and/or marrying, getting children or not etc.

It is not the traditional family anymore; family arrangements have become more diverse with no particular household arrangement in the US. The rate of nuclear families decreased and single parent families increased between 1970 and 2000 in the US (Williams, Sawyer & Wahlstrom, 2005).

In Europe households without children are in the majority - in Sweden for example with almost 70%, more than in Germany and Austria (Dörfler, 2004; 2005a,b; Dörfler & Krenn, 2005)

Looking at the households with dependent children Sweden has a high percentage of single parents – mainly are these single parents women in EU 15, 9% - again Sweden is an exception, there are more than a quarter of single parents males (Dörfler & Krenn, 2005).

The rapid increase in the number of families with two wage-earners has contributed significantly to changes in family structure and function in the past three decades. A current belief holds that wives who share the income-earner role have a right to expect more assistance from their husbands with such family tasks as meal preparations, cleaning, laundry, and child care.

Research on gender and time use has primarily concentrated on questions of change in the patterning of household labor between men and woman. Research has shown that there are some changes across cohorts with men doing more household work than in the past and women doing less, but most research shows that the distribution of tasks between men and woman remains largely unchanged.

A time use survey in Andalusia (Guil, 2009), which is part of an European project (<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/pubdocs/2006/99/en/1/ef0699en.pdf>) shows big differences between the time use of men and women – in an average day women do 3.10 hours more housework than men and men do 1.45 hours more work in their job. But it is shown that men have more free time than woman.

A survey in Japan from the national television company NHK (2004) indicated that over 50% of men would like to change their involvement in children and household, but another survey of NHK (2005) showed only a change of +14 minutes in men and -5 minutes in woman in 10 years between 1995 and 2005.

Baxter (2005) and Baxter, Hewitt & Haynes (2008) investigated the life course perspective of time use in household in Australia.

The variations in women's and men's involvement in household chores has focused on three main factors to be associated with the levels of involvement in domestic labor across a variety of countries: (1) relative resources, (2) time availability and (3) gender ideology – that means how conservative vs.

gender equality oriented men and women perceive themselves

While the pathways from family of origin to marriage and parenthood were once fairly stable and consistent across groups we know that the demography of families and households has changed radically in recent years. Individuals are spending increasing amounts of time leaving outside the traditional family unit. The rise in cohabitation rates, decline in marriage and fertility rates means that pathways through the life course have become progressively more varied and complex. The amount of work that is needed within the household clearly varies over the life course. The arrival of children will create more work usually for women, while marital breakdown and separation may mean less work for women.

As individuals move through different life course stages as marriage and parenthood and as households are formed and reconstituted over time as a result of separation, divorce and remarriage, the amount of domestic labor to be performed varies and the factors contributing to men and women's level of involvement also appear to vary. For example research has shown that remarried men and women have more equal division of labor than those in their first marriage, and also differences between cohabiting and married couples. There is also evidence that the domestic division of labor is more traditional in households with children and that also the timing and age of children is important in shaping time use.

The study (Baxter, 2005; Baxter, Hewitt & Haynes, 2008) started 1996/97 with three year intervals – the data were from the “Negotiating the Life Course Project” in Australia – The time use question: about how many hours would you spend on the following tasks: preparing meals and doing dishes, shopping for food and other essentials, other housework including laundry, vacuuming and cleaning. And HILDA (Households, Income, Labor Dynamics in Australia Survey) funded by the Department of Family, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs conducted by researchers of the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economics and Social Research at the University of Melbourne started at 2001 and data were collected at three time points (waves) with one year intervals (Baxter, 2005; Baxter et al., 2008).

1. The first point to note is the very large gap between women's time on housework compared to men's time on housework. 2. There is much more variation across marital status for women than is for men. 3. There is evidence that changes in marital status impact upon time spent on housework. As expected there is no change in housework hours if there is no marital status transition. Those who remain married or cohabiting show no changes in housework hours between waves and moreover there is no significant change in housework hours as

a result of a transition from cohabiting to married either for men or woman, for woman there is a slight increase in this transition – but not significant.

The only change in marital status that showed a significant impact on housework hours was the transition from married to separate. In this case men's housework increased significantly if they separated from their wives, in contrast for women who separated from their husband between wave 1 and 2 experienced a significant decline in their housework hours.

The results for a change in parenthood status show the following picture: the men demonstrate very flat and unchanging average house work hours – and women an enormous variation. Those who had no children at wave 1 and no children between the waves or those who had children but no additional births between waves showed no change in housework hours. On the other hand women who experienced a first birth or the birth of an additional child experienced a significant increase in their housework hours.

A European study “FamWork” investigated Family Life and Professional Work: Conflict and synergy (<http://www.eu-project-famwork.org/>).

The viewpoints of males and females are not the same considering the hours women and men doing particular family tasks as child care, housework and maintaining and repair work, but they agree well with each other in their perceptions and evaluation of division of family work. Women do more family work than men (Lothaller, Jagoditsch & Mikula, 2004; subjects were 150 couples, mean age w: 34yrs, m: 36,5yrs; Part-time employment: 77% w, 17% m, Professional work/week: w 33hrs, m 50hrs; Number of children: 1-5).

The burden and gratification of family tasks were evaluated. Women and men perceive less burden and more gratification connected with child care than connected with housework. Housework is related to more strain and less gratification for women compared to men and women perceive more gratification resulting from child care than men. Women evaluate the division of housework less positive than the division of child care whereas there is no such difference in the evaluation of those two tasks for men (Lothaller et al., 2004).

Women do more housework and child care than men, men do more maintenance and repair tasks than women. Although the division of family work is unbalanced mostly to the disadvantage of the women, women and men generally perceive the division of tasks as rather just than unjust and rather satisfactory than unsatisfactory. But women perceive the division of housework and child care as least just and less satisfactory than men (Lothaller et al., 2004).

For women the division of family work was correlated with relationship satisfaction or conflicts in the relationship respectively. The relationship is mediated by perceived justice of the division of family work. This means that the more women perceive the given division of family work to be unjust, the less satisfied they are with their relationship and the more conflicts they have with their partners (Mikula, Body & Riederer, in press). Men experience the more conflicts the less just their partners experience the division of housework, women experience the more conflicts the more they experience the division of housework as unjust and the more their partners experience it as just

To sum up: Avoiding gender blindness and looking closer at the fact that similar situations can have different effects on gender is very important. Investigations of time use, division of housework and child-care by gender can provide us with information how unbalanced some chores are distributed. Feelings of justice and satisfaction with the division of homework might have a greater impact on society as they correlate with conflicts and in the long run with instability of families and possible divorce. Reconciliation of work and family life should be supported by external resources as rethinking (1) the provision of child-care services and consultation services, (2) family leave policies, (3) cash benefits for families and (4) family friendly working conditions. These measures need to be improved and enlarged (e.g. child care services, family-friendly working conditions) in order to really correspond with the needs of working parents.

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News from the United Nations



Intergovernmental Affairs

47th Session of the Commission for Social Development (4-13 February, 10 am, CR 4) will review the priority theme of social integration, taking into account the relationship with poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all. The Commission will open with statements by the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Sylvie Lucas of Luxembourg, the Chairperson of the Commission, H.E. Kirsti Lintonen of Finland and Sha Zukang, USG of DESA. Elsa Stamatopoulou, Acting Director of DSPD/DESA, will introduce the documentation related to the follow-up of the World Social Summit for Social Development and the review of relevant UN plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups. During the first week, important events include:

Civil Society Forum (3 February, 10 am – 6 pm, CR 4), organized by the NGO Committee for Social Development in collaboration with DSPD/DESA and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, will be on the theme Social Integration: Building a Society for All. Sha Zukang, USG of DESA, will deliver a statement at the opening of the Forum

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) - UN Briefing Series on Global Aging (3-4 February, 1:15 - 2:45 pm, Delegates Dining Room) will bring Government delegates, NGOs, foundations and academics together to discuss opportunities and challenges in global aging and intergenerational integration. Sha Zukang, USG of DESA, will be the keynote speaker at the briefing on 3 February on The Economics of Aging: Generations & Development.

Panel discussion on Social Integration, the priority theme of the Commission (4 February, 3 pm, CR 4).
Interactive discussion on Volunteerism for Develop-

ment (5 February, 3 pm, CR 4) with the Executive Coordinator of UNV, Ms. Flavia Pansieri.

Measuring Youth Development: towards a global consensus (5 February, 1:15 – 2:30 pm, CR D), organized by the UN Programme on Youth (UNPY) in collaboration with the Commonwealth Youth Programme, will present measurement tools on youth development (Astrid Hurley, 7-8009).

Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission, Sheikha Hissa al-Thani, will present her report (6 February, 10 am, CR 4).

Panel Discussion on Mainstreaming Disability in Development Cooperation: experience, vision and future (6 February, 1:15-2:45 pm, CR 4) is organized by the DESA Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and will be moderated by Ms. Maria Veronica Reina, Director of International Programs of Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University (Céline-Andrée Adotevi, 7 9587).

Over 28 side-events will be organized by NGOs, Member States and various UN entities (Vittoria Beria, 7-3173).

Roundtable discussion on Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS (3 February, 1:15 - 2:30 pm, CR 3), co-sponsored by DAW/DESA and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, will be held in preparation for the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women. A second roundtable (17 February, 1:15 - 2:45 pm, CR 3) will focus on the review theme of the Commission on Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels (Eleanor Solo, 3-1524).

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Commission for Social Development

Forty-seventh Session

12th & 13th Meetings (AM & PM)

**CONCLUDING FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION, COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT APPROVES
TEXTS ON AFRICA, AGEING, DECENT WORK, YOUTH PROGRAMMES**

New Bureau Elected as Members Adopt Report, Provisional Agenda, Documentation

Concluding its forty-seventh session this afternoon, the Commission for Social Development adopted four draft resolutions on a wide range of issues, including the development of Africa, employment, ageing and youth.

In other actions today, the Commission opened its forty-eighth session, elected its incoming Bureau and adopted the report of its current session as well as the provisional agenda and documentation for the upcoming session.

Introducing the first draft resolution, on policies and programmes involving youth, was the representative of Senegal, who spoke on behalf of the Republic of Moldova and Portugal. By that text, which was adopted as orally revised, the Commission called upon Member States to consider using the goals and targets proposed in the Secretary-General's report on implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to monitor progress in fostering the well-being of young people and their engagement with civil society. It requested that the Secretary-General step up efforts to further develop and propose possible indicators to help States assess the situation of their youth, and urged Member States to work with youth-led organizations and other stakeholders to implement the Programme of Action.

By other terms of that text, the Commission called upon Member States to promote, with United Nations assistance, the well-being of young people through national youth policies, create effective channels of cooperation and information exchange among youth, Governments and decision makers, and support the creation of independent national youth councils or equivalent bodies. It also urged Member States to consider including youth representatives in relevant discussions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

Speaking before the adoption of the draft, Syria's representative said she would join the consensus based on the conviction that the concerns of youth, particularly those under foreign occupation, were related to armed conflict, as indicated in the World Programme for Youth and its supplementary document, and based also on the promise by the draft's co-sponsors to pay adequate attention to youth living under foreign occupation in the General Assembly resolution on that issue.

However, following the action, the representative of the Netherlands said her delegation was not a co-

sponsor, perhaps for the first time, because a new paragraph relating to youth in armed conflict had been inserted at the last minute. While such a serious matter deserved attention, it was not appropriate to have included it in the text, which aimed to be procedural and institutional. Still, the Netherlands supported the text's elements overall.

Echoing those sentiments, the United Kingdom's representative said the focus of one particular group in operative paragraph 12 detracted from the main purpose and message of the text. While the United Kingdom reaffirmed its support for United Nations youth activities, the added remarks made it very difficult to co-sponsor the draft.

The Commission then took up a draft resolution on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), introduced by the representative of the Sudan on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, and approved as orally revised.

By that text, the Economic and Social Council would emphasize the critical role of the African Union and regional communities in implementing NEPAD. It would encourage African countries and development partners alike to work together to enhance institutions and promote regional cooperation as well as African social and economic integration. It would also ask the Council to emphasize that Africa's increasingly unacceptable high level of poverty and social exclusion required a comprehensive approach to development and the implementation of social and economic policies.

Further by that draft, the Economic and Social Council would urge continuous support for poverty reduction and sustainable development measures such as debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance (ODA), increased foreign direct investment (FDI), technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and the conclusion of the World Trade Organization trade round. The Council would encourage all development partners to implement the principles of aid effectiveness set forth in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.

Speaking after the action on that text, Japan's representative said his Government advocated the importance of ownership by, and partnership with,

African countries. Japan was willing to strengthen relations with NEPAD by promoting the NEPAD process.

By the terms of a draft on promoting full employment and decent work for all, introduced by Commission Vice-Chairperson Lilit Toutkhalian (Armenia), the Commission decided to keep the topic under review. It requested the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Commission's forty-eighth session a segment on implementing Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/18 and the impact of the current global financial and economic crisis on full employment and decent work, and how it related to social integration.

Taking the floor after that action, the representative of the Czech Republic, speaking on behalf of the European Union, expressed regret that the text did not include important recent developments on promoting decent work. The 2008 Declaration on Social Justice of the International Labour Organization (ILO) represented the most recent international consensus, but the text did not recognize ILO's efforts to promote decent work and full employment for all. The Commission should address that issue during its forty-eighth session.

By a draft resolution on the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, introduced by Commission Vice-Chairperson Lorena Gimenez (Venezuela) and adopted as orally revised, the Commission called upon Member States to continue efforts to implement the Plan through national strategies and policies, improved data collection and the sharing of ideas, information and good practices, while bearing in mind the Secretary-General's report and the guide created by the Eco-

nomical and Social Council to help Member States further implement the Plan. The Commission also urged Member States to consider including empowerment, awareness-raising and capacity development, as well as evidence-based policymaking and indicators in their national strategies.

Further by that text, the Commission called upon Member States to adopt legislative and other appropriate measures to provide economic security and health care, while mainstreaming a gender perspective, to promote the full participation of older persons in decision-making affecting their lives. It recommended that they strengthen networks of national focal points on ageing, work with the United Nations regional commissions to exchange best practices and reach out to older persons and their organizations to make the national implementation process inclusive.

The Commission also took note of the Secretary-General's report on promoting social integration (document E/CN.5/2009/2); his note on monitoring implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (document E/CN.5/2009/6); and his note transmitting the nominations of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (document E/CN.5/2009/7 and Corr.1).

In other business, the Commission elected Leslie Kojo Christian (Ghana) Chairman of its forty-eighth session. Elected as Vice-Chairpersons were Miloslav Hettes (Slovakia), Christian Sieber (Switzerland), Shoko Fujimoto (Japan) and Connie Taracena Seccaira (Guatemala).

Kirsti Lintonen (Finland) chaired today's final meeting of the forty-seventh session, during which Brazil's representative also made a statement.

47TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL INTEGRATION / INCLUSION: TOWARDS SOCIETIES OF SOLIDARITY AND MUTUALITY STATEMENT FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

INTRODUCTION

In societies everywhere we find groups who are marginalised and vulnerable, especially women and children who bear the most severe consequences of social exclusion and conflict. Ethnic and religious minorities, persons affected by stigmatised illnesses including HIV and AIDS, migrants, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, youth and, more frequently today, older persons are among the groups who also experience increased vulnerability. People who struggle daily under the dehumanising conditions of poverty are

unable to access power and denied the right to participate in creating the social order. From this perspective, social integration/inclusion has an ethical dimension which cannot be ignored.

Our primary concern, then, is social justice as a basis for social integration. The intrinsic dignity and rights of all human beings must be recognised, acknowledged and promoted in all development policies. Those who are excluded must be included as equal partners in all development planning, implementation and evaluation. Both social and economic development need to be people-centered.

The recent economic crisis has been a strong reality check for all of us. It has highlighted how essential it is to have coherence and balance between economic and social development policies. Moreover, it has dramatically shown the widening gap between those who 'have' and those who 'have not.' Since most of our organisations are direct-service providers, we have seen first-hand the harsh impact of this crisis on people struggling to survive all over the world. The crisis has highlighted the need for effective, universal social protection to ensure income security, pension and healthcare provision. It has exacerbated already existing crises of food security, energy and the impact of climate change. All of these will continue to have devastating consequences for already marginalised and vulnerable groups worldwide.

Social integration must respond to this reality. It is the means of creating "a society for all," in which every individual and all groups have access to basic services and the opportunity to contribute to the common good. Indeed, social integration merits the central place given to it by the World Social Summit of 1995. However, we believe that the concept of social integration must be expanded to address current day realities. It is increasingly clear, that all groups can, and must participate fully in society, all the while maintaining their own unique identity for themselves and for the mutual enrichment of all.

STRATEGIES FOR SOCIAL INTEGRATION/INCLUSION

Our reflection on social integration /inclusion has been enriched by the insights of our members around the world. Our sharing on this theme has made us more aware of the need to strengthen local NGOs and assist them in their capacity-building. We see clear signs of hope emerging within the NGO community which we would like to share with you. We will offer some examples of strategies and effective practices to initiate the year's dialogue on social integration /inclusion.

EDUCATION IS KEY

People of all ages have the right to universal quality education, which is a responsibility of governments. Education is a key component by which people can be empowered and through which they gain access to a better life and an opportunity to contribute to the larger society:

- Education empowers people to develop their full potential and defend their human rights.
- Education develops skills for employment leading to economic self-sufficiency, increased productivity, a reduction of social inequity and extreme poverty.

In addition, education should foster social integration/ inclusion by developing attitudes of mutuality and reciprocity necessary for well-being, equity and relationship. These social attitudes promote respon-

sibility for the common good and cooperative approaches to conflict resolution.

Effective practices

New technologies and enterprises are making high quality education more widely and economically available to all. One example is the Open Courseware Consortium, a global collaboration of more than 200 higher education institutions creating a broad and deep body of free open educational content via the internet. Its growing search index currently contains 3,263 courses in many disciplines, from 38 sources and 4 languages.

A second example is Curriki, a community of educators who are working together to create quality K-12 curricula materials that will benefit teachers and students around the world, via the internet. Curriki already has over 2000 online resources.

SYSTEMIC ANALYSIS FOR PEOPLE-CENTRED DEVELOPMENT

Social integration/inclusion is impossible without systemic analysis to identify the root causes of marginalization and exclusion. Some symptoms of social exclusion which invite closer analysis if we are to identify the root causes are: forms of arbitrary discrimination, the gap between the rich and the poor, extremism, structural unemployment due to economic globalization, lack of social safety nets, violence, and environmental degradation. Systemic analysis, an essential step to the transformation of social and economic systems, should start with a consideration of minority needs. Such an analysis is most effective where meaningful partnerships which involve all stakeholders including those who are currently marginalized are established.

If systemic analysis is to lead to social integration/inclusion, then the solutions it suggests must link social and economic growth and care for the environment. It must avoid the pitfalls of current development models which employ market-based economic frameworks that measure only bottom-line profit, often ignoring human and environmental costs. Instead, systemic solutions should lead to a solidarity or social economy. If we want to achieve social integration, we need a social model where all work is recognized and valued, including work that is informal and unpaid. Such social models which include decent work and sustainable practices and profit will support people in the protection of human dignity and the fulfillment of basic needs.

Systemic analysis is an important tool which moves us to people-centered development, harmonizing social and economic goals.

BROADER PARTICIPATION

All who are affected by decisions should participate in their development, implementation and evaluation. This principle that "all must have voice" applies

at the macro level as well as in local settings. Returning to our consideration of the global financial crisis, we see that the exclusive thinking which created the problem is not adequate to solve that problem. A select group of nations is no longer a sufficient forum for discussion of economic challenges which clearly affect the entire globe. If we are to achieve social integration/inclusion, on-going deliberations must now include all nations and not only all nations but the interests of the peoples of all nations. This development reflects the overarching principle that “those affected by a decision need to be part of the discussion and search for solutions.” The economic meltdown demonstrated for us that any system which does not put people at the centre will find itself bankrupt in time.

Effective practices

The recent document produced by ATD Fourth World, “Turning Rhetoric into Action” outlines effective processes to assist those living in poverty toward-meaningful participation in consultations, conferences and seminars where they can speak out about their experience and contribute to the development of more effective policies. Skills development described in the toolkit have already been used to prepare individuals living in poverty for participation in UN events.

An example of a small scale enterprise that puts people first is seen in the Rural Drinking Water Systems and Health/Hygiene Charlas project in the Andean Altiplano of Bolivia. This project facilitated by the Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns illustrates how community members and an NGO have collaborated to obtain safe drinking water and improve basic hygiene. Facilitators helped residents to better their quality of life using existing organizational skills and indigenous values which emphasized consensus and community.

An example of creating a culture of inclusion beginning at the family and community level is illustrated by neighbourhood parliaments, a tripartite initiative in Southern India. The Parliaments, consisting of around thirty neighborhood families and their multi-tier federation at different levels, provide a process which builds towards universal inclusion, envisioning a world where people are in control of governance processes and can ensure their well-being and dignity. (www.kudumbashree.org ; www.ncnworld.org) The forums are small enough for the voices of the

less powerful to be heard and at the same time big enough that the forums sustain themselves and, when federated for wider impact, can lead to total well-being for all.

CONCLUSION

We express our appreciation and strong support for the adoption by the 46th Session of the Commission for Social Development of the theme Social Integration with a two-year work cycle. We hope that our collaboration with you will model the effectiveness and transformative power of social inclusion. We will use this opportunity to draw on the extensive experience of our own organisations in the field, and on as wide a range of civil society actors as possible to advance social integration.

Going forward we will study ‘effective practices’ of social integration /inclusion in order to suggest lines of policy to help us achieve the social development of all. We stress that words must lead to action. We must find ways to build into our programs and policy development the principles of open participation, transparency and accountability. In these times of growing and nearly unbearable stress on so many people, an increase in measurable social development and social integration /inclusion is essential if we are to avoid violent rejections and upheavals of current structures.

To determine the level of progress in promoting social integration we recommend the development of concrete benchmarks and indicators which can assess levels of inclusion, participation and social justice within each state. Such an index which also measures the quality of social relations in a society can be incorporated into human development reports. These social measures, coupled with economic indicators, will give a more complete picture of social progress.

The challenge before us is to turn the forces of globalization to a new global ethic based on unity and diversity and the enjoyment of human rights for all. It is also an opportunity that must be seized. We need to move towards an integrated globalization where all people participate in shaping the decisions and structures which affect their lives, where all have enough to serve their own needs and all contribute to the well-being of others. This would truly be an inclusive society and realize one of the principal aims of the UN Charter: “. . . to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.”

Women must be included in solving global economic meltdown, United Nation says

6 February 2009 – Governments must give women a key role in making decisions aimed at resolving the current global economic crisis, which is likely have a serious impact on the full realization of gender equality, a United Nations committee warned today.

“While the scale of the current crisis is still largely unmeasured, it is expected that women and girls in both developed and developing countries will be particularly affected by the potential social and economic consequences, such as unemployment, increase of responsibilities both at work and at home, decrease of income and potential increase in societal and domestic violence,” the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women said today.

“In such a context, it is necessary to identify and respond to specific needs of women and girls. Gender perspectives should be taken into account in relation to the impacts of the crisis on both a long and short-term basis, including in relation to education, health, security and livelihoods,” it added in a statement issued in Geneva.

It stressed that particular attention must be paid to providing women with access to programmes aimed at immediately alleviating poverty and hunger, so as to guarantee that national and international efforts effectively reach those most in need and that funding of programmes for women’s empowerment is not eroded.

“The Committee underscores the importance of recognizing the unique contribution that women can make in the timely resolution of the crisis. It calls upon States parties to include women in the dialogue and decision-making processes around these issues,” the statement said.

It called on all States parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), often described as an international bill of rights for women, to comply with all their obligations under the treaty in spite of the financial crisis.

Under the Convention, ratified by almost the entire international community, States parties are legally committed to take the necessary steps to end all

forms of discrimination against women in any field – whether political, economic, social, cultural or civic.

Ban declares recruitment, use of child soldiers as ‘unacceptable’

12 February 2009 – On the occasion of Red Hand Day which seeks to mobilize people worldwide to bring an end to the forced recruitment and use of children as soldiers, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today stated that the practice violates human decency and must be eradicated.

“The recruitment and use of children in warfare violates international law. It also violates our most basic standards of human decency,” Mr. Ban said at an event marking the Day held at the headquarters of the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in New York.

“The entire United Nations system and I are determined to stamp out such abuse,” he stressed.

More than 250,000 “red hands,” which symbolize the global campaign, have been collected in over 100 countries, and youth representatives from around the world presented some of them to the Secretary-General today.

The date of 12 February has special significance since it was seven years ago today that the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict entered into force.

To date, 126 UN Member States have ratified the pact, but “all too often these legal obligations are ignored,” Mr. Ban said.

Despite progress made in changing laws, protecting children and helping those impacted by war, more must be done to tackle the scourge, he added.

“We must not rest until all children who have been recruited or used in violation of international law have been released, and until all children feel safe in their homes, schools and communities, without fear that they will be forced into war.”

Today’s event also heard from UNICEF’s Executive Director Ann Veneman, youth delegates and Radhika Coomaraswamy, the Secretary-General’s Special Representative on children and armed conflict.

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Recent and forthcoming events

26 JANUARY 2009

ISPCAN Global Institute 2009: Poverty: Child Protection and Children's Rights and Advocacy- Professionals and Government Roles

San Diego, USA

Global Institutes have attracted many US and international professionals interested in global issues and the most recent research findings in the field of Child Abuse and Neglect in selected regions of the world. ISPCAN welcomed this opportunity to contribute to the field's body of international knowledge on issues of Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment. Our Council, Faculty and members committed to organizing the Global Institutes by providing experts from different countries, representing a multidisciplinary cross-section of the field. We believe that our CAN experts' contribution to this program was rich and valuable and provided San Diego Conference attendees with an opportunity not only to learn, but also to discuss international CAN issues and facilitate networking.

E-MAIL: events@ispcan.org

WEBSITE: www.ispcan.org/gi2009

26 - 30 JANUARY 2009

23rd Annual San Diego International Conference on Child & Family Maltreatment

San Diego, USA

The San Diego Conference focuses on multi-disciplinary best-practice efforts to prevent, if possible, or otherwise to investigate, treat, and prosecute child and family maltreatment. The objective of the San Diego Conference is to develop and enhance professional skills and knowledge in the prevention, recognition, assessment and treatment of all forms of maltreatment including those related to family violence and substance abuse as well as to enhance investigative and legal skills. Issues concerning support for families, prevention, leadership, policy making and translating the latest research into action are also addressed. The conference is organized by the Chadwick Center for Children and Families, Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego.

CONTACT: SDConference@chsd.org

WEBSITE: <http://www.chadwickcenter.org/conference.htm>

9 - 10 MARCH 2009

International Conference on Violence against the Girl Child

The Hague, Netherlands

A conference on violence against girls is to be held in The Hague on 9 and 10 March 2009. It is being organised by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry for Youth and Families, the Ministry of Health, Welfare & Sport, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, and the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre.

The theme of the conference is violence against girls in the home and family setting. The UN Secretary-General's study on Violence against Children by Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro will serve as a reference for discussion.

During the conference, participants will share experience, knowledge and best practices about measures to improve the situation of girls. The aim is for the conference to be a practical follow-up to the Pinheiro report by demonstrating how its recommendations can be effectively implemented. To achieve it, 125 delegates have been invited from all over the world, including experts, academics, and representatives of NGOs and government authorities, regional bodies and international organisations.

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://www.girlchildconference.com/>

9 – 10 MARCH 2009

National conference on caring 2009 - Building the Future with Family Carers
Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast, Australia

The conference will provide the opportunity to come together to exchange and develop knowledge and practice that will enhance carers' health, well-being, financial security and choices – now and into the future.

A stimulating and challenging program has been developed with speakers and presenters including politicians, policy makers, practitioners and, most importantly, carers.

Caring currently attracts unprecedented attention from government, services, business and the community. While some advances have been made there remains much to do to ensure that carers enjoy the same rights and opportunities as other members of the community.

The program will examine the current state and future direction of support for Australia's carers. It will provide a forum to understand and reflect on the landscape of the future, outline challenges, present new plans and showcase initiatives designed to deliver real improvements for caring families.

Whether you are employed in carer support; disability, health, mental health, aged or community care services; are a policy maker; a researcher or a carer, you will be able to engage with the subjects of interest to you.

Held in Carers Queensland's 20th anniversary year, the conference is also an opportune time to reflect on and celebrate over two decades of work with and for carers.

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://www.astmanagement.com.au/Carers9/>

12 - 15 MARCH 2009

Valletta, Malta

This conference will offer a comprehensive outlook on the social fabric of the Mediterranean world and its impact on today's older population; allow the identification of certain areas of ongoing research for all participants; and allow participants to present the results of their own research and critically debate these results.

CONTACT: hans-joachim.kondratowitz@dza.de or sebastian.richter@dza.de

http://www.aarpinternational.org/events/events_show.htm?doc_id=727509

19 – 20 MARCH 2009

National Conference 2009; Social Inclusion: the future of ageing, disability and substituted decision making
Brisbane, Australia

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://www.anzsgm.org/documents/CallforPapersAGAC2009.pdf>

20 – 22 MARCH 2009

Ways of Implementing the EU Directives on Violence against Women, Children and Youth: Good Practices and Recommendations

Ljubljana, Slovenia

The conference is part of the two-year research project "Ways of Implementing the EU Directives on Violence against Women, Children and Youth: Good Practices and Recommendations," which is funded by the EU Daphne II Programme. In the course of the project, the research team is evaluating the process of changes in the legislation on violence against women, children and youth in new EU Member States in the period from 1991 to 2006. The conference will present preliminary research results and hopefully open new chapters on violence.



Organised by:

University of Ljubljana

Faculty of Arts

Department of Sociology

The conference is a part of the international project "Ways of Implementing the EU Directives on Violence against Women, Children and Youth: Good Practices and Recommendations" founded by the European Commission. Research team in Ljubljana works on the analysis of changes in legislation concerned with violence against women, children and youth in 10 EU Member States in the time period from 1991 to 2006. The research is based on in-depth and detailed questionnaire, answered by 8 partner organizations for Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. One of the main goals is to detect good practices and prepare recommendations for the improvement of the implementation of the EU policy against violence.

Plenary sessions and panels will provide a platform for interdisciplinary debates for researchers, policymakers, NGO activists, and other experts working in the fields of **domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking in persons, sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women, children and youth** from the European Union, EU candidate countries and countries included in the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Provisional Programme:

FRIDAY, 20.03.2009

Welcome speech:

Ms. Katarina Kresal, *Minister of Interior (SLO)*

Keynote speech:

Ms. Zdenka Čebašek Travnik, *Human Rights Ombuds (SLO)*

Plenary lectures:

Prof. Liz Kelly, *London Metropolitan University (GB)*

Prof. Carol Hagemann-White, *University of Osnabrück (GE)*

Prof. Jeff Hearn, *Hanken School of Economics (FI)*

Prof. Katja Filipčič, *University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law (SLO)*

SATURDAY, 21.03.2009

Plenary speech:

Ms. Rosa Logar, *Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna (AUT)*

Panel sessions:

Six panel sessions, where more than 30 participants of various professions from over 20 European countries present their papers, will offer a stimulating environment for in-depth discussions on the following issues:

Panel 1: Violence against children: Prevention of sexual violence and providing help to the victims

Panel 2: Violence against women: Recent changes and developments in legislation and research

Panel 3: Services for victims of violence and EU recommendations

Panel 4: Trafficking in persons: Putting victims in the foreground

Panel 5: Information and communication technologies: New chance for violence and protection?

Panel 6: Ethnicity, religion, culture

SUNDAY, 22.03.2009

Closing speech:

Prof. Milica Antić Gaber, *University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts (SLO)*

Presentation of the findings from panels and final discussion.

CONSULTANCY BOARD OF THE CONFERENCE

Milica Antić Gaber, *University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department of Sociology. Ljubljana, Slovenia.*

Mojca Dobnikar, *NGO Vita Activa. Ljubljana, Slovenia.*

Katja Filipčič, *University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law. Ljubljana, Slovenia.*

Jeff Hearn, *Hanken School of Economics. Helsinki and Vaasa, Finland.*

Rosa Logar, *Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna. Vienna, Austria.*

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Iztok Šori, *University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department of Sociology. Ljubljana, Slovenia.*

CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

English

CONFERENCE FEE

EUR 25 for three days, EUR 10 for one day.

APPLICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ms. Tina Romih

E mail: daphne@ff.uni-lj.si

Telephone: +386 1 2411126

PROJECT'S WEBSITE

<http://www.ff.uni-lj.si/fakulteta/ziff/DAPHNEeng/default.htm>

30 MARCH – 4 APRIL 2009

17th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

Atlanta, USA

The Children's Bureau's Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families has announced that the 17th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect will be held March 30 through April 4, 2009, in Atlanta.

The conference's theme, focusing on the Future: Strengthening Families and Communities, reflects the commitment to ensuring that every child enjoys a healthy family life in a nurturing community. It emphasizes the need for prevention and comprehensive services to address co-occurring disorders and highlights evidence-based approaches to improving practice and systems.

The goals of the conference include:

- Disseminating state-of-the-art information on research, practice, policy and system reform.
- Facilitating the exchange of information across disciplines and among individuals, groups and institutions.
- Reaching out to strengthen and sustain collaboration.
- Highlighting the positive contribution of research to practice.

Who Should Attend?

The 17th National Conference is designed for child protection workers and administrators, social workers, educators, law enforcement and court professionals, health care practitioners, researchers, child advocates, parents, volunteers, and others committed to ensuring the protection of children.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, please email 17conf@pal-tech.com

17 – 18 APRIL 2009

Council on Contemporary Families Annual Conference

University of Illinois at Chicago

The Council on Contemporary Families (CCF) annual conference will be held in Chicago on April 17 & 18, 2009 - the theme will be "Relationships, Sexuality and Equality." Changes in American families have radically altered how we define ourselves as men and women. These changes have affected romantic relationships, power dynamics in same and opposite sex couples, and the way we parent.

The CCF conference will examine the latest research and clinical findings about where the lives of boys, girls, men, and women have become more similar in recent years, where they continue to be different and how these differences affect the prospects for each.

Keynote speaker will be Andrew Cherlin of Johns Hopkins University.

FOR COMPLETE CONFERENCE INFORMATION, GO TO:

www.contemporaryfamilies.org/subtemplate.php?t=conference&ext=09conference

22 APRIL 2009

IFSW and APASWE Asia-Pacific Social Work conference 2009: Gender and Child Welfare: 3rd Interdisciplinary Conference

Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom
Cardiff School of Social Sciences

First announcement and call for papers

This conference is concerned with the relationship between gender and child welfare. Its scope includes the ways in which both relationships within families and interactions between family members and professionals are influenced by gender. Gender is not considered in isolation, of course, but in interaction with other social divisions, such as ethnicity and social class, and with other factors such as individual biography and professional training. Gender is also inevitably bound up with sexuality. The social meanings attached to being male or female are variable, contested and changing, yet they continue to influence the identities and practices of children, parents and the practitioners who work with them. Also, assumptions about gender, such as what behaviour is appropriate for boys or girls and the responsibilities of men and women as parents, often permeate interventions.

Certain outcomes for children are significantly associated with gender - for example, there are higher rates of school exclusion, offending and suicide amongst boys, and higher rates of depression amongst girls, although the extent of such differences varies in different contexts and over time. Whilst practitioners who intervene in families continue to work predominantly with mothers, reflecting traditional assumptions about gendered responsibilities for children's welfare as well as the reality that in the vast majority of families women are still the primary caregivers, there is a growing interest in the roles of men both as fathers and as practitioners, and interventions can either reinforce or destabilize existing gender divisions.

The conference aims to raise questions about gender which can help researchers and practitioners understand family relationships and issues in children's development better, and both challenge and enhance interventions in the field of health and social care for children and families.

The conference is the third of a series which have been organised by the Gender and Child Welfare Network, an international group of researchers and practitioners.

Keynote speakers:

Valerie Walkerdine (Cardiff) on gender in childhood

Richard Collier (Newcastle) on rethinking fatherhood, law and masculinity

Carol-Ann Hooper (York) on mothering through adversity

Call for papers

Presentations are invited on any area of theory, research or practice which relates to the theme of gender and child welfare. Presentations can be from researchers or practitioners in a range of academic and practice disciplines, including sociology, psychology, social policy, social work, socio-legal studies, education and nursing. We anticipate having presentations of 20 minutes' duration plus time for questions.

Please send a title and abstract of no more than 200 words to the **CONFERENCE ORGANISER**, Jonathan Scourfield (scourfield@cardiff.ac.uk). Include your full name(s), the organisation where you work and full contact details.

26 - 29 APRIL 2009



www.rathanea.hr/ensact

Social action in Europe: different legacies & common challenges?

Introduction

The Dubrovnik 2009 Conference is one of the first initiatives of the European Network of Social Action, ENSACT. ENSACT is a joint initiative of:

- EASSW: the European Association of Schools of Social Work
- FESET: Formation d'Éducateurs Sociaux Européens/European Social Educator Training
- IFSW: the International Federation of Social Workers European Region
- ICSW: the International Council on Social Welfare European Region
- FICE: the Federation Internationale des Communautés Éducatives
- AIEJI: the International Association of Social Educators

ENSACT is an umbrella network for the social domain in Europe and embraces representatives of professional associations, faculties/schools of social work and social pedagogy, and national councils of social provision and welfare. It includes social professionals, lecturers, researchers, policymakers and social service providers in Europe.

The main activities of ENSACT are:

- promoting the quality of social services;
- voicing its members concerns and interests on the European level;
- organising joint conferences and expert meetings;
- providing information on relevant issues.

The 2009 ENSACT Conference **Social action in Europe: different legacies & common challenges?** presents an opportunity for social professionals, lecturers, researchers, students, policymakers, service providers and service users to share and exchange valuable knowledge, to debate upon current challenges and to discuss ways forward in the field of social practice, education, policy and provision.

VISIT ENSACT at www.ensact.eu

24 - 26 MAY 2009

Family Centred Care

Edmonton, Canada

Conference themes include:

- Listening to the voices: children, youth and families
- Finding the strength: empowering families
- Partnerships and working alliances
- Meeting the transition challenge
- Implementing fcc: successes and challenges
- Multicultural practices and intercultural understanding

FURTHER INFORMATION: Conference website - <http://www.fcc-conference.ca>

2 - 4 JUNE 2009

The National Summit on the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Child Welfare

Jackson Hole, Wyoming

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Family Violence Prevention Fund, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, will host a summit on the intersection of domestic violence and child welfare (co-occurrence) in Jackson Hole, Wyoming on June 2-4, 2009. The summit, to be held a decade after the publishing of *Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice* (the Greenbook), is themed "From Inspiration to Innovation: Leadership, Partnerships, and Change". This is an opportunity for professionals around the country working on issues related to co-occurrence to share their strategies for transforming the way child welfare agencies, domestic violence organizations, courts, other service providers, and communities respond to families in need.

FURTHER INFORMATION: http://www.naccchildlaw.org/events/event_details.asp?id=43831

We are soliciting proposals to present workshops at the summit, a two and a half day conference providing training and information regarding co-occurrence. We are looking for presentations that will highlight innovative practices and policies, inspire leadership, and provide insight into effective collaborative and system responses.

- Differential and individualized response models
- Information sharing and confidentiality
- Working with men who use violence, batterer accountability, and father-hood
- Legislative responses
- ADR and family engagement models
- Custody and visitation
- Cultural relevancy
- Promoting linkages within communities and with other local/state initiatives
- Promoting best practices around adult and child victim safety, including advocacy models and risk assessments
- Working with parents who are dealing with multiple problems, e.g. chemical dependency, mental health, and domestic violence
- Enhancing safety for families that re-main together
- Effects on children, resiliency, and innovative children's programming
- Addressing overrepresentation of families of color
- Evidence-based practices
- Pre-system intervention and community engagement models
- Enhancing leadership within the key systems and communities
- Reasonable efforts determinations, petition language, and diversion of cases
- Cross-system collaborative practices
- Promising practices in legal representation of parents and children
- Role of evaluation and mapping outcomes

2 - 5 JUNE 2009

Family Group Decision Making Conference

Pittsburgh, USA

Registration is now open for the 2009 Conference on Family Group Decision Making and Other Family Engagement Approaches

The brochure for the 2009 Conference on Family Group Decision Making and Other Family Engagement Approaches is now available. The planning committee worked hard this year to create a conference that will engage audiences interested in not only FGDM, but also other family engagement approaches used in the United States and abroad.

FURTHER INFORMATION: www.americanhumane.org/protecting-children/conferences-trainings/family-group-decision-making-conference.html

Background on Family Group Decision Making

Since the mid-1990s, many communities throughout the world have begun to implement family group decision making in cases of child abuse and neglect. American Humane's Conference on Family Group Decision Making provides the opportunity for communities to gain knowledge from one another about their approaches, policies, and effectiveness.

The conference is designed to provide interactive training for entry-level and advanced practitioners, supervisors, and administrators of child welfare programs; professionals in disciplines that are connected with family group decision making initiatives; and re-searchers, evaluators, and policymakers with an interest in this practice.

American Humane has been sponsoring the Family Group Decision Making Conference since 1997. Each year, the event is based on feedback from past participants, which creates a cutting-edge forum to address the current needs, issues, and interests of the communities engaged in FGDM practices around the world.

Participants have the opportunity to network and attend presentations by many of their colleagues in child welfare, research, education, and juvenile justice. Presenters are chosen through a selection process from the call for presentations, and are often considered leaders in their field.

4 – 5 JUNE 2009

World Conference on Social Work and Social Development

Montréal, Canada

Connecting now for the future

This conference will be an important opportunity for a broad range of professionals to meet, exchange ideas and reflect on issues and practices in relation to the transition to independent living among youth at risk.

This conference is addressed to youth, decision-makers and service-providers in community-based networks and in the public health system, as well as to academic re-searchers and professionals. It is organized by members of the Quebec Association of Youth Centres, academics and representatives of community-based organizations and agencies working with youth at risk.

CONTACT: annie.pontbriand@enap.ca

<http://www.enap.ca/site/en/youth-conference-presentation.aspx?sortcode=2.1.2.2>

08 - 10 JUNE 2009

2009 AARP Diversity & Aging Conference: The Power of Inclusion

Chicago, Illinois/ USA

The conference is designed to address the challenges faced by diverse populations as they age. It will purposefully bring together the field of diversity and the field of aging to examine their impact on our society. While we strive to recognize and accept our individual differences—race and ethnicity, sexual orientation/identity, gender, current physical and mental abilities, socio-economic status or in the way we choose to express our spirituality—we also understand that there is power in inclusion. This conference will set the tone for continued dialogue and examination of the pressing issues challenging an aging and diverse society.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://www.aarp.org/aarp/human_resources/diversity/articles/2009_diversity_aging_conference.html

17 – 19 JUNE 2009



ICCFR's 56th annual international conference

“Training, education and support for professionals and all those working with and on behalf of families”

Details of this conference and how to register will be available on the ICCFR website www.iccfr.org at the end of 2008 but look out on the website for information during the autumn period.

If you are interested in offering a workshop in the topic area, or if you want further information or have questions please contact one of those identified below as soon as possible (deadline for workshop proposals is 30 September 2008).

Jacques Lizée, ONAF President:
jacques.lizee@carrefourmunicipal.qc.ca

Paul-André Tremblay:
patremblay@cofaq.qc.ca

Terry Prendergast, Chair ICCFR
terry@marriagecare.org.uk
00442073711341

Claire Missen, Vice Chair ICCFR
cmissen@eircom.net



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON COUPLE AND FAMILY RELATIONS

56th International Conference

In collaboration with North American Family Organization (NAFO)

Policy and Practice - developing and implementing training and education programmes for all who work with couples and families.

Québec, Canada

The International Commission on Couple and Family Relations ICCFR

The Commission was established in 1953 by the International Union of Family Organisations (IUFO/WFO). Its annual international conferences are dedicated to making an innovative and contemporary contribution which addresses the issues and challenges couples and families face throughout the world. Its extensive international membership includes organisations and individuals involved in

couple and family therapy, relationship education, social work, mediation, psychology and psychiatry, research, social policy, family courts and the law, and family organisations. As a result the Commission sustains a groundbreaking interdisciplinary dialogue about couple and family relations and the support provided for them by the professions.

ICCFR Mission Statement

ICCFR-CIRCF believes that stable flourishing communities are based on thriving couple and family relations. The Commission dedicates itself to the advancement and world-wide dissemination of knowledge about those relationships, and to activities promoting their well-being. It provides an international forum in which individuals and organisations can engage in dialogue about the issues and challenges couple and family relations face, and about the means by which the related professions can collaborate in responding to them.

“Policy and Practice - developing and implementing training and education programmes for all who work with couples and families.”
International Conference
Sherbrooke 16th – 19th June 2009

To compare existing training programmes in Quebec, in Canada and around the globe, to research results and effectiveness, to consider how they can be improved in the best interest of families.

There is great concern throughout the world about the problems that couples and families have to contend with. This concern is shared between Governments and those whose task it is to provide the levels of support for those who need help.

This conference will therefore have a focus on those who provide that help. The training and continuing professional development that workers in this field require has become more complex over the decades. It is our hope that the Conference will provide a forum for sharing best practice and new initiatives so that workers are well equipped to deal with the complex matters they face.

A range of keynote presentations from different parts of the world, backed up by workshops that will allow participants to discuss, learn and share experience and skills. Training cannot be an end in itself, but ignoring it as part of the solution in family support is short-sighted and unhelpful.

Conference programme

- keynote presentations by internationally recognised experts
- Among the sub-topics to be addressed will be:
 - Family mediation
 - Training, education and support for those who lead youth on their summer holidays or free time
 - Training, education and support for parents
- workshops offering the chance to explore topics in more depth
- study group sessions developing international, multidisciplinary perspectives on conference topics and participants' interests
- The conference language will be French & English; interpretation will be provided in the plenary sessions and facilitation in some of the workshops
- A mixture of cultural events and informal entertainment will make up the social

Pre Conference Day

In addition, as a request from Sherbrooke University, a scientific day will be held exploring the Conference theme on the 16 June 2009.

Members and non-members of the ICCFR will be welcome.

Conference Venue

The 2009 ICCFR conference will be held at Sherbrooke University campus. The city of Sherbrooke is situated on the south east of Quebec province very near to the US border and 150 kilometres from Montreal. Sherbrooke University is very well known with 36000 students.

We appreciate their partnership with our organisation.

www.usherbooke.ca

www.ville.sherbrooke.qc.ca

The 56th international ICCFR conference is jointly organised with North American Family Organization (NAFO).
North American Family
Organization (NAFO)

Participation

Individuals and organisations involved in couple and family counselling and therapy, family organisations, research, social policy, family-related legislation and legal processes, relationship education, and the provision of welfare services are invited to participate in the conference.

2 - 5 JULY 2009

8th Biennial Conference of Asian Consumer and Family Economics Association (ACFEA)

Yamaguchi, Japan

FOR MORE INFORMATION (Call for Papers etc.) <http://acfea-2009.li.econo.yamaguchi-u.ac.jp/>

12 - 17 JULY 2009

Linking Global Foster Care

Dublin/ Ireland

An excellent training programme will be provided and after a hard days work attending plenary sessions and workshops the social activities will kick in. Any one who has previously attended an International conference hosted by IFCA can vouch for a successful and most enjoyable conference in 2009.

CONTACT: lisa@conferencepartners.ie
or therese@conferencepartners.ie
<http://www.ifco2009.ie>

07 - 10 SEPTEMBER 2009

Children and the Law: International approaches to children and their vulnerabilities

Prato, Tuscany

The rights and best interests of children in the 21st Century are challenged by new and emerging social concerns. These include: the plight of child refugees, children escaping war and trauma, new forms of child victimization such as children as soldiers, children entering the criminal justice system, the pervasiveness of child sexual abuse, and children harmed by maltreatment and family breakdown. These children require more effective responses from governments and national systems responsible for their care and protection.

This international conference will bring together practitioners, policy contributors, advocates and researchers from welfare, criminology, law, policing, health and mental health. It will examine the vulnerabilities of children and young people and how the systems responding to those at risk of harm must be reshaped to better protect their rights and best interests.

CONTACT: social.work@med.monash.edu.au
<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/socialwork/conference09/>

21 - 26 SEPTEMBER 2009

14th International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma

San Diego/ California

This year's theme:

Promoting Peace in the Home, Your Community, and the World:

Linking Practice, Research, and Policy Across the Lifespan

Conference Tracks:

Children Exposed to Violence, Child Maltreatment Victims, Adult Survivors of Child Maltreatment, Intimate Partner Violence Victims, Intimate Partner Violence Offenders, Trauma and Its Effect on Military Personnel and Their Families, Other Trauma, Sexual Assault Victims, Sexual Assault Offenders, Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Populations, Legal Issues and Criminal Justice, Healthcare, At Risk Youth Note special themes of Cultural Diversity as well as Substance Abuse

CONTACT: ivatconf@alliant.edu
<http://www.ivatcenters.org/Conferences/CallforSubmissions11-7-08.pdf>

23 - 24 OCTOBER 2009

YPN and "Junges Forum" Colloquium 2009: Consumer - Household - Family"

IFHE Office - Bonn, Germany

www.ifhe.org

CALL FOR PAPERS

Young Professional Network (YPN) of the International Federation for Home Economics
and

JUNGES FORUM an advisory board of the German Association for Home Economics organise in collaboration a

Colloquium

Is to be held October 23rd and 24th 2009 in Bonn/Germany

The Young Professionals Network (YPN) is a council committee of the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) consisting of young members of the Federation. The JUNGES FORUM (JF) is an advisory board of the German Association for Home Economics (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Hauswirtschaft (dgh) e.V.) organising annual colloquia for several years. On the occasion of the 30th birthday of the German section of IFHE the 17th colloquium 2009 is organised in collaboration. Together YPN and JF represent young academics and practitioners from all fields related to home economics or household related sciences including young experts and students in home economics education, food science, consumer economics, consumer affairs, social economics, institutional and hospitality management amongst others. With this »Call for Papers« we would like to invite you to submit a paper to the 17th Colloquium. The meeting will be held in Bonn/Germany at the General Secretariat of the IFHE (Kaiser-Friedrich-Strasse 13) on October 23rd and 24th 2009.

The topic of this year's conference is: **Consumer - Household - Family**

The empowerment and wellbeing of individual consumers and families are crucial factors in home economics. Wellbeing, as an outcome of everyday practices, is created in the living environment of individuals. The implications of capacities and competences of individuals and families impact far reaching levels in local or global (global) communities. Therefore, sustainable lifestyles in homes and households are basics to a sustainable development on a global level. Social, economic and environmental sustainability in everyday household processes are profound.

Some distinct factors influence the wellbeing of consumers so that home economics includes numerous disciplines. Because phenomena and challenges of everyday life are not typically onedimensional, a coalescing of inter and transdisciplinary knowledge is essential. Home economics emphasizes four dimensions or areas of practice: an academic area, a curriculum area, a dimension to influence and develop policy and the area of everyday life. Consequently home economics might include: food, nutrition and health; textiles and clothing; shelter and housing; consumerism and consumer science; household management; design and technology; food science and hospitality; human development and family studies; education and community services. This disciplinary diversity combined with the aim of achieving a sustainable lifestyle means that home economics can influence all sectors of society by intervening and transforming political, social, cultural, ecological, economic and technological systems, at global levels.

Call for Papers«

Practitioners, students, young researchers and those who are interested are asked to contribute to this conference.

Research projects, practical ideas or concepts that are related to the topic of this conference can be submitted. Abstracts can be related to currently running or completed projects.

Papers should be sent via **Email**, to:

jungesforum@dghev.de until **May 31st 2009**.

We expect a maximum of one page abstract (max. 400 words) with indication of the title and the author. Selected papers are presented at the colloquium followed by discussion and will be published in the „Jahrbuch Junge Haushaltswissenschaft 2009 [Yearbook Young Home Economics 2009]. Please have in mind that you describe your project in particular, illustrate your methods and discuss your results. Your abstract should keep this order as well.

Format requirements: file format .doc, .txt, or .odt; paper size DIN A4; font size 12pt; line spacing 1.5; margins 2,5 cm. We will inform presenters of their acceptance until July 15th 2009.

The presentations are to be held at the 17th Colloquium of JUNGES FORUM on October 23rd and 24th 2009 at the General Secretariat of the International Federation for Home Economics, Kaiser-Friedrich-Strasse 13, Bonn/Germany.

The written essay of around 10 pages for the yearbook is due 30th November 2009. For more information and questions please do not hesitate and contact Stefan Wahlen (jungesforum@dghev.de).

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HOME ECONOMICS:

is an International Non Governmental Organisation (INGO) in consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF) and with the Council of Europe

**IFHE YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS
NETWORK
YPN**

CONTACT:

Stefan Wahlen, chair of YPN

Markus Draaken, chair of JUNGES FORUM

Email: jungesforum@dghev.de

www.ifhe.org

www.dghev.de/jungesforum (in German)

10 - 13 NOVEMBER 2009

20th conference: Many Voices, Many Communities, Social Justice for All"

Auckland, New Zealand

Sub Themes:

- Population dislocation – disaster recovery/refugee/migrant/human trafficking
- Indigenous populations
- Social work education, research and practice
- Social justice and youth justice
- Social exclusion and inclusion/ empowerment of communities/community development

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://www.SWinNZ2009.co.nz>

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