

VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY



www.viennafamilycommittee.org

Digital-Networks:

www.10yearsIYF.org

www.20yearsIYF.org

www.civilsocietynetworks.org



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ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Since its inception in 1985 projects of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family have been supported by:

- ❖ Austrian Federal Government
- ❖ Bank Austria Creditanstalt
- ❖ Berndorf Group
- ❖ Country Womens Association in Lower Austria
- ❖ E.F.T. Transportagency GmbH
- ❖ European Commission
- ❖ Government of Germany
- ❖ Government of Liechtenstein
- ❖ Government of Luxembourg
- ❖ Government of Spain, Catalonia and the Balearic Islands
- ❖ International Non-Governmental Organisations
- ❖ Lower Austrian State Government
- ❖ Lower Austrian Insurance AG
- ❖ OMV Energy Group
- ❖ Rotary International
- ❖ Schoeller-Bleckmann Oilfield Equipment AG
- ❖ Shell Austria AG
- ❖ Siemens
- ❖ United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities



Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES 2022

At a Full Committee Meeting, which was held as a Zoom video conference, representatives of the 41 International Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), who are members of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, and 22 associate member organisations, discussed various institution-building projects and activities. The Board of the Committee had worked out a schedule for their implementation, which was realised in co-operation with the support of the member organisations of the Committee and their representatives. The worldwide network of civil society organisations, research and university institutions, government agencies and individuals, continues to be, not only a beneficiary of interactive exchange, but is in many cases, directly involved in the work of the Committee. The Vienna Committee on the Family, understands itself as a non-political non-denominational umbrella organisation, with a global focus on the well-being of families worldwide, providing a bridge between families-oriented Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), The United Nations, Governments of Member States of the United Nations and Academia, as well as between CSOs themselves, through the various digital-networks set up and maintained by the Committee.

The following projects were realised in 2022

1. Families International (FI)

Issues, Nos. 121-124 of the Quarterly Bulletin of the Committee, were published online in 2022 at www.viennafamilycommittee.org The Editorial Committee consists of the Editors, Julia Birner B.A., Christin Kohler, M.A., Karin Kuzmanov M.Sc., Isabella Nening, M.A., and the Deputy-Editor, Peter Crowley, Ph.D., who had been the Editor from 2009 to 2020.

Special features in FI in 2022 included: Issues relating to Families at the 60th United Nations Commission for Social Development (CSD) 2022, Gender Equality from a global perspective, The Plight of Children in 2022 and Gender Equality particularly in Families. Each issue of Families International also included texts submitted by member organizations of the Committee, as well as other relevant texts from United Nations agencies.

Over 700 readers of 'Families International' are informed by the Secretariat of the Committee by E-Mail, when the latest issue is published and available to download free of cost.

2. International Forum:

Gender Equality: Why is it important and what can we do to achieve it?

The Committee organised and scheduled an International Forum, during a Full Committee Meeting, at the United Nations Vienna International Centre (UNVIC) for Monday May 9th 2022, to observe the United International Day of Families (UNIDF) 2022. However due to the continued Covid Pandemic it was held as a Zoom conference and entitled: Gender equality: Why is it important and what can we do to achieve it? with Prof. Zoe Lefkofridi who holds the first Professorship for Gender Studies at the Paris-Lodron University Salzburg (PLUS) and Nadine Zwiener-Collins, a postdoctoral researcher in Politics and Gender Diversity and Equality, at the Department of Political Science, at the University of Salzburg, who gave the presentation. Prof. Lefkofridi & Dr. Nadine Zwiener-Collins have since provided their text, which was published in issue Nr. 122 of Families International. Cf. www.viennafamilycommittee.org

3. International Forum:

'Two Steps Forward, two Steps Back. Challenges in Gender Equality Research, and their Policy Implications.'

The Committee further organised and held an International Forum, during a Full Committee Meeting, during which a new Board of the Committee was elected cf. below, at the United Nations Vienna

International Centre (UNVIC) for Monday Nov.7th 2022 with Prof. Vanessa Gash, City, University of London entitled: ‘Two Steps Forward, Two Steps Back. Challenges in Gender Equality Research, and their Policy Implications.’ Prof. Vanessa Gash is an empirical and interdisciplinary social scientist based at the School of Policy and Global Affairs at City, University London and has specialised in comparative labour market research of precarious employment and has expertise in both panel and cross-national data structures. Her work focuses on gendered differences in employment and precarious contracts and has recently published a series of reports for the UK Government on the Gender Pay Gap. Prof. Gash also provided her text which was published in issue Nr. 124 of Families International. Cf. www.viennafamilycommittee.org

4. Cooperation with the United Nations Focal Point on the Family in New York

The Board of the Committee keeps its various networks informed with documents of United Nations Resolutions and Reports of the United Nations Secretary-General pertaining to family issues, and organised the above mentioned International Forum to observe the United Nations International Day of Families in May 2022.

The 60th United Nations Commission for Social Development (UNCSD) scheduled for February 2022, had as its Priority Theme: ‘Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda.’

The Committee Coordinator for the UNCSD, Franziska Reichel, drafted a statement for the Committee on this theme, and it was also signed by a number of member organisations of the Committee, and subsequently submitted to the UNCSD by the Committee, and has since become an official document of the UNCSD in 2022. <https://undocs.org/E/CN.5/2022/NGO/3>

The 61th United Nations Commission for Social Development (UNCSD) scheduled for February 2023, has as its Priority Theme: ‘Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’. Franziska Reichel, also drafted a statement for the Committee on this theme, and it was also signed by a number of member organisations of the Committee, and subsequently submitted to the UNCSD by the Committee, and has since become an official document of the UNCSD in 2023. <https://undocs.org/E/CN.5/2023/NGO/6>

An eighty page report, of a study update entitled: ‘**Documenting Contributions of Civil Society Organisation to the Well-Being of Families**’ by Peter Crowley Ph.D. Secretary of the Committee, in cooperation with the United Nations Focal Point on the Family, which was presented by the author, at the United Nations in New York, to observe the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Family, is available to download, on the United Nations website:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/family/international-day-of-families/2014-3.html>

The following quotation from the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General to the General Assembly on November 26th 2019, (A/75/61-E/2020/4) which relates to activities of the Committee going back to 2019, brings to bear the appreciation of the highest office of the United Nations for the endeavours of our Committee, the Member Organisations and their representatives, for the well-being of families worldwide. “The Vienna NGO Committee on the Family organized two international forums. One forum, held in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime, was focused on the global effort to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, in the light of Sustainable Development Goal 3. The other, which was focused on child and youth media protection, from the perspective of parents, was the third of in a series of three forums dealing with families and digital media usage, organized in cooperation with the University of Salzburg. The Committee also published its online quarterly bulletin, “Families international”, incorporating forum proceedings, with a focus on endeavours to eliminate the practice of child marriage.” <http://undocs.org/A/75/61>

5. Website of the Committee

www.viennafamilycommittee.org

This website, which was set up in 2000 is, amongst others, the main vehicle to publish our quarterly bulletin 'Families International'. Issues Nos.121 to 124, which were published in 2022, may be downloaded from our website without cost to the reader. A button e.g. entitled 'Families Online' is available on the homepage with a direct link to the proceedings of three International Forums organised by the Committee, between 2017 and 2021, dealing with families and digital media usage.

6. The Three Digital Networks of the Committee [203 CSOs Networked - 92 in Sub-Saharan Africa]

Laura Mysliwicz and Sebastian 'Oberreiter, kindly accepted the invitation of the Committee, in 2022, to become the 'Committee Digital-Networks Coordinators' updating the networks & websites.

A so-called 'Digital Divide' exists between those connected and not connected to the Internet. Statistics from the United Nations International Telecommunications Union based in Geneva, for 2022, show that 5.3 billion or ca. two thirds of the world's population is using the Internet, but only about 40% of the African population is online. 45% of African males, as against 34% of females, were using the Internet in 2022. Worldwide 82% of those living in urban areas in 2022 were using the Internet, while in rural areas this figure was 46%.

92 CSOs, or 45.3% of the total, of 203 CSOs in the three Digital Networks, set up and maintained by the Committee, are based in Sub-Saharan Africa, which is particularly affected by the 'Digital Divide'. These 92 CSOs offer important knowledge resources for the well-being of families, especially in the first 1000 days of a child's life, which are so important for its future development, as UNESCO pointed out in 2014. These digital knowledge networks expand the concept of Civil Society being an advocacy and discourse entity, to also being a resource entity, especially of knowledge.

www.10yearsIYF.org

This website continues to experience interest, as a digital network, and also as a resource archive for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF) in 2004, with many relevant links to other sources. It resulted out of the participation of the then Chairperson of the Committee in a consultative meeting of twenty international and regional Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) set up by the United Nations Secretariat in New York, in 2002, to implement a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly to observe the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF) in 2004. There it was agreed to prepare a study, under the chairmanship of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family on: 'Contributions of Civil Society Organisations to the Well-Being of Families' since 1994. The original study, in which thirty two CSOs, from eighteen countries in five continents participated, was also published in book form with the financial support of the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities in 1994, under the title: 'Documenting Contributions of Civil Society Organisations to the Well-Being of Families' and edited by P. Crowley, who presented the study at a meeting of the United Nations in New York, to observe the United Nations International Day of Families on May 15th 2004. The book was also submitted to the members of the special session of the 59th General Assembly of the United Nations on Dec. 6th 2004, to observe the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

The United Nations Secretary General referred to the above publication in his Report to the 59th Session of the General Assembly (A/59/176, 2004). The contents of the book, which also includes a comparative perspective of international, national, and local families-oriented civil society organisations enhancing social justice, are also available to download at www.10yearsIYF.org

www.20yearsIYF.org

To facilitate the implementation of an update of the above-mentioned study, originally carried out at www.10yearsIYF.org a further website was set up by the Committee at www.20yearsIYF.org to

gather data entered by the twenty-eight participating CSOs, from seventeen countries in four continents. This network now further offers a knowledge resource on family issues for visitors to the website, by creating a so-called 'Cyber Street' of websites of families-oriented CSOs, which deal with eight categories relevant for families: 'Children; Economic-Financial; Education; Gender; Health Issues; Organisation; Parents; and Subsistence-Services.' This website is also a further digital network and includes a series of links, inter alia, to the United Nations Focal Point on the Family in New York.

www.civilsocietynetworks.org

An Interactive-Internet-Forum for civil society organisations world-wide, including local, national and international CSOs, as well as academic and research institutions, was set up at the request of many organisations from around the globe, and then went online in August 2004 at www.civilsocietynetworks.org. This Network had 143 member organisations from 25 countries in 2022 having incorporated the Interactive-Forums the Committee had originally set up with civil society organisations in Eastern African and in Central and Eastern European Countries, between 2000 and 2004, and then extended and opened up, as a further digital network, to worldwide membership in 2004. Civil Society Organisations worldwide can join, and participate in this Forum, free of cost, by contacting the Committee at: contact@viennafamilycommittee.org

Each organisation receives an individual User-Identity and Password and is able to enter and change data as necessary. The Forum also includes a discussion board, internal e-mail and online conference facilities, as well as a newsletter function, for each individual member organisation of the network.

The above outlined facts and figures, reflect perhaps, the ever-increasing interest generated by issues relating to families and also speak for themselves, with regard to the continued and increasing endeavours worldwide of the Committee, which observed in 2022 the 37th Anniversary of its inception in 1985.

7. The Board of the Committee for 2022 - 2025

Board Officers:

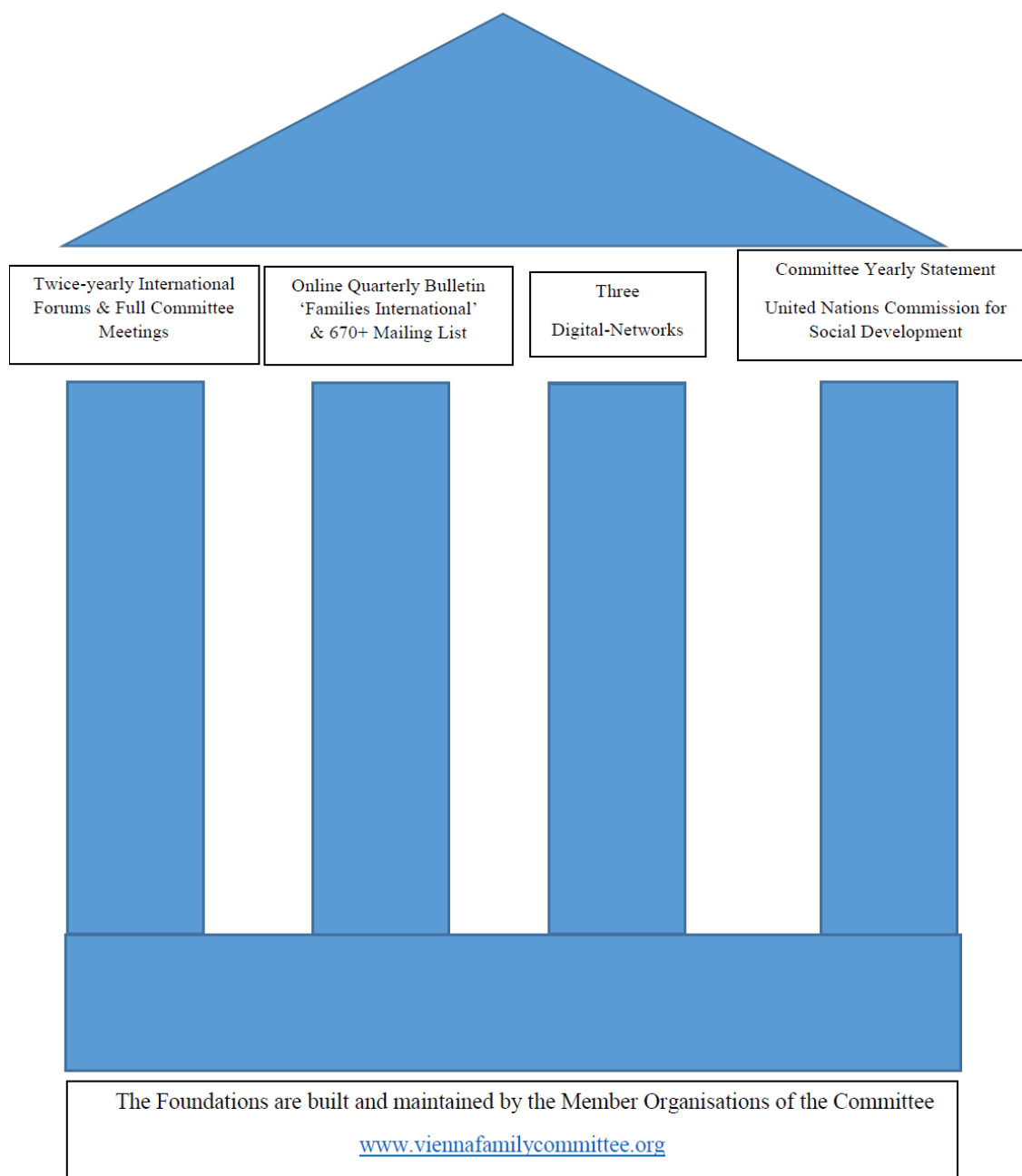
Chairperson: Valeria Foglar-Deinhardstein, M.Sc. European Union of Women
Deputy Chairperson: Wolfgang Engelmaier, M.A. Kolping International,
Secretary: Peter Crowley, Ph.D., International Council of Psychologists,
Deputy Secretary: Katharina Muegler, Kolping International,
Treasurer: Julia Zacharenkova, European Union of Women

Board Members:

Julia Birner B.A., Families International,
Christin Kohler M.A., Families International,
Karin Kuzmanov M.Sc., Families International,
Isabella Nening M.A., Families International,
Franziska Reichel, Committee Coordinator,
United Nations Commission for Social Development,
Dr. Eleonora Teixeira Da Costa Rossoll,
Federation of Catholic Family Associations.
Dr. Maria Riehl, Women's Federation for World Peace,

THE FOUR-PILLAR STRUCTURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY

The Roof is built and maintained by the Board of the Committee



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January 2022
contact@viennafamilycommittee.org
Secretary: Peter Crowley, Ph.D.