

**VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY**



[www.viennafamilycommittee.org](http://www.viennafamilycommittee.org)  
[www.10yearsIYF.org](http://www.10yearsIYF.org)  
[www.20yearsIYF.org](http://www.20yearsIYF.org)  
[www.civilsocietynetworks.org](http://www.civilsocietynetworks.org)



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***ANNUAL REPORT 2016***

**Projects of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family have been supported since its inception in 1985 by:**

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



***PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES***

In two Full Committee Meetings representatives of the 40 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 and approved the Plan of Action for 2016. The Board of the Committee worked out a schedule for its implementation, which was realised in co-operation with the support of the member organisations of the Committee and their representatives. The world-wide network of civil society organisations, research and university institutes, 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 Committee understands itself as 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 networks created by the Committee, as outlined below.

***The following projects were realised in 2016***

**1. Families International**

Issues, Nos. 97 - 100 of the Quarterly Bulletin of the Committee were published online at [www.viennafamilycommittee.org](http://www.viennafamilycommittee.org) Special features included: Follow-Up to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Family; 'The United Nations International Day of Families 2016'; Family Issues reflected at the 54th United Nations Commission for Social Development 2016; The proceedings of an International Forum organized by the Committee held on Nov.7<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the United Nations Vienna International centre entitled: Family Poverty – Causes, Consequences, and Solutions, published in the special jubilee issue No. 100 of Families International, which also included a paper on Involved Fatherhood. Over three hundred readers of 'Families International' are informed by the Secretariat of the Committee by e-mail, when the latest issue is available to download.

**2. International Forum: Conditions of Reproduction  
Lessons from China and Japan**

The Committee organised an International Forum, which was held during a Full Committee Meeting, at the United Nations Vienna International Centre on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016, with the theme: Conditions of Reproduction – Lessons from China and Japan, including a presentation by Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Mazal from the University of Vienna.

**3. International Forum: Family Poverty – Causes, Consequences, Solution,**

The Committee organised a further International Forum, which was held during a Full Committee Meeting, at the United Nations Vienna International Centre on November 7<sup>th</sup> 2016. A presentation was made by Dr. Michaela Moser, researcher and lecturer at the Ilse Arlt Institute of Social Inclusion Research at the University of Applied Sciences in St. Poelten, Austria. The text of the presentation by Dr. Moser has also been published in 'Families International' Issue Nr. 100.

#### **4. Co-operation with the United Nations Organisation**

The Board of the Committee circulated the Message of the United Nations Secretary-General on the occasion of the International Day of Families (IDF) on May 15th 2016, to the various networks of the Committee and kept these networks informed with documents of United Nations Resolutions and Reports of the United Nations Secretary-General pertaining to family issues.

A background note prepared by the Focal Point on the Family, Division for Social Policy and Development, (DSPD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat entitled: 'Families, healthy lives and sustainable future, which was the theme chosen by the United Nations for IDF 2016, as well as the programme of a panel discussion on the theme, held at the United Nations in New York, were also included in Families International.

Further included was the text of a draft resolution from the United Nations General Assembly, Human Rights Council on 'The Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.'

The full 80 page report of the update of a study entitled: 'Documenting Contributions of Civil Society Organisation to the Well-Being of Families' by Dr. Peter Crowley, Secretary of the Committee, in cooperation with the United Nations Focal Point on the Family, is available on the United Nations website at:

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

#### **5. Websites of the Committee**

[www.viennafamilycommittee.org](http://www.viennafamilycommittee.org)

The homepage of the Committee had 34.152 visitors in 2016. This website is, amongst others, the main vehicle to publish our quarterly bulletin 'Families International'. Issues Nos. 97 to 100, which were published in 2016, may be downloaded from our website without cost to the reader, or to the Committee.

[www.10yearsIYF.org](http://www.10yearsIYF.org)

This website continues to experience interest and was visited 31.097 times in 2016. [www.10yearsIYF.org](http://www.10yearsIYF.org) is a resource archive for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF) in 2004, with many relevant links to other sources, and resulted out of the participation of the then Chairperson of the Committee in a consultative meeting of 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 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF) in 2004, where 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 was 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', edited by P. Crowley and submitted to the members of the special session of the 59<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 2004, to officially observe the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

The United Nations Secretary General referred to the above publication in his Report to the 59<sup>th</sup> 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 family-oriented civil society organisations enhancing social justice, are also available online at: [www.10yearsIYF.org](http://www.10yearsIYF.org)

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To facilitate the implementation of an update of the study originally carried out at [www.10yearsIYF.org](http://www.10yearsIYF.org) a further website was set up at [www.20yearsIYF.org](http://www.20yearsIYF.org) to gather data entered by the participating CSOs in the study-update, from seventeen countries in four continents. The website further offers a knowledge resource of 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, which was visited 16.232 times in 2016, also includes a series of links, inter alia, to the United Nations Focal Point on the Family.

[www.civilsocietynetworks.org](http://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 went online in August 2004 at [www.civilsocietynetworks.org](http://www.civilsocietynetworks.org). This Forum had 143 member organisations from 25 countries in 2016. The network originally incorporated the Interactive-Forums the Committee had already set up with civil society organisations in Eastern African and in Central and Easter European Countries, and which was then extended and opened to a world-wide membership. Civil Society Organisations can join this Forum, free of cost, by contacting the Committee at: [contact@viennafamilycommittee.org](mailto: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. The website also includes a newsletter function for each individual member organisation of the forum. The website was visited 7.475 times in 2016.

#### **6. Total Number of Visitors to the four Websites maintained by the Committee**

The four websites maintained by the Committee had a total of 88.956 visitors in 2016. That corresponds to an average of over 243 visitors per day to one of the above four websites.

These figures reflect perhaps the momentum created by the observance of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Family in 2014, as well as the ever increasing interest generated by issues related to families. These figures also speak for themselves, with regard to the continued, interest in the endeavours world-wide of the Committee, which observed in 2016, the 31<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its inception in 1985.

#### **7. Elections to the Board of the Committee for 2016 - 2019**

The following representatives of member organisations were elected to the board of the Committee during a Full Committee Meeting at the United Nations Vienna International Centre on November 7<sup>th</sup> 2016:

Board Officers:

Chairperson: Mag. Wolfgang Engelmaier, Kolping International,  
Deputy Chairperson: Dr. Gertraud Pichler, International Federation for Home Economics,  
Dr. Pichler in the meantime resigned, for personal reasons,  
Deputy Secretary: Dr. Peter Crowley, International Council of Psychologists,  
Treasurer: Ceja Gregor-Hu, International Inner Wheel,

Board Members:

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Mazal, University of Vienna,  
Joy Orton, LDS Charities,  
Dr. Maria Riehl, Women’s Federation for World Peace,  
Dr. Eleonora Teixeira Da Costa Rossoll, Federation of Catholic Family Associations.

**Vienna NGO Committee on the Family**

January 2017