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Quarterly Bulletin of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

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Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

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Dear Readers of Families International,

This issue highlights the activities of a the Portuguese Civil Society Organisation 'PROSALIS' which is a member organisation of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, including a report of a workshop organised jointly with the University of Lisbon, entitled, 'What is Lacking in Policy for the Family' as well as a congress entitled; 'Family and Ageing: Promoting Social Integration and Solidarity between Generations' which includes a statement by Renata Kaczmarek, Focal Point on the Family, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs/ Division for Social Policy and Development.

Further included in this issue is the agenda for a Full Committee Meeting of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family at the United Nations, Vienna International Centre on November 11th 2013, incorporating an International Forum and a presentation entitled; 'The Family in a Sustainable World' by Dimiter Philipov, a senior scientist with the Austrian Academy of Science, Institute of Demography, who is also working for UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) in Geneva, where he has worked on a special report: "ICPD Beyond 2014: The UNECE Region's Perspective". The presentation will highlight the parts of the report that deal with the family but also refer to unpublished results from the questionnaire leading to this report. The text of the presentation will be published in a subsequent edition of 'Families International'.

Also included in this issue are further reports from Member Organisations of the Committee, and recent and upcoming events of interest.

With kind regards,

Dr. phil. Peter Crowley

Editor

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From the United Nations

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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

—

MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES
“ADVANCING SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY”
15 May 2013

Families hold societies together, and intergenerational relationships extend this legacy over time. This year’s International Day of Families is an occasion to celebrate connections among all members of the constellation that makes up a family. It is also an opportunity to reflect on how they are affected by social and economic trends – and what we can do to strengthen families in response.

Unemployment is forcing many young people, often eager for independence, to rely on their parents longer than they would have hoped. The lack of affordable and quality childcare is complicating efforts by parents in dual-earner families to combine their work and home obligations. Inadequate pensions and care for older persons demands more attention as we succeed in our goal of extending lives.

These challenges make family support more important than ever – for the young person seeking a job while living with their parents, for the grandparent who relies on their children for shelter and care, and for the many members of extended families who take on childcare responsibilities.

Around the world, family members are doing their part. They deserve support from policy-makers and decision-makers, from public institutions and private businesses.

There is a growing recognition around the world that we need to strengthen policies promoting intergenerational solidarity and support intergenerational programmes and initiatives. Evidence shows that adequate pensions and caregiver support help not only older persons but whole families. Intergenerational programmes promoting volunteering among the young and old benefit all generations. Opportunities for people of all ages to bond revitalize whole communities.

Intergenerational initiatives also address global development priorities. They counteract inequality and exclusion, encourage active citizenship and even improve public infrastructure through community-based projects.

On this International Day of Families, I call on governments, civil society, families and individuals to support initiatives that bring people together across generations toward building a healthier world for all.

**“Advancing Social Integration and Intergenerational Solidarity”
15 May 2013 (observed 16 May 2013)**

Background Note

Social integration & intergenerational solidarity

The World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995) defined the objective of social development in general and social integration in particular as the creation of “a society for all”. The very goal of social integration is to bring all social groups, particularly vulnerable groups, and individuals into the political, social, cultural and economic structures of a society so that they can participate in the decision-making process and improve their access to opportunities.

Fostering of social integration goes hand in hand with promoting intergenerational solidarity, often defined as bonding between and among individuals in multigenerational family networks and among different age cohorts in the larger community. In practical terms intergenerational solidarity relates to reciprocal care, support and exchange of material and non-material resources in families, typically younger, and older generations.

TRENDS IMPACTING INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONS

Several demographic and socio-economic changes such as population ageing, increased mobility and migration, rapid urbanization and break-up of traditional extended family structures pose numerous challenges to social integration and intergenerational solidarity. Such trends present new demands on family members and test the grandparent-parent-youth-child relationships. Among those demands is the rising cost of caring for older dependants often negatively impacting families’ employability, productivity as well as savings ability. Moreover, changing living arrangements have resulted in older persons living alone, in skipped generation households, or in institutionalized settings. On the other hand, with growing unemployment disproportionately affecting youth, young people may need to depend on their parents or grandparents for material support or housing provision longer than before.

Despite these challenges, research indicates that in both developed and developing countries, family bonds remain strong and family members assist one another through financial support and care with many surveys pointing to the fact that older people are more likely to provide support to younger generations. What’s more, in many countries, it is grandparents who are often day care

providers for young children when their own parents are at work. They may even assume the role of near-custodial grandparents, where grandchildren reside with them while parents migrate in search of jobs. Skipped generations are not uncommon in many regions, where orphaned children, often due to HIV/AIDS, are in permanent care of their grandparents.

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES ADVANCING SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Policies and programmes promoting social integration and intergenerational solidarity, including family-oriented policies, have been increasingly taking into account the changing roles and demands of all generations. Such policies have a potential to contribute to effective public policy by promoting social cohesion, shared responsibility and understanding between generations. They can be fostered at family, community, society and national levels.

Since the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, some efforts have been made to advance social integration by addressing age, gender-based and other forms of discrimination and improving mechanisms for participation. Mostly, however, social integration efforts have so far focused on special needs of social groups, in particular youth and older persons.

Regarding older persons, one of the goals of the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing is to move them “from social exclusion to integration and participation”. This concept is the basis for intergenerational programmes fostering solidarity between generations, which have been proved effective in promoting social inclusion and fight discrimination based on age or ability and creating “a society for all ages”.

In terms of youth, “intergenerational relations” have been added as a priority area to the World Programme of Youth in 2007. Its proposals for action focus on strengthening families, empowering young people and bolstering intergenerational solidarity.

Intergenerational initiatives mainly aim at increasing cooperation, interaction and exchange between people of different generations. Through such programmes, people of different ages share

their talents and resources and support each other in relationships benefiting both the individual and their community. Intergenerational programmes provide a platform for developing positive relationships across age groups and strengthen ties between family and community members.

Family focused policies and programmes promoting social integration and intergenerational solidarity vary across the regions. They may range from initiatives aiming at social inclusion of marginalized groups to specific programmes promoting multigenerational living arrangements, shared intergenerational sites, mentoring programmes at work and volunteering of younger and older people in the community.

Besides their financial impact, social protection schemes play an important role in restoring dignity and conferring recognition to older people. They also tend to support intergenerational solidarity and mutual assistance within families. Tax benefits and policies supporting intergenerational care, such as allowances for grandparents who care for their grandchildren contribute to strengthening family ties as well.

GOOD PRACTICES IN PROMOTING INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND THEIR BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPANTS AND LARGER COMMUNITY

Some good practices promoting social integration and intergenerational solidarity focus on intergenerational housing arrangements, such as encouraging extended family proximity in living through tax credits or home loan incentives while “cash and counseling” programmes allow using cash benefits by family members caring for their relatives.

Educational institutions may also promote intergenerational programmes by encouraging volunteering of older persons in schools and offering community service requirements for high-school students. School-based intergenerational programmes often involve community service, requiring young people to help older persons with their daily activities.

Shared sites intergenerational programmes are uniquely positioned to help generations interact as they provide ongoing services to both children and older persons who attend the programmes in a single facility. Typically, these are care programmes for the very young and older adults, where both generations can interact.

Another care setting involves older persons as employees or volunteers at children’s care programmes. Research indicates that senior employ-

ees provide a family-like quality to the programmes and help teachers offer more one-on-one care. Older care workers help children developed social skills and ease the transition from home to school.

Parenting education has a potential to strengthen intergenerational bonds by instilling values of tolerance and respect for older persons among young children and teaching good caregiving skills to parents of young children.

The analysis of many intergenerational programmes indicates that they improve participants’ self confidence, self-esteem and perceived health while facilitating greater community integration and involvement. Mentoring programmes have been found to help younger people build very concrete and often highly specialized skills, find work and expand career opportunities.

Intergenerational approaches have a potential to address many broader development priorities, such as building of active communities, encouraging responsible citizenship, as well as addressing inequality and social exclusion. Benefits to the broader community also include the revitalization of public infrastructure through community-based projects.

A WAY FORWARD

There is a growing recognition that public policies should be framed with intergenerational approach in mind. Policy development must consider the diverse needs in sectors dealing with social security and welfare, pension, health care, social support and employment and labour as well as lifelong learning. Family-friendly policies need to recognize the changing nature and diversity of family structures and forms and obstacles to full engagement such as larger geographical distances preventing families from providing care and support to their dependent members.

Various social policies ranging from education, social protection provision, policies reconciling work and family life, measures eliminating age-related barriers in the workplace as well as investing in community programmes involving people of different ages contribute to improved intergenerational relations at the family, community and society level.

As social integration based on inclusive development requires mechanisms facilitating participation and partnership, Governments should establish mechanisms facilitating the involvement of all other important actors at the national and local levels. Social inclusion units within governments

or task forces for social integration and intergenerational solidarity are needed as well as local government mechanisms for the mobilization of efforts at community levels.

However, the implementation of socially integrative policies is not a sole responsibility of Governments but should be shared by all sectors of society including the private sector and civil society at large. Partnerships between the public and private sectors, civil society in the broadest sense including grassroots movements, trade unions and academic institutions are necessary for social integration efforts to succeed.

It is also important to share knowledge about good practices in social integration and intergen-

erational initiatives being implemented and advocated by different stakeholders.

The success of social integration and inclusion efforts depends on the effectiveness of public policies and the support from local communities, civil society and families and their active participation in the society as citizens with rights and responsibilities. To move closer to 'a society for all' a broad-based participation and engagement of people in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes should be encouraged at all levels.

For additional information:

Butts, D., L. L.Thang & A. Hatton Yeo (2012) Policies and Programmes Supporting Intergenerational Relations.

<http://social.un.org/index/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=VGkxtn3WSyA%3d&tabid=1733>

Fact Sheet: Youth and intergenerational partnerships (2010)

<http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/youth-partnerships.pdf>

United Nations (2011, 2012). *Report of the Secretary-General Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014*. New York.

United Nations (2010). *Report of the Secretary-General on the Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family*. New York.

United Nations (2008). *Report of the Secretary-General on Promoting social integration*. New York.



United Nations Social Development Network (UNSDN) <http://unsdn.org>

- United Nations Social Development Network (UNSDN) is an online network for knowledge exchange among social development professionals worldwide. Users from all over the world will visit the portal to access news, events, best practices, publications and reports on social development issues covered by the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).
- UNSDN will focus on promoting knowledge exchange and networking. UNSDN will work with donors, governments, universities, and civil society organizations to make information more accessible and relevant: who does what, where; what ideas are emerging; and what lessons are learned. In addition to social development practitioners, these resources will help researchers looking for collaborators or data.
- UNSDN will aggregate news and papers from leading social development websites. The network will develop partnership with the five regional commissions, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector to promote knowledge exchange on social development.
- UNSDN will help social development practitioners to learn from others' successes and failures, access the latest research on key social development topics, and coordinate new and innovative solutions. By contributing and sharing knowledge and experiences, practitioners can build professional development networks and access work opportunities in their fields of expertise. More importantly, they can avoid reinventing the wheel, and put existing knowledge to work.
- Social Development stakeholders around the world will use unsdn.org on a daily basis to share knowledge, discuss challenges, and find partners. UNSDN will be a central hub for these resources, simultaneously facilitating relationships between stakeholders and providing free access to thousands of articles, reports, and studies related to development.
- UNSDN will provide access to a wealth of knowledge, resources, and networks on a range of social development issues. Users can browse through content in topics such as ageing, youth, disability and indigenous. This allows all social development stakeholders, from practitioners working at the grassroots level to government and donor officials, to share resources and collectively achieve greater impact in their work.

United Nations



Nations Unies

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REFERENCE: DSPD-13/00197

23 April 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) has launched a new web portal (as a pilot project) called United Nations Social Development Network (UNSDN) to share knowledge and good practices among social development professionals worldwide on ageing, civil society, cooperatives, disability, employment, family, indigenous peoples, poverty, social integration, technology and youth. UNSDN is also uniquely positioned to disseminate information and knowledge produced by the United Nations system in the area of social development, particularly on the three core issues of poverty eradication, employment generation and social integration. UNSDN will act as a major interface between DESA and its partners working in the areas of social development. DESA intends to strengthen its relationships with its partners involved in advancing the global social development agenda.

There is an increasing awareness that knowledge is central to all development efforts as it empowers social actors to find appropriate solutions to their own challenges. By sharing knowledge, the portal aims to assist Member States in the development of policies and practices that promote the goals of the World Summit for Social Development.

I, therefore, invite you to visit the portal and explore how you can contribute to it and engage effectively with DSPD-DESA and the United Nations system as a whole. We want to strengthen our partnership and deliver together on our global commitments. To that end, I very much look forward to your suggestions, feedback and recommendations on the use of this portal and the way forward.

By working together, we can build more prosperous societies and a more just, equitable and sustainable world!

The portal can be accessed at: <http://www.unsdn.org>.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniela Bas', written over a printed name and title.

Daniela Bas
Director

On Internet: The Gateway to Social Policy and Development -<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev>

E-Mail from the United Nations Social Development Network (UNSDN.org) to invite the Vienna NGO Committee to become a partner of the portal: www.unsdn.org

Dear Dr. Michael Schwarz,

I am Chencen Cai working in the United Nations Headquarter in New York. I am with the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). We cordially invite you to be a partner of our portal, the United Nations Social Development Network (UNSDN.org), which was launched in August, 2012.

The UNSDN is a web portal on social development issues. We are trying to achieve through this project to gather all existing information in the field of social development. We aim at providing a place where different stakeholders, such as Member States, international organizations, experts in social development and ordinary people, can share best practices, ideas and information about social development issues all in one place. We partner with organizations around the world, for example, UN Agencies, NGOs, universities and international development agencies. Our partners provide us with their news, reports, publications and events, and we will publish these on the UNSDN dedicated to social development.

If you would like to be our partner, we will reach you once to twice a month for your news and publications. We also encourage partners to share the link of the website where you publish your work, so that we are able to keep track of the news and publications in the earliest time. Most importantly, if you desire, we will give you the access to the UNSDN portal so you can put the relevant news or publications as soon as it is available. We will also put the name and introduction of your organization on our portal.

Please directly reply this email indicating whether your organization would like to be our partner. Attached is the detailed information about UNSDN. If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you very much for your time and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,
Chencen Cai

Chencen Cai

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The reply to the letter of the Secretary of The Vienna NGO Committee on the Family:

Dear Mr. Peter Crowley,

Thank you for your email and the resources. We are glad to have the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family as our partner. Please find the attached letter from Ms. Daniela Bas, Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), regarding the project our division launched last August. Also attached is a document with detailed information about the project.

UNSDN will reach you once a month for your news and articles on social development. You are also more than welcome to send articles directly to us anytime when they are available. We constantly seek news, reports, publications and events in the following areas:

- Ageing
- Civil Society
- Co-operatives
- Disability
- Employment
- Indigenous Peoples
- Innovation and Technology
- Poverty
- Social Development
- Social Integration
- Youth
- Empowerment

If you need any further information, please feel free to contact us via email. Thank you very much!

Best Regards,

Chencen Cai

Chencen Cai

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From the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

PRESENTATION PROSALIS

PROSALIS – Projecto de Saúde em Lisboa is a NGO recognized as a Family Association with generally representation, with health and social aims.

PROSALIS has the Special Consultative Status at ECOSOC – Economic and Social Council, United Nations, New York. With this Statute NGOs have the opportunity to be heard by an audience truly worldwide and contribute to the achievement of its objectives, to express their opinions and influence the work of the Council.

By the other hand, PROSALIS integrates the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family (United Nations, Austria) and the NGO Committee on Ageing (United Nations, New York).

Celebrating on the 1st of October the 23th Anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons, PROSALIS could not remain indifferent to this date, proposing to promote the XXIII Congress under the theme "Family and Ageing: Promoting Social Integration and Solidarity between Generations".

GOALS

On the 15th May, 2013 celebrated the International Day of Family. In his message for this day, Ban Ki Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations has a special focus on promoting social integration and solidarity between generations, which we adopted as the theme for this congress. By the other hand, following the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing, held in 2009, Ban Ki Moon said there is a lack of a systematic and comprehensive approach to the specific circumstances of older men and women in the existing human rights mechanisms.

OECD notes that "from the knowledge of the problems of aging, it is possible to intervene in young ages, knowing that the policies have effects on the future of individuals."

Now we launched the challenge for this event:

- The family, as the agglutinate element of society and intergenerational relationships, perpetuate a legacy for succeeding generations.
- The intergenerational relationships, based on the basic principle that a society is built with and for all, based on the sense of responsibility to each other and the spirit of complementarity and solidarity;
- The unemployment is forcing many young people who want to be independent, to remain dependent of their parents for longer than desired;
- As life expectancy is increasing, it is essential to dedicate more attention to the needs of the elderly.

Before this challenge, dedicating support to families is more important than ever, that is, for the young person who is looking for a job and lives with his parents, and the grandparents, who depend on their children in matters of housing and care and for the members of extended families who have the responsibility of taking care of the most vulnerable.

Worldwide, the family members perform a role that corresponds to them and therefore deserve the support of the responsible for formulating policies and decisions of public institutions and private companies. Globally, increasingly recognizes that it is necessary to ensure policies that promote intergenerational solidarity and support the programs and initiatives.

Experience shows that with adequate pensions and support for caregivers, benefit not only the elderly but also all family members. Programs that promote voluntary activities among young people and seniors are a benefit to all generations. The opportunities offered to people of all ages to create emotional bonds revitalize an entire community.

Initiatives aimed at an interaction between members of different generations also contribute to achieving global development priorities counteracting inequality and exclusion, promoting the participation in civic life and even improve public infrastructure through community projects for the establishment of a healthier world for all.

Will be addressing the following topics:

Social Protection Systems Versus Demography: economic and social consequences

Repercussions of employment problems in young and elders

Family and ageing: needs and responsibilities in health and wellness promotion

Good practices in building a society for all ages

ORGANIZATION

PROSALIS – PROJECTO DE SAÚDE EM LISBOA

Member of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family at the United Nations

Member of the NGO Committee on Ageing (United Nations, New York)

Associate Member of ICAA-International Council on Alcohol and Addictions

Associate Member of EOE- European Offenders Employment Forum

ECOSOC – Economic and Social Council – United Nations

Member of the WFO – World Family Organization

PRESIDENT

Maria Helena Patrício Paes

SCIENTIFIC PARTNER

Marta Gonçalves, Ph.D. and team

Invited Assistant Professor, Department of Social and Organizational Psychology

Researcher at the Centre of Social Research and Intervention of ISCTE Lisbon

University Institute (Portugal)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

PROSALIS – Projecto de Saúde em Lisboa

Ana Santos, Dora Pinto, Luís Miguel Zúquete

SECRETARIAT

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COLLABORATION



XXIII Workshop
What is lacking in policy for the Family (III)? - Retrospect and Prospects PROSALIS – Lisbon
University Institute ISCTE-IUL

REPORT

The PROSALIS XXIII Workshop, organized jointly with ISCTE-IUL, titled "What's missing in policy for the Family (III)? - Retrospect and Prospects ", took place on March 7th, 2013 at Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon.

1. Content

- Ten years after PROSALIS creates again an opportunity to discuss issues related to the family in a retrospective way. With clear data of Census (1991, 2001, 2011), OECD ("Doing better for Families") and Eurostat ("Evolution Unemployment Rate") we know that the fertility rate has declined, the unemployment rate is three times higher among young people (15-21 years), and in most age groups women are the most affected by the lack of jobs. The low economic development is detrimental on several levels and the European Union seeks solutions to this problem ("European Platform Against Poverty"). We highlight the importance of empowering families through education and skills development. Strategies for the family should be based on cohesion, harmonization in social and economic challenges, and resilience.
- There is also concern with the current social evolution, in particular with the family and the threats that it suffers: against the production, reproduction, socialization, satisfaction, food, housing, etc. This is a responsibility of the State and Civil Society, which poses a social and economic challenge of protection and increased resources. For example, both parents have responsibility in educating children, but that implies gender equality, support/involvement of parents as well as the existence of support structures.
- There have been several legislative changes that involve the family: abortion law, facilitation of divorce, equality between union and marriage, approval of civil marriage between same sex.
- An aging population raises many intergenerational issues.
- At this time the ICF (Institute of Sciences for the Family - Catholic University) is the only specific organ in the Study of the Family. And this theme can be seen as specific or inter/multi-disciplinary, both in terms of research and in terms of theory, with master programs such as Family Mediation and Families at Risk (Policy and Family, which was never open). Their concerns are focused on solidarity between generations within the family, such as value/internal family politics. But what is the Family? What is the concept? In one study, a grandfather said it was like a river flowing, a 20 years pregnant mother said it was a psychological placenta, a teenager it was a launching pad. They are generations with different ideas of families, but what have these views in common or different? Why do people join groups? Because it suits and tastes. Because it meets the needs and expectations. These are all ideas of interdependence: the river depends on having water, the placenta exists because there is an embryo, and there is no launch without a ramp. There is one certainty in this interdependence (depending on each other), there is a story, a support; it is not static it has a proper motion. Even family solidarity is not a fixed identity, we need to operationalize it.
- We need to take into account the reality: scientific advances in birth control, the ingression of

women in the labor market (which messes with many issues of fertility), the professional instability, the taste for freedom and fear of stability among young people, and the "sandwich generation" that have to care for their children/grandchildren and parents/grandparents. With this reality we have the concerns of proximity and cohesion/communication, greater social responsibility and appeal to experience peace in the family (and in its frenetic/fever/conflicted life).

- In terms of mental health, children have financial costs but also emotional, as well as the relationships between parents and children need a more emotional communication. Family is important and it is a relational model that provides the individual construction, acting for the protection, affection and social formation. Its dynamic implies communication, consistent and flexible rules, democratic leadership, integrated marital relationship and self-esteem. Brazil's demographics appear similar to the Portuguese: decrease of couples with children, couples without children increased; increase in women with no spouse and children, which leads to a family reordering in which the woman is gaining ground within the family and the man loses; decreased rate of separation and divorce rate increased, in which a large proportion of separations occurs at weddings with 26 or more years; women are who most have children custody, and the family reference person begins to be more the woman and less the man.
- The European Union and the UN underline the importance of these issues (2012: Year of Intergenerational Solidarity; 2014: 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family). The report "Best practices when making policies for the Family", highlights some points: to integrate intergenerational aspects on policies/programs, review and encourage public/private funds; assess the impact; create awareness (with commemorating dates and parties); recognize grandparents as caregivers/care receivers; invest in parents (parenting); promote education/research, and ensure the possibility of multigenerational housing.
- There is competition for available resources due to increased life expectancy and lack of renewal of generations, with high percentages of discrimination due to age, this also becoming a serious problem. The WHO defines Intergenerational Solidarity as world order for active aging. Right now there are some products/services accordingly (eg., Intergenerational University at ISCTE-IUL) and a major magazine on the theme "Journal of Intergenerational Relationships" (which puts science available to all and it is important while designing programs and voting laws). Also in terms of science the production of articles on intergenerational learning give us indicators as: the learning resource for active people, the support of the younger generation at work; transmission of knowledge and resources in the education system; transmission of culture; development communities based on civic values, involvement, volunteerism and participation.
- Combining school-family: to bring families to school depends strongly on the role that school attaches to family, the responsibility of the family about the child and the responsibility of the child in the family, taking into account the very instructive climate (vs. little educative) lived in Portuguese schools. Initiatives (such as building genealogic tree, exchanging recipes and craft skills) rely heavily on the pedagogical council coordinator.
- Also, the work-family conciliation and the balance personal life, family and work are important aspects of the theme. We need to take into account the meanings and their impact on quality of life, in the workplace and productivity of individuals. There is a growing concern (apparent) of the companies to be familiarly responsible (linked to CSR, ie respect for the individual route promoting individual facilitators/drivers, taking into account the policies/practices and culture). The main challenges felt at European level come from the need to integrate diversity and the existence of talent retention policies of seniors. As facilitating factors and solutions, evolving a methodology for reconciliation of conditions for flexibility, professional and personal development, health and wellness services and benefits.
- The observation of family roles also influences this work-family conciliation because there is a challenge to traditional roles (Man-Work vs. Woman-Family) causing conflict in facilitating and in family balance. Stress and welfare in one sphere (work or family) affects the other; attachment and perception or existence of social support are considered important. Marital status (especially marriage) generates gains net to combat the adversities experienced by families.

- As interferences, women report lack of physical health in work-family conciliation while men the existence of depression. To reduce these effects social support, practical (instrumental and informational), emotional, at home and at work, and life satisfaction are factors to take into account (specifically the support provided by the supervisor and colleagues as factors external to the individual).
- At the level of the organizations there is a lack of policies as more quality childcare services (children and elderly), flexible hours (as part-time regime, tele-working and flexible working hours) and the balanced distribution of care leave.
- In health there are bad practices in the imposition by the hospitals of tubal ligation for women with several children and in the acting of Social Welfare. As good practice the change of capitulation for calculation of exemption from user fees. In education bad practices are the cost of textbooks and educational materials, as well as not supported nurseries or lack of public places; good practice would be giving parents freedom in choosing the nursery, changing the culture of reuse books (extended term duration, encourage unwritten manuals, create databases of books) and create savings culture. In social benefits unsustainability is a bad practice with the cuts in child benefit, in the social passes, missing of school pass and not consider the number of family members in the calculation of financial capacity; good practice would be the universal family allowance (as in most European countries) and to consider the income. In finance calculations made on average children; the correct would be each child worth one. "
- The family is the basic cell of the individual, but we focus on work and employment. Other issues revolve around this: we want equal opportunities, but discrimination grows; we want a society for all, but we do not create wealth, we create rich people. Words such as coherence, solidarity, security and savings are being re-used. The principles are essential and strategy or concrete action are secondary; we simplify and therefore lose coherence; we seek difficult solutions to problems we have created. It is argued in Portugal a family base law. We need to know who are the agents of this law and how they connect. One possible proposal is to build application batteries every 3 years as an Index of the Well-being of Families.
- In Portugal many things are missing, being necessary to take into account new paradigms such as dual career couples. Education is important because it shares values, as well as combating functional illiteracy and school dropout.
- Among the senior population there is the feeling of loneliness, lack of values and roots, and it is not favored. The failures of the legal factor (with essential role in the implementation of family policies) and financial (prohibition of use of school canteens for needy families) have large impacts. Incentives to fertility and behavioral training are essential measures.
- Projects under the Social Entrepreneurship work towards good practice, and reach the family universally, as the case Reutilizar.org Movement (recovery and reuse of textbooks), the Movement for the Defense of Life (support children at risk and restructuring for flagged families - concept of homebuilders), the Portuguese Federation for Life (intervention at the level of resources management training, with responsibility to civilization). Often they are based on simple concepts like Believe and Empower.
- We need to take it easy for the changes, but there are already bets for the future.



2. Structure

Opening Session	Dra. Célia Tereso, Head of Department of Social Welfare and Health of the City of Lisbon Prof. Doutora Marta Gonçalves, CIS- ISCTE – IUL Dra. Maria Helena Patrício Paes, PROSALIS
Table 1	Demography and Intergenerational Solidarity
Speakers	Chair: Dra. Maria Helena Patrício Paes Prof. Doutora Helena Rebelo Pinto, Director of the Institute for Family Sciences, Catholic University Prof. Makilim Nunes Baptista, University of San Francisco, Brazil Prof. Doutora Marta Gonçalves, CIS-ISCTE-IUL
Table 2	The Family as Protection Factor and Conciliation Work/Family
Speakers	Chair: Dr. António Maria Pinheiro Torres Dra. Ana Tapia, Managing Director at OGIMOK Prof. Doutora Teresa Ribeiro, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the University of Lisbon Mestre Diana Farcas, ISCTE-IUL
Table 3	Family Policies - Health, Education, Welfare and Finance
Speakers	Chair: Prof. Makilim Nunes Baptista Dra. Ana Cid Gonçalves, Portuguese Association of Large Families Dra. Joaquina Madeira, Institute of Social Security, IP Prof. Doutora Nilza de Sena, Vice-President of the Commission for Education, Science and Culture of Parliament Dra. Elisabeth Granja, Association VIA VITAE
Table 4	Good Practices in Family Scope
Speakers	Chair: Dra. Maria do Rosário Carneiro Prof. Henrique Cunha, Movement reutilizar.org

3. Direct Speech

"I am myself and my circumstance, but if I do nothing for it I do not save myself."

– José Ortega y Gasset, Helena Rebelo Pinto (ICF)

"If a man tells you that you look like a camel, do not listen to him, but if two men say it, then look at yourself in the mirror" - Arab proverb, Ana Tapia (OGIMOK)

"Supposedly we have [in Portugal] some of the most advanced laws, but not in practice.", Teresa Ribeiro (FPCE – UL)

"There is no proper mindset.", Teresa Ribeiro (FPCE – UL)

"Words do not solve problems, but help reflection and awareness, and that yes ..." – Dr. João Nova (speech June 10th, 2012), Joaquina Madeira (ISS, IP)

"Is the social model we have created a friend of the family?" Joaquina Madeira (ISS, IP)

"It takes a village to raise a child" - African Proverb, Joaquina Madeira (ISS, IP)

"In the last few years we have done little in public policy (...) today in the organic of Parliament there is nothing specific for Family (it is divided between Social Security and Equality). We put patches and do not build pillars." Nilza de Sena (CECC, AR).

Statement to the XXIII Congress on Family Policies, Lisbon, 1 October 2013

“Family and Ageing: Promoting Social Integration and Solidarity between Generations”

By Renata Kaczmarska

Focal Point on the Family, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs/ Division for Social Policy and Development



Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to address this year's Congress on Family Policies. I would like to thank PROSALIS for this initiative and for all your efforts in support of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its 20th anniversary.

As you all know, families are basic and essential building blocks of societies and have a crucial role in social development. Despite many demographic, social and economic changes, the family remains a basic unit of reproduction, consumption and asset building. Families are primary providers of economic support and care to their members. This social protection function of families is especially important and more visible now in times of uncertainty and vulnerability when families bear the brunt of persisting consequences of the financial and economic crises.

In recent years family budgets have come under pressure from high living costs, high unemployment and low returns on savings. In many European countries young people struggling to find jobs often have to rely on their parents longer and have difficulties starting their own families. Their parents frequently find themselves in a predicament of a so called 'squeezed generation' working hard to support their children and parents at the same time and facing difficulties with balancing their work and family life. In Europe, as families become smaller due to changes in living arrangement and lower fertility, families struggle to fulfil their mutual obligations towards all family members, young and old with intergenerational bonds often coming under stress.

Yet, families continue to fulfil their responsibilities and provide the backbone of social integration and intergenerational solidarity so important for social stability. However, to perform their numerous functions well, they need recognition and support.

This recognition and support lies at the core of our preparations for the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family to take place next year. It is important to remind us that the celebration of the International Year in 1994 was an important occasion demonstrating the importance of families in achieving many development goals, especially those relating to social integration and social cohesion.

Significantly, focusing on families offered a comprehensive, people-centred perspective on development. In fact, many of the Millennium Development goals and targets, especially those relating to the reduction of poverty, education of children and reduction in maternal mortality are difficult to achieve unless the strategies to pursue them focus on the family.

Consequently, over the years, the international community not only has recognized the importance of families for the achievement of development goals but also noted the challenges families face and the need to help families to overcome them.

Numerous United Nations reports, resolutions and publications offered analysis and recommendations on family policy development hoping to help Member States develop their national family-oriented policies and programmes.

Such recommendations are based on the conviction that the very achievement of development goals depends on how well families are empowered to contribute to the achievement of those goals. This is why the policies aiming at improving the wellbeing of families directly benefit development. Such policies should not only help families to cope with their responsibilities but should support different family functions rather than replacing them and treating families as collections of individuals who need support independently.

Among the policies supporting families are those promoting social integration and intergenerational solidarity which are the focus of your Congress this year. This topic is also one of the themes adopted for the preparations for the 20th anniversary of the International Year.

I believe that intergenerational solidarity, relating to reciprocal care, support and exchange of material and non-material resources between family members, will only become more and more important in the years to come as many prevailing economic and social trends already indicate. That is why we need to urgently focus on developing and improving policies supporting intergenerational solidarity and healthy relations within families and communities.

For instance, evidence shows that adequate pensions and caregiver support help not only older persons but whole families. Similarly, intergenerational programmes promoting volunteering among

the young and old also benefit all generations with opportunities for people of all ages to bond helping to revitalize whole communities.

Intergenerational initiatives also address global development by counteracting inequality and exclusion, encouraging active citizenship and even improving public infrastructure through community-based projects.

In his annual message for the International day of Families this year, with a theme “Advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity within families and communities”, the Secretary-General of the United Nations noted:

“Families hold societies together, and intergenerational relationships extend this legacy over time...Around the world, family members are doing their part. They deserve support from policy-makers and decision-makers, from public institutions and private businesses...There is a growing recognition around the world that we need to strengthen policies promoting intergenerational solidarity and support intergenerational programmes and initiatives.”

It is my hope that your Congress will contribute to a greater recognition of families’ role in promoting social integration and intergenerational solidarity in support of initiatives that bring people together across generations.

Thank you.



VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY

www.viennafamilycommittee.org

www.10yearsIYF.org

www.20yearsIYF.org

www.civilsocietynetworks.org

Email: contact@viennafamilycommittee.org

FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

UNITED NATIONS

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

MONDAY November 11th, 2013

CONFERENCE ROOM C0240/1

10.00 – 16.30

INTERNATIONAL FORUM

10.00-12.00

“The Family in a Sustainable World”

10:00 – 11:00 Dimiter Philipov, Vienna

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:00 Discussion

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

14.00 - 16.30

Office of the Chairperson: Board Officers:

Dr. Michael Schwarz Chairperson: Dr. Michael Schwarz, IFFD

Josefstrasse 13 Secretary: Dr. Peter Crowley, ICP

A-3100 St. Poelten Deputy Secretary: Maria Helena Paes, PROSALIS

Fax: 00 43 274272 222 10 Treasurer: Mag. Wolfgang Engelmair, Kolping

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'DOCUMENTING CONTRIBUTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS TO THE WELL-BING OF FAMILIES TO OBSERVE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY IN 2014

The General Assembly of the United Nations, in its resolution 44/82 of December 8th 1989, proclaimed 1994 as The International Year of the Family (IYF) and the 10th anniversary of IYF was observed in 2004. The Vienna NGO Committee on the Family carried out a study with families-oriented [in whole or in part] Civil Society Organisations entitled: 'Documenting Contributions of Civil Society Organisations to the Well-Being of Families' to observe IYF+10 in 2004 and the results were posted on the Website www.10yearsIYF.org and in book form with the financial support of the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities, and submitted to members of the special session of the 59th General Assembly of the United Nations on Dec. 6th 2004, to officially observe the 10th anniversary of IYF. The United Nations Secretary-General also referred to this

publication in his Report to the 59th Session of the General Assembly (A/59/176, 2004).

The Vienna NGO Committee on the Family has committed itself to carry out an update of the afore mentioned study to observe the 20th anniversary of IYF in 2014 at: www.20yearsIYF.org in cooperation with the Focal Point on the Family, Social Policy and Development Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

The extended deadline for entry of data elapsed on August 31st 2013. Appreciation is extended to all civil society organisations, which kindly participated in the study-update. The subsequent stage of the study-update is the process of the analysis of the data entered. The documentation and the results of the analysis will be published in due course to observe the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014.

From Member Organisations

IFFD PAPERS no. 24



PRODUCED BY
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Childhood and peace

A new Consortium to break the vicious cycle*

2nd October 2013

It is a great honor for me, to speak at the launch of the Formative Childhood Peace Consortium. Promoting peace for young generations, families and communities is one of my main objectives during my tenure at the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).

The Formative Childhood Peace Consortium will occupy a unique niche in our global society with the aim of promoting peace and prosperity.

Right now, we face a volatile period in our common history. Increased violence in homes, schools, neighborhoods and countries generates lasting negative impacts on children, families and communities.

These matters are of grave concern to us. These situations of extreme conflict and violence limit access to education and contribute to the violation of human rights of children, traversing generation after generation. The damaging effects are even deeper than we could have ever imagined.

Violence triggers more violence. It is a vicious cycle that must be broken. The time to act is now. We must address the root causes of violence through interventions that promote peace, conflict resolution, tolerance and forgiveness. This is the core vision and mission of the Alliance – namely, peace, development and prosperity.

This is where the Formative Childhoods Peace Consortium will serve as a positive force in advancing peace and forgiveness. By encouraging conversation about peace building among policy

makers, the Consortium aims to drive progress towards sustained peace through early childhood development programs.

Latest and valid evidence has shown that early years of life and development are the strongest predictors of later life skills, competencies, attitudes and beliefs. The World Health Organization also emphasizes, that lower education levels in one's earlier life are connected with poor health, increased stress, and inadequate self-confidence in later years.

Influencing neuro-biology during childhood years can have positive long-term effects on promoting peace. Evidence shows that one's early years constitute the pivotal time during which momentous developmental progress is made. This includes growth in the areas of health, motor and cognitive functioning, language, and in particular, social and emotional development.

It has often been said that children are born innocent. As time passes, they learn to form their own opinions— distinguishing between good and bad, beautiful and unpleasant, friendship and animosity. These opinions are largely generated according to what they have been taught and exposed to.

Parents can profoundly shape their children's beliefs and attitudes. By providing an atmosphere of tolerance in the home, they are instilling harmony and democratic values that further reduce violence and abuse. Tolerant mindset is precisely what should

be encouraged through educational tools as these children grow into adulthood. For these are the values which today's youth will bestow upon the following generations. I can tell you that we, at the Alliance have developed cross-cutting initiatives in educating and empowering youth.

Furthermore, studies and findings suggest that parenting and early learning programs can effectively translate into communities of peace.

An appalling two-thirds of children under the age of four are believed to be victims of direct violence, suffering physical and

psychological abuse from their parents or guardians. Furthermore, an estimated 1.5 billion people currently experience structural violence from dwelling in conflict-ridden countries. The impact of this violence is most harmful during the early childhood years. To counter these detrimental effects, it is crucial that education also be provided to parents.

Evidence shows that adult participation in programs promoting peaceful living builds stronger communities. Educating parents and implementing early childhood development programs would garner peace within families, which would encourage peaceful communities which would hopefully one day foster peace across the entire world.

From this, the next generation of leaders, policy makers and voices of change will not only hold these values of peace, but also advocate them worldwide.

The formative childhood years are vital to the development of values, attitudes and beliefs. It is up to parents and educators to create the molds by which these beliefs and ideals can be shaped.

This fact is essential for generating policies and practices that promote harmony in our ever-changing world.

Up until now, efforts to promote have been made primarily through global policies and top-down approaches. But change cannot be propelled solely from the top. It is born early on and advances as it grows. Thus, change for our future and hope for the progression of peace starts with our children. They are the agents of change; they are our future.

Like us, our children understandably are not colorblind. As they grow, they are able to see, and to perceive race. They are learning to make decisions—decisions which will govern their actions and their treatment towards others.

The global consortium, therefore, can promote peace through early childhood development.

Its noble vision of creating a legacy of sustained peace by drawing on the transformative power of early childhood development will surely serve to prevent violence and promote peace.

Through the consortium, leaders in effective practice, new and emerging knowledge, finance, philanthropy, and international policy can come together to discuss effective strategies to advance early childhood development and peace.

That way, they can influence global and national policies through education. They can disseminate information using innovative strategies that draw on the latest technological advancements, to involve youth in advocating for early childhood development and peace.

Specifically, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations can serve as an advantageous tool in order to enhance the global consortium's goals and vision.

The Alliance of Civilizations is especially committed to the goal of achieving early childhood development and peace through education.

Specifically, education and youth, as I mentioned earlier, are two of the main pillars of focus of the UNAOC.

Today, the forces that move and drive the world are science, technology, music, literature, arts, and other fields of creativity.

As such, I have added these as priorities during my tenure. I strive to incorporate these into initiatives related to early childhood development and education.

At the Alliance, we believe that improved education boosts intercultural dialogue, which, in turn, generates intercultural trust.

Respect and tolerance for diversity is a direct result of early childhood education. This, in turn, will not only reduce violence, but also prevent it in the future. By educating our children and promoting peace building values, we are paving a better future not only for them, but also for their children, and for each succeeding generation.

We at the Alliance greatly value the worldwide potential of our youth. Accordingly, we have launched the Global Youth

Movement, aiming to highlight and recognize the strong message of peace and understanding set forth by youth in times where tensions and conflicts threaten intercultural co-existence.

The Alliance established summer schools, based on the central principle that people share more commonalities than divisive differences, and when

given the opportunity, they will explore those common interests, sparking collaborations and stimulating ideas that address major issues across the world.

These schools promote the empowerment of youth by strengthening intercultural skills and competencies. They solidify young people's capacity to get involved in the preparation and implementation of cooperative action across divides. They also facilitate encounters and exchanges among youth from around the world. The lessons learned at these summer schools can be applied worldwide. Therefore, the global consortium can incorporate these ideas into its strategies.

One other activity which is worth mentioning is the Alliance Fellowship Programme launched in 2009. It aims at facilitating exposure for emerging leaders worldwide to media, culture, politics, institutions, civil society and religion. This generates knowledge exchange, cross-cultural understanding and productive partnerships across borders.

These emerging leaders can serve as a powerful resource for the global consortium. Their ideas input and participation in the global consortium can expand the network of knowledge.

Lastly, I have the privilege of partnering with Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nassir of Qatar on her new global initiative,

Educate A Child (EAC). I also currently serve as a board member of EAC. So far, 700,000 have been educated. Another 10 million are projected to be educated by 2015.

In November 2012, Her Highness Sheikha Moza launched EAC at the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), to address a dire need to increase enrollment and improve quality education worldwide.

This initiative strives to give millions of young children the opportunity to learn in quality education, particularly in regions of poverty, conflict, and natural disaster. Emphasizing childhood education as a basic human right, it targets 'out of school' children, in the hopes of encouraging them to get back on the academic track.

All of these initiatives and programs can serve as resources to the Child Study Center's global consortium. I am confident that the UNAOC's collaboration with the Yale Child Study Center will help further both our respective, and shared, missions.

With our combined effort, we can make considerable advancements in the promotion of peace and early childhood development.

The whole world will not change automatically. Nor will it stand still and wait for us. Regardless, I, personally, pledge to strengthen the ability of the Alliance to work closer with Yale University's Child Study Center to advance our mutual goals.

In closing, let me say this, our world is a great, yet complex thing. To leave it to a generation which is unprepared, and unequipped with the proper principles and ethics, would be hazardous. Hence, instilling values of harmony and tolerance in our children through instruments of early education is vital for a peaceful future. The time for change is NOW. Let us benefit from today, for a better tomorrow.

About the Early Childhood Peace Consortium **

"In every language, there is a word for peace; in every language, there is a word for children," said Senior Adviser in the Early Childhood

Development Unit at UNICEF Dr. Pia Britto, opening the launch of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium on 20 September at UNICEF House in New York.

With evidence mounting as to the importance of the early years in a child's development, the Consortium brings together the United Nations, private sector, civil society and academia to drive progress collectively to sustained peace through early childhood development programmes.

UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Geeta Rao Gupta welcomed the diverse crowd to the launch, which she said would serve as a forum to consider actions to advocate for investments in young children and their families as a strategy for peace-building. "What brings us together is our belief – backed by emerging evidence – that violence of any kind, early in life – either experienced or observed – can have long-lasting and detrimental impacts on the health, life skills, competencies, attitudes and beliefs of young children and adults, alike," Ms. Rao Gupta said.

The full-day event featured presentations from 20 leading thinkers and practitioners in academia, civil society, the philanthropic community and international policy. The event also featured a stirring performance from a children's choir.

The group discussed how the impact of exposure to prolonged stress, violence and conflict is especially salient in early childhood.

Learn how early childhood development programmes can play a critical role in helping children exposed to the stress of emergencies.

According to United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz al-Nasser, the vicious cycle of violence must be broken through interventions that promote peace. Conflict resolution, tolerance and forgiveness are integral to this vision – and the Early Childhood Peace Consortium will serve as a positive force in advancing peace and forgiveness.

“A tolerant mindset is precisely what should be encouraged through educational tools,” said H.E. Mr. Nasser. Leading neuroscientist Dr. Michael Meaney from McGill University gave an engaging presentation on scientific evidence of how differences in maternal care and environment in the early years can modify an individual’s brain development and the ability to deal with stress later in life.

President and CEO of Sesame Workshop H. Melvin Ming discussed the interconnectedness of academic, emotional and social learning. “We can actually teach children simple ways to cope by introducing them to coping skills...and giving them options for how to deal with difficulties,” he said.

Chief Executive of Early Years Siobhan Fitzpatrick spoke of experiences in Northern Ireland, explaining that children as young as 3 years old were developing prejudice about people who were different. Ms. Fitzpatrick said that early childhood development programmes were a means of “allowing children to unlearn hatred and break the cycle of prejudice”.

Asked what is next for the consortium, Dr. Britto replied, “The Early Childhood Peace Consortium

has galvanized the peacebuilding and early childhood communities to work jointly in crafting a bold agenda for change. The Consortium will advocate with national and global government to recognize the role of families and children in creating a just and peaceful world.”

The Consortium is supported, in part, through the recently initiated Peacebuilding Education and Advocacy Programme, which is exploring innovative approaches to building peace through reshaping education policies and practices. As part of this programme, in countries such as Ethiopia and Liberia, UNICEF is taking a life-cycle approach and examining how the early childhood period can be an entry point for peacebuilding.

The founding partners of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium are UNICEF, Yale University, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations,

The Mother Child Education Foundation (AÇEV), Sesame Workshop, Early Years, Fetzer Institute and Foundation Child.

* Remarks by H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations at the Launch of the ‘Early Childhood Peace Consortium’, an initiative of leaders from international society to address both causes and consequences of violence and to utilize the transformative power of early childhood to promote peaceful societies (Labouisse Hall - New York, September 20, 2013). Available at <http://www.unaoc.org/2013/09/hr-al-nasser-remarks-at-the-launch-of-the-early-childhood-peace-consortium/>

** By Pi James and Taleen Vartan. Available at http://www.unicef.org/childsurvival/index_70495.html

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International Day of Rural Women – October 15
World Food Day – October 16
International Day for Eradication of Poverty – October 17

“Speak Up! Recognizing the need for rural women to have a voice in policy and decision making”

Rural Women New Zealand

The International Year of Family Farming in 2014 provides a special opportunity for ACWW member societies to reach out to rural women, giving them a platform to speak up.

During the past two years the UN has reached out to over 200,000 people via modern and traditional means to capture their feedback and ideas on the future of the global development agenda post 2015 and how to continue the work of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Entitled "The Global Conversation Begins," these findings include ideas from those populations (women, indigenous groups, youth, etc.) who are traditionally excluded from such consultations. A distinct theme emerging from these conversations is the need for gender equality to be at the heart of any global development framework.

While advances in women's equality can be demonstrated in many countries, it is well documented that women and especially poor rural women are the most excluded from decision making both at a personal and a community level. ACWW member societies are in the position to give rural women a voice. When our society leaders reach out and ask rural women for their input

we are giving them a voice. If the exchange of ideas is by Twitter or while doing laundry at the river, women's voices must be heard. Take time to listen. Rural women bring a different perspective to the discussions. Government policies that are agreed on by the collaborative process result in better health, education, and social services for the poor and ultimately for the larger community.

The UN General Assembly has recognized that family farmers and smallholder farmers (many of whom are women) are important for sustainable food production, and has aimed at achieving world food security and eradicating poverty in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals by declaring 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming.

ACWW encourages all their member societies to reach out to their local rural communities, have a conversation, listen to the results and report back to us so we can take your voice forward.

May Kidd, MA, JP
ACWW World President

Take time to listen!

The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) is one of the largest international organisations of rural women and represents members in over 70 countries worldwide. It aims to connect and support women and communities worldwide. Associated Country Women of the World (Charity No. 290367) is an NGO Official Partner of UNESCO, and maintains consultative status with ECOSOC

Recent and Forthcoming events

5TH TO 6TH NOVEMBER 2013

VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

European Migration Network Conference 2013 - "The Agenda for growth in the EU: why migration matters"

European migration network (EMN) every year organises the Annual EMN Conference in the EU Member State holding the EU Presidency. The aim of the Conference is to present to policy makers and wider audience the work of the EMN as well as to involve wider audiences into discussions on an EU relevant migration topic.

In 2013 the Conference will be hosted by Lithuania. The conference "The Agenda for Growth in the EU: why migration matters" will address the topic of labour migration and discuss the achievements and challenges of EU labour migration policy and the role of migration in the EU Agenda for Growth.

Taking account of the growing polarisation of attitudes towards migration, the increasing prominence of migratory processes globally and the needs of competitive labour markets this is an important time to reflect on EU approaches and priorities in the field of migration.

FURTHER INFORMATION : <http://emn2013.lt/>

21ST TO 21ST NOVEMBER 2013

CENTRAL LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

Inspecting Children's Services Conference

The conference will provide an excellent opportunity for professionals from local and central government, social care, education, health, police and the voluntary sector, to hear about the implementation of the new framework.

WEBSITE: <http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/childrens-services/full-conference/article/inspecting-childrens-services-conference-1.html>

CONTACT PERSON: Fran Langham

22ND TO 22ND NOVEMBER 2013

Education, Youth Poverty and Social Class

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

WEBSITE: <http://www.bera.ac.uk/events/education-youth-poverty-and-social-class>

CONTACT PERSON : Ian McGimpsey

This event brings together academics, professionals and practitioners to discuss responses to the complex question of youth at a time of a depressed economy, and when education and support services are being reformed and withdrawn.

22ND TO 22ND NOVEMBER 2013

ISS-USA 5th Annual Conference: Cooperation, Communication and Compassion: Developing Child-Centered Practice in Law, Social Work and Policy for Cross-Border Families

BALTIMORE, MD, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This conference will be an examination of child-centered practice across borders. Topics will include international adoption, family finding, kinship care, and immigration. Panels will consist of a cross section of voices on each topic.

WEBSITE: <http://www.iss-usa.org/events/5th-annual-iss-usa-conference/overview>

CONTACT PERSON: Jessica Pate

21ST TO 23RD NOVEMBER 2013

Third Annual International Research-to-Practice Conference - Early Childhood Care and Education

MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Third Annual International Conference “Early Childhood Care and Education” will take place at the Russian Presidential Academy (Moscow, Russia). Early childhood researchers, pedagogues, psychologists, practitioners are invited.

WEBSITE: <http://en.ecceconference.com/>

CONTACT PERSON: Dr. Aleksander Veraksa

21ST TO 23RD NOVEMBER 2013

Human Rights, Literature, the Arts and Social Sciences (HRLASS)

MT. PLEASANT, MI, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Conference explores the construction and promotion of human rights through literature, the arts, & Social Sciences. Topics include, but are not limited to: Women’s rights; children’s rights; indigenous rights & sovereignty.

WEBSITE:

http://www.cmich.edu/academics/humanities_social_behavioral_sciences/conferences/HRLASS

CONTACT PERSON: Dr. Maureen N. Eke **Organized by:** Central Michigan University

Impressum

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