



Brussels, 4 May 2014

## **THIRD EUROPEAN RAINBOW FAMILIES MEETING TOOK PLACE IN COLOGNE, GERMANY**

The 2014 European Family Meeting took place in Cologne, Germany between 1 and 4 May 2014. The meeting was organized by the Network of European LGBT Families Associations (NELFA), in cooperation with NELFA's German member, Lesben und Schwulenverband in Deutschland (LSVD).

More than 300 participants from 14 countries (Europe and Canada) met for a long weekend of networking, family fun and capacity building workshops and lectures on LGBT family issues. This year's meeting was dedicated to schools, under the motto "Different Families, Same Schools". To learn more about NELFA's 2014 European Family Meeting check NELFA's facebook page for photos and videos: [www.facebook.com/nelfa.aisbl](http://www.facebook.com/nelfa.aisbl)

On Saturday, 3 May, participating families celebrated International Family Equality Day (IFED), with music and "science adventures" at Cologne's Odysseum adventure museum. To learn more about IFED check its facebook page and website: [www.internationalfamilyequalityday.org](http://www.internationalfamilyequalityday.org)  
[www.facebook.com/InternationalFamilyEqualityDay](http://www.facebook.com/InternationalFamilyEqualityDay)

Lisa Green, NELFA's Vice-President and LSVD member said: "Educators, teachers, activists and parents had the chance to learn about how to transform our schools into safer places for all children. We heard about exciting projects and how a good idea in one place can be adapted to work somewhere else. Everybody left inspired".

Angelo Berbotto, NELFA's Board Member said: "This was a wonderful meeting for our movement in Europe. We have been updated about the legal and political situation for our families in Europe and heard our children talk about their experiences in school".

Anne-Marie Thus, NELFA's Board Member and also one of the parents attending the meeting added: "We have shared, we have met and we got to know many loving families from all over Europe. We have widened our horizons and we have celebrated our children, our families and our achievements together".

NELFA strongly believes in the importance of supporting rainbow families from countries where their social and legal situation is particularly challenging. NELFA and its member organizations were able to support the presence of one Polish and one Croatian family at the event. NELFA was also planning to support the participation of one Russian family, but this proved impossible due to visa delays.

**NELFA's 4<sup>th</sup> European Family Meeting will take place in Rimini, Italy in October 2015, and will be hosted by our members Famiglie Arcobaleno.**

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**NELFA aisbl**

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### **About NELFA:**

NELFA is the European platform of LGBT families associations, bringing together LGBT parents and parents-to-be from all over Europe. NELFA currently represents 23 organisations in 15 European countries with more than 10.000 members. NELFA is a member of ILGA-Europe.

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

Our new Leaflet: <http://www.nelfa.org/index.php/nelfa-aisbl-leaflet>

International Family Equality Day (IFED): [www.internationalfamilyequalityday.org](http://www.internationalfamilyequalityday.org)