



Brussels, 5 May 2014

## **NELFA DISMAYED BY RECENT FRENCH COURT DECISION TO DENY SECOND-PARENT ADOPTION RIGHTS TO TWO-MOTHERS COUPLE**

The Network of European LGBT Families Associations (NELFA) is dismayed by recent news that a French Court (Versailles) denied second-parent adoption rights to a two-mothers couple, on the basis of them becoming parents through medically assisted reproduction in Belgium (such access is only allowed to different-sex couples in France).

Maria von Känel, NELFA's President said: "We are shocked at the discriminatory nature of this decision. This decision was not based on the child's best interest to have full legal protection like any other child in France, it was made on the basis of prejudice against same-sex couples".

Dominique Boren, NELFA's Board Member, added: "The judges in question are trying to impose their narrow definition of family and in doing so are in contradiction to the spirit of the French law that extended marriage equality and adoption rights to same-sex couples. Moreover, it goes against the current practice of hundreds of other courts in France, who have granted second-parent adoption rights to couples under the very same circumstances".

NELFA would like to take this opportunity to express its solidarity towards the family in question and towards our French member organisations, APGL and Les Enfants d'Arc-en-ciel, who have been fighting very hard for the rights of our families in France.

### **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)

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