



## **NELFA Press Release, 6 May 2015**

### **International Family Equality Day (IFED) celebrated at the European Parliament for the first time**

The Network of European LGBT Families Associations (NELFA) celebrated on 5 May 2015, International Family Equality Day (IFED) in the European Parliament in Brussels. This was the first time IFED was celebrated in the European Parliament. The event was made possible with the support of the Intergroup on LGBT Rights of the European Parliament. A conference - "**Families without borders**" - addressed in particular the situation of European rainbow families as regards freedom of movement, calling on European Union institutions to take all the necessary measures to make freedom of movement also a reality for rainbow families.

Rainbow families from Spain/Catalonia, Belgium, Italy, Germany, France, the Netherlands and Switzerland joined the event with their children. The adult children of rainbow families also added their voice to the debate in the European Parliament, a "first" in the history of our movement.

Maria von Känel, NELFA's President, said: "*this a historic day for rainbow families in Europe. IFED is a day of visibility for our families, a day that celebrates our diversity and reclaims our right for equality. I am very pleased to see many families from all over Europe here today. Their commitment is a source of inspiration to all of us*".

Luis Amorim, NELFA Board Member, added: "*freedom of movement is one of the cornerstones of the European Union. Our families deserve the same rights as everybody else. Our children in particular deserve the same level of legal protection of every other child in the European Union. We want European institutions to work together towards making freedom of movement a reality for our families. We should not lose our parenting rights when crossing borders, that is creating a new kind of exclusion for our children and is unacceptable*".

Lena Herrmann-Green, the adult child of two mothers, said: "*I feel tired of having to prove to people that I am 'normal' and that I'm alright. I feel tired of hearing people say that if I do or say something different it's because I have two mums. My family is like any other family*".

#### **More about IFED:**

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

<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalFamilyEqualityDay>

#### **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 23,000 members. NELFA is a member of ILGA-Europe and Transgender Europe.



**NELFA 2014 European Family Meeting and IFED Video 2014:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRphppkEg0g>

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

[www.facebook.com/nelfa.aisbl](https://www.facebook.com/nelfa.aisbl)

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

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