



Brussels, 1 April 2016

NELFA PRESS RELEASE:

Celebrate with us the

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY EQUALITY DAY 2016

This year's motto is “FAMILIES WITHOUT BORDERS”

1 May 2016 - International Family Equality Day (IFED) - Celebrate the Rainbow of Families in Our World!

We are just one month away from the 5th International Family Equality Day (IFED). On 1 May 2016, LGBTIQ* family organisations from around the world will join together again to celebrate family diversity. Preparations are now in full swing for the largest IFED to date, with many local events. In 2015, IFED was celebrated in 32 countries and 67 cities worldwide. This year Ecuador, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Sweden and Venezuela will join us.

WHY? More and more children grow up in families where one or both parents self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex or queer (LGBTIQ*). These “rainbow families” are a global phenomenon – regardless of the different legal, political and social circumstances in the various countries.

NELFA (the Network of European LGBTIQ* Families Associations) and its partner organisations aim to raise awareness of the urgent need for recognition of rainbow families, particularly with regard to freedom of movement. For that reason, the motto of the International Family Equality Day 2016 is “FAMILIES WITHOUT BORDERS”. Moving from one country to another should not jeopardise a family’s legal status. With this in mind, on this special day NELFA launches a message of solidarity to all those families of refugees and migrants who are either separated by borders or need to overcome inhumane difficulties in order to cross borders which can make the difference between life and death, dignity and humiliation. We are all members of the same human family wishing for a world where everyone can enjoy the same human rights, no matter what or where.

NELFA’s President, Maria von Känel, explains, “Still today a legally recognised rainbow family will not necessarily be treated as such when crossing borders. A married Spanish couple with two children might become ‘two single mothers’ with no legal ties between them when moving to Italy. Parents who are not legally recognised may not get residence or work permits.”

And NELFA’s Vice-President, Luís Amorim, adds, “We urge states worldwide to respect existing family laws and to protect all rainbow families. We also invite all countries that already recognise rainbow families to join us in celebrating IFED, as a sign of solidarity and

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visibility of all families as well as a sign of support for those families who still face discrimination.

Here you will find further information:

IFED Website: <http://www.internationalfamilyequalityday.org>

IFED Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalFamilyEqualityDay?ref=hl>

IFED Facebook Creative Network: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/500398236747224/>

IFED International Mailing List: E-Mail queries to info@internationalfamilyequalityday.org

Hashtag: #IFED16

Share your impressions on social networks it would be published on:

<http://internationalfamilyequalityday.org/wordpress/live/>

Yours cordially,

The International Family Equality Day (IFED) Network

MEDIA CONTACT:

Participating Countries/Organizations:

Organisation: Rainbow Families

Country: Australia

Media contact: Scott Williams, media@rainbowfamilies.com.au, tel: +61413080901

www.rainbowfamilies.com.au

Organisation: FamOs

Country: Austria

Media contact: Jürgen Eicher, juergen@regenbogenfamilien.at, tel: +436648496681

www.regenbogenfamilien.at

Organisation: Coalition des familles LGBT, LGBT Family Coalition

Country: Canada

Media contact: Mona Greenbaum, Directrice générale, info@famillesLGBT.org, tel: 514-878-7600

www.famillesLGBT.org

Organisation: LGBTQ Parenting Network

Country: Canada

Media contact: Andy Inkster, parentingresources@sherbourne.on.ca, tel: (416) 324-4100 ext. 5276

www.lgbtqparentingconnection.ca

Organisation: Dugine obitelji (Rainbow Families)

Country: Croatia

Media contact: Boris Vrdoljak, info.dugineobitelji@gmail.com

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Organisation : Ishkay Mamas, Ishkay Taitas.

Country: Ecuador

Email : ishkaymamastaitas@gmail.com

Tel +593987227950 & +593992585751

Organisation: Finnish Rainbow Families Association (Sateenkaariperheet)

Country: Finland

Media contact: Juha Jämsä (CEO), juha.jamsa@sateenkaariperheet.fi, tel: +358-44-9971956

www.sateenkaariperheet.fi

Organisation: Association des parents et futurs parents gays et lesbiens, APGL

Country: France

Media contact: Doan Luu, presse@apgl.fr, tel: +33.6 16 66 56 91

www.apgl.fr

Organisation: LSVD/ILSE

Country: Germany

Media contact: Dr. Lisa Green, NELFA Board Member, lisa.green@lsvd.de, tel: +4915787657184

www.lsvd.de

Organisation: Rainbow families LLH Oslo

Country: Norway

Media contact: Mona Hovland Jakobsen, regnbuefamilier-oa@llh.no, tel: +47 91877642

www.llh.no and Facebook Group Regnbuefamilier OA

Organisation: Ouranio Tokso Families

Country: Greece

Media contact: Irene Petropoulou, irenepetro@gmail.com, tel: +306948257008

www.ouraniotoksofamilies.blogspot.gr

Organisation: Keshetfamilies (Rainbow Families)

Country: Israel

Media contact: Vicky Schul, keshetfamilies@gmail.com, tel: +972-3-6778237; Handy +972-523-556497

www.keshetfamilies.org.il

Organisation: The Association of Israeli Gay Fathers

Country: Israel

Media contact: Amit Rov-Shaanan, amit.shaanan@gmail.com, Tel: +972 54 4907279

www.gaydads.org.il

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Organisation: Rainbow Families Japan (Niji-iro-Kazoku)

Country: Japan

Media contact: Kumiko Matsumoto, rainbowfamilyjp@gmail.com

www.queerfamily.jimdo.com

Organisation: ILGA Portugal

Country: Portugal

Media contact: Isabel Fiadeiro Advirta, isabel@ilga-portugal.pt, tel: +351 968 859 963

www.familias.ilga-portugal.pt

Organisation: "Coming Out" LGBT group

Country: Saint-Petersburg, Russia

Media contact: kris@comingoutspb.ru

www.comingoutspb.com

Organisation: "Rainbow Future"

Country: Moscow, Russia

E-mail: rainbowfuturespb@gmail.com

Organisation: FLG, Associació de Famílies Lesbianes i Gais

Country: Spain (Barcelona)

Media contact: Katy Pallàs (president), NELFA President, familieslg@familieslg.org, +34 645 318 860

www.familieslg.org

Organisation: Galesh, Associació de Famílies Homoparentals

Country: Spain (Valencia)

Media contact: Marc Brell i López (president), info@galesh.org, tel: +34 686146244

www.galesh.org

Organisation: RFSL Stockholm

Country: Sweden

Media contact: Lina-Lea Zimmermann, lina-lea.zimmerman@stockholm.rfsl.se, tel: +4676-3948572

www.hbtqfamiljer.se

Organisation: L'Association faitière Familles arc-en-ciel

Country: Switzerland

Media contact: Chatty Ecoffey, info@famillesarcenciel.ch, tel: +41794162057

www.famillesarcenciel.ch or www.regenbogenfamilien.ch

Organisation: Rainbow Families Brighton

Country: UK

Media contact: Liz Corder, Lizcorder@me.com, tel: +447928330681

www.rainbowfamilies.org.uk

Organisation: Family Equality Council

Country: USA

Media contact: Bradley Jacobs, bjacobs@familyequality.org, tel: 917.324.8771

www.familyequality.org

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Organisation: Fundación Reflejos de Venezuela

Country: Venezuela

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