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NELFA PRESS RELEASE

“Creating equality throughout Europe”

NELFA participates with rainbow family from Northern Ireland at Eurochild conference 2016

Between 5 and 7 July, Eurochild is organising its biannual conference in Brussels, this time under the heading “Children’s Rights Matter”. In the run-up to the meeting, the organisers already determined that significant challenges remain with regard to the situation of children in Europe. Read more here: <http://www.eurochild.org/events/eurochild-conference-2016/>

On this occasion, the Network of European LGBTIQ* Families Organisations (NELFA) will point out one of those challenges: the recognition of LGBTIQ* parents and their children. At the conference, NELFA will be represented by a rainbow family from Northern Ireland. Darragh Tibbs, aged 15, agreed to share his story and his (political) demands.

For months, he asks publicly why his two mothers couldn’t get married and what this lack of equality means for his family. Darragh’s strong and moving speech has spread quickly. See it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxYhwBjuL4>

Darragh Tibbs himself has some expectations from the Eurochild conference: “I’m looking forward to discussing the urgent need for marriage equality in Northern Ireland and to meet with other young people and hear their experiences. I’m keen to see the different approaches to creating equality across Europe, as well as hoping to contribute to the theme of *family strengthening* during the conference.”

NELFA President Maria von Känel says, “The well-being of our children is important to all of us. And it would be relatively easy to change the laws in favour of rainbow families. It’s time for more recognition, equality and full protection! Once again: We are not talking about strange demands of a shrill minority; we are talking about existing kids and their parents, about love and day-to-day reality.”

About NELFA:

NELFA is the European platform of LGBTIQ* families associations, bringing together LGBTIQ* parents and parents-to-be from all over Europe. NELFA currently represents 27 organisations in 18 European countries with more than 25,500 members. NELFA is a member of ILGA Europe and Transgender Europe.

<http://www.nelfa.org>

Our new leaflet: http://nelfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/NelfaLeafletUpdate2016-05_web.pdf

Our newsletter June 2016: <http://bit.ly/1Ww0HQ5>

Get involved with International Family Equality Day (IFED): www.internationalfamilyequalityday.org

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