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NELFA PRESS RELEASE:

Bringing visibility to family diversity 1 May 2016 – The International Family Equality Day (IFED) is celebrated in 36 countries

Under this year's motto, 'Families Without Borders', LGBTIQ* groups and their allies around the globe celebrated family diversity today. The 5th International Family Equality Day (IFED) was commemorated in 74 towns and 36 countries worldwide, whether on a smaller scale with picnics, gathering together, celebrating in safe spaces or with big public events.

The first IFED was launched in 2012 as a sign of solidarity and pride to promote equality for all families. Participation is steadily increasing: this year, six more countries joined the 'IFED family': Ecuador, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Sweden and Venezuela.

The Network of European LGBTIQ* Families Associations (NELFA) and its partner organisations aim to raise awareness of the urgent need for recognition of rainbow or LGBTIQ* families, i.e. families where one or both parents self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and/or queer. In terms of legal, political and social equality, these families face very different circumstances depending on where they live.

Daniela Alcántara and Belén Gómez from 'Ishkay Mamas' in Ecuador explain, 'The situation in our country is difficult. Our civil union was only registered after a long juridical tug of war. Sexual and reproductive rights are non-existent, and a new law denies same-sex parents any legal recognition. For all these reasons we wanted to celebrate IFED to visualise the invisible.'

Kris Erie from 'Coming Out' LGBT group in Russia says, 'We want Russian rainbow families to know about international support and feel proud. We are convinced that humanism and human rights are the highest value, we believe that people aren't separated on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. And we believe that every family has the right to happiness! Today we want to say to the world, 'We exist! We love you! We have a dream!''

NELFA's President, Maria von Känel, adds, 'Rainbow families have to overcome many challenges for legal, political and social acceptance. With the celebrations for the International Family Equality Day in 36 countries all over the world today we brought visibility and hopefully also acceptance to family diversity. The IFED is also a sign of solidarity and of support for those families who still face discrimination.'

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By the way... The Council of Europe recognises the International Family Equality Day as an important tool to combat homophobia and transphobia and to promote a tolerant and cohesive society. In its 2015 report, it highlights IFED as an opportunity to create visibility for LGBT communities, thereby raising awareness of sexual orientation and gender identity.

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; they will be published on:

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

Yours cordially,

The International Family Equality Day (IFED) Network

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Participating Countries/Organisations:

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

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Organisation: Coalition des familles LGBT, LGBT Family Coalition

Country: Canada

Media contact: Mona Greenbaum, 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

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Organisation: Ishkay Mamas, Ishkay Taitas.

Country: Ecuador

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Organisation: Finnish Rainbow Families Association (Sateenkaariperheet)

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

Country: France

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Organisation: LSVD/ILSE

Country: Germany

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Organisation: Rainbow Families LLH Oslo

Country: Norway

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

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www.ouraniotoksofamilies.blogspot.gr

Organisation: Keshetfamilies (Rainbow Families)

Country: Israel

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www.keshetfamilies.org.il

Organisation: The Association of Israeli Gay Fathers

Country: Israel

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www.gaydads.org

Organisation: Rainbow Families Japan (Nijiiri-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

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Organisation: 'Rainbow Future'
Country: Russia (Saint Petersburg)
E-mail: rainbowfuturespb@gmail.com

Organisation: FLG, Associació de Famílies Lesbianes i Gais
Country: Spain (Barcelona)
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Organisation: Galesh, Associació de Famílies Homoparentals
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Organisation: RFSL Stockholm
Country: Sweden
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www.hbtqfamiljer.se

Organisation: Swiss Rainbow Families Association
Country: Switzerland
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www.famillesarcenciel.ch, www.regenbogenfamilien.ch

Organisation: Rainbow Families Brighton
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www.rainbowfamilies.org.uk

Organisation: Family Equality Council
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Organisation: Fundación Reflejos de Venezuela
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