



Brussels, 21 September 2016

NELFA PRESS RELEASE:

International Family Equality Day 2016: The report is out! – 80 pages full of family diversity, with contributions from activists all over the world and forewords from Charles Radcliffe, U.N. official at the OHCHR, and Tanya Plibersek, Australian Member of Parliament and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

In May 2016, a wide range of LGBTIQ* family organisations and groups celebrated the 5th International Family Equality Day (IFED) under the motto FAMILIES WITHOUT BORDERS. Six new countries joined the celebration: Ecuador, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Sweden and Venezuela. As a result, the current IFED Annual Report is stronger than ever.

In his foreword, Charles Radcliffe, Chief of Global Issues & Intergovernmental Affairs, U.N. Human Rights Office (New York/USA), writes, *‘Making the world safer and more accepting for all children [...] requires a long-term commitment to social and legal change [...]. If the scale of the task can seem daunting, the pages of this report remind us why it is so important. The photos and stories featured here reveal the great joy, love and devotion that lesbian, gay, bi, trans and intersex people bring to parenthood. They should give heart to even the most exhausted reformer and give even the harshest critic pause for thought.’*

The Hon Tanya Plibersek, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for Education, Shadow Minister for Women, MP for Sidney (Australian Labor Party), adds, *‘I celebrate, and am inspired by, the patience, the commitment, the untiring efforts of those campaigning around the world to achieve change [...]. We know that all families are precious. We know that all families deserve recognition. We know that families are made by love.’*

The Annual Report is a colourful summary of IFED events, this year commemorated in 74 cities in 36 countries: LGBTIQ* parents, their children, friends and allies make visible what often is ignored or opposed and hidden – that rainbow families are and want to be part of society! For NELFA, the Network of European LGBTIQ* Families Associations, IFED is an exceptional opportunity to promote recognition, protection and equal treatment for all types of families. And the Annual Report is a kind of flagship for these constant efforts.

Maria von Känel, NELFA’s President, Founder of IFED and Coordinator of the IFED Network, says, *‘The International Family Equality Day is – again and again – a sign of solidarity, strength and pleasure. The Annual Report is its crackling essence: It introduces the organisations involved and the work of the Committee, and it highlights the activities worldwide. And, of course, the Report aims to serve as an inspiration for IFED 2017!’*

DOWNLOAD IFED Annual Report 2016: <http://bit.ly/2d1sshN>
To order a hard copy of the IFED Annual Report 2016, please contact:
info@internationalfamilyequalityday.org

NELFA aisbl

La Maison Arc-en-ciel asbl - Rue du Marché au Charbon 42 - 1000 Brussels – BELGIUM
E-mail : info@nelfa.org - Website: www.nelfa.org



The next **International Family Equality Day** will take place on 7 May 2017. The motto is LOVE MAKES A FAMILY. Since the next International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (**IDAHOT**) on May 17 will also focus on families, both initiatives have decided to join forces in 2017. From 7 May (IFED) to 17 May (IDAHOT), we call on everyone to take action to celebrate supportive and diverse families.

Do you want to get inspired or involved?"

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-IDAHOT Cooperation 2017: <http://bit.ly/2d3x75d>

IFED Media contact: **Maria von Känel**: +41 79 611 06 71; **Caroline Ausserer**: +49 157 777 15016

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 31 organisations in 18 European countries with more than 25,500 members. NELFA is a member of ILGA-Europe and Transgender Europe. Website: <http://www.nelfa.org>

Our new leaflet: <http://bit.ly/2cYB24l>

Our September 2016 newsletter: <http://bit.ly/2cMq1Tk>