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NELFA PRESS RELEASE:

**International Family Equality Day 2017: ‘Love makes a family’ –
The new motto for the world largest celebration of family diversity**

On 7 May 2017, LGBTIQ* family organisations and groups from all over the world will come together to celebrate the 6th International Family Equality Day (IFED). The simple but also striking motto will be ‘LOVE MAKES A FAMILY’.

The Network of European LGBTIQ* Families Associations (NELFA) and its partners aim to raise awareness of the urgent need for recognition, protection and equal treatment of rainbow families. It is a matter of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer parents (LGBTIQ*) and their children. These families still face very different circumstances.

Unfortunately, in many cases they have to experience direct discrimination, they have to struggle through interminable validation processes and they even live sometimes under the threat of violence – i.e. in some Eastern European countries, in Russia, Africa or Asia.

NELFA’s President, Maria von Känel, says, *‘The International Family Equality Day wants to increase the visibility of LGBTIQ* families and to spotlight their elementary needs. IFED celebrates family diversity and common values – regardless of the sexual orientation or gender identity. Everyone is in a position to subscribe these words: Love makes a family!’*

NELFA’s Board member and IFED committee member, Caroline Ausserer, adds, *‘What we particularly like is to join forces in 2017: IFED will be celebrated together with the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia – IDAHOT (May 17). It will focus on the role of families in the well-being of their LGBTIQ* members and the respect of the rights of rainbow families. A perfect match to promote our key objectives!’*

The International Family Equality Day was launched in 2012 as a sign of solidarity and pride to support equality for all families. In 2016, IFED was commemorated in 74 towns and 36 countries worldwide. If you need further information (i.e. to get involved) please contact:

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/>

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