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NELFA PRESS RELEASE:

Children in rainbow families need more governmental support – an important challenge, a wide variety of options! – NELFA presented concrete suggestions to the European Governmental LGBTI Focal Points Network

The Network of European LGBTIQ* Families Associations (NELFA) took part in the recent roundtable session at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The European Governmental LGBTI Focal Points Network was examining the situation of children in rainbow families, and NELFA was given the opportunity to provide everyday experiences (including a video message from children of LGBTIQ* parents) and to share examples of good practice.

In her opening speech, NELFA President Maria von Känel said that rainbow families and their children face some special challenges which derive primarily from the prejudices they encounter in society and, all too often, from the discrimination at the hands of, and lack of protection by, state institutions. Governments are called upon to acknowledge this, to recognise human rights violations and to demand and provide equal legal recognition and protection for their families.

Maria von Känel added, *“Equal marriage, automatic co-parenthood recognition at birth and joint adoption are [...] the essential foundations for providing children of rainbow families with the same legal status and protection as any other child. They are the sole means to safeguard the best interests of the children. [...] Policy strategies, legal frameworks and administrative procedures to support equality, reduce social stigma and create an environment where children of rainbow families can fully enjoy their rights are still needed.”* Read the full speech here: <http://bit.ly/2fJHtI>

Luís Amorim, Vice-President of NELFA, sums up, *“The principal message to governments is to see this as a positive challenge to strengthen all families independently of their structure. This will benefit not only rainbow families but also single parents, patchwork and all other types of families. NELFA is looking forward to a fruitful exchange and cooperation with the European governments. They could support family (diversity) projects, groups and events like the International Family Equality Day IFED or European Rainbow Family Meetings.”*

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>

Download our new leaflet: http://nelfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/NelfaLeafletUpdate2016-02_www.pdf

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

Download our recent NELFA Newsletter: <http://bit.ly/2bVms9q>

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