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NELFA PRESS RELEASE:

Children's welfare comes first! – The Netherlands remains a pioneer in the field of LGBTIQ* rights with new legislative proposals

NELFA, the Network of European LGBTIQ* Families Associations, is very pleased with a new report on co-parenting and surrogacy that the Dutch government's family law committee presented yesterday. In particular, the proposal recommends that children in the Netherlands will be able to have three or four parents as from the moment they are born.

Furthermore, the committee suggests replacing the current factual ban on surrogacy by a sensible new regulation: 1) children born through surrogacy should have access to information on their genetic heritage; 2) the rights of the surrogate should be protected; 3) some (financial) compensation for the birthmother would be allowed (in addition to covering all her expenses); and 4) surrogacy in countries with less stringent procedures would be made much more difficult.

Find the full proposal here: <https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2016/12/07/government-committee-amend-the-legislation-on-parentage-and-custody>

Jelle Martens, chair of NELFA's founding member organisation Meer Dan Gewenst, says, *"This is really a giant leap forward for all LGBTIQ* families in the Netherlands. The state will treat all co-parents equally, in the best interest of the children. In addition, a good regulation for surrogacy will reduce uncertainties and will strengthen protection for all persons involved. Intended parents do no longer need to seek solutions in faraway countries with lower standards."*

NELFA's president Maria von Känel adds, *"After being the first country to open marriage for same-sex couples, the Netherlands is about to lead by example once more – through reasonable and sensible regulation. This is great news for Dutch rainbow families and a very inspiring example for other European governments. The children's welfare comes first!"*

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 32 organisations in 19 European countries with more than 26,500 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/2fGzMDs>

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