



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

IFHE

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Press Release

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International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
17th of October 2012

Empowerment through Home Economics to end the Violence of extreme Poverty

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty has been observed every year since 1993, when the United Nations General Assembly, by **Resolution 47/196**, designated this day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, particularly in developing countries - a need that has become a development priority.

This year the theme of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is

**“Ending the Violence of Extreme Poverty:
Promoting Empowerment and Building Peace”**

“Extreme poverty destroys the lives and spirit of people; it kills more children, young persons, and adults than any war. Every day, people living in extreme poverty are challenged and threatened by lack of food, shelter and access to essential services. They endure hazardous working conditions and live in precarious, degraded, and insecure living environments.”
(Source: overcomingpoverty.org)

These conditions mean emotional, physical, and psychological violence.

Households and the individuals living in households are the main focus of Home Economics. Education and knowledge in Home Economics empowers individuals to fulfil their fundamental needs and to manage everyday life resources. Poverty alleviation, gender equality and social justice are a priority for Home Economics professionals.

Home Economics education can improve knowledge, skills and competencies of families and individuals in a changing world.

Education and best practice in Home Economics includes gender equality, safe sanitation and water use, income generation skills, sustainable household production and resource management as well as food production, nutrition skills and health.



By turning the knowledge into everyday life skills, individuals, families and communities in both, developed and developing countries can make the best use of the scarce resources available and also add value to them in a sustainable manner.

Through these examples it is clearly shown in which way households are empowered through Home Economics to fulfil their fundamental needs. This is the first step for social integration and equality for human beings - without the violence of living in extreme poverty.

The International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) having consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF) and with the Council of Europe. The IFHE runs a Campaign related to the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family with the theme “**Empowering Families, Individuals and Communities through Home Economics**”. A main focus of the campaign is confronting family poverty and social exclusion.

IFHE collaborates with allied groups and organisations in serving the needs of individuals and families and in meeting its core objective - to improve the quality of everyday life for individuals, families and households.

To empower families and individuals to end the violence of extreme poverty the IFHE demands:

- To recognise the urgent need to fight against the violence of extreme poverty at all political and social levels.
- To ensure sufficient minimum income and adequate standard of living for all through adequate political, social and economic settings.
- To confront the violence of extreme poverty and social exclusion on all levels of society from the perspective of everyday life.
- To support families to fulfil their tasks adequately and realise sustainable lifestyles through education and empowerment in Home Economics, i.e. resource management, financial literacy, healthy living, food production and nutrition.