



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

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Press Release

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International Day of Families 15th May 2015 “Men in Charge? Gender Equality and Children’s Rights in Contemporary Families”

The International Day of Families is celebrated on the 15th of May. This day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of family issues and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic conditions affecting families.

The theme for the International Day of Family 2015 is “**Men in Charge? Gender Equality and Children’s Rights in Contemporary Families**”.

The IFHE supports the approach of the UN DESA, that “family laws govern family relations and seek to protect the vulnerable family members, including women, children and older persons. Fair family law frameworks are especially vital to ensure gender equality and tackle various forms of violence in families” (Background Note, IDF, 2015).

Home Economists acknowledge the importance of gender equality in education, law, employment and business. All efforts towards gender equality such as legal frameworks encourage personal empowerment.

The IFHE believes that women and men should have equal access to primary and higher education. This facilitates the development of empowerment to act responsibly for their families, women and young girls. Women should be given the tools, such as education and legal rights, to gain self-confidence and the ability to speak and act for themselves and for their children.

In cultures and traditions where discrimination of women and girls prevails, men should be encouraged to act as reliable partners for women’s and children’s rights, their health and wellbeing. They should know about the link between the quality of life for women and children and the opportunity for sustainable economic and social development of their family and communities.

The International Federation for Home Economics supports

- Improvements to women’s and children’s rights in national laws that remove gender inequality.
- Actions that realise gender equality in families, economics and politics through access to education.
- Empowering women to achieve self-determined actions for their wellbeing and that of their children.