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CF/RAI/USAA/DB01/HS/2003-00104

Full Item Register Number [auto] **CF/RAI/USAA/DB01/HS/2003-00104**

ExRef: Document Series/Year/Number **IYF Materials 06**

Record Item Title

**International Year of the Family ( IYF ) Brochure. Gives background info, logo info, action, focal points**

Date Created / on Item  
 22-Sep-2003

Date Registered  
 22-Sep-2003

Date Closed/Superceeded

Primary Contact  
 Owner Location  
 Home Location  
 Current Location

Record & Archive Manage Related Functions=80669443  
 Q, Fl 04, Rm 400, Row 032, SU 013, Lev 03, Pos 07  
 CF/RAF/ZW/J0101-1996-539173394 > CF/RA/BX/ED/PR/19

Fd1: Type: IN, OUT, INTERNAL?  
 Fd2: Lang ?Sender Ref or Cross Ref  
 F3: Format

Container Record  
 Container Record (Title)

CF/RAF/ZW/J0101-1996-539173394  
 Launch of International Year of the Family in Malta

N1: Numb of pages  
 0

N2: Doc Year  
 0

N3: Doc Number  
 0

Full GCG Code Plan Number  
 Record GCG File Plan

Da1:Date Published

Da2:Date Received

Date 3

Priority

Record Type **A02a Item Hist Corr - CF/RAI/USAA/DB01/HS**

DOS File Name

Electronic Details

No Document

Alt Bar code = RAMP-TRIM Record Number

**CF/RAI/USAA/DB01/HS/2003-00104**

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## **I**NIITIATIVE

Committees of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on the Family were created in Vienna, New York and Paris in cooperation with the United Nations promoting debate and action on family related issues.

IYF was proclaimed by the UN-General Assembly in resolution 44/82 of December 1989.

Consequently National Coordinating Bodies or Focal Points were set up in 94 countries to ensure successful implementation of the Year's objectives on national level.

## **Y**OU CAN BE PART OF IYF!

..from Grassroots...to Government Officials  
..from Daughters...to Daddies  
..from Popstars...to Professionals  
..from Girls...to Grandmothers  
..from Volunteers...to VIPs

Regular news on family-related issues and IYF can be obtained through the Newsletters "Families International" published by the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family and "The Family" issued by the UN-IYF Secretariat.

## **F**OCAL THEMES

The overall theme of IYF 1994 is:  
"Family Resources and Responsibilities in a Changing World"

Among others further themes are:

- Families as agents for protecting human values
- Families in poverty and other marginal situations
- Intra-familial support systems
- Work and familial responsibilities
- Individual family members
- Fertility and family planning
- Education/Culture/Disability/Health..

## **I**NTRODUCTION

The impact of socio-economic changes in our society has much affected and altered the family in its function as an institution. The growing concern for the role of the family calls for new perception and creative assessment of what promotes - or what hinders the family, in order to ensure its continuing vital status in today's society

The IYF should give attention to strengthening families in ways that increase equality, caring, mutual respect and responsibilities while respecting the diversity of family structures.



## **F**AMILIES AT THE HEART OF SOCIETY

The emblem of the IYF is a heart sheltered by a roof, linked by another heart, to symbolize life and love in a home where one finds warmth, caring, security, togetherness, tolerance and acceptance.

The term "family" covers a wide range of structures, types, values and functions. These differ within countries and from region to region.

The family is a powerful agent for social, political, economic and cultural change and a potential vehicle for development. The family must be given assistance - and if need be - protection, so that it can fully assume its responsibilities as the basic unit of society.

## **I**NVOLVEMENT

Effective International Years do not just happen by themselves! In order for a major international event like IYF to have a real impact widest possible participation at many different levels is sought:

at community - national - regional - international - and of course family-level; and by many different target groups (e.g.: educational/research institutions; family organizations/social services; media/opinion leaders; national/local NGOs; voluntary organizations; national governments; inter-governmental and non-governmental international organizations.

## **Y**OUR IDEAS AND ACTIONS!

- establish family councils
- share time together
- teach family life skills
- celebrate World Family Day May 15th
- study the situation of families
- formulate family-friendly policies
- promote programmes for family well-being
- provide solidarity in the community

For further ideas consult the "Checklist" available from the NGO Secretariat.

## **F**URTHER INFORMATION

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Your National Coordinating Body for IYF; the pertinent ministry for family affairs in your country

Vienna, June 1993