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FAMILIES INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter of the NGO Committee on the Family

October 1993; no.14

Deadline for contributions to the next issue: Dec. 20, 1993

***International Year of the Family (IYF) 1994**

The 1994 World Environment Day slogan will be linked to IYF. The proposed slogan is "One Earth, One Family". A **United Nations Environment Programme 1994** calendar on - and for - families including proverbs and "green notes" is under preparation. It is conceived as an outreach tool informing families on how they can, at their level, change consumption patterns and better protect the environment. A special category of global 500 families (families which recorded collective outstanding accomplishments in the field of environmental protection) will be included in the 1994 nominations forms. The **1994 Clean Up the World Campaign** will focus on family participation. (Letter from Meryem Amar, UNEP)

Statement for IYF by Maria Thiele-Wittig, President of International Federation of Home Economics (IFHE)

IFHE is an organisation of professionals who in their work deal with matters concerning households and families in various areas: Working directly with households, and families, educating future family members, working with business, with community and government agencies: promoting programmes which support and strengthen households and families, and doing research on issues relevant to the daily lives of households and families.

Families are very much the focus of IFHE whose mission is to strengthen the home economics profession so that it can act as an advocate for families assisting them to meet their needs in ways which are compatible with the needs of global citizens. In this way it is concerned with improvement of the quality of the daily lives of households and families.

IFHE has been one of the earliest NGOs to ask for an International Year of the Family (since 1982), and has since initiated and supported many respective actions. In 1992, IFHE organised a World Congress with the theme: "Focusing on Households and Families: Change and Exchange", with about 1500 participants. The IFHE Programme Committee "Women and Families in Development" under the lead of Nancy Leidenfrost has prepared the publication "Families in Transition" which was reprinted by the UN-IYF Secretariat. Resolutions were passed at Congress concerning gender equity in Home Economics Programmes and the importance of maintaining cultural identity within families. Beside the many activities of the IFHE member organisations regarding the IYF, IFHE plans to participate in the NGO Forum in Malta and the 1994 IFHE council meeting in Sheffield, UK shall highlight IYF.

In support of the NGO statement to the Commission for Social Development the IFHE asks for the institution and proclamation of a special "Week of the Family" in future every year and submits this suggestion for consideration. Such a "Week of the Family" to be observed world wide may help continue the attention, awareness and mobilisation for and of families that is being built up in preparing for IYF. (Home Economics 1/2/1993)

Associated Country Women of the World - Priorities for IYF

To promote greater awareness by governments, media and the community of the central importance

**SPECIAL FEATURE
IN THIS ISSUE**

**INFORMATION
PARTICIPATION
ACTION**

of the family unit to the stability and well-being of society. Promotion of literacy, education, health and welfare services. Access to clean water, food and shelter. The need to share parental rights. The value of men's and women's contribution within the family. Medical support systems to meet family needs (including reproductive health and AIDS prevention). The balance between population, environment and living standards. Extension of rural services. Sustainable agricultural practices.

Prodefa participated in the **UN preparatory meetings** for IYF in Malta, China and Colombia. Rosina Santa Olalla reports from **Cartagena, Colombia**: The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is the focal point in the region and organized the meeting where 25 country members and 22 NGOs were represented. Many delegates insisted on increasing poverty in the area which is affecting the family's constitution, structure and ability to perform its functions and is one of the main causes for disintegration of families and incomplete families, which are the trend in many Latin American countries; the present economic level can also endanger values. The speech of the Minister for Family of Venezuela, Mrs. Barnola, focused on this aspect of poverty and on the necessity to find urgent solutions. Violence, drug, alcohol, abuse and AIDS are other problems affecting families in Latin America.

A member of the ECLAC secretariat said that trends in family constitution, structure and functioning in countries that had long been industrialized take on a different meaning in Latin America on account of the current stage of demographic transition, marked by lower fertility rates and smaller family size, the influence of poverty and uneven income distribution, the shifting role of the state, the speed of socio-cultural changes and the importance of national idiosyncracies, largely a product of the mixture of Aboriginal, European and African cultures and institutions such as slavery.

One important event was the creation of the Coordinating NGO Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean. 42 Latin American NGOs belong to this Committee.

The **information brochure** by the UN-IYF Secretariat on the goals of IYF 1994 are now available in **Islandic**.

* Events

1994

11/12 Feb. South Africa, Family Life, Changes, Choices and Challenges. Conference organized by *Family & Marriage Society of SA*.

24/26 March Congress organised by the *International Family Studies Centre*. The Congress will review the

ways in which family organisations can take part in collective action and evaluate their difficulties with a view to ensuring more meaningful and functional representation in society.

18/21 April Hong Kong, International Conference on Family and Community Care. Further information to be obtained from *The Hong Kong Council of Social Services, 13/F., Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong. Tel. 852-8642929, FAX 852-5284230*

9/13 July Colombo, Sri Lanka, Social Workers World Conference: The Social Work Profession: A Family United in Troubled Times. Contact: *SWWC - 94 Secretariat, 191, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka. FAX 94-1-502968*

10/14 July Lisbon, Portugal, 52th Annual Convention of International Council of Psychologists focussing on Family. Information by *ICP Secr., P.O.Box 62, Hopkinton, RI 02833-0062, USA.*

21/24 July Gödöllő, Hungary, International Meeting of Large Families. *National Association of Large Families. Március 15.tér 8. H-1056 Budapest. FAX 00361/117-4563*

29/31 July Vienna, Austria, European La Leche Liga Conference, Breastfeeding: Best for Babies - Best for Families. Contact: *Christa Müller-Aregger, Postfach 139, Brünigstr.12, CH-6055 Alpnach-Dorf, Switzerland.*

29 July/1 Aug. Black Mountain, North Carolina, USA International Year of the Family Summer Workshop. One World: Many Families: Mandate for New Initiatives. *National Council on Family Relations.*

10/14 Aug. Seattle, Washington, USA, Satir 94, Everyday Satir, The Family and Beyond. A Conference in the Nurturing Tradition of *Avanta and the Pacific Northwest. 310 Third Ave. NE. Suite 126, Issaquah, Washington 98027, USA.*

29 Aug./2 Sept. Leuven, Belgium, Health and Family: Responsibilities of nurses and midwives. The 15th world congress of *CICIAMS*

13/15 Oct. Amsterdam, Netherlands, Violence in the Family. This conference it initiated by the Departemnt of Health Care and Family Dynamics at the Free University of Amsterdam and organized in collaboration with the International Council of Women, The Dutch Association Against Child Abuse, the dept. of Womens Studies at the University of Utrecht and the workgroup "Violence in the Family" at the Free University of Amsterdam. Contact: *Bureau PAOG-Amsterdam, Tafelbergweg 25, 1105 BC Amsterdam, Netherlands, FAX +31-20-6963228*

30 Oct./6 Nov. Caracas, Venezuela, VIII World Congress on Family Rights under the patronage of the Center for Postgraduate Studies of the Faculty of Juridical and Political Sciences of the Central University of Venezuela, the Ministry of the Family, the Supreme Court of Justice. Please contact: *Ministerio de la Familia, Dirección General Sectorial de Desarrollo Social, Apartado de Correos 68502,*



Alta Mira 1062, Caracas, Venezuela, phone and fax 5740576.

3/5 Nov. Vienna, Austria, VIII European Congress of the European Federations of Business and Professional Women. With the subthemes: How to run a family, family and career planning, on love, marriage, divorce, how to learn partnership. Contact: ICOS, Schleifmühlg.1, A-1040 Vienna, Austria, Tel.+43/1/5876044, FAX +43/1/5876059

8/13 Nov. Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, Families and Justice: From Neighborhoods to Nations. *National Council on Family Relations.*



***Family related
NGO news**

The **World Movement of Mothers** considers answers to the questions

- are today's parents and those of tomorrow prepared to "raise" their children?
- what do they want, what ideas and projects do they have for their own families?

most important. It therefore prepared a questionnaire which has been sent to some 20 countries as part of the work for IYF. The results will be presented in Athens at the International Seminar to be held in January 1994.

The **Pan-European Women's Network für Intercultural Action and Exchange** is currently in the process of launching a Fax Art Project, which will produce a publication and small scale live art exhibition. The theme of this project is the family, titled "Five Generations", it brings together the work of Black women artists based in Europe.

The **Salvation Army** will

- publish a small book for young people on moral choices to help our young people make the right choices that lead to establishing a Christian marriage.
- adapt the pre-marital counselling book "To Love and To Cherish"
- and many more activities...

The **Mauritius Council of Social Service** (MACOSS) has created an NGO Network on Women Development and the Family. Consequently it has been invited by the National Coordinating Committee to form part of this National Body.

Global Action Plan (GAP), an international non-profit organization, is working with pilot cities to refine its strategies for mobilizing community-wide participation in the program. In 1995 GAP will begin replicating en masse this community-based approach complemented by national media campaigns which promote the new lifestyle ethic. This will be the launch

of a five-year international lifestyle campaign called "The North Puts Its House In Order...Household by Household." The goal of the campaign is by the year 2000 to have a critical mass of citizens of the North living environmentally sustainable lifestyles. If these goals are achieved, we will be a world that has changed direction - indeed a lifestyle revolution will be underway.

What people are asking for is relevant, personal help and support for the process of changing their lives so that they can become more earth-friendly. The Global Action Plan's Household EcoTeam Programme was created to help people do just that. It provides people with a simple blueprint for household environmental change; and just as importantly, provides the support system and feedback required to help people sustain their good intention.

The programme has been delivered through schools and youth organisations, churches and synagogues, environmental and service groups, adult education study circles, businesses and television.

Contact: *Nadia McLaren, c/o UIA, 40 rue Washington, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium. FAX c/- UIA, +32.2.646.0525*

XVIIth International Federation for Home Economics Resolutions

* The importance of maintaining cultural identities within families

Whereas

the family is the first institution in which traditions are maintained and the identity of individuals continued, and cultural identity is expressed daily by every family member, and without immediate attention to the educational needs of every individual, nations will continue to pay the price of continued failure for generations, therefore

Be It Resolved

that within the IFHE, actions of home economists which are carried out for the welfare of the family and its members, pursue the following goals: a) respect the culture of every individual and protect the economic, social, psychological, cultural and ethical conditions; b) encourage multicultural education and an accurate historical record of societal contributions of all social and ethnic groups; c) promote to reach, protect and increase a minimum life standard for all people; d) the IFHE should support legislation public policy providing for increased access to education and the removal of barriers to all levels of education for all individuals; IFHE use its international, national and regional framework to influence governmental policies.

* The support of households and families

Whereas

households and families the central functions of everyday family life throughout the world, fulfilling these functions is vital for individuals and for the collective quality of life, change throughout the world are taking place with ever increasing frequency thus

contributing to the complexity of everyday life and in many instances inadequate consideration is given to the knowledge bases that underlay the rapid changes in products and situations being offered to today's individuals and families; In order to advance and preserve applicable human, financial and material resources of research, education and policy

Be It Resolved

that, where appropriate, application of the total resources available be directed toward preparing individuals and families to solve the family-life problems that face them locally and throughout the world; that adequate financial resources be provided for provision of additional research and education in home management for private households and institutions; that special emphasis be directed toward the provision of additional research and education in home management for private households and institutions; that the development of global social structures, economic activities and political actions do not become a drain on everyday life but create the space for actions and establish conditions that will support the individual and the collective quality of life. (*Home Economics 1/2/1993*)

Caritas Internationalis. Mission and Objectives of the Working Group on the Family.

1. The Group approved of the need to promote a culture of the family. This must take into account the following:

- the family is a broad-based reality
- there is no need for this working group to concentrate on a strict definition for the family
- much emphasis should be placed on the family as a strength and as a resource, which includes families in difficulties since they also have their own strengths and resources which they can share not only among their own members but also within the wider society.

2. Caritas has a specific contribution to make to the field of family promotion.

- Caritas is involved at the grassroots of society
- Caritas can depart from the reality of the family in different cultural contexts
- Caritas has a special mandate to respond to persons in need, but we must expand this vision to consider families in need, to place this response in a family context.

3. Within our consideration of the reality of families, we must set out on a search for an ethics based on fundamental values.

- our approach will not be theological in the strict sense of the term; this is more appropriate to the bishops and theologians of the Church
- our search will be based on the experience of everyday reality and the values which underly this daily life

4. There is a need for a collaborative approach to family promotion.

- among the various Caritas member organisations

- with the other Caritas Internationalis Working Groups

- with other Catholic Church, non-Catholic and ecumenical, and other non-governmental organisations which promote the interests and concerns of families

- with governmental and intergovernmental structures which formulate policies with an impact on families.

5. The Working Group can help to prepare for an effective observance of the IYF not just as a one-time event but as the beginning of a process to establish a more family-friendly society.

The **National Association of Large Families (NOE)** was founded in 1987. Its members are families in Hungary which bring up or have brought up at least 3 children. At the beginning of 1993 the NOE had more than 12000 member families. The NOE is an organization which is not confined by any religious or political beliefs but is based on mutual tolerance. Its main objectives are:

- representation of the interests of families in Hungary with a particular concern for large families,
- promotion of the values of family life (with regard to our future);
- establishment of communities and organising ways to help each other.

Communal life of the association on a national level consists of three meetings a year: in June, at the end of the school year there is a family day in Budapest, and in September or October another one in a town in the countryside. At such a family day we have common games (often including parents and elder brothers and sisters) and entertainments, but also discussions about current issues. Between Christmas and New Year there is a Christmas party in Budapest with music, singing, and a Nativity play. Finally, a large number of meetings and programmes take place on local levels: the smaller a group, the more informal its programmes.

In pursuit of its aims, the NOE collaborates with other civil organizations, partly on a regular basis and partly occasionally. It does its best to keep in touch with all parties in Parliament. On the other hand, it is willing to take issue with any party, for the NOE stands for lasting values, independently of any tactics. It undertakes to act with all its power against the sellout of the future, regardless of the current policy of the government or the opposition. In our view, the values we stand for have no alternative and cannot be compromised.

Women Heads of Households (Family Aspects of UNIFEM Projects)

The problems women face as heads of households are becoming ever more prevalent as society evolves and economic conditions and unemployment worsens.

Women become heads of households through a variety of circumstances. More traditional

circumstances such as widowhood, divorce at the husband's demand or abandonment, thrust upon women the responsibility of heading a household. In the past twenty years, however, many women have chosen single motherhood, rejecting for various reasons traditional marriage or stable relation with the father. Whatever the circumstances, increasingly more heads of households are women.

The role of head of household must be considered in conjunction with economic factors. "Women play a vital role in the national economy. They produce, process and sell up to 80% of the food products in developing countries. They manage 70% of all small business. The woman is the sole provider for all the needs of one family in three. By aiding 100 000 women, we help 400 000 children." (Report of UNIFEM 1988).

Many women heads of households in the developed countries are employed and thus better able to insure their children's education. Such is not the case in developing countries, however, particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America where unemployment of men is critical and leaves few or no work opportunities for women.

I shall not elaborate upon the possible psychological effect on women who assume the sole responsibility for the household: more solitude, pressures and tensions in the home and on the job arising from their status, lack of adult moral support, worry about the children and possible repercussions on their development etc. Although the psychological aspect is an important dimension of the topic, the purpose of this article is to point out how **Zonta International** projects financed through UNIFEM are providing material assistance to women heads of households.

One of the best examples of this biennium is the Ghana Project. Through a system of weekly loans, this project enables deprived women to engage in income-generating professional activities that feed their families.

The Chile Project in South America, through insuring better organization of the Mapuche peasants, improves their living conditions and consequently improves their productivity and revenues.

The project for India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, which trains women in the proper use of pesticides protects their health and ultimately reduces medical expenses.

The various service projects of Zonta International improve the working conditions of women heads of households and increase the amount of revenue they earn. Participation in these projects will benefit not only these courageous women but also their families, their neighbourhoods and their communities. (*Myriam Vieyra, Zontian, Sept/Oct./Nov.93*)

As it enters its third (and final) year, the **National Association of Social Worker's (NASW) Strengthening Families project** can look back with pride at its accomplishments. Several published

documents created through the project are helping to promote the transfer of family support innovations developed in other countries to the United States. Among them are:

- A Guide to the Contact Family Program, which describes how Swedish social workers use "contact families" to strengthen the informal support systems of at-risk families;

- A Guide to the Family Workshop Program in Denmark, which describes an innovative alternative to child placement in out-of-home care; and

- A Directory of International Innovations for Strengthening Families, which describes 33 family support programs from a variety of countries, lists consultants willing to provide further information on these programs, and includes resource materials such as listings of bibliographies, clearinghouses, and books, and indepth case studies of four of 33 programs.

Another NASW project, Global Family Ties, is a two-year effort to use the media to promote more awareness of international development issues. NASW's 1992 public information campaign used the theme of "global family ties" to educate the general public about global interdependence and the importance of worldwide development. For more information contact *Eileen Kelly, Director, Peace and International Affairs, NASW, 750 First Street, NE, Suite 700, Washington, DC 200024241, USA.*

Family Fest 93, an international multicongress, took place on June 5. 315 TV stations connected live via two-way satellite link-up millions of people in all five continents with the 13.000 families present in the Sports Palace in Rome.

On the threshold of the third millenium every family was challenged to take a leading role in changing the world of tomorrow that all humanity may become one big family. Chiara Lubich, founder of the Focolare Movement of which the **New Humanity/New Families** is a branch, described the event as "Here is the seed of a communication system that will be at the service of the human person, that will spread and promote what is positive and will be an instrument of peace and planetary unity." In fact, what happened seems to be a concrete example of how the mass media can multiply what is positive in the world, building new relationships among people and peoples. One of the many concrete outcomes of Family Fest is the continued support of the two initiatives for solidarity which were launched during the satellite link-up. Already during the transmission 553 calls came in on the toll-free number to respond to "Adoption at a distance" and "Help for the women and children of former Yugoslavia".

The **Intercultural Wellbeing Laceweb Project** is resonant with Aboriginal Reconciliation, though far wider. The Laceweb is made up of hands-on grassroots, interculturals - Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islanders, Australian Pacific persons, people of non-English speaking backgrounds, ethnic minorities and others. Hands-on people of all backgrounds are reconciling, in the purest sense of the term, at the grassroots interpersonal level by engaging in grassroots wellbeing and intercultural reconciling action. The Laceweb has linkings with similar Intercultural Lacewebs throughout South East Asia and Pacific.

Since 1975, youths and other individuals, extended family networks, groups and communities, throughout Northern Australia have been involved. "Ownership" of action in any area is with the local people. Action focuses on wellbeing - social and cultural wellbeing at personal, family interpersonal, and community levels as well as intercultural wellbeing and environmental wellbeing.

The Laceweb Project is a multiple-year action resonant with the International Year of Indigenous People, the International Year of the Family and the Australian Government's aim of intercultural reconciliation by the year 2001. (*July 1993 Update, Nexus Groups, 76 Banyule Road Rosanna 3084*)

*** Family related news from Governments**

The **Icelandic National Committee** has set the following general objective for IYF 1994

To strengthen Icelandic families and encourage their recognition as the basic unit of society, where individuals share emotions, economy, responsibilities, projects and rest.

The main methods to achieve these goals are:

a) to develop a comprehensive family policy
b) to encourage a change in attitudes towards the family prevailing among those in power and the general public, in order that they may appreciate its importance more clearly and recognize it formally. This recognition should lead to an improvement in the family situation. Emphasis should be placed on ensuring that these improvements should reach all types of families.

c) considering especially the situation of families with children and offering proposals to improve their situation.

The national committee has set in motion a research project to investigate the circumstances of children whose parents have separated or divorced. The research will be carried out in cooperation with the Social Science Institut of the University of Iceland.

A Colloquium on family affairs will take place in Reykjavik in the beginning of 1994. The discussion will also take place in other parts of Iceland during the year.

Legislation concerning family affairs will be carefully reviewed.

The national committee intends to concentrate its efforts on arousing the interest of society in general

regarding family affairs. A programme has been drawn up which is aimed at various institutions and groups in order to reach as many people as possible. Among those groups which the committee intends to involve are schools and day care centers, workers organisations, other organisations, local government authorities, the mass media and artists.

New Points of reference for fathers?

It has become common practice to analyse the changes in family and demographic structures: the strong growth in the number of women with a professional activity, the rise in the number of separations, divorces and one-parent families, new methods of reproduction, ... are all factors with an impact on family models in Europe and throughout the world.

Research has concentrated primarily on families and women. Much less attention has been paid to men and almost none at all to men in their role as fathers. And yet, innumerable questions are arising on the evolution of their role.

They seem to be less and less indispensable: women are earning their own living and are in the same jobs as men; the upbringing of children and young people is made more and more complicated by the intrusion of "outside influences" (TV, friends, leisure); soon, men will no longer be necessary even as procreators! There is thus every reason for them to suffer from an identity crisis!

It was therefore with great pertinence that the **Danish Ministry of Social Affairs** and the **E.C. Commission** organised a European conference on "Fathers in the Families of the Future" in Copenhagen on June 17-18, 1993.

New balances must be struck, enabling fathers to play their role which remains - in spite of what some people say - essential within the family.

But a number of very tangible questions arise: how can professional life and family life be successfully combined; how can fathers play their role after a separation; how can parental authority be exercised when a parent is not the biological father, ...?

These are contemporary problems, to which new responses must be found.

The 120 participants in the Conference were able to discuss this issue for two days, helped by the often very enlightening presentations of sociologists, lawyers and psychoanalysts, among others.

All this illustrates that the issue is a complex one, with an undeniable European dimension, and that the solutions undoubtedly lie, as is so often the case where personal relationships are concerned, in a delicate balance of concerns for others - here in particular children - and in good communication between individuals, backed up by government authority provisions, such as sufficient time, services and resources.

Copenhagen opened up several new horizons, with greater possibilities of parental leave, part-time work

for men and greater legal flexibility as regards parental relationships.

Under such conditions, the role of fathers could evolve as harmoniously as possible, provided that women and men are really committed to this!

In this area, perhaps not enough has been said about the education of children and young people both in the home and at school, paving the way for changes in mentality. In any event, this is an area worth watching... (COF.Cont.Aug.-Sept.93)

* Committee Activities

- Vienna

Proceedings of the seminar: "Family and Environment: A Partnership" are now available für ATS 150.--. Order from *IYF-NGO Committee on the Family, An der Hülben 1/15, A-1010 Vienna, Austria. FAX 43-1-512163875*

The **Guiding Principles on the Family** have been translated into Portuguese by the Ministério do Emprego e da Segurança Social/Portugal. They are available from the *IYF-NGO Secretariat*.

The Hellenic Federation of Business and Professional Women has translated the **"Document on the Family"** and the **"Malta Statement"** into Greek.

- New York

In its meeting on May 27, 1993 dealt in depth with the question of **"Family and Indigenous Peoples"**.

* Special Feature

INFORMATION PARTICIPATION ACTION

Evaluation of Questionnaires (prepared by Mrs. O. Gambrell - ACWW)

In an attempt to set up an information network, involving as many groupings as possible, the IYF NGO Secretariat distributed a questionnaire to corresponding partners, requesting a short indication of their main family-related concerns and issues.

The response was remarkable. Replies were received from all regions of the world, most came from Europe (63 from Western Europe, 20 from newly emerging democracies in Eastern Europe), from Asia came 19 replies, India showing particular interest to share their concerns; from Africa 18, North America and Canada 14, South America and the Carribeans 13, Australia and Arabic countries trailing.

For the purpose of this report 152 replies were considered. They came from various organizations. It is difficult to assign these to definite categories, as their aims overlap, but roughly stated there were 30

family organizations, 19 charitable and service organizations, 14 home economic groups, 11 universities, and others concerned with children, economics, religion, health, psychology, nutrition, counselling, etc.

The issues and concerns cover a wide spectrum of topics. It may be said that they are a mirror of the human conditions, as is to be expected. For the individual the family is the core of the human condition.

At this point it must be stated that, considering the list of participants in this "survey", the concerns, as discussed below will give a warped picture. As an example: a home economics association will, naturally, be mainly concerned with home economics, but will not have mentioned this obvious fact. It will, instead mention focal points set for IYF. Thus, the reply should really be read "Home Economics, the Family and". This should be understood when reading the following interpretation.

The one concern most often mentioned was the concern for the Rights and the Well-being of the Individual Members of the Family: The child (34), the woman (25), the elderly (9), men and fathers (5), couples, the child mother, the single parent, the marginal male adolescent, a total of 89 replies.

Family and Society was considered important by 64 respondents. There, the phenomenon of the changing society and changing economic conditions provokes thought and action in 22 correspondents, understandably predominantly in those from the newly emerging democracies in Eastern Europe. Environment and the ecology follow closely with 21 replies; the work place, social ecology, family and community, and others make up the rest.

Health and Family is a major issue in 42 replies, closely followed by Education and the Family (41). The latter, although in most cases not specified, includes such regards as school education, education for children not attending school, school/family relations, etc.

41 organizations consider Social Problems of importance. There it is poverty which is most often mentioned; violence, migration and others follow.

Family Needs and Family Values solicited 30 and 29 replies; nutrition and quality of life are considered very important, as are spiritual values, spirituality, culture, self worth, hospitality.

Relatively, and surprisingly, few correspondents are focusing on Policy and Legal Aspects of the Family. 12 work on family law and family rights, others on taxation, development of policies, a.s.f.

The situation of the Family in Crisis is addressed by 21 organizations. Again, it is poverty that is thought of as the main cause for problems for the family.

A number of service organizations, but also universities give special attention to Counselling, particularly to volunteer work.

Intra Family Relations, role patterns, discipline, equal rights, and work distribution receive major attention from 18 organizations, while Economic Aspects have priority with only 17 groups; that is if poverty is not considered an economic but social issue, as done in this report.

Amazingly little importance seems to be given to Family Structures and Family Responsibility. Divorce is mentioned but twice, as is marriage and partnership, the single parent only once, while family planning concerns 8 of the correspondents.

Which leaves to mention the categories Family Skills with 11 replies, mainly in the field of parenting, and others, such as a Holistic View of the Family and Psychological Aspects.

It cannot be emphasized enough that this report is not suitable as a statistical instrument with regard to issues and concerns. The sampling is not representative in geographic or demographic terms, it is too small to allow conclusions for such a broad subject as "Family". Nonetheless, it may be of interest to look at the material to see what aspects IYF has brought into the range of special consideration for the people who work closest with families, who are The Family, which actions have been taken and where the thrust of future action might be aimed.

The IYF-NGO document "Highlights -IYF Action" lists the conferences and projects of the respondents. The IYF- NGO Secretariat will continue to share the questionnaires with interested organizations and plans to review the replies again in spring 1994. This next review will also include detailed tables on from where the replies came, on categories of main family-related interests, etc.

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