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COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY

UNITED NATIONS - VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY - 1994



I Y F 94

WORLD NGO FORUM

"Promoting Families for the Well-Being
of Individuals and Societies"

Malta, 28 November - 2 December 1993

PLANS FOR PRESENTATIONS

at the

AUTHOR'S FORUM

All lead organizations of Workshops and all authors of presentations at the Author's Forum have been requested to send a "brief outline of content and structures" of the Workshop/Presentation. The Vienna NGO-IYF Secretariat is deeply grateful for the positive response of many persons and organizations. Some Workshop leaders and authors of presentations have sent us detailed outlines of their work and of course these documents will become part of the Proceedings of the Forum.

Please find attached a compilation of the brief outlines received (unedited). This document is shared with participants in the hope to facilitate selection of topics according to interests and for active contributions to the discussions.

Vienna, 31 Oct 1993

PRESENTATIONS AT AUTHOR'S FORUM

Family Life Education for Peace

Mrs. Nona H. Cannon, USA

Many and varied forces in communities and in the world interact to cause violence and/or create peace. Through their parenting practices and personal relationships, families can, and usually do, make the greatest contributions to peace by nurturing children who become self-esteemed, other-caring, peace-promoting people. These people in turn build and sustain societal systems that contain family-supporting elements. However, some parenting practices humiliate and damage children who create many harmful forces which surround families, impede their efforts, and cause violence in the world. Violence is, thus, passed from generation to generation. Societies have become more complex with conflicting values, inequitable practices, increased violence, and wars. Therefore, males and females need family life education in preparation for building and maintaining loving partnerships and becoming competent in promoting fully mature qualities in their children. This is the basic thesis of my book: "Violence and Peace: Their Sources in Families and Societies" and also of my proposed Author's Forum.

The Impact of Armed Conflict on Families

Mr. Eli Breger, United Arab Emirates

There are more than 40 armed conflicts presently raging worldwide with indiscriminate and callous attacks against families. During earlier wars, civilian victims were relatively low, presently 90% are. This increasing focus on family and community victimization is purposeful and goal directed. It has resulted in enormous physical and emotional traumatization, destruction of communities, refugees most often children, set adrift with few adult caretakers, to care for themselves and trek enormous distances, in search of safe shelter. About a third of world's refugee children are in camps outside their country with limited hope of being reunited with a family member.

It is helpful to review the bio-psycho-social concept of "family" and consider how armed conflict specifically affects families; directly and indirectly. The growing knowledge concerning the psychologic impact of armed conflict (Post Traumatic Stress) is significant as it enhances effective working with such children/families in refugee camps or group homes for orphaned children. Unlimited numbers of children and fragmented families will spend extended periods of life in such settings. Educational programmes designed to develop a profession of workers skilled in assessment and effective psychological interventions to enhance stabilization and recovery is essential. One such program for children will be presented.

The importance of the efforts of UNICEF and NGOs as well as global ratification and compliance with the "Convention of the Rights of the Child" are critical.

Family Ethics and Community Bonds

Mrs. Elisabeth Porter, Australia

There are clear links between good families and good citizens. Despite different cultural interpretations of what is a "good society", and what makes a "good citizen", cultures share the context of families, where children are educated to develop values and behavioural patterns that contribute to responsible citizenship. A commitment to strengthening social and community bonds requires a reinforcement of the family's role as educator of ethical principles and practices. A neglect of this commitment results in amoral or immoral self-interest. In the western, materialistic world, the pursuit of individual rights is often at the expense of social responsibilities. Fragmented individuals replace solidaristic community ties. This results in family generation gaps, youth delinquency, rapid marital breakdown, lonely elderly folk. Fostering families as ethical educators of potential citizens with responsibilities for others, is a crucial need for late C20 family policy.

Quelle Politique pour Quelle Famille?

Mr. Paul Moreau, France

La famille mérite d'être considérée comme une des institutions les plus précieuses de la société dans la mesure où elle est directement lieu de sécurité, de soin, d'éducation, mais aussi au service du bien, comme en préparant ses membres à devenir adultes et citoyens. La famille, à cet égard, doit être l'objet d'une politique spéciale, la politique familiale (et qui est à distinguer de la politique sociale) qui vise à la protéger, l'aider, la promouvoir. Faut-il pour autant défendre toute forme de famille? Il convient de rester vigilant et plein de discernement et de toujours référer la famille à sa capacité d'oeuvrer au bonheur et à la dignité des personnes.

Family Policies - a Comparative Study

Mrs. Annemarie Gerzer-Sass, Germany

No details available.

Family and the Public Provision of Services

Mr. Bertram Allan Weinert, USA

The paper views family life from a theoretical framework derived from Kropotkin's "mutual aid", Morgan's "ancient society", Owen's "new view of society" and Engels "the origin of the family". This perspective is applied to the development of a public family policy, using material from the International Federation of Social Workers (UN/NGO) and the Institute for Families and Children (UN/NGO) and experiences in local community decision making on issues affecting families.

Enhancing the Quality of Life in Rural Areas

Mrs. Lesley Ann Greyvenstein, South Africa

Following the signing of the Geneva Declaration for the Advancement of Rural Women by Mrs. Marike de Klerk, wife of the State President of South Africa, extensive research was conducted, resulting in the design of a basic life skill educational community development programme for women, entitled the Women's Outreach Foundation 10 Programme. This programme forms a "safety net" for women and their families by equipping women with basic knowledge and skills to enhance quality of life.

The ten basic life skill areas include primary health care; child, personal and family care; sound nutrition; housing; water and sanitation; the use of energy and other resources, simple financial management and the roles, rights and status of women. The programme operates within a cascade structure of small groups of ten women, each with a group leader, addressing the group's needs in ten consecutive meetings. Research assessment indicates that the programme is a low-cost, highly effective development programme with tremendous potential to make a significant difference in enhancing quality of family life in rural areas.

From Household Economics to Global Resources

Mrs. Anne B. Muir, United Kingdom

Identifying the place of the family and household in the future context of the "whole economy" and global resource demand requires research and study. Raising awareness to the issues related to people, economy, ecology and human rights can be initiated through degree programmes in higher education. The graduates' educational experience should enable the family/household dimension to be inherent in their future policy- and decision-making in whatever profession they pursue. The demonstration, by a multi-disciplinary team of lecturing staff, that it is possible and vital to work across traditional discipline boundaries aims to enable graduates to develop a broad frame of reference and an egalitarian vision of development for a sustainable future.

Family and Paid/Unpaid Work - Family Leave

Mrs. Elizabeth B. Goldsmith, USA

This presentation will discuss the variations in family leave policies in several different countries - subissues include how long should family leave be? should the leave be paid or unpaid? and should coverage be for both men and women? The importance of the family in terms of paid and unpaid work will be highlighted. Strong, productive families are essential to the global economy and the well-being of families is of profound importance to all societies.

. Family and Work: Reconciling the Seemingly Irreconcilable

Mrs. Alice Shalvi, Israel

The right to work. The right to live healthy, normal, family life, with a partner and with offspring. The factors which make the combination of the above difficult, inter alia: location of work; hours of work; child-care facilities and school hours; absence of essential services; lack of partnership traditions within the family; the decline of the extended family. Proposed change and modifications: "Humanization of the workplace". Some suggestions on how to facilitate the combination of gainful employment and family life. Whom do we need to educate and influence?

Promoting Health for Older Workers

Mrs. Loraine Ashton, United Kingdom

No details available.

Política de Prevención del Chico de la Calle

Mrs. Anna Mon, Argentina

Description of project in favour of family and children in Argentina.

Home and Health in the European Community

Mrs. Audrey W. Rose, United Kingdom

Aim: To investigate the extent to which the education system (5-16) within the European Community addresses two of the World Health Organisation's (European Region) targets "Health for All by the Year 2000". The targets selected are: Target 11 - Accidents. Target 22 - Food Quality and Safety. The project directors and two research assistants have through a pilot survey, visits and a full survey in all the member states gained a general picture of school health education and an in depth study into how the World Health Organisation (European Region) targets, Accidents and Food Quality and Safety, are addressed in the European Community school curricula. The results of this investigation will be reported in the presentation.

Successful Family Involvement in their Children's Education in Multi-Ethnic, Multi-Cultural Communities in the United States

Mrs. Jane Carney Schulze, USA

Brief history of the development of multi-cultural education in the U.S. with emphasis on participation by parents in the pre-school and elementary school years, contrasting the author's experience in two very different sections of the U.S., rural Kentucky and San Diego County, CA. Worldwide educational influences in the field will be outlined, as they apply to the U.S. programme development. Sociological factors of "unofficial" segregation in housing + schools, pronounced before the 1960's in the U.S., and the gradual shift in goal to a more equitable educational environment will be discussed. Major components to bring about family harmony within culturally diversified groups in educational settings will be shared.

Education Programmes which aid Families

Mrs. Margaret Jepson, United Kingdom

The mission of home economics is to enable families both as individual units and generally as a social institution, to build and maintain systems of action which lead:

1. to maturing in individual self formation
2. to enlightened, cooperative participation in the critique and formulation of social goals and areas for accomplishing them.

Young People and their Families

Mrs. Gill Jones, United Kingdom

The presentation examines the extent to which families can and do provide the help and support needed by young people as they grow up and leave the home of their parents, and the circumstances in which this help may not be forthcoming. In this context, it questions whether "supporting the family" can necessarily ensure support for individuals within families, especially those who are in the process of breaking away from their families of origin and eventually, perhaps, forming new families of their own. The paper draws on the author's research in Britain.

Relationship between Fathers and Daughters

Mr. Peter Crowley, Germany

No details available.

Families having a Member with a Disability

Mrs. Pauline Fairbrother, United Kingdom

IYF will be celebrated by families with a member with a disability by taking stock of what we have achieved, what we have won. The change in attitudes, the innovative services, the freedom to become an accepted part of the community.

1994 will be a time for planning the future. It is not just the disabled person who needs support. Parents, siblings, grandparents, all have special needs. It is the needs of ALL the family members that I shall be concentrating on, particularly the siblings.

Mothers developing toys for their Handicaped Children

Mrs. Elizabeth Suzuki, Argentina

Se presentaran los trabajos realizados por un grupo de madres de niños discapacitados. Los trabajos son realizados con materiales económicos o de desecho buscando el reciclaje del material. Los trabajos son utilizados por los hijos en sus clases de educación especial.

Psychosocial Help to Refugee Families

Mrs. Marina Ajdukovic, Croatia

In Croatia, professionals - psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers - have developed a number of programmes which aim at preventing mental health problems of refugee families. Their general objectives are to empower mothers and children to cope with stress of displacement, improve their communication skills required by new circumstances, help children successfully continue school activities and peer relations, and to provide effective environment for these objectives. Within these common goals specific programmes were suited for the needs of families living in shelters, for displaced families accommodated with other families, for host families, for groups with special needs (i.e. unaccompanied minors and war widows with children), for school settings, even for mass-media promotion of displaced people's needs.

Children and Divorce

Mrs. Audrey Curtis, United Kingdom

Throughout the western world there has been a rapid increase in the number of families experiencing separation and divorce. Most of the literature has concentrated upon the effects of the family break-up upon the parents and only recently has there been any attempt to look closely at the effects of separation upon the children. This paper deals specifically with the effects of divorce upon young children. Not only will the emotional and social effects of separation be discussed, both in the short term and the long term, but the discussion will also focus upon what children really understand about the concept of divorce. In looking at young children's understanding, some suggestions will be put forward to demonstrate ways in which the deleterious effects of the family break-up can be ameliorated for children. It will also be argued that the implementation of Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child will be beneficial to all children in this situation.

Preserving Family Networks of Children in Public Care

Mrs. S.C. Jackson, United Kingdom

No details available.

The Specificity of the African Family

Mr. Pierre-André Aka, Cote d'Ivoire

This presentation on African Family, for the International Year of the Family 1994, is a view of the conception of African Family with its specificity, its local and cultural organization, its various aspects. The conceptions of Family in Black Africa are presented with the psychological, social, cultural and political aspects and also the religious and traditional environment. That is to say the main past, present and future considerations in that 20 century's world.

Values in the Extended African Family

Mr. Aloysius Mugasa A., Uganda

Definitons of "values" and "extended African family". A survey of various family values in African traditions with specific reference to the extended family. Challenges to the African extended family. Efforts to revive and maintain the values today.

The Changing Values in the African Family

Mrs. Merab Kambamu Kiremire, Zambia

Presentation of findings of a six-months research on the "Changing Values in the African Family" based on over 40 interviews of persons representing across sections of the society in Lusaka, Zambia, that include church leaders, politicians, street kids, prostitutes, university and college students, rural women and men, old people (80 years old), disabled people, divorced people, young people, etc, etc.

Promoting the Well-Being of Family and Community in Botswana

Mrs. Barbara Harvey, United Kingdom

This paper outlines the way in which Home Economics is in a powerful position to influence the well-being of individuals, families and the community in Botswana. Currently various government and non-governmental agencies undertake formal and non-formal approaches to Home Economics education and training. Fragmentation weakens effectiveness. The paper explores the issues, the opportunities and problems and suggests strategies for the future that could bring about better health, self-esteem, self-reliance, social justice and general well-being, especially for women and children. Home Economics is the vehicle for change. The paper is based on personal investigations in Gaborone, Botswana and published data together with experiences of Botswana students in the U.K.

Land for Poor Families in Mexico City

Mrs. Maria de los Angeles Leal, México

Mexico City has experimented a tremendous demographic growth in the past decades (from 1.7 million inhabitants in 1940 to more than 12 in 1990). As a result there are a lot of problems, one of them the access of the poor to urban land. There are human settlements without adequate housing, people are illegal in occupancy and do not have legitimate access to credit, services and opportunities. This presentation is aimed to document the regularization experiences carried out in the past and in progress. The key issues of the actual strategy will be discussed, giving special attention to the link between officials involved in the definition and implementation of regula-rization programmes at the local level and representatives of NGOs participating in such programmes. Particularly, a programme carried out recently, directly with the people of poor areas, will be reviewed and analyzed as it includes in regularization the tenure and access to urban development and testamentary arrangements to consolidate family patrimony and the points of view of home economics on family living topic.

Familia y Políticas Familiares en Chile

Mr. Jorge Sepulveda Lagos, Chile

El estudio presenta un perfil de la familia chilena y los cambios que ha venido experimentado en las últimas décadas. Se analizan además las políticas sociales implementadas a través de los programas ofrecidos por la red gubernamental.

Structures of Turkish Muslim Family

Mrs. Fatima Mehlika Misiroglu, Turkey

This presentation will discuss the structure of the Muslim Turkish family throughout history with emphasis on the traditional family cycle although comparisons are made with family and kinship structures of the "modern family cycles".

The presentation will include marriage systems, child rearing and socialization, kinship systems, care for old-age parents, disability, death in the family. Special emphasis will be given on the protective potential that the Turkish Muslim family structure has for the solution of today's societies problems such as drug abuse, alcoholism, sexual abuse, etc.

Family in the Mediterranean Area - A Psycho-Social Analysis

Mr. Francisco Mele, Argentina

No details available.

Parenting in Dutch Families

Mr. Jan R. M. Gerris, The Netherlands

Presentation of Research Project:

Our research questions are: First, we would like to know what kind of value-orientations parents have on the following domains relevant for the value loaden field of family life: the person (e.g. self determination, hedonism), world views (e.g. explicit christian view of life), work (e.g. career orientation), cultural conservatism (e.g. abortion, euthanasia), alternative living forms (e.g. traditional family values, alternative forms of family life), male-female relationships (e.g. traditional role models), educational beliefs, orientations on the own living environment (e.g. localism), and political and societal orientations (e.g. conservatism, progressiveness).

By using these cultural indicators mentioned above one can get more insight into the question how far processes of individualization and secularisation are penetrated into the attitudinal evaluations of those citizens which are as a parent responsible for their own family.

By answering this first question with the data of a national representative survey into 800 families, we want to make a major contribution towards an in depth diagnosis of a societal process most relevant for family life.

Secondly, we would like to know what is left over of highly valued family functions of warmth, caring, security, tolerance and acceptance, when we confront modern, differentiated parental value-orientations with observed realities of internal family functioning (exemplified by parent-child relationships, marital relationships, child-rearing behaviours and goals, and parental characteristics of the parent and the child). In this second question, the implicit assumption is challenged that family functions of parental care, warmth, affection, and mutual acceptance and respect between family members erode away when the traditional values of family life are weakened or even vanished.

Situation of Families After the Changes in Hungary

Mrs. Agota Benkő, Hungary

Changes in Hungary from the point of view of the family; right to work and to social security; the dangers of consumer society; the image of the family in a post-communist country; an association for the family.

Assistance and Therapy of Romanian Family during the Period of Transition

Mr. Nicolae Mitrofan, Romania

The main purpose of this conceptual-methodological model for assistance and complex family therapy is to ensure prevention of the disfunctions and structural-functional "recovering" of the Romanian family which faces during the period of transition from a totalitarian society towards a democratic one many and various complicated and delicate problems. In order to maintain the health and the equilibrium of the family, the intervention has three dimensions. 1. educational preventing (premarital); 2. cure and treatment (supporting-corrective and therapeutic assistance of the family in need, under all its forms); 3. legislative (protection of the young family, legal solutions for the family violence and child protection in accordance with international rights of children).

Difficulties of Parenting in Croatia Today

Mrs. Dubravka Males, Croatia

The respect of parents as educators is proportional to the level of development democratic relations in society. Parents in Croatia have problems because they are educated in a socialist society and now they must prepare their children for life in a democratic society. It means - new aims and objectives, new values and methods. The second problem are one-parent families (one parent is killed in war), refugee families, etc. They need economic, social, medial (sometimes) and pedagogical help. In Croatia, schools have not yet carried into effect the transformation which would enable parents to enter the school as equal partners.

The Russian Family in Transition

Mrs. Akimushkina Irina Ivanova, USA

The situation in the family relations in Russia after desintegration of the USSR during the transition period from communist ideology to market economy and new democratic values.

Status of women and children in the family in this period, partnership in the Russian family, changes brought to the family relations by new economic realities, prospects for the conservation of family traditions in Russia under pressure of individualist and selfishness influence of the western (mainly American) culture.

Family Breaks in Ukraine in the Conditions of Socio-Economic Crisis

Mrs. Lakiza-Sachuk, Ukraine

No details available.

Integral Plan for the Catalanian Family

Mr. Antoni Comas, Spain

Un Gobierno no debe condicionar un modelo de familia, aunque sí tiene la responsabilidad de adoptar aquellas medidas que faciliten a las familias el desarrollo de su propio proyecto.

Esta idea es la base del Plan Integral de Apoyo a las Familias que, dentro de una tradición europea, ha elaborado la Generalitat de Cataluña. La familia adquiere una dimensión preventiva en la atención de la infancia en riesgo. Por otro lado, y entendiendo que la familia es un punto de referencia básico para el desarrollo de los jóvenes, la Generalitat la ha tenido en cuenta, también, en el Plan Interdepartamental de Juventud "Cataluña 93-94".

Care of the Dying - The Austrian Model

Mr. Werner Wanschura, Austria

Description of a pilot project

The Media Portrayal of Family

Mr. James D. Halloran, United Kingdom

No details available.

Presentation Family-Fest 1993

Mrs. Ursula and Mr. Hermann J. Dörpinghaus, Italy

Presentation of "Family-Fest 1993", a media event in preparation of IYF.

Handbook for Teaching Families: A Training Manual

Mrs. Nancy B. Leidenfrost, USA

Introduction of a manual on "how to" deliver/teach adults in an informal family-centered education programme (part I). Part II includes lessons for direct teaching authored by 16 authors with international teaching experience. Individual lesson chapters include topics on food and nutrition, food storage and preservation, intensive vegetable gardening, growing food at home-family poultry flock-raising, rabbits and goats, primary health care, child care, parenting, income generating projects, clothing, and textiles, and management of personal family resources.

Transitions in the Smallest Democracy - The Vital Role of NGOs

Mrs. Genevieve A. Schroeder, USA

Introduction for presentation:

Around the world, life is lived one day at a time! People and families are in transition each day all over this planet.

The sun comes up, the wind blows the rain sideways and then the stars and moon appear. Children are bathed in a bathtub or in a bucket near the village well. Students go to school, walking, riding a bicycle or in a car or bus - always carrying their books. Parents hurry to work and caregivers wipe noses, answer questions and tell stories. Children play "Ring around the Rosey", take turns on the slide and yell to each other. Income is earned, spent and applied to credit debt. A child is born and an elder dies - joy is expressed, tears are shed. Thus, roles are learned, decisions are made, attitudes are shaped, and relationships with people and events are experienced.

Around the world, families share common daily living experiences, like eating and working, pondering about tomorrow, and expressing concerns, wishes and dreams. These common daily living experiences are NOT more important in one country than another. The similarities in daily living patterns help us have a sense of belonging to the global village.

IYF - Mobilizing A Community

Mr. Charles M. Vehlow and Mrs. Helen K. Cleminshaw, USA

Project presentation:

After learning about the United Nations 1994 International Year of the Family at an international conference, Dr. Cleminshaw returned to Akron with a vision of a community-wide celebration of the family consistent with the goals and objectives of the United Nations International Year of the Family.

A small task force discussed the feasibility of a year-long celebration. From this task group a steering committee was established to reflect

An IYF Project at the Grassroot Level

Mr. Wolfgang Krug von Nidda, Austria

Short video-clip on the worldwide activities of SOS-Kinderdorf International as private social welfare organization for orphaned and abandoned children, recognized for its clear family-near concept. Presentation of the IYF-project by which SOS-Kinderdorf International will support 5000 destitute families at the grassroot level. By concrete actions the daily life of needy families will be improved. Beside these actions 1000 abandoned children will get a new family in a SOS-village.

Recreation: A Determinant of Family Cohesion

Mrs. Ruth Nina, Puerto Rico

No details available.

La Familia a Través del Tiempo

Mrs. Olivia Miramontes de Rivera, México

No details available.

Project Presentation "Families of the World"

Mrs. Hélène Tremblay, The Netherlands.

No details available.