



The Recognition and Respect of Diverse Families in Times of a Global Pandemic

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Human Rights Council, 44th session

Tuesday, June 30th 2020

2.30pm – 4pm CET

Virtual Side Event – Pre-register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xd7eYNRiRz2bMNRsQx89iQ

The UN and international human rights system have for a very long time, made strong efforts to protect the family, its individual members, and in all its diversity across history, regions, religions and cultural traditions. The health crisis related to the worldwide spread of the COVID-19 has impacted all of us, and cast into sharp relief the added vulnerability of marginalised populations, including individuals & families.

While there have been growing contestation and efforts to include exclusionary language in UN documents, we see UN policies as having the potential to continue to protect strong and stable families and family relationships, in all their diverse forms, since they continue to play an important role in our society. In pursuit of this aim we will share information and recommendations from diverse actors about the impact of COVID-19 on families and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions, around the world.

Opening Remarks: Representative from the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the UN

Our panelists will be: Andrea Rivas (IFED/AFDA, Argentina), Anita Bhatia (UN Women), Benny Odongo (IFED/Coast Women for Women, Kenya), Derricia Castillo-Salazar (IFED/Our Circle, Belize), Dominic Richardson (UNICEF), Gurchaten Sandhu (IFED/UN-GLOBE, UK), Dr. Nontando Hadebe (GIN, Southern Africa), Tuisina Ymania Brown (GIN/ILGA World, Samoa/Australia).

Concluding remarks: Victor Madrigal- Borloz, UN Independent Expert on SOGI

Moderator: Caroline Ausserer (Journalist, Germany)