

# Report on United Nations International Year of the Family 2014 Preparations

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Iceland, September 2011**



# Twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014

- Since 1959 UN has designated International years in order to draw attention to major issues & to encourage international action to address concerns which have global importance and ramifications. International Years:
  - [International Year of Cooperatives 2012](#)
  - [International Year of Youth 2010-2011](#)
  - [International Year for the Eradication of Poverty 1996](#)
  - [International Year of Family 1994](#)
  - [International Year of Youth 1985](#)

# International Year of the Family 2014: three themes

- Confronting family poverty
- Promoting intergenerational solidarity
- Ensuring work & family balance

Source: Report to Secretary General, UN General  
Assembly Economic and Social Council November 2010

# Activities

- United Nations Programme on the Family Focal Point: Renata Kaczmarska
- Reports (e.g.. ILO/UN 2009 *Work & family: towards new forms of reconciliation with social co-responsibility*; UN *Men in families*, 2010) expert meetings, resolutions, seminars, lobbying etc. International & regional level
- **International Day of Families 2012** "Ensuring work & family balance" May 15th

# United Nations Experts Group Meeting, New York, 1 – 3 June 2011



**Recommendations for relevant stakeholders to be circulated**

<http://social.un.org/index/Family/MeetingsEvents/EGMonAssessingFamilyPolicies.aspx>

# MEN IN FAMILIES

and Family Policy in a Changing World



1. Men, families, gender equality and care work
2. Fatherhood and families
3. Fathers in challenging family contexts: a need for engagement
4. Migration, families and men in families
5. Men, families and HIV/AIDS

<http://social.un.org/index/Family/Publications/MeninFamilies.aspx>

*Centre for Research  
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# Leave network contribution

- Building in links to United Nations Programme on the Family Focal Point – linking national activities to international timetable 8-17 February 2012  
[50th Session of the Commission for Social Development](#)(CSocD) priority theme this year is: "Poverty Eradication".
- Work-family activity planning underway – Country examples of innovative programmes and policies
- New Reports, books and papers

# Work-family briefing paper

- **Work-family pressures in families:**

Working hours of parents – mothers & fathers, in dual earner, lone parents

Anti-social working patterns (night work, shifts, weekend)

Working away from home (transnational, intermittent

absences) **Patterns across the world:** Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, China (using available data– EU 27, OECD, ILO). Over-work, over-load, spillover; “work-rich/ time poor”; impact on children, quality of family life and parents’ health & wellbeing. Life course transition points.



# Work-Family policies and programmes for families

- Show-casing selection of policies and programmes
- E.g. Family Leave – maternity leave, paternity leave, parental leave, leave to care for children who are ill. Time off to care for dependants. Statutory provision.
- Flexible working provisions (flexi-time, part-time, annualised hours etc) Time credits.
- Cash for care transfers/ informal care (grandparents)
- Early childhood education and care
- Breakfast and after school provision