



International Family Policies were debated.

**The Journalists and Writers Foundation and its Women's Platform,
consulting with the Focal Point on Family at the Department of Economic and
Social Affairs (DESA),organized
International Family Conference III:
*International Family Policies on November 29-30, 2014.***

Consulting with the Focal Point on Family at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA),the 3rd International Family Conference on International Family Policies was held in support of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF+20) activities on 29-30 November, 2014 at Fatih College Congress Center.

Family has to be protected and empowered in the lights of universal values and basic human rights. Besides, family policies have to be nourished by examples of best practices around the world. The 2014 International Family Conference was our third conference and concentrated on scientific, policy and practical attention on legal aspects of family in different societies. The Keynote Speech was delivered by Board Chair of UN Women National Committee Sweden, Ms. Katarina Lindahl and one of the speakers was Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia, Ms. Diana Bryant AO. Especially consisted of academicians, speakers from 13 different countries prepared the ground for experience sharing among the best practices of family-oriented policies.

Besides, The JWF and JWF Women's Platform took the opportunity to join UNiTE campaign via this international conference on family policies, by inviting the audience to wear the orange ribbon to raise awareness amongst our community about the global pandemic of violence against women and girls. The United Nations Secretary- General's Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women, with the motto "Orange YOUR Neighbourhood.", invites people to mark the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence by organizing "Orange Events" in our own neighbourhoods between 25th November and 10th December.

The conference was also supported by International Federation For Family Development (IFFD) from Spain, NittoKAI from Japan, Istituto Tevere from Italy, Kimse Yok Mu and MARKAFED from Turkey, Thailand Achievement Institute –TAI from Thailand and Ufuk Dialogue Foundation from Nigeria. At the end of this two- day conference, the Final Declaration of the Conference was announced:



FAMILY CONFERENCE III – INTERNATIONAL FAMILY POLICIES

29-30 November 2014, Istanbul

FINAL DECLARATION

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family designated by the United Nations, the Journalists and Writers Foundation Women's Platform organised the International Family

Conference III –International Family Policies on 29-30 November 2014, with contributions of 17 speakers from 13 different countries, which dealt with family and law, family and work, family and poverty through regional practices, underlined by the presentations.

Recognizing the family as a natural and fundamental group unit of societies (E/RES/2014/8), we welcome all the preparations and celebrations happening around the world for this Anniversary. With the spirit of being part of it,

Stressing that equality between men and women, especially women's equal participation in employment, shared parental responsibility and respect to the rights of children should be the essentials of family policies,

Acknowledging the evidence that family policies and laws are more effective when targeting the family unit rather than each one of its members; that balancing work and family life helps parents to be co-responsible in their tasks; and that empowering families is essential to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty,

Convinced that civil society has a significant role in promoting human rights, assessing family policies and supporting families, we urge governments to consider these recommendations:

1. Family policies should always take into consideration the empowerment of women within the family, especially in their integration to the labour market.
2. Make sure that the law always respects the rights of every member of the family to be part of the decision process within the family.
3. Respect every nation's peculiarities as long as they don't violate the international conventions and treaties; and promote mutual understanding between different societies.
4. Make sure that reproductive technologies do not violate the basic rights of all parts involved.
5. Never force women to make a choice between work and family commitments; therefore consider the cost of maternal leave and in-kind services and tax benefits as investment for the society.
6. Build a legal framework in which the private sector doesn't get extra cost when their staff receives maternal leave, and the woman has the guarantee to keeping her job.



7. Ensure the universal accessibility and quality of early child education.
8. Ensure that young generations get the skills to find a way to integrate into society and start a family through a proper job.
9. Ensure that families are not replaced in their duties, but supported and made accountable for the help they get from society.
10. Mainstream the family in the sustainable development agenda, and take into account that the achievement of the new Development Goals depends on how well families are empowered to contribute to their achievement.