



Centre Catholique International de Coopération avec l'UNESCO

15 May 2020 - International Day of Families

CCIC Message to UNESCO

The confinement imposed on populations in the fight against Covid 19 spotlights the missions fulfilled by the family and its contributions to the social life. Parents first responsibility is to educate (UDHR art 16 and CRC art 28 and 29). In this period of pandemic, they are in the front line: **when the social structures are reduced to their minimum, the family is at the very heart of the social system, a crucial situation today.**

Indeed, **families which were declared "society basic units"** (cf:47/237) by the United Nations 1994 International Year of the Family, are now in an environment which no longer grants paying attention to them, absorbed as we are by remunerated work and by an "all economic" system. Too often no dedicated family policy plans are provided to accompany the family in recognition of the important human investment it provides for the future of the society. It contributes to the growing **poverties which social policies struggle to respond to.**

The family is an "ordinary social contributor" in terms of the care it provides to its members: health care, nutritional care, social, demographic and educational investment. As such, it should be able to obtain a fair compensation for the services rendered, through a generalised implementation of **family policies**, different from and complementary to **social policies**. This implementation should be carried out **according to the principles of subsidiarity, proportionality and universality.**

Consistent with its mission, the CCIC wishes to convey the following **recommendations** to Madam Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General. The CCIC **would like to see them included in the priorities of the UNESCO's initiative "Futures of Education: Learning to Become"**.

- Respond to the need for **a proactive support for families**, as "hearts of societies" and educators of their members, **to help them to combat the negative effects of the looming global economic crisis.**
- Take into account the imperative need for **inalienable respect for the dignity of persons** within their families in all situations brought about by this economic crisis. Pay special attention to the existence and survival of all families and especially to those in situations of extreme poverty, migrants, refugees who are victims of conflicts and support persons with disabilities
- Integrate into UNESCO's work **the educational capacity of families from early childhood to the beginning of adulthood**, in close association with teachers, and to **the elders contribution to the educational wealth as transmitters of wisdom and memory.**
- Address the essential need **to live in a peaceful environment**, in homes and countries, for the harmonious development of all families. Recognize as essential the need for stable parental relationships that greatly favour the education and psychological balance of children, especially in a context that is already difficult in itself.

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- Strengthen in the long term **the access to education of women and girls**, an access that could be threatened under the pretext of the economic crisis. They are, along with men and boys, **the driving forces of the countries in which they live.**

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