



Commemoration of Global Day of Parents

“Families and Parenting Support as Foundations of Peaceful and Resilient Societies”

1 June 2026 • 1:30-3:00 PM • Conference Room VII

BACKGROUND

The family is the natural foundation for social cohesion, solidarity, and intergenerational continuity. In a global context marked by conflict, forced displacement, economic instability, and increasing social fragmentation, policies that support and strengthen family life and family unity—including by empowering parents to fulfill their primary responsibilities towards their children—are essential to building peaceful and resilient communities and societies where the promise of human rights is translated into reality for all.

Strong and stable family environments are closely linked to progress across the three pillars of the United Nations—human rights, sustainable development, and peace and security.

Evidence from global research indicates that family-oriented policies can support the achievement of a range of internationally agreed goals related to poverty reduction, health, education, gender equality, youth employment, and ending violence. Approaches that strengthen parental capacities, enhance family stability, and promote positive intergenerational outcomes can enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of these efforts.

Both within and beyond the family environment, parents have a primary and irreplaceable role to play in the care, nurturing, and education of their children, as reflected in numerous international human rights instruments. In fulfilling this role, they contribute to the transmission of essential values such as respect, responsibility, and dialogue, and provide the immediate setting in which children develop the key social and emotional competencies and are empowered with the foundational values that shape their future. Supporting and investing in parents and families thus strengthens the foundations for more resilient individuals, stronger communities, and a more peaceful world.

Held on the occasion of the Global Day of Parents, this side event will celebrate and highlight the central role of the family, and particularly the transformative contribution of parents in fostering child well-being, protection, care, and empowerment. In line with the International

Bill of Human Rights (UDHR, ICCPR, ICESCR), according to which the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society entitled to protection by society and the State, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which affirms the family as the natural environment for the growth and well-being of the child, the event will bring together representatives of Member States, United Nations entities, civil society organizations, academic experts and practitioners to foster constructive dialogue on importance of family and parenting support and encourage renewed commitment to policies that support and strengthen families worldwide.

SPEAKERS

- H.E. Mr. Akram Sa'ud Harahsheh, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations Office at Geneva and to the specialized agencies in Switzerland;
- H.E. Mr. Salomon Eheth, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mrs. Reem Alsalem, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences (TBC);
- Prof. Jenet Jacob Erickson, Family Fellow, Wheatley Institute;
- Mrs. Evelyne Santos, Main UN Representative, Center for International Justice and Reconciliation;
- Mr. Giorgio Mazzoli, Co-Chair of the NGO Committee on the Family – Geneva.

OBJECTIVES

- Increase awareness of the role of families and parents in promoting peaceful, resilient, and cohesive societies;
- Exchange experiences, good practices, and policy approaches that support family well-being, family unity, and parenting support;
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue on policies and initiatives that support and strengthen families and empower parents;
- Identify entry points for integrating family-oriented approaches across the three pillars of the United Nations—human rights, sustainable development, and peace and security—to strengthen peaceful, resilient, and cohesive societies.

KEY THEMES

- Strengthening family life and family unity as foundations for peaceful and resilient societies;

- Supporting parents in their primary role in the care, upbringing, education, and protection of children;
- Promoting family environments that foster respect, responsibility, solidarity, non-violence, and social cohesion;
- Reinforcing the intergenerational transmission of values that contribute to stable and peaceful communities.
- Supporting families in fragile, conflict-affected, displacement, and crisis settings;
- Advancing policy approaches that strengthen family and parenting support systems.

FORMAT

The event will consist of a panel discussion featuring opening remarks, a moderated exchange among speakers representing varied experiences and expertise, an interactive discussion with participants, and closing remarks.

The format will prioritize dialogue, engagement, and the exchange of experiences and good practices among panelists and participants.