



The International Commission
on Couple and Family Relations

57th International Conference

In collaboration with



Cana Movement Malta

**Empowering families
as sustainable partners
in social policy**

MALTA

12th – 14th March 2010



Empowering families as sustainable partners in social policy

International Conference
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There is no substitute for the family – it is an irreplaceable gift to society. Worldwide concern about the problems families are facing promotes the vital need to empower the family and help it rediscover its innate abilities and potentialities

The family is not an agent which receives only but which has a lot to give and this makes it a potential stakeholder in policy making.

Rather than implement policies which penalize the family, states are dutybound to implement family friendly policies.

The conference will therefore focus on ways to sustain and empower the family. It will provide a forum for sharing ideas and new initiatives.

Keynote presentations from different parts of the world, backed up by workshops allowing participants to share and learn experience and skills, will form the major part of this conference.

Conference participation:

Individuals and organisations involved in couple and family counselling and therapy, family organisations, research, social policy, family-related legislation and legal processes, relationship educators and the provision of welfare services are invited to participate.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**Keynote presentations
by internationally recognised experts**

Among the sub-topics to be addressed:

- *Sustaining families
with social and economic problems*
- *Intergeneration issues*
- *Health issues*
- *Empowering caring agencies*
- *Sustaining families in the educational
field*
- *Sustaining families with disability
realities*
- *Sustaining families going through
crisis*

**Workshops offering the chance to
explore topics in more depth**

**Study group sessions developing
international, multidisciplinary
perspectives on conference topics
and participants' interests**

Poster presentations

**A mixture of cultural events and
informal entertainment will make up
the social programme**

The 57th international conference is jointly organised with The Cana Movement Malta.

About Cana:

For over 50 years, Cana Movement's main priority has been to render its services to the Maltese family. Our services are addressed to help young people in their preparation for marriage, and to accompany families throughout their married life. However this does not stop us from assisting couples who find stumbling blocks in their relationship.

Cana engages in:

- Training facilitators for Marriage Preparation Courses, Natural Family Planning teachers and Counsellors
- Providing on-going training/formation through seminars and conferences for its teachers, facilitators, counsellors and members
- Carrying out research and work on manuals/textbooks on educating in couple relationships
- Organising marriage preparation courses, enrichment meetings for married couples and national and international conferences
- Sending via email, the 'Family Update' to Church, Government and other local organisations, with the aim of keeping them abreast with current family issues
- Providing counselling service by trained counsellors and professional psychologists
- Offering the services of a number of support groups

Conference Venue:

New Dolmen Hotel, Qawra - Malta

Merging almost seamlessly with neighbouring Bugibba, Qawra extends southwards from St Paul's Bay, linking it with Salina Bay around the next peninsular. The New Dolmen Hotel, named after the Neolithic remains found nearby, is the most luxurious hotel in the St Paul's Bay area. Interestingly, the archaeological remains now form part of the well-landscaped hotel grounds and make an unusual addition to the place.

Empowering families as sustainable partners in social policy

Details of this conference and how to register will be available on the ICCFR website: www.iccfr.org in June 2009.

If you are interested in offering a workshop in the topic area, or if you want further information or have questions, please contact one of those identified below as soon as possible (deadline for workshop proposals is September 2009).

Dr Anna Vella

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Terry Prendergast

Chair ICCFR
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For conference bookings kindly contact:

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Conference organiser
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The International Commission on Couple and Family Relations ICCFR

The Commission was established in 1953 by the International Union of Family Organisations (IUFO/WFO). Its annual international conferences are dedicated to making an innovative and contemporary contribution which addresses the issues and challenges couples and families face throughout the world. Its extensive international membership includes organisations and individuals involved in family therapy, relationship education, social work, mediation, psychology and psychiatry, research, social policy, family courts and the law, and family organisations. As a result, the Commission sustains a groundbreaking interdisciplinary dialogue about couple and family relations and the support provided for them by the professions.

ICCFR Mission Statement

ICCFR-CIRCF believes that stable flourishing communities are based on thriving couple and family relations. The Commission dedicates itself to the advancement and world-wide dissemination of knowledge about those relationships, and to activities promoting their well-being. It provides an international forum in which individuals and organisations can engage in dialogue about the issues and challenges couple and family relations face, and about the means by which the related professions can collaborate in responding to them.

