



2014 - TWENTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF THE FAMILY

**Side event of the 52nd session of the Commission for Social
Development in observance of the**

**Twentieth Anniversary of the
International Year of the Family**

***Global Perspectives on Family Well-Being:
Work-Family Balance &
Intergenerational Issues Reconsidered***

Biographical Notes of Panelists

Bahira Sherif Trask, PhD, Professor and Associate Chair, Human Development and Family Studies, University of Delaware

Bahira Sherif Trask is a full Professor and Associate Chair of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Delaware and a Policy Scientist in the Center for Community Research and Service. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from Yale University and a PhD in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on the intersection of globalization, gender, work and family in Western and non-Western contexts. Primarily she concentrates on economic changes, work and gender roles, and policies that can assist and strengthen low income families. Dr. Trask has authored and edited a number of books in this area including: *Women, Work, and Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities* (Routledge, 2014), *Globalization and Families: Accelerated Systemic Social Change*, (Springer, 2010), *Personal Relationships* (Cognella, 2011), *Cultural Diversity and Families: Expanding Perspectives* (Sage, 2007), and *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Women's Issues Worldwide*, (Greenwood, 2003). She has also served as the guest editor of various special edition journals on these issues. Dr. Trask has published over fifty peer-reviewed articles, chapters and review articles in significant journals, handbooks and edited works.

Much of Dr. Trask's scholarship has been informed through participation with a number of international, national and community based research projects that focus on diversity, gender and work, and strengthening low-income families. Her work has been funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Marguirite Casey Foundation, and various local community initiatives. Currently, she is involved with the Blueprints Initiative Delaware, a program funded through the Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh. Blueprints is a revitalization program that is supporting 8 low-income Delaware communities. Dr. Trask's involvement on these projects reflects her belief that academics need to apply their knowledge towards bettering social conditions. She has published and spoken extensively on these topics in the United States, South America, and Europe, and has served as an expert witness and national commentator on challenges facing American families.

Florence von Erb, President, Make Mothers Matter International

Florence von Erb worked twenty-four years in finance. She switched her focus to the non-profit world in 2004 when she joined Make Mothers Matter International as their UN representative. In 2008 she was elected President of the NGO. MMMI is a non denominational and non political NGO, seeking to promote peace and well being through the mobilizing force of mothers in more than 40 countries, uniting over 60 grass root organisations and affiliates. For 60 years MMM has federated associations from widely different backgrounds working for and with mothers to ensure at least the basics of human security and improved quality of life. In 2010, MMM has published a study on the "Realities of Mothers in Europe" in contribution to the EC's "Family Platform" research project.

Steven K. Wisensale, PhD, Professor of Public Policy in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Connecticut

Steven Wisensale is the author of more than 75 journal articles, book chapters, and policy briefs. His primary teaching responsibilities and research interests are in family policy, law, and aging issues. He has received a research award by the Northeastern Gerontological Society and three university-wide teaching awards (and two departmental awards). He has published three books, including *Family Leave Policy: The Political Economy of Work and Family in America*. He has received two Fulbright Fellowships – one in Germany, the other in the Czech Republic – and is a former Research Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. In 1999-2000 he was a consultant to the United Nations on world population aging and, over the years, he has served on seven state task forces in Connecticut, with topics ranging from teen pregnancy to family leave policy, to aging issues.

Professor Wisensale is a Senior Scholar at the Council on Contemporary Families and is a Fellow of the National Council on Family Relations. He also served as a member of the Public Policy Committee of the Gerontological Society of America. He has published opinion pieces in the *Baltimore Sun*,

Hartford Courant, and *The Atlantic Journal Constitution*, and has been interviewed by the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, National Public Radio, MSNBC television, and various other media outlets. He received his Ph.D. in Social Welfare Policy from the Heller School at Brandeis University where he focused on aging and long-term care policy

Kevin Brabazon, President of the New York State Intergenerational Network and UN Representative of Generations United

Kevin Brabazon is a United Nations Representative for Generations United - which serves in an advisory capacity to the Economic and Social Council - and President of the New York State Intergenerational Network. He is an Associate Professor at New York University, a professor in intergenerational studies at Dowling College, and a former lecturer in gerontology at La Guardia College, CUNY. He is a co-editor of *Intergenerational Approaches in Aging: Implications for Education, Policy and Practice* (Routledge, 1997, 2001) and author of other publications in the intergenerational field. He was involved in developing intergenerational services at NYC Department for the Aging for several years, and a USA network of services for grandparents raising grandchildren for the Brookdale Foundation. During his early years in the USA, he worked as a community organizer in Harlem developing interfaith social services through a coalition of churches and NGOs.