



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Social Policy and Development



INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF FAMILIES
15 MAY 2015

**International Day of Families*
2015 Observance**

**Panel Discussion
Friday, 15 May, 2015, 1:15-2:45
UN HQ New York
Conference Room 12**

***Men in Charge? **
Gender Equality and Children's Rights
in Contemporary Families***

Information Note

The 2015 observance of the International Day of Families aims to raise awareness and mobilize support for action to ensure gender equality and rights of children within families and prevent family violence through fair family law frameworks and a variety of programme interventions.

The observance will feature an expert panel discussion focusing on the following topics:

- **Changing families and the need for policy response**

- Access to justice in family laws
- Gender equality & women and girls empowerment in family laws
- Children's rights in family laws
- Regional perspectives on gender equality and children's rights in contemporary families
- Family laws and family policy development
- Prevention of violence in families & communities

Expert presentations will be followed by discussion with audience participation.

The event is open to the public and targets civil society, Permanent Missions, academics and practitioners as well as private sector representatives.

Special passes will be secured for those without a valid UN ID.

For further information please contact Ms. Renata Kaczmarska, Focal Point on the Family, DPSD/DESA at kaczmarska@un.org, tel. 1 212 963 4596.

***The annual observance of the International Day of Families reflects the importance the international community attaches to families and is an opportunity to demonstrate support to families. Governments, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and individuals are encouraged to organize observances of the Day to raise awareness of issues relating to families and increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. Such observances can promote a better understanding of the functions, strengths and needs of families.**

**** The theme of the observance was inspired by a recent publication *Men in charge? Rethinking of Authority in Muslim Legal Tradition* (Oneworld, 2015). The publication presents some**

important results from new feminist research challenging gender discrimination and male authority from within Islamic legal tradition.

<http://www.zibamirhosseini.com/books/men-in-charge-rethinking-authority-in-muslim-family-laws/>