



# National Council on Family Relations - Overview

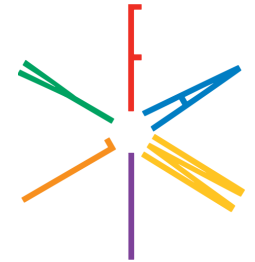
Charles Cheesebrough  
NCFR Director of Membership and Marketing

Jennifer, Crosswhite, PhD., CFLE,  
NCFR Director of Public Affairs

Mihaela Robila, Ph.D., CFLE  
NCFR Representative at the U.N.  
Professor, Queens College, City University of New York

*The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) is the premier professional association for the multidisciplinary understanding of families.*

# NCFR history



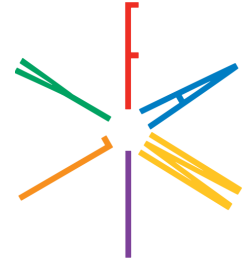
The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), founded in 1938, is the oldest multidisciplinary organization focused solely on family research, practice and education.



NCFR as a professional association is dedicated to understanding and strengthening families through its members' activities in research, scholarship, outreach, and policy.

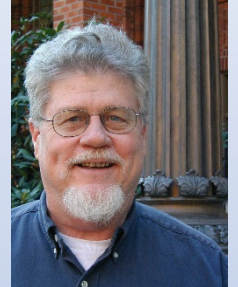


# NCFR members

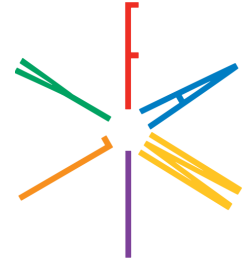


NCFR has 3,000-plus members; they come from more than 35 countries and all 50 U.S. states. Our members represent a variety of professions and areas of study.

- University faculty (family science, sociology, psychology, education, human development, therapy/counseling, health, and much more)
- Researchers
- Marriage and family therapists; counselors; clergy
- Parent/family educators
- Human development specialists
- Social workers, health professionals, service providers
- Graduate and undergraduate students

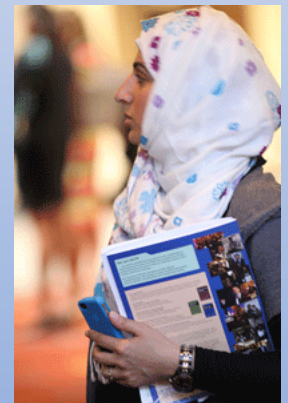
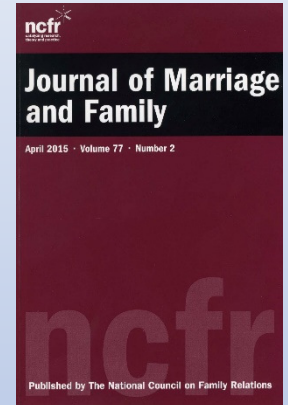


# NCFR activities that inform policy

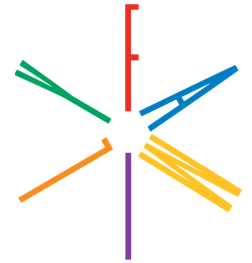


Through its journals, annual conference, and outreach by members, NCFR is showcasing family-related research and evidence-based practice that helps direct policy discussion and decisions.

- Publication of three scholarly journals including the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, the top-ranked journal of family relationships.
- The NCFR Annual Conference featuring more than 150 sessions, 500 presenters, and 1,100 attendees.
- Engagement and resources: member forums; focus groups; research grants; professional development through workshops, webinars, mentoring; and educator certification (CFLE credential).
- Coming in 2016: NCFR Research and Policy Briefs

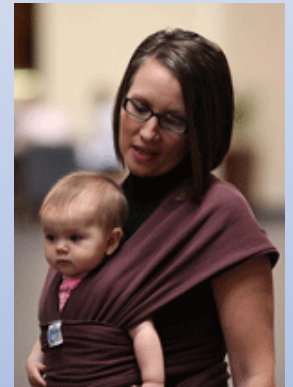


# NCFR...addressing needs

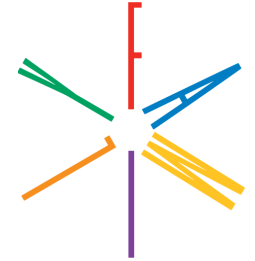


NCFR is the principal academic society for the support and dissemination of research and education in family theory, study of relationships, and family systems. Current work applies to today's most important topics:

- Gender equality
- Health and well-being for families and individuals
- Family formation and changing family structures
- Parenting
- Quality and equity in education
- Social and economic forces that affect families

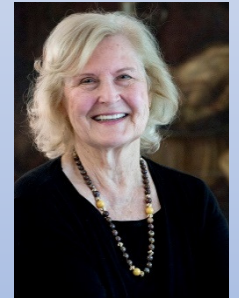
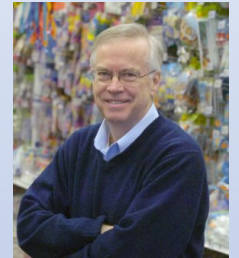


# NCFR...members at work



The value of NCFR member expertise in shaping policy and opinion is demonstrated everywhere, from college classrooms to legislative chambers to community programs. Here are a few examples:

- Bill Doherty, columnist in *Psychology Today* (“Marriage and Parenting in Today’s Culture”), gives professional insights into relationships using examples readers see in the news everyday.
- Pauline Boss, the theorist behind “**ambiguous loss**,” provides context through her research and books for understanding and helping those facing trauma and loss.
- Karen Bogenschneider, has published dozens of articles addressing questions (and demonstrating outcomes) on how to frame family theory in ways that are practical and relevant for policy makers and legislators. Her “**Family Impact Seminars**” program has offered over 190 training sessions in a 15-year period through 2014.

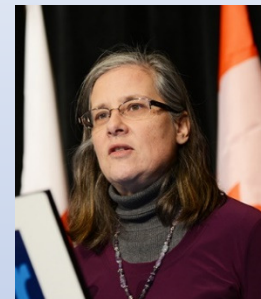




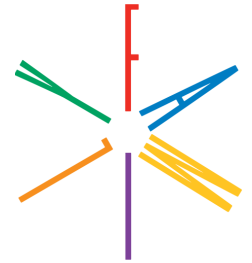
# NCFR...members at work



- Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth, director of Purdue's Military Family Institute, testified before a subcommittee of the **House Committee on Veterans Affairs** on the need for greater community support and mental health care for returning veterans. The institute has conducted research on military family risk and resilience and on family behaviors and dynamics before/during/after deployment.
- Bahira Sherif Trask, author of *Globalization and Families*, participated in the **White House Summit on Working Families** in 2014.
- Mihaela Robila, editor of the *Handbook of Family Policies across the Globe (2014)*, briefed policymakers at the **U.S. Department of State - Bureau of Intelligence and Research** (2011, 2013) on issues of immigration and families.



# NCFR and the U.N. Agenda



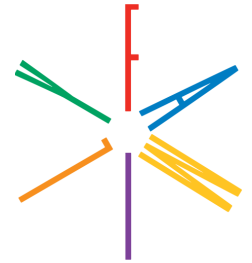
NCFR is a non - governmental organization in consultative status with the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2005

NCFR is supporting the U.N. agenda in multiple ways:

- NCFR representatives at the U.N. (Mihaela Robila, Bahira Sherif Trask)
- NCFR Members presented at several U.N. Expert Group Meeting (e.g., Karen Bogenschneider, Linda Burton, Allison Gibbons, Mihaela Robila, Bahira Sherif Trask)
- In collaboration with the U.N. Family Focal Point and the International Federation for Family Development, NCFR sponsored experts members' participation to the North America U.N. Expert Group Meeting in Mexico (2014)



# NCFR and the U.N. Agenda



## NCFR Annual Conference themes and sessions:

- 1994 & 2004 NCFR Conferences - celebrations of the International Year of the Family (IYF)
- 2013 NCFR Conference – Symposium “20th Anniversary of the IYF: Family Policies across the Globe” (Symposium Chair: Mihaela Robila; Presenter: Renata Kaczmarek, UNDESA)
- 2014 NCFR Conference theme: "Families at the Nexus of Global Change" – had as one of its goals to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IYF (Conference Chair: Catherine Solheim)
- 2016 NCFR Conference theme: "Families and Human Rights: Promise and Vulnerability in the 21st Century" – “Using the **U.N. 2030 Sustainable Development Goals** as a framework, the purpose of this conference is to showcase research, teaching, and practices that address human rights and diverse families” (Conference Chair: Lee Ann De Reus)