



Intergenerational Relations in an Ageing World



Panel Discussion convened during the 55th Session of the
Commission on Population and Development:
Changing Population Age Structures and
Sustainable Development

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“The momentous demographic, social and economic changes occurring around the world that affect families notwithstanding, the family remains the basic societal unit of reproduction, consumption, asset-building and –in many parts of the world– production. Families bear the primary responsibility for the development, education and socialization of children. They provide material and non-material care and support to their members and are the backbone of intergenerational solidarity and social cohesion.

The achievement of development goals depends, to a significant extent, on how families are empowered to fulfill their numerous functions. Accordingly, family-oriented policies have a unique role to play in helping families to fulfill their functions and benefit society at large.” (Report of the Secretary-General on the ‘Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014’, A/68/61–E/2013/3, 28 November 2012).

The objectives relating to family policy in the areas of poverty, work-family balance and intergenerational issues, are linked closely to achieving several of the Sustainable Development Goals. (...) Family-oriented policies have much to contribute to eliminating the intergenerational transmission of poverty, ensuring healthy lives and promoting of well-being for all ages, providing better education outcomes for children, as well as achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, among others. (Based on the Report of the Secretary-General on the ‘Implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes’, A/71/61–E/2016/7, 19 November 2015).

In response to and in accordance with the theme of the 55th Session of the Commission on Population: ‘Changing population age structures and sustainable development’, the International Federation for Family Development and the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations organized a side-event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York regarding ‘Intergenerational relations in an ageing world’.

This publication contains the main outcomes of the event. All the information is also available online at www.familyperspective.org.

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SPEAKERS

H.E. Ms. Katalin Annamária Bogyay

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations

Ms. Bogyay has been Ambassador to the UN since 2015. Beforehand, from 2009 to 2014, she served as her country's Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and from 2011 to 2013 as President of UNESCO's General Conference upon the unanimous proposal of the UNESCO Executive Board. From 2006 to 2009, she was Hungary's State Secretary for International Affairs for Education and Culture, and from 1999 to 2006, Founding Director of the Hungarian Cultural Centre in London. Prior to entering government, Ms. Bogyay had a distinguished career as an international television broadcaster, film producer and writer. Author of several books and publications, she is also a guest lecturer and speaker at several universities and international conferences. She is a strong advocate for gender equality and the empowerment of women, preventive diplomacy, water diplomacy, the protection of vulnerable people in conflict zones, and a supporter of cultural diversity, intercultural and interreligious dialogue all over the world.

Bahira Sherif-Trask

Chair of the Department of Human Development & Family Studies at the University of Delaware

Dr. Sherif-Trask's research focuses on the relationship between family change, growing family complexity and globalization in Western and non-Western contexts. Dr. Trask concentrates on how economic transformations are impacting gender roles and family change, how concepts of race, ethnicity and gender are changing through globalizing influences, and what kind of policies can assist and strengthen low income families. She is also interested in intergenerational relationships and workforce development for the 21st century. Over the last several years, she has been invited to participate in a series of United Nations conferences where she has presented on these issues at expert group meetings (EGM) in various countries around the world. She has been also invited to participate in the 2014 White House Summit on Working Families and in January 2015 was awarded NCFR's prestigious fellow designation. Dr. Trask has written and edited five books in the area of family change

and globalization including *Women, Work and Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities* (2014) and *Globalization and Families: Accelerated Systemic Social Change* (Springer, 2010).

Esuna Dugarova

Policy Specialist at the UN Development Program

Ms. Dugarova specialises in social and family policy in transition economies and monitors the implementation of SDGs in developed and developing countries at the United Nations Development Program in New York. Former Research Fellow at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in Geneva, she has also acted as an external expert at the European Commission and lectured at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. Prior to joining UNRISD, Esuna worked as a research associate at the London School of Economics and Political Science on new migration from the BRIC countries to the UK, did consultancy for the World Bank on social accountability and governance issues in China, and taught at the University of Cambridge. Originally from the Republic of Buryatia in Russia, she holds a PhD degree in Asian Studies and a BA degree in Chinese and Burmese Studies. She will present some reflections on 'Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.

Eve Sullivan

Founder of Parents Forum

Ms. Sullivan founded Parents Forum in 1992 in gratitude for the help she received in raising her three sons. Now a grandmother of four, she sees the effort to develop positive ways of expressing feelings and managing both one's internal and one's interpersonal conflicts as the core of good parenting and the key to a happy and successful life, whether or not one is raising children. Ms. Sullivan has a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in teaching French. In 2012, she retired from MIT after 30 years as an editorial assistant.

Ignacio Socías

Director of International Relations at the International Federation for Family Development

As part of his work for international bodies, Mr. Socías has organized and participated in different global and regional UN Expert Group Meetings around the world. He was Director of the 18th International Family Congress (Valencia, October 2010) and

keynote speaker for the 18th International Family Congress (Mexico City, 2015). He has also been invited to the three editions of the European Demography Forum organized by the European Union, several World Family Summits, the Hungarian Presidency of the EU in Budapest Conference about Demographic Change, the European Commission Conference on the European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and intergenerational solidarity. During the preparations and celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, he has been a keynote speaker for some other 39 conferences in 21 countries. He also represents IFFD in the FamiliesAnd-Societies 7FP European Commission Project, the biggest European research on families, and has been part of different high-level events on family at the European Parliament, Committee of the Regions and Economic and Social Committee.

Donna Butts

Executive Director of Generations United

Ms. Butts has over 35 years of committed and productive work with non-profit organizations, including Covenant House, the YWCA and National 4-H Council. Under her leadership, Generations United has been the catalyst for policies and practices, stimulating cooperation and collaboration among generations, evoking the vibrancy, energy and sheer productivity that result when people of all ages come together. Its mission is to improve the lives of children youth and older people through intergenerational collaboration, public policies, and programs for the enduring benefit of all. Recently, she laureated with one of the 2017 IFFD Awards, “for her outstanding work at Generations United”.

CONCEPT NOTE

Context

Intergenerational solidarity is based on mutually supportive intergenerational relationships, valuing and demonstrating equity and reciprocity between generations, creating an intergenerational society. Generations learn from each other by sharing knowledge and experience, while they also need each other in order to meet the care needs of children and the elderly. Today, demographic transition towards an ageing society, changes in family structures and living arrangements along with urbanisation are increasingly influencing intergenerational relationships both on a personal and societal level. With rising longevity and declining fertility, the world is aging rapidly. Moreover, as the double-income family model becomes more and more widespread, parents, and especially women face an increased double responsibility to provide care for their children and older members of the family. And finally, urbanisation, increasingly attracting the young generation into cities, often leads to a disconnect between the youth and the older, rural generation.

Challenges

As a result, intergenerational relations have been under increasing pressure over the last number of years. The number of multigenerational families with intergenerational support and reliance are rapidly declining, especially in urban areas, posing multiple challenges to the elderly and youth at the same time, and threatening with marginalisation. On a societal level, an ageing population puts increased pressure on social protection systems, including pension schemes, health care systems, and employment while education and care for children formerly provided by the elderly are increasingly becoming the responsibility of the State or the private sector.

The way forward

In order to build strong societies and enhance social cohesion and integration, it is key to promote strong intergenerational relations, with the overall aim to reduce the vulnerability of younger and older generations and making sure that no one is left

behind, in line with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There is a need to re-discover and recognise the essential contribution that the youth and the elderly can make to the well-being of their families, communities and functioning of their societies. Such a goal can only be tackled effectively through a multi-stakeholder approach where governments, the private sector, civil society and academia work together to design and implement social policies and best practices, foster corporate social responsibility as well as civil and local government initiatives. Partnerships between youth and older persons organizations, community-based active ageing centres, multiservice, cultural and community organizations, community members of all ages should discover opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large. From creating community programmes and promoting intergenerational communication at work, to multigenerational living arrangements and intergenerational care provision, there is a wide array of notable examples in this regard.

The aim is to achieve an intergenerational society, where individuals of all ages are an integral and valued part of the society, reflected in the families, facility structures, services, policies and regulations that children, youth and the elderly encounter in the community as well as in day-to-day interactions and relationships.

Main issues addressed by the speakers:

1. How are the intergenerational links changing in present society and how can these changes be seen as an opportunity to strengthen connections between the generations?
2. What defines the transition from multigenerational to intergenerational societies?
3. How can partnerships among all stakeholders be promoted on a national and local level?

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations at the panel discussion on Intergenerational Relations in an Ageing World

H.E. Ambassador Katalin Bogyay

Welcome to our side event, entitled 'Intergenerational Relations in an Ageing World', co-organized with the International Federation for Family Development. I would like to thank Mr. Ignacio Socias, Director of IFFD, for collaborating with us on this very timely and relevant topic on the 50th session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Today, we are going to talk about generations: the older generation, who have the wisdom and knowledge to share, but whom are often left behind; the young generation, who aim for achieving their full potential, but often do not have the background to do so; and finally parents, the middle-aged generation, who have double responsibilities in making sure that both the old and young generation are cared for.

These generations are held together by the family. The family is the smallest, most basic and strongest social community and, as such, it is the founding unit of the society.

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It is the most important source of solidarity for its members. The importance of family, and more generally, intergenerational support and solidarity lies in its ability to assist, care for and empower its members, as well as provide them protection against social exclusion and marginalisation.

Previously, generations living together provided for this support and solidarity for each other. Generations were sharing knowledge and experience, and were relying on each other for care responsibilities and other forms of support, thus creating reciprocal, circular relations between generations. Nowadays, as the double-income, nuclear family model becomes more and more widespread, parents, and especially women face an increased double responsibility to provide care for their children and older members of the family, often living separately, even in considerable distances

from each other. In order to fill this gap, the State and private actors have an increased responsibility in providing for these forms of assistance, and also in facilitating inter-generational transfers on a macro level.

I will talk about two main actors, with different needs within this system: women and the elderly.

In order to enable parents, and especially women, to balance their multiple responsibilities of work and unpaid care for their children and the elderly at the same time, the Hungarian government introduced different fiscal and other family-friendly measures.

Childcare allowances are designed to financially support parents throughout the early childhood of their children. Until the child reaches 6 months of age, the child care fee provides 70% of the previous year's daily average gross earnings of the mother. In addition, if the mother decides to go back to the labour market when her child becomes 6 months old, she will continue to receive an allowance, called Child Care Fee Extra, besides her salary. There is an additional child care allowance designed for the caretaker parent between the child's 6 months to 2 years of age, and, as a third phase, up to the child's third birthday. For parents raising three or more underage children, a child-raising support is available until the youngest child becomes 8 years old.

Also, a new, demand-driven daycare nursery system is being developed, giving families an opportunity to choose among different, new forms of daycare services: nursery, mini-nursery, workplace nursery and family nursery.

It is equally important to facilitate access to the labour market for the most vulnerable groups throughout generations. The Job Protection Action Plan offers allowances to employers recruiting and employing the most vulnerable groups in this regard, including workers below 25 and above 55 years old, as well as parents with young children.

Now, let me turn to another constituency of intergenerational relationships: the elderly.

Today, most developed countries face the phenomenon of demographic ageing. In Hungary, during the last 25 years, the proportion of the population of and above the

age of 60 increased from one fifth to one fourth, and will reach one third of the population by 2060.

The Hungarian Government considers older persons as valuable members of the society and important sources of knowledge and experience.

There are multiple challenges that the elderly have to face: financial insecurity, health problems, marginalisation and isolation. Elderly women are especially endangered in this regard.

Women's life expectancy is 4-7 years higher than that of men; above the age of 70, the majority of women live alone, and the gender pay gap is also reflected in pensions. In consequence, older women are more exposed to the risk of poverty and isolation than men. On a macro level, an ageing population puts increased pressure on pension and health care systems, as well as employment.

The Hungarian Government considers older persons as valuable members of the society and important sources of knowledge and experience. Our programmes and initiatives aim to ensure a meaningful and healthy ageing in dignity, and to enable families as well as the society as a whole to benefit from the active presence of the elderly. With a view to the above, the Government, in line with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, determined the following objectives concerning older persons.

The first task is to enhance the financial security of older persons. In this regard, a reform of the pension system was undertaken in Hungary, in order to ensure the stability of the system, and preservation of the purchasing power of pensions. The Hungarian pension system has a compensatory effect on incomes: the 15% gender pension gap is lower than the 18% wage gap, and way lower than the average 40% difference recorded in the EU. In addition, the so-called 'widow's pension' amounts to 30% of the deceased spouse's pension, thus slightly compensating for the financial disadvantages deriving from the departure of the spouse.

The second task is to support the preservation of senior citizens' physical-mental health and well-being. In this regard, special home nursing care and home hospice have been introduced two years ago, defined as population-focused basic healthcare activities. Appropriate screening, awareness-raising and the promotion of older persons' active participation in prevention are also key.

Besides financial security and health, another key area is promoting active ageing and inter-generational connectedness. Due to changes in demographic patterns, the elderly has less exposure to intergenerational interactions, although it is still an important aspect of the life of retired persons: around 40% of men and 55% of women of retirement age play a significant role in looking after their grandchildren. Recognising these tendencies, the Government introduced the 'Women 40 Program', the so-called 'grandmothers' pension', allowing women with at least 40 years of eligibility period, including gainful activity or child-raising, to retire. This enables them to assist in caring for their grandchildren, thus providing parents the opportunity to re-integrate into the world of work and continue the professional career. Hitherto, a total of 186,000 women have used this option.

Providing for opportunities for voluntary work for older persons enables them to remain socially and mentally active, as well as becoming involved in community life.

In Hungary, intergenerational relationships and active ageing is also supported on the societal level, by local authorities and civil organisations. These programs aim to provide information, reduce discrimination, preserve independence, and help maintain the sense of usefulness in the society. Let me share some best practices with you in this regard.

Providing for opportunities for voluntary work for older persons enables them to remain socially and mentally active, as well as becoming involved in community life. In 2014, 35% of people of the age group between 55-74 were involved in voluntary work.

The Senior-Friendly Municipality Award is given by the Government, on the International Day of Older Persons, to local authorities actively engaging with elderly citizens to improve their quality of life or community life, or to promote collaboration between generations. Between 2004 and 2015, the prize was awarded to 75 local authorities. The Prize for the Elderly is awarded to professional experts doing outstanding work for older persons.

In the framework of memoir writing projects (2011-2013), 315 memoir writers were awarded a prize, the winning works were collected in 3 anthologies, and the authors had the opportunity to meet the public at events organised all over the country. Between 2013 and 2015, cultural meetings - for instance, cross-border cultural and art contests for older persons - were organised on two occasions for people above the

age of 60, activating about 10 thousand people, and enabling the national finalists to perform all around the country.

Moreover, the 'Family-friendly Country' project supported 94 value-creating activities and workshops - cultural, leisure and educational - jointly carried out by older and younger generations, side by side.

Concerning life-long learning, an increasing number of senior training centres are being established, offering training courses for older persons. Senior training forums, linked to major institutes of higher education, are becoming increasingly widespread and popular: nowadays, they take place at 26 further locations outside the institute, with the participation of 3 600 retired students, free of charge.

Recognising the role of the media in changing attitudes of the society, the Media for the Generations Award in 2016 is focused on the theme of "the irreplaceable role of the older generation in small communities".

All these policies contribute to the establishment of a family-oriented society, in which different generations live together in respect and consideration for each other, raising social awareness with a view to ensuring a better quality of life for older persons.

I really hope that this short presentation gave a useful insight into what states can do to promote intergenerational relations and support, and I look forward to hearing from all my fellow panelists about their ideas and points of view.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Supporting Families: Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity in Globalizing Contexts

Bahira Sherif Trask, Ph.D.

Professor & Chair, HDFS

University of Delaware

bstrask@udel.edu

In this presentation we are going to examine one of the most significant topics of our time: How can we strengthen intergenerational solidarity in varying contexts and in an environment where life is speeding up at an ever-accelerating pace. In order to bring us all on the same page, however, we need to define what exactly is meant by Intergenerational solidarity? Intergenerational solidarity is defined primarily as social cohesion between generations. These are the ties that link individuals to groups and one group to another and include shared expectations, obligations, exchanges regarding the ageing of individuals and the succession of generations. Intergenerational solidarity also refers to the contract across generations and age groups. It is critical to note that various factors influence intergenerational solidarity, including the norms that operate at the micro- and macro-levels of social structure in a given socio-historical context. Intergenerational solidarity is also influenced by emotional factors such as issues of warmth, affection, attraction to and interaction with, and providing assistance when needed. In order to bond generations context, norms and emotion are all critical aspects of the process. Intergenerational solidarity occurs when generations have a positive view of one another or there is consensus between generations on the way forward to face the future.

Intergenerational solidarity is defined primarily as social cohesion between generations.

Let's set the stage by looking at some basic global trends. According to a recent OECD report relative to total population, the number of births has halved over five decades in the 34 OECD countries studied. In 1961 there were 18.5 million babies born and in 2011 – 15 million babies were born. Concurrently, life expectancy at birth has risen by ten years since the OECD was founded (1961), up to approximately 76

years for men and 82 for women. In terms of family processes, this translates into the fact that vertical kinship ties are growing (the relationships between generations in a family) and horizontal kinship ties (the number of siblings in a family is declining). The situation is somewhat different for much of sub-Saharan Africa where fertility remains high in many countries.

Fertility and aging have specific budgetary implications for societies. As birth rates decline and more elderly live longer, there are profound consequences for state budgets as they are currently conceived and structured. The OECD predicts that by 2050, public spending will be primarily affected by aging in three areas: pensions, health and long-term care. Costs in these three arenas are expected to exceed one fifth of national income in the majority of many OECD countries. These trends are intimately tied to policies around work as will be discussed further on.

Fertility and aging are also profoundly influenced by family changes in high and low-income countries. In high-income countries the family life course is rapidly being de-standardized. In other words, the linear model of long-term marriage, childbearing, launching of children, and care of the elderly is being transformed. Increasingly, individuals are entering non-marital longer-term partnerships, which tend to be less stable over time. They may or may not have children in these unions and in some places; multiple partner fertility is becoming the norm. This means that children created by various sets of parents may all be living in the same family. Also, as has been mentioned above, fertility is falling rapidly primarily in high-income countries with the exception of those places where strong work-family policies have been put into place. Simultaneously, in these societies, gender roles are in the midst of a major transition. Fathers are increasingly more involved with childcare and mothers have taken on a greater role in the economic support of families. Recent research from Europe indicates that despite more generous family leave policies, many women tend to be eager to return to work after the birth of a child.

Despite the many changes in families, other types of caring labor besides the care of children, and domestic responsibilities remain in the female domain. This is an issue that is not being adequately addressed in most societies

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around the world. Women if they are employed outside of the home or not, remain primarily in charge of taking care of the elderly, the disabled and the long-term ill individuals in their families. They do this work in contexts where employment in

general is becoming more unstable, and where the security of knowing that they have an income becomes ever more uncertain. This precariousness of work coupled with the intensity of domestic and care responsibilities makes the integration of work and family one of the **key** global issues of our time. In any discussion about achieving gender equality, this important aspect of the unseen labor of caring must be accounted for.

The situation of families in middle and low-income countries parallels many of the family issues we find in high-income countries with some important differences. Specifically, the Western lens on families often does not capture the fact that in many of these societies, families are the primary resource for social and economic capital. In non-Western societies, family life is embedded in collective norms that emphasize the primacy of the group over those of the individual. However, this important distinction is often forgotten in mainstream research and policy discussions.

Findings that misconstrue social phenomena are highly problematic as they lead to policy debates and implementation that are then flawed and do not provide the supports that are needed.

Measures created for studying family life are often applied in cross-cultural research contexts. The results of these studies do not accurately capture the specific processes and dynamics of life in those societies. For instance, Western researchers have 'found' that in

India the joint family is disappearing. Indian researchers contradict this finding by pointing out that while families may not be living in the same apartment or house anymore, families often live in the same building or on the same floor of a house and remain in constant contact with one another. Findings that misconstrue social phenomena, especially in cross-cultural contexts, are highly problematic as they lead to policy debates and implementation that are then flawed and do not provide the supports that are needed.

It is important to note that families, however, are not static or immune to family change in non-Western countries as well. The economic and ideological changes that have pulled women into the global paid labor force in Western countries, also have affected women in other parts of the world. Female participation in the paid labor force is at almost 40 percent, with women increasingly benefiting from educational and occupational opportunities. This change is occurring even in societies that culturally have a strong ideological commitment to gender segregation and distinct roles in families. The result is that women are now working two and three shifts without adequate supports. This raises complex questions around cultural change,

mental and physical health issues, and appropriate and adequate policies and programming that support family life.

Due to the changes described above, the institution of family across the globe is under strain. This has serious implications for intergenerational solidarity and the relationship between the generations. As families become smaller, as there are fewer people to share caring labor, and as individuals live longer lives (with up to 4 generations being alive simultaneously at times), there is a strain on the emotional and physical needs of individuals within families. As I have pointed out, with so many women in the paid labor force, their work at home, specifically around caring, is often ignored or forgotten and this creates tensions between generations.

Moreover, many social and economic policies in high and low-income families are currently focused on prolonging the work life of individuals in order to keep them working longer throughout their life spans. For instance, half of OECD countries are already increasing pension ages or will

When parents cannot spend adequate time with their children, and when vulnerable family members such as ill elders and the disabled do not receive adequate familiar attention and care, this ultimately has economic and social consequences for the whole society.

do so in the near future. An increasing number of countries are also strengthening the link between contributions paid into pension systems and benefits paid out, which increases incentives to work more and longer. At the same time, non-standard work schedules are becoming more common, forcing individuals to be available to work at all hours of the day and throwing an element of unpredictability into people's personal and familial lives. These intensive work demands affect all social classes and are found across the educational spectrum. High-income individuals are expected to work and be available to their jobs at all times, and low-income individuals have to work many hours (often at multiple jobs) in order to make ends meet. These phenomena all stem from globalizing influences that have raised the expectations of most work places with respect to profits and competition, while ignoring or being unable to address the social elements of individuals' lives.

Policies that focus on prolonging the work life of individuals, coupled with a predominant orientation towards the primacy of paid employment, has serious implications for informal care as more people work for longer periods of time, and due to the precariousness of work are working more hours than before. Again, this emphasis on work has serious consequences for individual's personal lives and especially intergenerational relationships. When parents cannot spend adequate time with their children, and when vulnerable family members such as ill elders and the disabled do

not receive adequate familiar attention and care, this ultimately has economic and social consequences for the whole society. It also begs a philosophical question about what it means to be human if we stop caring for each other and over-emphasize the economic spheres of our lives and societies.

As I mentioned previously, gender plays a more significant role in this discussion than is often acknowledged, especially in the economic literature. Many countries are currently focused on care work in families: but the specific focus is almost exclusively on families with young children. Perhaps the most complex familial problem of our time is the vexing issue of unpaid care labor. United Nations survey data indicates that in all countries women spend at least twice as much time as men on domestic work, and when all work (paid and unpaid) is taken into account, women work longer hours than men do. In high income countries men are taking on increased child care and some elder care: Women spend 15 – 40 hours on child care while men spend 10 – 30 hours on child care. The only countries that come close to parity are Finland, Denmark and Sweden.

It is so often forgotten that care work includes not just children, but also the sick, elderly and disabled.

Discussions about national child care programs, pre-K and maternity and paternity care emphasize the role that women and men play in raising

healthy children. However, what is so often forgotten in these discussions is that care work includes not just children, but also the sick, elderly and disabled. In order for families to cope with their often-heavy care burdens they face, much of this work is now serviced out. This has led to the increased migration of women from developing world to industrialized world for care related work. Concurrently, we have a crisis of manhood on our hands. As men lose their roles as the primary economic provider in many areas of the world, manhood is being re-defined. The breadwinner role is not universally masculine anymore and in many places men are being forced (either through ideology or necessity – or both) to participate in domestic realm. Resistance to these changes is taking many forms including in some instances a rise in domestic violence as men try to assert their previously taken for granted roles and rights.

The changes in work and family arrangements due to globalizing influences raise the question about effects on intergenerational relationships and intergenerational solidarity. At the micro-social level of families, aging and the provision of care for the elderly and changing intergenerational reciprocity norms, are concerns facing families in both developed and developing countries. But there are also larger macro implications. For instance, only three in ten workers in the global labor force receive

any form of pension. In Nigeria 1% of labor force receives social security while in high-income countries 9 out of 10 workers are at least partially covered by some form of financial arrangements in their old age. However again, we have a gender differential: in virtually every society women are not as economically secure as men when they age. Due to the fact that more women have to drop out of the paid labor force in order to care for either children, the elderly, the disabled or the sick, their later economic life is affected by the lack of a steady financial trajectory.

As urbanization becomes the global norm, intergenerational expectations and obligations across geographic space are renegotiated.

All of the economic and familial changes described, point to the fact that gender role differences in socio-economic status and cultural norms influence the intergenerational contract and reveal inequalities in social structures. Moreover, as urbanization becomes the global norm and migration from rural to urban areas and across national borders impacts an ever-growing number of individuals, intergenerational expectations and obligations across geographic space are renegotiated. Children cannot care for their elderly parents in the same manner as their culture may have dictated resulting in at times, feelings of resentment and/or guilt on all sides. Interestingly however, empirical research indicates that despite all of the social changes we have witnessed through globalization family intergenerational ties tend to remain strong in virtually every society around the world. What this indicates is that family remains the central, critical institution for promoting intergenerational solidarity. The conclusion we can draw from this finding is that supporting care work and gender equality (a major emphasis of both the United Nations Millennium and Sustainable Development Goals) is thus, integral to strengthening intergenerational solidarity.

Globally: most of the time spent caring – for children, the ill, the disabled and older people – is carried out informally, usually by other family members. Between a fifth and a quarter of care for children under 5 is provided by grandparents

in Australia, Korea and the European Union and still more for children under 2 in the United States. In high-income countries, about 80% of care for older people is provided by family members. Even today, the caregiver is usually the female adult child who lives closest or has the fewest other responsibilities. The average caregiver for the elderly is typically, middle-aged, married, employed, and provides care an aver-

Empirical research indicates that despite all of the social changes we have witnessed through globalization family intergenerational ties tend to remain strong in virtually every society around the world.

age of 20 hours/week. Caregivers today provide more care to more parents over much longer periods than their parents did. This caring which entails an emotional as well as a physical component has a two-way flow, making it a critical micro-component of creating intergenerational solidarity – but with macro-implications.

As we move forward in the twenty-first century we are faced with many serious global social challenges. As societies, we need to figure out how to provide benefits to all age groups through social protection and care schemes, and yet also, maintain expenditures at manageable levels. We need to design reasonable labor market policies that promote longer and healthier working lives for active workers while simultaneously accounting for differentials in the life course experiences of individuals involved in caring activities across the life span. We also need to carefully consider what are the best ways to combine intergenerational family supports with government support? What measures can governments take to support childcare arrangements within families? What supports do family caregivers for older people and for people with disabilities, the terminally ill and mental illnesses need, and how can they best be provided? How do we promote gender equality with respect to integrating work and care responsibilities? The answers to these questions will look quite different depending on cultural context and different societies. However, we can learn from each other through empirical research and the sharing of best practices and also through learning from those initiatives that have not worked. Most importantly is however, that we acknowledge the primacy of families in these discussions and that as our world rapidly globalizes, that we account for the many, deep changes that this process is effecting.

When generations meet and interact around common concerns, ties are fostered, strengthened and maintained.

Research tells us that a primary element for fostering intergenerational solidarity is any form of age integration – be it in the home, the economic sphere or in health, community and leisure activities. When generations meet and interact around common concerns, ties are fostered, strengthened and maintained. Age integration facilitates the sharing of ideas, concerns, and emotional bonds and reminds individuals of their shared humanity.

There are of course, many other macro and micro-initiatives that are being promoted in various regions of the world that can improve and strengthen intergenerational solidarity, as they relieve the tensions so often associated with the association of generations. Just to name a few:

- Old age pensions.

- Tax relief for caregivers (Northern Europe, Singapore).
- Caregiver supports.
- Multigenerational living arrangements.
- Learning programs for elderly – young (for instance around technology).
- Family life education that focuses on elderly issues; caretaking; illness prevention / care.
- Living with dementia.
- Caregiver stress relief classes.
- Networks (virtual and live) that act as Social supports for families caring for the elderly, disabled, terminally ill.
- Preventative healthcare starting in middle age.

Conclusion

Empirical research on intergenerational solidarity indicates that each generation has a distinctive role to play. However, in order to capitalize on the strengths of each generation, we need to understand the issues they are facing in their particular cultural and economic contexts. What are their desires, their strengths and their challenges? Only then can we design policies and programs to empower them to create a sustainable future for all. We need as a global community to build supportive social and economic environments that foster exchange and cooperation. This can only occur by taking into account the many global social changes we are in the midst of. Families are a critical – if not THE - critical sphere for these efforts. Far from being abandoned by family, the elderly in high-income and low-income societies are in close contact with kin, engage in warm relationships with them, and are both a giver and receiver of support and assistance. It is crucial that policies and educational foci be family centered and take the complex gender issues that underlie intergenerational solidarity into account. Only then will be able to build the strong, healthy intergenerational relationships that will lead us into a healthy, productive future.

PANELISTS

Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development *

Esuna Dugarova

Policy Specialist

United Nations Development Program

esuna.dugarova@undp.org

As most of us know, many countries are witnessing significant shifts in their population age distributions, moving from younger to older populations. These changes that are encapsulated by the term 'population ageing' - a demographic transition which reflects achievements of human development such as improved health, greater longevity and lower mortality.

Preparing for an ageing population is essential to the achievement of the integrated 2030 Agenda, which calls for ensuring that no one is left behind and that the Sustainable Development Goals are met for all segments of society, at all ages, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable—including older persons.

According to the latest estimates by the United Nations, in 2015, there were 901 million people aged 60 or over, comprising 12.3 percent of the global population. Between 2015 and 2030, the number of people aged 60 years or over is projected to grow by 56 per cent, reaching 1.4 billion in 2030, which will be nearly 16.5 percent of the global population.

Older people, particularly older women, play a vital role in providing unpaid care for spouses, grandchildren and other relatives.

While the Asia-Pacific region has the world's largest number of people aged 60 or over (508 million), Europe has the largest percentage of population of this age (24 percent, or 177 million).

As public health gains advance in most countries, global life expectancy will continue to increase, contributing to a rise in the number and proportion of older persons. By 2030, older persons are expected to account for over 25 percent of the population in Europe and Northern America, 17 percent in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 6 percent in Africa.

A central consideration in population ageing is gender. On average, women tend to live longer than men, thus comprising a majority of older persons.

In 2015, women accounted for 54 percent of the global population aged 60 years or over. At the same time, older women tend to be more marginalised and disadvantaged than older men, with evidence showing alarmingly high rates of poverty among older women.

Why ageing and older persons matter for development

Population ageing provides new opportunities for sustainable development. As an upcoming issues brief on 'Ageing, Older Persons and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' maintains, in view of their knowledge, skills and experience, older women and men are important agents of change, making key contributions in:

Economic development: older people, particularly in developing countries, are often engaged in work beyond the retirement age, and their broader retention in the workforce has the potential to generate even greater productivity gains

Unpaid care work: older people, particularly older women, play a vital role in providing unpaid care for spouses, grandchildren and other relatives. Furthermore, with changes in family structures and growing migration, grandparents are becoming increasingly central to the well-being of families.

Political participation: with variation across contexts, older people in some countries, notably in advanced democracies, carry significant weight and have the potential to be more influential in society. This can have important implications for social, economic and political outcomes in those countries, as older people tend to vote in greater numbers than young people, which can be attributed to generational changes and socio-economic effects such as education.

Grandparents are becoming increasingly central to the well-being of families with changes in family structures and growing migration.

Social capital: older people are often actively involved in community and civic life through volunteering, governance of public institutions, and participation in community-based institutions. This can contribute to strengthening social capital in

terms of facilitating cooperation and improving interactions within and between groups based on shared values, trust and solidarity.

Challenges

Despite various efforts to acknowledge the importance of ageing and older people, older persons have not benefitted systematically from development gains, as they continue to be overlooked by development policy and discourse, and their needs and rights are not sufficiently addressed.

Challenges that older persons and the global community in general face include financing of pension systems, provision of health services, and in view of increased migration and urbanization, as well as fewer intergenerational households, the provision of household-based social support.

Policy implications for the 2030 Agenda

Ageing is likely to have far-reaching implications for all sectors of society, including labour markets, financial and health systems; demand for goods and services; as well as family structures and intergenerational relations. To ensure progress towards implementing the SDGs, it is essential to prepare for the economic and social transformations associated with ageing and ensure that the necessary conditions are developed to enable older people to lead self-determined, healthy and productive lives and to make full use of their skills and abilities.

Older persons have not benefitted systematically from development gains as they continue to be overlooked by development policy, and their needs and rights are not sufficiently addressed.

the negative aspects of ageing, public debates and policies should promote older people and their agency as part of the solution to many development challenges in order to achieve truly transformative, inclusive and sustainable development outcomes

While it is essential to address the exclusion and vulnerability of many older persons in the implementation of the new agenda, it is even more important to go beyond treating older persons as a vulnerable group. Instead of focusing on

The process of reaching out to older people and overcoming exclusion requires an integrated and multifaceted approach, including sensitization of power structures, undertaking detailed participatory research, investing in public education and strengthening anti-discrimination legislation, as well as articulating in a compelling

manner the gains for society that can materialize if older people are included in the development process.

With collective efforts, a new agenda of active and healthy ageing should be set up that can reduce the vulnerabilities and enhance the capabilities, rights and resilience of older persons, and thus fulfill the pledge of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.

* This intervention is based on Dugarova et al. (2017) 'Ageing, Older Persons and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', Issues Brief. UNDP: New York.

Parenting education: a cornerstone of intergenerational solidarity

Eve Sullivan

Founder

Parents Forum

eve@parentsforum.org

The way we are raised is the most important influence on our character, wellbeing and life success. How parents are raised is equally important. Parenting education is our collective blind spot, manifest in both in adequate supply of parenting resources and uneven demand for them. I will describe what parents need to know and how parents are taught to be effective parents. Parent peer support will be the key take-away of these remarks. First, let me mention social, economic and political challenges that have enormous influence on parents' ability to raise their children well.

Given a magic wand, we would surely give every parent in the world...

- physical safety.
- clean water.
- adequate food, clothing and shelter.

and would also offer...

- training and education to prepare individuals to provide for themselves and, eventually, for their families.
- rewarding work outside the home.
- a supportive community.

My remarks focus on the last: a supportive community, where we find parenting and parenting education. First, parenting. It is odd business; if it is a business at all, part service and part production. In a sense, our children are our clients or customers. At the same time, communities expect us to produce healthy, honest, caring, hard-working, fun-loving and civic-minded adults, so society is our customer too.

Next, parenting education. It offers...

- knowledge about children's growth and development.
- skill in providing guidance and care appropriate to the child's age.
- support for social-emotional learning in both parents and children.

Finally, parenting educators. Who prepares and guides us in our work as parents? Who helps us when we, or our children, get off track? In times past, parents learned most of what they needed to know about childrearing from their own parents, family members and friends. Now professionals in many fields guide and support parents and others in parenting roles.

Today many families are widely dispersed and both childcare and parenting education is outsourced to people who are not family members. Many children grow up in single-parent homes or are left behind by parents who expect their own parents to take full responsibility for the children. Despite this bleak picture, not everything old was wonderful and not everything new is terrible. The reverse is also true, of course: not everything new is wonderful and not everything old is terrible.

Family problems persist and many of the challenges parents face center on how to keep the best of the old and adopt the best of the new, while avoiding the worst of either. Let's look more closely at parenting education and how, when done well, it can improve the lives of caregivers and children.

Parenting education is not new. The English verb "to parent" was first used in the 1660s, about the time that John Walmot famously wrote: "Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children; now I have six children and no theories." Raising children is not something we do in theory. We must do it in real life.

In the 19th century and into the 20th, parenting education focused on teaching mothers about children's health needs, home hygiene. Over

the years the field expanded to include nutrition, food preparation, sewing and gardening. For 150 years parents have been subject to an onslaught of advice in books, periodicals and now online. Some of the guidance offered in the past seems wildly strange and much has been proven flatly wrong. But, somehow, parents keep on raising children and need help along the way.

Despite general acceptance that parents need support at least in children's early years, there is stigma rooted in the mistaken notion that anyone who takes a parenting course must have done something wrong, or be at risk of doing so. This stigma taints provision of services and inhibits participation in them.

Let's take a quick look at parenting education today. Many parenting resources are provided by professionals in the context of risk, misdeed or criminal behavior on the part of parents or young people. Mutual support, last on the list below, must, I believe, be put first, both for its own sake and in order to increase participation in the many valuable professionally led programs that we will always need.

- Individual and family counseling (social workers, psychologists).
- Group classes and workshops (same as above).
- Home visiting (nurses).
- Online training and resource guides (some free, some commercial).
- Protective services and court-mandated training, including classes for divorcing parents (social workers, psychologists).
- High school classes in preparation for parenting (educators, counseling professionals).
- Parent coaching (commercial and often costly).
- Childcare center and K-12 parent engagement (educators, social workers).
- Public health and pediatric clinics (nurses and social workers).
- Workplace seminars on communications skills and leadership development (commercial).
- Mutual support, both problem-focused and universal (trained, often volunteer, peer facilitators).

Mandating parenting education is akin to ordering a starving person to eat. Most parents are 'starving' for the information and support that parenting education provides.

Payment is a key issue in parenting education. When parenting educators are paid for their work, as they should be, are the fees for services charged directly to participants (this may keep parents who need them from participating) or to agencies? Either way – and both models have advantages – we must shift our focus from cost to investment. We must see parenting education for what it truly is, a vital support for children's wellbeing and cornerstone community health.

Given the programming patchwork described above, how should we go forward? I suggest we step back, look at parenting education as life skills training and make it universal.

There are simply not enough people in the helping professions to meet society's multiple challenges. We must engage parents in helping each other. We need a global public health campaign, using social media and traditional communications

channels and addressing the unfortunate stigma that deters participation, in order to encourage people at all social levels, in all sectors of society, to seek the help they need.

The benefits of parenting education include...

- building parents' competence and confidence
- strengthening families
- providing effective intervention to address multiple social problems. These include child maltreatment, juvenile crime, teen pregnancy, academic disengagement and addictions (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2006)
- saving money. As an example, communities hosting the 'Strengthening Families' program show a \$9.60 return for every \$1 invested by reduction in substance use and abuse and increases in high school completion.

I confess to having faced some significant challenges raising my three sons. With help from other parents, my boys and I, and their dad, got through the worst times. One reward for these efforts, and one that I treasure, is seeing the parenting that my two sons who are dads are doing: they are doing a much better job than I did. The other reward, of course, is grandkids!

As parents, we face conflicting desires: to be present in our own lives and be present for our children and others we love. Sorting out our feelings is the key to doing that balancing act with some semblance of grace.

Many people have said, over the years since I founded Parents Forum in 1992, that the emotional awareness we teach is exactly what they need. So I invite you to read our program handbook, 'Where the Heart Listens' (in print, e-book or audio format), and let me know what you think of it. I am confident, and I hope you will agree, that our program can contribute significantly to strengthening connections between the generations.

Resources:

- Advancing Parenting, founded in 2012 to do "passive public parenting education", places parenting tips in public spaces in an effort to elevate the quality of parenting, reduce adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and improve educational outcomes for children.
- FIEP / International Federation for Parent Education established in France in 1964.
- NCFR / National Council on Family Relations, founded in the US in 1938: see es-

pecially 'Family Life Education ROI' on the NCFR website.

- IFFD / International Federation for Family Development, founded in the US in 1998 as a continuation of its predecessor, organized in Spain in 1978, now active in 66 countries.
- NPEN / National Parenting Education Network, organized in the US in 1996.
- Peer support programs, also called mutual support, include the recovery movement dating from the late 1930s. Alcoholics Anonymous, which today has close to 2 million members worldwide, and Al-Anon are the best known.
- Along with these are dedicated 'Parents of ...' organizations for individuals caring for children with medical conditions and/or special needs. These provide unique and important resources for parents using a peer support model.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Resounding Resiliency of Grandfamilies

Donna M. Butts
Executive Director
Generations United
DButts@gu.org

Generations United advocates for programs and policies that connect generations rather than separate them and that engage the strengths of each generation. Recently we released a new video that illustrates the changing demographics in US which is designed to be used as a tool to spark dialogue in communities and among generations.

One of the points in the video that sparks great interest is a calculation about the value of older adult time. In the US, there are 108 million people over the age of 50. It's estimated they watch approximately 47 hours of television a day. A volunteer hour is valued at \$23. If 2% of people 50+ gave up 2% of the time they watch television to volunteer it would generate \$2.5 billion a year in new human capital asset.

Older adults are assets we must engage and not let sit on the sidelines

Strong, healthy intergenerational ties empower families. Intergenerational connections outside of the family have been shown to strengthen relationships within the family. It's been said that families are like magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us we see the past, present and future.

If 2% of people 50+ gave up 2% of the time they watch television to volunteer it would generate \$2.5 billion a year in new human capital asset.

Now, more than ever, as our societies are ageing, we have a tremendous opportunity to meet and know more generations of our families and in our neighborhoods. But

we must change the conversation and shift it from the burden of an ageing population to the benefit an ageing population could and should provide.

Our civil society is based on a social compact - not contract. Throughout our lives we give and we receive. We are as a people are interdependent. We need each other especially at the most vulnerable times, which are our earliest years and our last years of life.

The benefits of the so called 'grandparent advantage' include the ability to recycle human knowledge, understanding, culture and experience and pass it on to the next generation. Our elders can and should invest what they have learned in future generations and our societies as a whole. We are richer because of the relationships between generations. Grandparents and other older relatives provide a continuum of care. They may be occasional or part time childcare providers, they may contribute financially to children's well-being or they may have full-time responsibility raising their grandchildren. Grandparents and grandfamilies around the world are being called on more and more to step up. In Asia, they may be needed as the caregivers filling in for 'weekend parents' parents who need to leave their children behind during the week while they travel long distances for work. In Africa, it is often the older relatives left behind to raise children when a parent dies from AIDS. In the US, 7.8 million children live in grandparent headed households. Unfortunately, this is becoming more common because of the devastating impact of the current opioid and heroin epidemic.

Research has shown grandparents and other relative caregivers are resilient and resourceful.

While the reasons grandfamilies are created are almost always devastating, the children in relative care fare better than children placed in the care of non-related adults.

Children in grandfamilies: have fewer behavioral problems; are more likely to be kept together with brothers and sisters; maintain their cultural identity; and, have a greater sense of belonging, stability, feeling loved. Research has shown grandparents and other relative caregivers are resilient and resourceful. While they can be very successful in providing safe, stable and loving homes for the children in their care, they cannot do it alone. They need our support. In 'The Resounding Resiliency of Grandfamilies: Financial Stories from Older Relatives Caring for Children in Lower-Income Communities,' Generations United and CFED found grandparents to be very good managers of resources, they just don't have enough to manage. This often leads them to ignore their own needs and dreams in order to support those of the children they are raising.

All sectors, including government, NGOs, faith based, community based and, in particular, those that are charged with serving one generation such as elders, children or youth, need to take an integrated, intergenerational approach to support families. More broadly we encourage using an intergenerational solutions lens to address other important issues we face. This approach makes sense and often also saves financial resources.

In 2014, I was honored to write a background paper on intergenerational cohesion with two colleagues for the 20th anniversary of the International Day of Families. In the paper, we reiterated what the United Nations declared in 1948: "The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State." This is as true now as it was then. Looking to the future, Generations United's representatives to the United Nations are working with the Intergenerational Subcommittee of the NGO Committee on Ageing to request CONGO establish an NGO committee on Intergenerational Solidarity. We believe it is important to have a separate, independent committee addressing intergenerational issues to ensure this perspective is included in and contributes to social development, human rights and other issues under consideration at the United Nations. We need nineteen NGOs to support this effort. We are currently seeking letters of support from other NGOs with CONGO affiliation.

In closing, as our world ages, we must embrace new, expanded roles for older adults and support their efforts to be active contributors to our ageing societies. Poet Maya Angelou once said, "Today people are so disconnected that they feel they are blades of grass, but when they know who their grandparents and great-grandparents were, they become trees, they have roots, they can no longer be mowed down." Our elders provide the roots needed to grow strong future generations.



From left to right, Bahira Sherif-Trask, Eve Sullivan, H.E. Katalin Bogyay, Ignacio Socias, Donna Butts, Esuna Dugarova and Renata Kaczmarek, UN DESA Focal Point on the Family.

The Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations is actively participating in fulfilling the goals and principles of the United Nations, while promoting the national position of Hungary, and advising national authorities on the developments in the international arena.

The Permanent Mission acts in the spirit of dialogue, openness, inclusivity and bridge-building, with due respect for others' positions, in search of long term, principled win-win solutions for the universal issues related to peace, security, social and economic development and human rights.

The International Federation for Family Development is a non-governmental, independent, and non-profit federation, founded in 1978. Its activities consist of family enrichment courses organized in 66 countries of the five continents, with a participative methodology based in the case study method. IFFD collaborates in local, national and international institutions to promote and protect family values. It holds general consultative status with the Economic and Social Committee of the United Nations.

The Commission on Population and Development is one of the ten Functional Commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It monitors, reviews and assesses the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the regional, national and international levels and advises the Economic and Social Council on issues such as population issues and trends, integrating population and development strategies, and on population and related development policies and programmes. It also provides advice and assistance to the United Nations System, governments and other organizations on population and development related efforts.
