**NGOCF International Day of Families 2025 Side Event Concept Note**

**Date:** Thursday, May 15, 2025, 3:00 to 4:00 PM EST

**Topic:** “IYF+30: Celebrating Progress, Highlighting Concerns”

**Venue:** Virtual through Zoom

**Organizer:** NGO Committee on the Family, NY (NGOCF)

In December of 1989, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) announced that 1994 would be proclaimed “The International Year of the Family (IYF)”. To further the focus on families, the UNGA also proclaimed that the International Day of Families would be observed annually on May 15. Looking back over three decades provides a momentous opportunity to discuss how to continue promoting a greater awareness of the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society ([A/RES/44/82](https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/44/82) at OP2) among governments, policymakers, and the public.

In this regard, during its 79th Session the UNGA adopted the resolution: “Observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024” ([A/RES/79/150](https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/79/150)), which gives civil society and non-governmental organizations a crucial role to play. Among other provisions, in paragraphs 34 and 37, the resolution:

* Encouraged Member States to strengthen cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including UN entities, civil society, academic institutions, and the private sector in the develop and implementation of relevant family-oriented policies and programmes; and
* Called upon Member States, UN bodies, in consultation with civil society and other stakeholders, to continue provide information on good practices at the national, regional, and international levels in support of the objectives of the IYF and its follow-up processes.

**Program:**

This event will bring together a panel of stakeholders to discuss the development and implementation of relevant family-oriented policies and programs and discuss good practices to support the objectives of the IYF. Speakers will consider the current state of family-oriented policies through the lens of their particular expertise with an eye to highlighting points of progress during the last three decades as well as identifying current areas of greatest concern.

**Speakers (Provisional and Subject to Confirmation & Acceptance of Invitation):**

* [**Dr. Spencer L. James**, Associate Professor of Family Life and Director of the Global Families Research Initiative, Brigham Young University](https://fhssfaculty.byu.edu/directory/spencer-james)
* [**Dr. Ahmed Aref**, Doha International Family Institute (Member of Qatar Foundation)](https://difi.org.qa/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/AREF.2024.EGM.REVISED.15.05-1.pdf)
* [**Theresa Okafor, Ph.D.**, Director of the Foundation for African Cultural Heritage (FACH)](https://economics.catholic.edu/about-us/advisory-board/okafor-theresa/index.html)

**Moderator:** NGOCF Executive Member