



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
COUPLE AND FAMILY RELATIONS TRUST



“ *Let us be stimulated and challenged by our differences. Let us feel safe in our similarities. But let us not be too different or we will fall apart. And let us not be too similar or we will wither with boredom.* ”

**John Chambers,  
Northern Ireland, UK;  
Commission Chair 1995–98**

## ICCFR Trust

The Trust is a registered charity, registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales in 2003.

### **The objects of the Trust are:**

- To advance the education of the public in the social sciences and in particular matters concerning family and interpersonal relationships, and
- To achieve such objects which are charitable within the laws of England and Wales as may be determined by the trustees.
- The ICCFR Trust supports the work of its founding organisation, the International Commission for Couple and Family Relations (ICCFR) and is aligned with its mission and values. The ICCFR is the vehicle through which the objects of the Trust are best achieved.

### **ICCFR's Mission**

*The ICCFR believes that stable, flourishing communities are based on thriving couple and family relations. It dedicates itself to further the advancement and worldwide dissemination of knowledge about those relationships, and to activities promoting their well-being. Its intentions are to encourage and support an international platform where individuals and organisations can engage in a multidisciplinary dialogue about the issues and challenges couple and family relations face, and the means by which the related professions can collaborate in responding to them.*

The ICCFR, founded in 1953, organises an annual international conference to which organisations and individuals involved in couple and family therapy, relationship education, social work, mediation, psychology and psychiatry, research, social policy, family courts and the law are invited.

## Furthering the objects of the Trust

The Trust furthers its objects by:

- Supporting organisations in emerging nations to host an ICCFR conference
- Offering bursaries to participants, notably younger candidates from developing countries who would not otherwise be able to take part. Trust scholarships and bursaries have enabled family lawyers, educators, counsellors, social workers and researchers from Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe to attend ICCFR conferences and take their learning, contacts and reflections back to their home countries to inform their own work and impact local issues
- Funding presenters at conferences
- Providing funding for members to take part in conferences held by other organisations
- Providing consultancy and administrative support for host organisations and supporting the smooth running of ICCFR conferences
- Providing scholarships to enable recipients to take part in educational programmes outside the ICCFR conferences
- Publishing conference reports
- Developing the ICCFR website and its functionalities to improve access to and involvement in the Commission's work worldwide

In addition to offering a small number of bursaries each year, the Trust has established a scholarship specifically aimed at young postgraduates, enabling them to participate in an ICCFR conference and experience the value of international collaboration and mutual learning.

## Fundraising Aims

Donations from foundations and trusts, individuals and governments have enabled the ICCFR Trust to offer sponsorship to presenters and participants who would benefit professionally from taking part in ICCFR's international conferences and from countries whose travel funds are scarce.

The Trust is seeking funds to support its work from:

- National governments
- Trusts and other grant-making bodies
- Individuals committed to the support of couples and families

*“The discussion groups after each keynote speech were a wonderful arrangement, which provided the participants with an opportunity to give more serious consideration to the concern that was raised by the previous keynote speech session. It was also a wonderful platform for participants to exchange ideas and share the situation they observed in their countries. I also enjoyed the workshops, which offered diverse choices on elderly care, therapy for youngsters, mediation on post-separation, etc.”*

**Ying LIU, Department of Social Work,  
the Chinese University of Hong Kong,  
recipient of an ICCFR Trust scholarship**

## ICCFR Trust's Achievements

Since its foundation, the Trust has actively supported the work of the ICCFR by providing bursaries to many presenters and participants, including:

### South Africa

Workshop presenter – social worker responsible for a project aiding women and children who are victims of domestic violence; keynote speaker – professor of obstetrics and gynaecology

### Nigeria

Participants – senior clergy training and setting up programmes to improve the life chances of girls and young women in their communities

### China

Participants – PhD students and researchers in social work

### India

Workshop presenters and keynote speakers – lecturers and researchers in social work; specialists in working with disability in the family

### South America

Workshop presenter from Argentina – a lawyer/mediator in family conflict

### Australia

Workshop presenter – a lawyer/social worker, specialising in working with children in post-separation conflict situations

### Russia

Workshop presenter from an institute of psychology; participant – medical researcher working with families of drug abusers

### Croatia

Participant – director of a centre for families

### Hungary

Participant – demographer/researcher in social sciences

## Patrons

### Marie-Claire Foblets

Marie-Claire Foblets, Lic. Iur., Lic. Phil., Ph.D. Anthropol. (Belgium) is professor of Law at the University of Leuven in Belgium and since 2012 the Director of the Department of Law and Anthropology at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle/Saale in Germany. She has held various visiting professorships both within and outside Europe.



### Sir Mathew Thorpe

The Rt. Hon. Sir Mathew Thorpe is a former Lord Justice of Appeal (England and Wales), Vice-President of the Family Division and the inaugural Head of International Family Law. He remains the leading expert in the field of the international movement of children.



### Sabine Walper

Prof. Dr. Sabine Walper is Professor of Education and Youth Research at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich and since 2012 also Director of Research at the German Youth Institute DJI. She is a member of the Scientific Council for Family Issues of the Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth. She is Chair of the Scientific Council at the State Institute for Early Education, a member of the Commission for the Rights of Children at the Family Law Court of Germany, and President of the German League for the Child.



## Trustees

There are six trustees, all distinguished specialists in their own field. At present, some trustees also sit on the ICCFR Board, providing an indispensable link between the two bodies.

## About the ICCFR

### The ICCFR:

- Is an international non-profit organisation with members and affiliates in all five continents
- Believes that stable, flourishing communities are based on thriving couple and family relations
- Is dedicated to the advancement and worldwide dissemination of knowledge about those relationships and to activities promoting their well-being
- Provides an international forum, in the form of an annual conference, enabling individuals and organisations to engage in dialogue about the issues and challenges couple and family relations face and enabling them to collaborate and respond
- Publishes conference reports and research papers
- Supports community development projects
- Lobbies and influences governments and national and international agencies

### ICCFR Conferences

The conferences cover a wide range of themes. A comprehensive overview is included in this brochure.

#### Each conference features:

- **Keynote presentations** by distinguished lawyers, social workers, social scientists, researchers, counsellors and others
- **Workshops** presenting research findings, policy, practical case studies and solutions
- **Discussion groups** comprising a unique set of international and interdisciplinary groups, which allow deeper reflections and applications to the work of the commission.

## ICCFR members and participants

ICCFR members and participants are principally individuals and organisations involved in:

- Couple and family counselling and therapy
- Mediation
- Family wellbeing
- Community development
- Research
- Social science
- Social policy
- Family law
- Relationship education
- Social and welfare services

“ ... Meeting many different people involved in couple and family therapy, family courts, and family welfare agencies creates great excitement in me. I learn a lot from this conference ... It provides an international platform to facilitate dialogue with an international and interdisciplinary community of experts ... and brings me some ... practical methods to promote the well-being of my family. ”

**Mengsha Luo, Law and Social Work**  
graduate from Sun-Yat Sen University, China,  
recipient of an ICCFR Trust scholarship



## ICCFR Impact and Influence

- Since its foundation in 1953, ICCFR has gained momentum steadily, attracting participants from all corners of the globe and extending its influence.
- It tackles a wide variety of issues that impact on couple and family relationships and embraces diversity.
- Small discussion groups are a unique feature of its conferences.
- It provides high-quality keynotes, debates and open forums.
- It affords superb opportunities for professional development and training.
- The board is made up of members drawn from across the world.
- It has partner organisations in 25 countries around the world.

## Publications and Website

Each year, the commission publishes an extensive conference report comprising a summary from the Chair of the Commission with the key presentations in that particular year. The commission's website – [www.iccfr.org](http://www.iccfr.org) – makes this report and past material available worldwide.

## Support the ICCFR

The ICCFR Trust relies on the generosity of donors. Your support will enable the work of the Trust to continue and grow. We are grateful for all donations.

### How to donate to the Trust

#### By bank transfer:

Reference "ICCFR Trust Scholarships"

Barclays Bank

Account: 1328 3070 ICCFR Trust

Sort code: 20-32-00

IBAN: GB74BARC20320013283070

SwiftBIC: BARCGB22

#### By PayPal:

"ICCFR TRUST Account [thetrust@iccfr.org](mailto:thetrust@iccfr.org)"

### For more information

**Visit:** [www.iccfr.org](http://www.iccfr.org) or [www.iccfr.org/iccfr-trust/](http://www.iccfr.org/iccfr-trust/)

**Email:** [thetrust@iccfr.org](mailto:thetrust@iccfr.org)

“ I can clearly see the benefit in bringing together people across sectors and countries to find new ways of addressing challenges faced by families. ”

Nivedita Chalill, PhD,  
Counsellor and Arts-Based Therapist,  
practising in Mumbai, India, recipient  
of an ICCFR Trust scholarship

## ICCFR Conferences 1953–2018

- 2018** Valletta, Malta: *"Couple Relationships in the 21st Century: Evolving Contexts and Emergent Meanings"* – in partnership with The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society
- 2017** Boston, MA, USA: ICCFR took part in the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) conference: *"Turning the Kaleidoscope of Family Conflict into a Prism of Harmony"*
- 2016** Trento, Italy: *"Strong Families – Strong Communities"*
- 2015** Berlin, Germany: *"Changing Times: Impacts of Time on Family life"*
- 2014** Brussels, Belgium: *"The Family in Focus"* – 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family
- 2013** London, UK: *"Surviving the Crisis: Putting the Couple Relationship at the Heart of an Early Intervention Agenda for Families"*
- 2012** Boston, MA, USA: *"Collaboration Instead of Collision: Family Law, Social Policy and Joint Practice"*
- 2011** Ghent, Belgium: *"The Family and Social Work: A Successful 'Marriage'?"*
- 2010** Qawra, Malta: *"Empowering Families as Sustainable Partners in Social Policy"*
- 2008** Helsinki, Finland: *"Sustaining Successful Marriages and Relationships: Dream or Reality?"*
- 2007** Edinburgh, UK: *"Barriers to Access: Finding Paths to Inclusiveness"*
- 2006** Lyon, France: *"Families and Democracy: Compatibility, Incompatibility, Opportunity or Challenge?"*
- 2005** Wien, Austria: *"Differing Needs: Societies' Responses to Children, Parents, Families, Couples and the Older Generation"*
- 2004** Tallinn, Estonia: *"Never the Same Again? Families and their Relationships: Ten Years After the Year of the Family"*
- 2003** Leuven, Belgium: *"New Harmonies: Families Holding Relationships, Work and the Generations in Balance"*
- 2002** Sydney, Australia: *"Distance, Diversity, Dislocation: Families Facing Globalisation"*
- 2001** Stockholm, Sweden: *"A Question of Time: Partners, Parents: Perceptions and Priorities"*
- 2000** Berlin, Germany: *"What Produces Changes?: The Forces Impacting on Relationships"*
- 1999** Durban, South Africa: *"Reconciling Violent Relationships"*
- 1998** Oxford, UK: *"Vive la Différence?: Men and Women in Relationships"*
- 1997** San Francisco, CA, USA: *"Second World Congress on Family Law and the Rights of Children and Youth"*
- 1996** Fribourg, Switzerland: *"Values and Families: Intergenerational, Professional and Societal Perspectives"*
- 1995** Siófok, Hungary: *"Who Pays?: Employment – Unemployment: Changes and Consequences for Couples and Families"*
- 1994** Tuusula, Finland: *"Who Cares?: Implications of Caring Responsibilities for Couples and Families"*
- 1993** Baden, Austria: *"New Families?: Changes in Societies and Family Relationships: Effects upon Couples, Parents and their Children"*
- 1992** Newcastle, Northern Ireland, UK: *"Marriage Across Frontiers: National, Ethnic and Religious Differences in Partnerships"*
- 1991** Pittsburgh, PA, USA: *"Impasses of Divorce: Which Ways Forward?"*
- 1990** Rabat, Malta: *"Violence and Families: Managing Conflict"*
- 1989** Exeter, UK: *"Sexual Abuse of Children within the Family: Balancing Private and Public Interest"*
- 1988** Woudschooten, Netherlands: *"Responding to Childlessness"*
- 1987** Sigtuna, Sweden: *"Equality in the Family: Anticipating the Consequences"*
- 1986** Lisboa, Portugal: *"Help in Decision-Making for Parents, Children and the Courts through Separation and Divorce"*
- 1985** Milano, Italy: *"Getting Married Today: The Expectations and Conflicts of Young Couples"*
- 1984** Bellinter, Ireland: *"Marriage and Work: Changing Values and Structures"*
- 1983** Nürnberg, West Germany: *"Second Marriages and Blended Families"*
- 1982** Zürich, Switzerland: *"Beyond Middle Age: Marriage and Family Relationships in Later Years"*
- 1981** Toronto, Canada: *"The Male Crisis: Implications for the Couple and the Family"*
- 1980** Brugge, Belgium: *"Self-fulfilment – Fulfilment of the Couple: New Approaches – Preparation, Prevention, Enrichment"*
- 1979** Turku, Finland: *"Aspects of Sexuality and Marriage Counselling"*
- 1978** Wien, Austria: *"Two Becomes Three: The Birth of the First Child"*
- 1977** Sevilla, Spain: *"Marriage under Stress"*
- 1976** Berlin, West Germany: *"Violence in Marriage"*

- 1975** Bolkesjø, Norway: *"The Report on Marriage Guidance and Family Counselling: A Social Research Paper for the Council of Europe"*
- 1974** Lage Vuursche, Utrecht, Netherlands: *"State Intervention in Marriage and Personal Relationships"*
- 1973** Rugby, UK: *"The Middle Stages of Marriage"*
- 1972** Montrouge-Paris, France: *"The Changing Role of Women and its Impact on Marriage and Family Life"*
- 1971** Malta: *"New Counselling Techniques and Developments in Marriage Guidance"*
- 1969** Edinburgh, UK: *"The Implications for Marriage Guidance of our Growing Understanding of Human Sexuality"*
- 1968** Wien, Austria: *"Stability or Creativity?: Conflicting Values in Modern Marriage"*
- 1967** Helsinki, Finland: *"The Status of the Marriage Counsellor and the Role of the Media in Marriage Education"*
- 1966** Madrid, Spain: *"The Importance of Marriage Preparation as Preventive of Marriage Breakdown"*
- 1965** Lausanne, Switzerland: *"Problems of Young Families and New Questions in Counselling"*
- 1964** München, Germany: *"Spiritual Aspects of Marriage: Implications of Young People's Sexual Behaviour Today for their Future Marriage"*
- 1963** Milano, Italy: *"Women's Struggle for Equality" / "Selection and Training of Marriage Counsellors" / "The New Roles of the Husband and the Wife"*
- 1962** Tours, France: *"The Middle Years of Marriage"*
- 1961** London, UK: *"Marriage: The First Five Years"*
- 1960** Düsseldorf, Germany: *"Marriage Preparation"*
- 1959** Zürich, Switzerland: *"Population, Religion and Birth Control"*
- 1957** Brussels, Belgium: *"Marriage Guidance and Family Casework"*
- 1956** London, UK: *"What is Marriage Guidance?"*
- 1955** Lausanne, Switzerland: *"General Education for Marriage"*
- 1954** Paris, France: *"Study Days on Marriage Guidance Services"*  
Stuttgart, Germany: *"Marriage Preparation"*
- 1953** Lisboa, Portugal: The first meeting of the Commission on Marriage Guidance, as part of the *"Journées Familiales Internationales": "Families and Social Technics"*

“... The conference in Berlin was a wonderful opportunity for me to expand my knowledge. I found it very helpful that the keynote speakers provided a different and a wider view of the problems that families face in everyday life which scholars study and practitioners help with. ... The information and ideas which I gathered during the conference in the plenary sessions, discussion groups, workshops and in my new personal connections with other scholars and practitioners will be a valuable stimulus to my further work.”

**Kairi Kasearu, Sociology**  
PhD student from Tartu University, Estonia,  
recipient of an ICCFR Trust scholarship



Websites: [www.iccfr.net](http://www.iccfr.net) • [www.iccfr.net/iccfr-trust/](http://www.iccfr.net/iccfr-trust/)  
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