

Call for workshop presenters

COUPLE AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS IN TIMES OF CRISIS Coping mechanisms and innovative responses from support systems

What we have learned from the Covid-19 pandemic

The 67th Annual Conference of the International Commission on Couple and Family Relations (ICCFR)

In cooperation with: **AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS, MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER**

22-24 October 2021, Boston, USA

During the COVID-19 pandemic, families have proven to be the cornerstone of their communities and the sources of greatest support for individuals, couples and children. However, the closure of educational and care facilities has meant the loss of contact with friends and peers for children, as well as for their parents. Home-schooling, often paired with working from home, has posed great challenges, especially for those families whose financial resources have been reduced. Families and individuals are affected by and respond to the crisis differently, and families that were already struggling are likely to feel those consequences and the loss of supportive structures most acutely. Social inequalities, especially in education, seem certain to be amplified by the pandemic and governmental responses to it.

The Conference

This conference seeks to answer questions about what the COVID-19 pandemic has meant for couples and families, as well as for service providers. Questions such as:

- How does the pandemic affect children and those who care for them?
- How did government responses to the crisis affect families' and children's well-being?
- How can families and individuals be better prepared for these challenges?
- Required service delivery innovations during the pandemic crisis – what worked or did not work?
- Do couples and families manifest the resilience to survive and recover?
- How has the pandemic affected families that are living separately, divorcing or engaged in co-parenting and what are lessons learned to inform co-parenting best practices for the future?
- What part does social cohesion play in overcoming the worst effects of the crisis?

There will be keynote presentations by experts from different parts of the world, complemented by workshops and discussion groups, allowing participants to share experiences and learn new skills.

Call for workshop presenters

ICCFR is accepting proposals for workshops from presenters who will offer insights from their own countries, practices and perspectives. The workshops will last for 1.5 hours. If you are interested in presenting or co-presenting a workshop, please send a description of your proposed workshop of no more than 200 words, together with a brief CV and your contact details before the 31th of May.

Additionally, please let us know if you would like to be a member of a panel at which issues arising from the conference are discussed, or if you have suggestions for further aspects of the theme that could be explored.

ICCFR offers a reduction of \$100 per workshop from the conference fee of \$300 (i.e. \$100 for individual presenters or \$100 shared between multiple presenters).

Further information on the 2021 Conference in Boston will soon be available on the ICCFR website www.iccfr.org and the Massachusetts Chapter of the AAML website www.aamlmass.org.

PLEASE NOTE: If the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic makes travel and an onsite conference impossible, we will organise an online event instead. Therefore, please do not be deterred from submitting your proposal.

Contact: ICCFR Administrator, Ingrid Cranfield: administrator@iccfr.org