



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF FAMILIES
15 MAY 2021

Families and New Technologies

Online Webinar in Observance of the

2021 International Day of Families

Friday, 14 May, 10:00-11:30 AM (New York time)

Programme

Opening Remarks/Message for the Day:

Daniela Bas

Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD)

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

Launch of Background Paper & Keynote Address:

“Technology Use and Families: Implications for Work-Family Balance and Parenting Education”

Susan K. Walker

Associate Professor, Family Social Science

Former Director of Parent and Family Education
University of Minnesota
“Digital Technologies and Parenting Education”

Panel discussion

Moderator

Olivier Yao

President, International Federation for Family Development (IFFD)

Panelists:

Zach Sims

Co-Founder and CEO, Codecademy

“Online Education Tools for the Family and how to Keep Parents in the Workforce”

Amina Fazlullah

Director of Equity Policy, Common Sense Media

“Access to the Media and Technology Families Need: What Government and the Private Sector can do to Support the Technology Needs of Families”

Mary Dozier

Francis Alison Professor, Amy du Pont Chair

Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences

University of Delaware

“Pivoting to Telehealth Implementation of Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up (an evidence-based home visiting intervention)”

Jessica Navarro

Doctoral Candidate in Human Development and Family Studies

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

*“Families and Technology: Preliminary Findings from an International Focus Group” **

Q&A Session

Issues for discussion:

- Bridging the digital divide: equity, access and accommodations
- New technologies: impact on family well-being, family relations, children, parents and other caregivers
- Digital technologies and families during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Digital technologies and parenting education

- Parenting education as a global investment in family support and women's empowerment
- Preparing family professionals to integrate technology in practice
- The rise of online learning and its role in providing a flexible, accessible way for parents to advance their careers or pursue new opportunities
- The benefits of online learning for the entire family
- The ways in which public and private sectors can work together to bridge the digital divide, support parents in the workforce, and help families prosper through technology
- Good practices in parenting education and other areas under discussion in academic, civil society and private sector

* In anticipation of the [30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family](#) in 2024, the IFFD organized an online focus group of experts in the field to gain insight into how technology is shaping the lives of children and families in the 21st century. Focus group attendees discussed whether access to the internet should be a human right, the problems with measuring access to the internet, the impact of technology on work-family balance, the lasting impacts of COVID-19 on education, the importance of digital skills and citizenship curricula, intergenerational differences, and the role of parents and policymakers in preventing online abuse. Across the discussions, participants underscored how the sociocultural context of families shapes their experience and the need to broaden discussions of technology and family to include families around the world. In addition, focus group attendees echoed a call to action--the need for accessible and comprehensive digital education across the life span. The conclusions from this focus group will shape the recommendations for the [Civil Society Declaration](#).