



Sharing is caring: Equal parenting, a path to social cohesion?

Online Side-Event to the 63rd UN Commission on Social Development on 12 February 2025 - 10:00-11:15 EST

Speakers' Bios



Emilienne de Leon Aulina, Senior Advisor, [Global Alliance for Care](#) (**Moderator**)

Emilienne has been working in the philanthropic field with a feminist perspective for more than 20 years. She led a women's fund in Mexico and then headed Prospera, an international network of women's funds. Since 2021, after leaving Prospera she has served as a Senior Advisor for the Global Alliance for Care. At the same time, she has been a consultant to various organizational processes that involve several aspects of her professional career.

The Global Alliance for Care is the first global multi-stakeholder community that facilitates and fosters spaces for dialogue, analysis, exchange of experiences and learning about care, its recognition as a need, as work, and as a right. It is an articulation between governments, civil society, union associations, the philanthropic sector, international organizations and academia with a view to implementing the care agenda from the local to the global level.



Angela Garcia Romero, Projects Director, [Make Mothers Matter](#)

Angela is the Projects Director at Make Mothers Matter, an international NGO advocating for mothers' rights. With an extensive and diverse international career spanning law, music rights, philanthropy, and real estate, Angela has navigated multiple sectors with purpose and dedication. However, becoming a mother has been her most profound and challenging role—one that has tested her resilience, taught her invaluable lessons, and given her deep insight into the realities most mothers face. Passionate about parenthood, education, and human behaviour and connections, she is committed to building a society where every individual can reach their full potential and where the indispensable, often unseen labour of motherhood is truly valued.



Wessel van den Berg, Senior Advocacy Officer, [Equimundo](#)

Wessel van den Berg works as the Senior Advocacy Officer at Equimundo and is the father of two young children. In his role as advocacy officer, he supports Equimundo's advocacy goals around the world, and convenes the MenCare Global Campaign and Global Boyhood Initiative. His curiosity about men and care led him to work as a kindergarten teacher, counsellor, activist, and researcher. He is co-founder of the MenCare Global Campaign and the State of South Africa's Fathers report series. He is passionate about evidence-based advocacy, and has worked on topics such as the prohibition of corporal punishment of children, the promotion of gender equal parenting leave, gender equal and violence free workplaces, and gender-transformative sexual and reproductive health and rights. His doctoral study in

sociology completed at Stellenbosch University is about engaging South African men in a feminist ethic of care. He is based in Cape Town South Africa

Equimundo: Center for Masculinities and Social Justice has worked internationally and in the US since 2011 to engage men and boys as allies in gender equality, promote healthy manhood, and prevent violence. It brings evidence to action through innovative research which in turn informs our programs and advocacy work across the world in local communities.



Markus Sandmayr, Vice-President and Co-Founder, [Be Family](#)

With over 15 years' experience as President and General Manager in France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands, Markus Sandmayr builds and manages high-performance, diverse teams that deliver sustainable growth with positive impact. He believes in business as an engine for building a more sustainable future and has a proven track record in business transformation; he has obtained BCorp certification for two companies in France.

Markus acquired solid marketing know-how in the creation of meaningful brands by working in various markets in Europe, North America and the Middle East. Innovation is one of his main driving forces, and he supports young start-ups, helping them to grow and build a strong brand.

As an independent director, he supports companies as a member of their Strategic Committee or Board of Directors, specializing in ESG, Inclusive Diversity and Equality and Sustainable Development.

Be-Family is a movement is co-founded in 2023 to shape the future of Family Supportive Workplaces.



Francisco Cos-Montiel, Senior Research Coordinator, [United Nations Research Institute for Social Development \(UNRISD\)](#)

Francisco is Senior Research Coordinator in the Gender Justice Programme of UNRISD. Before taking up this position he had been Senior Research Officer at the United Nations University's Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility. Previously Francisco was UN WOMEN's Economic Advisor for the Asia Pacific Regional Office. His work focused on macroeconomic and microeconomic analysis and the socio-cultural constraints to human agency.

Before joining the UN, he served in the public service in both Mexico and Canada. In Canada, while working at the prestigious International Development Research Centre (IDRC), he spearheaded the Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women initiative (GrOW), a five-year research program that generated the most recent evidence on women's economic empowerment, gender equality, and economic growth in Asia and Africa. Francisco holds a PhD (gender studies) and an MSc (social policy and planning in developing countries) from the London School of Economics. He speaks Spanish, French, English, Portuguese and Italian.

