



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

Welcome by

**H.E. Ambassador Katalin Annamária Bogyay,
Permanent Representative of Hungary to the UN**

on the occasion of Global Day of Parents

1 June 2020

Happy International Parents Day!

It is a joy and privilege for me to welcome you all from New York, from a city which still struggles heavily with COVID-19. During this lockdown existence, we understood even better the important and influential role of the parents in the everyday life of the children. So, thank you for the Parents House Foundation, other civil society members, NGOs and families for creating this celebration today in Hungary with international partners.

The United Nations General Assembly created, in 2012, the 'Global Day of Parents' in order to focus on the important and influential role of parents in the upbringing of the children.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We often speak about children being our treasures. But they are not only our treasures, they are the treasures and the future of the societies. It is really why, in the whole world, we have to protect the children from any discrimination, from any violence, and we have to give them the best education, so that they can fulfil their full potential, their talent, and they can become good members of the societies.

We know that upholding the rights of every child is the primary responsibility of States, as it is enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

At the same time, Ladies and Gentlemen, we, the parents, are the ones who create the environment for the upbringing of the children: we should create a healthy and safe environment. We teach them their first words, we hold their hands, we teach them to see the world, and we can educate them to recognize, to listen and to understand the other person.

Often in the world, in poverty, in armed conflict, in humanitarian crises, the child is forgotten, but the parents are there, the families are there, and they protect them.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is very important to understand that parents need to be included and supported in the nurturing of their children. Families should be given care, support, resources, services and knowledge in this endeavour, with the best interest of the child as a primary concern, and taking into account the different needs of children in different circumstances. Family benefits, paid parental leave, quality childcare and parenting support - which we talk about so often in Hungary - are just to name a few from good family-friendly policies. I am always so proud when I speak about the Hungarian best practices and family-friendly policies, because when I share these with the world, they are always honoured and recognized.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations system provides assistance and support to States, Governments, NGOs and the civil society in their efforts to uplift families and children. I am very much looking forward to listening to your deliberations, I thank you again for organising this celebration during these difficult times.

I feel blessed and thankful being a mother myself. I learned what unconditional love is. I salute my husband with whom we shared every moment of parenthood.

Happy International Parents Day!