



# HOME ECONOMICS NEWS

March 2021

## Publication of the International Federation for Home Economics

### CONGRESS 2022



Announcement (p. 5)

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## IN THIS ISSUE: WELLBEING IN DIGITAL EVERY-DAY LIFE

With people around the world now spending more time online, home economists start voicing their concern about the wellbeing of the household's most vulnerable members in the digital every-day life.

Read about two IFHE advocacy initiatives at the United Nations, drawing attention to **women losing access to digital technologies** (page 3) and calling for education and control mechanisms to **stop cyberviolence against women and girls** (page 3).

**World Home Economics Day** is celebrated March 21 - and we look forward to finally celebrate face-to-face in 2022 (page 2). But important initiatives to advance home economics continue in other areas: Learn about official IFHE support to **embed food literacy education into the school curriculum** (page 4) and a new **National Center of Excellence for Home Economics** in Ireland (page 5).

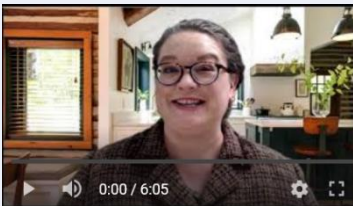
Finally, do not miss out on latest news on **IFHE World Congress 2022** and opportunities to work with IFHE programme committees (pages 5 and 6).

Enjoy reading.



## WORLD HOME ECONOMICS DAY 2021: PUBLIC RELATIONS EVENT GONE ONLINE

### Video message



[https://youtu.be/GT4w\\_cpqvrI](https://youtu.be/GT4w_cpqvrI)

Each 21 March, IFHE celebrates World Home Economics Day (WHED) as a public relations event for family & consumer issues. Traditionally, WHED lives from the colorful events organized by our members. This year we (again) rely on virtual formats and look forward to in-person celebrations in the future.

This year's focus is on home as an environment for healthy ageing. Populations around the world are rapidly ageing and this demographic transition will impact on almost all aspects of society. Home Economics research and education address individual households, institutional homes, and communities as the environment where older people can age safely. Our profession's multidisciplinary approach includes many fields of relevance for an ageing society. Healthy diets, personal finance or processes in institutional homes are a few examples of home economics expertise that support living environments for older people.

### IFHE resources and video message

IFHE starts WHED celebrations with a video message from President Gwendolyn Hustvedt video message introducing WHED 2021 theme (available at the IFHE youtube channel). As in previous years, members benefit from a broad range of online resources with an international perspective on age friendly homes and communities. IFHE also published a news release highlighting the important contribution of home economics knowledge on healthy ageing.

### Free webinar on integration of ageing into curriculum

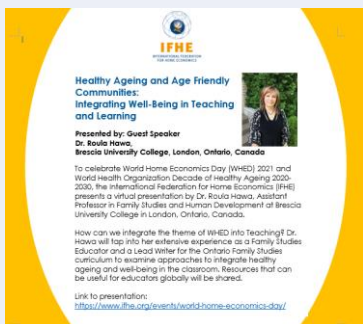
After IFHE organized a kick-off webinar In November 2020, we are now proud to offer another professional learning opportunity to our members: A Family Studies educator from Canada will share how to integrate WHED theme into teaching and learning and share useful resources for educators.

The webinar will be prerecorded and available through youtube to allow easy participation across all time zones. Check the IFHE website for details.

### Online activities in the regions

Home economists in the regions organized various online activities. The Philippine Home Economics Association held its annual celebrations, the Toronto Home Economics Association held a free webinar on age-friendly cities and communities and the Alberta Human Ecology & Home Economics Association offers two webinars about the application of research to aging-in-place homes and about age and dementia friendly neighbourhoods (see left).

St. Angela's College Ireland Invites to the virtual launch of a new National Center of Excellence for Home Economics (see page 5).



IFHE webinar: See details at [website](#)



Registration:  
<https://www.ahea.ab.ca/event-4180151> (March 19, 2021 noon–1pm MDT) or  
<https://www.ahea.ab.ca/event-4180157> (March 22, 2021 noon–1pm MDT)



## MITIGATE ALL FEMINIZED ASPECTS OF THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



Civil Society Forum 2021  
The 59<sup>th</sup> session of the  
commission for Social Development

OPPORTUNITY: 5-day virtual free  
Civil Society Forum ([link](#))

The statement was drafted by IFHE  
experts, with final editing by G.  
HUSTVEDT and P. O'NEIL. Download  
statement at [IFHE website](#) and [UN  
website](#).

In February 2021, IFHE continued advocacy at the United Nations. In light of a transfer of many areas of life to the online sphere, IFHE called for the inclusion of women in the innovation of digital technologies.

The Commission for Social Development in February 2021 discussed as a priority theme “the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all”. In a statement, IFHE pointed out that the inclusion in the innovation of digital technologies and expanded ownership and accessibility is essential to women and their families’ well-being because giving and receiving communication is a fundamental human right and paramount to human flourishing.

Digital technologies are household technology and in a sharp contrast to previous household technology development, they have failed to put the needs of women, families and communities at the heart of the effort. Many women lose access to digital technology through the upgrades that are introduced without consideration of those who are being pushed across the divide. Pushing essential public services, such as healthcare and education, into new systems without planning for those who will be unable to access them creates injustice.

The development of digital technology used in households is driven by market forces. Strong partnerships are needed to assert the accessibility and rights of women to technologies that benefit themselves beyond facilitating consumption. IFHE calls for capacity-building education being made outside of the formal education system, in recognition that many women leave formal education early and require personal or household access to education for daily living.

## CALL TO CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS ONLINE

IFHE traditionally uses sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to publicly address relevant issues regarding the situation of women. With people around the world now spending more time online, IFHE called attention to increased gender-based cyber-violence.

On the occasion of the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, IFHE joined ranks with other NGOs holding consultative status with the United Nations and endorsed a statement which will be presented to member states during the virtual meeting. The statements raises awareness for increased cyberviolence against women and girls. In the COVID era, people around the world spend more time online, which often results in increased cyberviolence and harassment in the shadow pandemic of gender-based violence.

Cyberviolence denies women's and girls' political, civil and human rights. Women’s voices and full participation as digital citizens are censored by online harassment and violence, with costly social and economic implications. Together with other NGO, IFHE therefore called member states to action. Among

other measures, we strongly support setting standards on online violence against women and holding social media platforms accountable for removal of abusive, sexist and misogynist content. And we set focus on the education aspect and call UN member states to invest in education and training to enhance women and girls' ability to use the internet safely.



## IFHE SUPPORTS BILL TO EMBED FOOD LITERACY EDUCATION INTO SCHOOL CURRICULUM

IFHE used its global standing and officially supported a legal initiative to embed food literacy education into the school curriculum in Ontario, Canada. Canadian home economists expect the bill to send a strong message and influence other provinces' education decisions, too.

The Food Literacy for Students Act, if passed in 2021, will establish a province-wide requirement for all students Grades 1 to 12 to receive experiential food literacy education across Ontario, Canada. The bill's initiators argue that food literacy, including experiential or hands-on skills learned in gardens and kitchens, is critical for making healthy food choices that enable self-reliance and improve human health. Experiential food literacy and skills instruction in every grade starting in grade 1 will allow Ontario students to learn how to make healthier food choices that are critical to life-long health. It will equip them with essential life skills and the knowledge and confidence to grow, prepare and choose healthy food that will support positive health outcomes and help reduce health care costs.

The Bill aims to amend the current *Education Act* to ensure that courses of study be developed in experiential food literacy education and healthy eating for every grade from grade 1 through grade 12. The courses of study must ensure that students are given opportunities to grow food, prepare food and learn about local foods. Every board is required to provide instruction in the courses of study and to provide training and support for teachers and other staff of the board. Completion of the courses of study are a requirement for obtaining the Ontario secondary school diploma, the secondary school graduation diploma and the secondary school honour graduation diploma.



Learn more about OHEA & read the full letter at the association's [web-site](#).

## NEWS FROM THE REGIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### XXIV WORLD CONGRESS 2022 ANNOUNCEMENT



Please share this announcement with your colleagues ([Congress 2022 website](#)).

It is time to prepare your abstract for Congress 2022! The work of Home Economics relates to sustainability around the world, and the Congress Matrix demonstrates the complexity of these efforts.

Globally, citizens are confronting many issues that cut across the Congress Model and Matrix, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Black Lives Matter movement, broader economic and social justice issues, and more. Abstracts accepted for the 2020 Congress must be resubmitted for 2022; they may be the same, updated or new. New authors are also encouraged to participate. Submissions will be accepted from June 1-August 31, 2021.

In preparation for our post-COVID-19 life, the tradition of Home Visits will be curtailed for this Congress. Instead, be ready to take advantage of one of the twelve Learning Day on the Move experiences which replace educational and technical excursions. Lunch is included and the two longer tours also include dinner. Six of these destinations have no additional fees. This is a great day to connect with colleagues outside the conference site!

The latest information is updated on the Congress website including the 2022 Call for Abstracts, Tentative Registration, speakers, Learning Day on the Move and the Tentative-Program-At-A-Glance. Registration will open January 2022. We look forward to receiving your submission, beginning June 1, 2021!

### NEW NATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR HOME ECONOMICS

There's no need to register, just watch the event [HERE](#)



St. Angela's College in Ireland will become Ireland's National Centre of Excellence for Home Economics. Join the virtual launch on 19 March.

In conjunction with World Home Economics Day 2021, we are delighted to invite you to the launch of the National Centre of Excellence for Home Economics, St. Angela's College Sligo. This new Centre recognises distinguished expertise in a unique domain of academic specialization on the island of Ireland and will be a vehicle through which the teaching and research strengths of Home Economics will continue to be progressively developed and branded. The Centre will consolidate capacity in the discipline Home Economics across the three pillars: Teaching & Learning; Research & Innovation and Community Engagement.

Guest speakers Include e-journal editor Donna PENDERGAST ("Leading Home Economics Futures"), IFHE President of Honour Gertraud PICHLER ("World Home Economics Day 2021"), UNESCO Chair for Sustainable Development Victoria W. THORENSEN ("Sustainable Lifestyles & Home Economics"), and IFHE President Gwendolyn HUSTVEDT ("IFHE - A Global Perspective").





## PROGRAMME COMMITTEES: CALL FOR ACTION

The World Congress 2022 takes place 2-10 August 2022 in Atlanta, USA. This is an excellent opportunity for IFHE Programme Committees to present their work to a wider audience through workshops and exhibitions. Please read the Committee Chairs' call for action and do not hesitate to contact if you are interested to contribute.

**Education.** In Atlanta 2022, we are planning two symposiums (including a workshop), 'Home Economics Policies Concerning SDGs' and 'Best Practices in Primary & Secondary Levels Related to SDGs.' The panelists are from Nigeria, Zambia, U.S.A., Ireland, and Japan. Under the influence of COVID-19, various efforts such as online lessons have been put into practice in home economics education in each country. We plan to have the panelists talk about them as well. At the Annual Meeting 2022, we would like to exchange information on the implementation status of classes related to SDGs in each country. We expect many people to participate.

**Textile and Design (T&D).** Your attention, participation, and service are requested as the World Congress 2022 proposal submission window nears. Please share this exhibition opportunity with your peers and colleagues as the IFHE T&D showcase emerges as one of the premier locations to present creative scholarship. The T&D program is evolving the review and publication structure for creative works to competitively place the IFHE showcase near the top. This includes revised submission guidelines, a double-blind peer review process, and a web-based digital catalog. We are seeking your creative works and expertise as both submitters and reviewers. Please email T&D program chair with questions pertaining to the upcoming submission and/or to confirm your place as a reviewer of creative scholarship submissions. Textile and Design creative works are encouraged to align with the 2022 Congress theme 'Soaring Towards Sustainable Development' to address timely world issues including sustainability, the global pandemic, or social justice, plus others.

**Household Technology & Sustainability (HT&S).** The Program Committee is planning to meet in the spring to discuss our plans for the IFHE 2022 World Congress. Early plans are to propose a symposium similar to the one planned for IFHE 2020, with the theme of *Technology and Sustainability in Housing, Appliances, and Food Systems*. This would provide an opportunity for researchers, educators, and practitioners to share their research, innovations, and best practices on issues such as food waste, energy efficiency, sustainable foods, and smart technologies. Posters and presentations would be welcomed. The committee will decide what we want to propose before the call for abstracts goes out this summer. Please watch for an invitation to the PC HT&S meeting in March or April. New members are welcome. Please contact me if you are interested in joining the committee.

Contact Committee Chairs:

**Education:** Rie IMOTO

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**Household Technology:** Pamela

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## TANSANIAN HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION AND IFHE GER- MANY INTENSIFY COOPERATION

The Tanzanian Home Economics Association (TAHEA) and IFHE Germany organized their first virtual meeting for an exchange of experiences and a discussion about how to intensify the cooperation between the two organizations. Read Beatrix FLATT's report (chair IFHE Germany).

For over 20 years, the German section of IFHE has been maintaining a partnership with TAHEA in the region Mwanza at Lake Victoria. Every few years some German IFHE members travelled to Mwanza to get to know the TAHEA projects in the villages. Because travelling in times of the Corona pandemic is not possible this time they met virtually.

Even if the technology and thus the communication was not always perfect it was a good start to a new kind of communication and collaboration. About 40 people attended the two-hour meeting. They shared experiences on the impact of Covid-19 on families in Tanzania, especially in Mwanza, and in Germany. TAHEA introduced their new strategy plan 2021-2026. A German Home Economic student who will do an internship at TAHEA this year commented on her motivation to go there. The TAHEA staff assured that Home Economic students are always welcome to do their internships at TAHEA.

In the next few months, IFHE Germany and TAHEA will discuss how they could intensify the collaboration to support TAHEA's mission to empower families and communities in Mwanza and Tanzania as a whole to transform their lives socially, economically and with a perspective to gender equality.

## EUROPEAN REGION CINTINUES ONLINE BROWN BAG SERIES



Details see <https://eahe.ifhe.ch/>

In January, the European Association for Home Economics (EAHE) offered the second "brown bag webinar" in a series of events held every two months. The webinar presented a Swedish project in cross- disciplinary pedagogy which aims to provide learning materials for students and to enable young people to grow into conscious consumers.

This project highlights the environmental impact of consumption, but at teaching aspects, which means care for the pedagogical quality and cooperation. This means that we, as teachers today, have a responsibility to.

The project introduces environmental awareness into the curriculum and creates a website with course content and free material for different school subjects at all schools in Sweden. It focuses on digital technology as a means to make pedagogy accessible and affect young people's social development. The project contributes to promoting a socially just transition to sustainable development and supports educators to teach the adults of the future to become responsible consumers.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Published by the International  
Federation for Home Economics  
(IFHE)

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### 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Caribbean Association for Home Economists Inc. (CAHE)**  
**Home Economists Mindset, Reset: Navigating the New Normal**  
24<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference (virtual)

### 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**University of Agriculture/Institute of Education and Home Economics**  
**Rural Environment. Education. Personality (REEP-2020)**  
13<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference, Jelgava, Latvia

### 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**European Association for Home Economics (EAHE) & Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI):** Workshop on Consumption and Care,  
Galway, Ireland

### 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**IFHE African Region**  
**Securing Family Future for Sustainability in Retirement: A Home Economics Perspective**  
11<sup>th</sup> African Regional Conference, City of Benin, Nigeria

### 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Making Sense from Taste: Quality, Context, Community**  
11. International Conference on Food Studies, Aarhus University, Copenhagen, Denmark

### Preview:

### 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE)**  
**Home Economics: Soaring towards Sustainable Development**  
XXIV IFHE World Congress, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Next Issue:  
JUNE 2021

Please submit information and  
articles by 15 May 2021 to the IFHE  
Office Bonn, Germany