

The United Nations Presents:

Sacred Water

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with:



Olivier Jourdain
Director

Passionate about Visual Anthropology, he studied Filmmaking in London (Brunel) as well as Anthropology in Leuven (KUL), after receiving a Masters in Communication in Brussels, IHECS. He has been traveling to Sub-Saharan Africa for over 15 years. Those numerous travels have changed his views on this vast and diverse continent. From Mali to Madagascar, the Congo, Ivory Coast and Rwanda, he has had the opportunity to make numerous documentaries and institutional films.



Caroline Hickson
Regional Director, International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network

As Regional Director, she is responsible for relationship building with volunteers and Member Associations, ensuring that the entire IPPF EN is operating according to IPPF's mission, vision and values, and fulfilling its strategic priorities. Caroline is originally from Ireland and holds a Masters in International Relations. She has worked in the NGO sector for over 25 years covering a variety of sectors including health and homelessness, and for the past 11 years, international development, humanitarian relief and trade.



Sietske Steneker
Director of the Brussels Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

A national of the Netherlands, she has previously worked as UNFPA Representative in the Russian Federation, Honduras and El Salvador. She holds a Masters Degree in International Law and Public Health in Developing Countries. UNFPA delivers a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



Caroline Petit
Deputy Director of UNRIC, the United Nations Regional Information Centre

She has worked in the field of strategic communication and media partnership at international level for 25 years. She joined the UN in 2001 and, was posted first as Head of the Media Partnerships Unit at the United Nations Headquarters in New York before joining UNRIC in 2013. Caroline Petit started her career at the European Commission' Media Programme where she was in charge of promoting European film producers at major film festivals in Europe.

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When a woman can plan her family, she can plan her life. She can pursue more education, seek and keep better jobs, and contribute more to her family, her nation and to global prosperity. As she becomes better-off financially, her children receive better education, and the benefits carry over well into future generations.

- Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund.

World Population Day **July 11th**

FAMILY PLANNING IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Every year on 11 July, World Population Day seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues. The theme of World Population Day 2018 is: "Family Planning is a Human Right", as this year marks the 50th anniversary of the 1968 International Conference on Human Rights, where family planning was, for the first time, globally affirmed to be a human right. The conference's outcome document, known as the Teheran Proclamation, stated unequivocally: "Parents have a basic human right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children."

Embedded in this legislative language was a game-changing realization: Women and girls have the right to avoid the exhaustion, depletion and danger of too many pregnancies, too close together. Men and women have the right to choose when and how often to embrace parenthood — if at all. Every individual has the human right to determine the direction and scope of his or her future in this fundamental way.

Family Planning is, therefore, inextricably linked to sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as a key factor in reducing poverty.

WHEN PEOPLE ENJOY THEIR RIGHT TO FAMILY PLANNING...

The right to family planning permits the enjoyment of other rights, including the rights to health, education, and the achievement of a life with dignity. Some of these benefits include:

- Enabling women to space their births, benefiting both mothers' and children's health. Women who have fewer risky births, healthier pregnancies and safer deliveries face lower risks of death and improved overall health. Their babies are born healthier and their children's health is better early in life.
- Overcoming poverty by allowing women to plan for the number of children they can provide for and the increased benefits of a healthier family and healthier population.
- The provision of male and female condoms reducing the rates of sexually transmitted infections worldwide. They offer protection from HIV infection and unintended pregnancy. Family planning services can also help HIV-positive women to avoid pregnancy if and when they wish to do so.



UNFPA is the United Nations reproductive health and rights agency. Our mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



UNRIC is the communication hub for the United Nations in Europe. Based in Brussels, the Centre covers 22 Western European countries and maintains a website in 13 languages. Visit www.unric.org for more information.