



**IFHE**

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

# Our Work in 2020

Advancing knowledge on the responsible use  
of resources at home



home economics

textiles & clothing  
waste management  
health  
housing & shelter  
community services  
sanitation & hygiene  
child development  
human ecology  
household technology  
family and consumer science  
gender studies  
personal finance  
food science  
institutional hospitality  
nutrition  
education  
gerontology  
human science



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## Dear members and friends of IFHE,

the pandemic that changed our lives in 2020 did not prevent IFHE members around the globe from keeping up their professional commitment to improving everyday life at household and consumer level. Indeed, we were faced with an unexpected public interest in home economics research and education. Needing to spend most of their time at home, people became interested in issues surrounding responsibly managed household resources. Our “how to” information became very popular and was widely sought after and appreciated.

Despite the challenging nature of the past year, our increased visibility became a motivation for IFHE to further increase its advocacy for home economics education.



*Gwendolyn Hustvedt  
President*

We promoted it as a modern approach to transforming societies towards a sustainable future. With our special ability to use any available resources at hand, we easily managed to adapt our organizational processes and made them work during this unusual year. Luckily, IFHE activists are used to communicating digitally and globally, making our first virtual Council in our 113th year of existence a smooth affair.

We are grateful that IFHE was able to continue its work throughout 2020, expanding its professional outreach by offering more digital participation. We hope that you will enjoy reading our report and will get a sense of the spirit that carried us through this very demanding year.



*Annette Ptassek  
Executive Director*

### SUSTAINABLE LIVING STARTS AT HOME

We promote research and education on the responsible use of household resources. Because choices made at home affect the quality of life for all.

IFHE is an independent, membership-based non-profit organization (est. 1908). Our membership spans almost 70 countries and we use our consultative status with the United Nations to make our message heard globally.

### HOME ECONOMICS: A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH



# THE EXCEPTIONAL YEAR 2020

## How managing the home became fashionable

With millions of people stuck at home during large parts of 2020, attention suddenly focused on traditional household activities. Everyone stocked up on food and other supplies and needed to deal with how to organize life at home during lockdown. While women were perhaps once again the ones getting most of it done, there at least was a shift in appreciation and acknowledgment of what it means to manage a home and how to use household resources effectively and responsibly.

With its focus on both life skills *and* the knowledge about the impact that individual choices have on our living environment, our traditional approach to home economics education definitely passed its test during 2020. During the pandemic, people had to acquire new everyday skills, flexibly adapt these and reflect their individual behaviour with regard to society's needs.

### LOCKDOWN LEARNINGS: STUDIES AND RESEARCH ON HOME ECONOMICS & THE PANDEMIC

As the global platform for home economists, IFHE discussed the pandemic's implications for the profession early on. The Federation's academic flagship, the refereed **International Journal of Home Economics** (IJHE), is preparing a **special edition** on "Rapid response & lockdown learnings: home economics, the global pandemic 2020, and beyond." Pushing the boundaries of theory and research and identifying key developments, contributions from international authors will be accepted until February 2021 and published later during the year.

IFHE also became official partner of a research study that explores the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on family life across cultures. The University College of Public Policy in Qatar leads this **international Covid-19 Family Life Study**. The research team consists of international academics and experts representing the United Nations and civil society organizations across the globe. Results of the study will be published early 2021.

## A practical response to the pandemic (see page 5-6)

*Food sharing/  
preservation  
techniques  
(Nigeria, Zambia)*



*Sewing Masks (Ireland & UK)*

### PRACTICAL RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

A special edition of **IFHE's quarterly newsletter** shared the experience of **home economists as "first responders"**, which was noted well beyond the IFHE membership. Home economists or professionals dealing with consumer sciences and related fields tend to work in areas such as health & hygiene standards, sustainable diets, food storage techniques

or the management of institutional homes. They actively responded to the global health crisis right away. The special edition of the newsletter showcased examples from eleven countries, presenting an impressive array of how professional home economics can make a difference when responding to a pandemic.



Community scheme UK



Facebook page Malta



TV spot Canada



Financial counselling Germany and Nigeria

Sewing youtube tutorial Japan

**CANADA & CHINA****Nutrition and health experts on TV and the radio**

Through the media, home economists in China and Canada gave much sought after advice on basic hygiene and healthy diets to a public staying at home. A Canadian CTV News spot explained how to cook with what was left on supermarket shelves and how to simultaneously cut down on food waste.

## A BRIEF IFHE TRIP AROUND THE WORLD

**JAPAN****YouTube sewing tutorial draws 3 million clicks**

Several Japanese universities' Home Economics departments published high-quality instructions on how to sew masks, for example Saitama University or Mukogawa Women's University, which included instructions for left handed people. The most popular YouTube clip was clicked 3 million times.

**MALTA****A facebook page on sustainable living**

University of Malta BSc. Home Economics students launched a self-designed page with lots of practical tips. During the first weeks, the page collected 780 likes and made it into the local newspapers.

**UNITED KINGDOM****Community scheme supports businesses and individuals**

Professional home economists helped set up a 'nominate my neighbour' scheme in a village in the UK. Community members nominated vulnerable individuals to receive food boxes and special treats, uncovering pockets of desperate hidden need this way.

**GERMANY & NIGERIA****Counselling the financially stressed**

German and Nigerian home economists quickly understood that the most vulnerable needed financial support to get through the crisis. Their hands-on advice on how to frugally manage a household while ensuring a healthy diet was widely distributed and in Nigeria reached remote households via text messages.

**NIGERIA & ZAMBIA****Food sharing and preservation for healthy diets**

An initiative in Nigeria combined small scale sustainable food production with setting up a community food sharing scheme. Zambian home economics nutritional experts published practical instructions for food preservation techniques.

**IRELAND & UNITED KINGDOM****Sewing 12,000 high-quality masks**

Textile design and a professional knowledge of textile materials are part of the home economics field. Applying their expertise, home economists in Ireland and the UK produced over 12,000 high quality masks and scrubs for staff in operating rooms.



# ADVOCACY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

## FEMALE HOMELESSNESS

In February 2020, right before most international events were cancelled, IFHE launched an advocacy initiative to alleviate feminized homelessness at the United Nations. The **Commission for Social Development** had prioritized affordable housing and homelessness, also one of our central concerns. IFHE pointed out that most inequalities leading to homelessness severely affect women in particular. Economic agreements between governments and international investors in the global South for example, privatize land that used to be controlled by customary law. These traditional



Participants at commission for Social Development 2020

arrangements gave women shared use of property and natural resources to build basic homes and subsistence livelihoods.

IFHE called for social protection measures against feminized homelessness, for example requesting

international financial policy reforms. Investment- and financial groups need to show more commitment towards social sustainability including resettlement-, rehabilitation-, restitution-, and resolution requirements when they seek United Nations-affiliated credentials for sustainable asset management.



since 1981



**UN Economic and Social Council**

[www.un.org/ecosoc/en/home](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/home)

since 1953



**Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN**

[www.fao.org/home/en](http://www.fao.org/home/en)

since 1965



**UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

<https://en.unesco.org>

## IFHE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

We use our consultative status with the UN to internationally promote education & research on the responsible management of resources at home. We advocate knowledge on household and consumer matters as key to achieving a sustainable living. Where possible, we seek to increase impact through joint action with other NGOs and membership in networks.



## HIGHER EDUCATION FOR GIRLS

On the occasion of the Beijing Platform for Action's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, IFHE joined ranks with **Graduate Women International (GWI)**, another INGO that looks back on a long history of advocating women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education. We drew attention to how higher education for girls and young women increases their earning potential and enhances their social inclusion. We highlighted post-primary education as being both a means of

empowerment and an investment in tomorrow's future leaders and decision-makers.

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary session of the **Commission on the Status of Women** in New York that IFHE had planned to participate in, publicly addressing relevant issues regarding the situation of women, was unfortunately suspended due to global lockdowns taking effect in March 2020.

## COVID-19 INTENSIFIES INEQUALITIES

Like other NGOs working with the United Nations, IFHE feared that while attention during the pandemic focused on the global health crisis, climate crisis issues would be neglected. Achieving sustainable development and gender equality, protecting human rights and promoting peace, however, continue to need our urgent attention. Moreover, the impact of the virus magnified existing inequalities and vulnerabilities, painfully revealing the gaps in our social protection systems.

To raise awareness among UN Member States, IFHE and 133 other NGOs, under the umbrella organisation of the **Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO)**, published a call to turn the crisis into an opportunity and strengthen international cooperation. "**COVID-19 recovery: building back better**" demanded

that recovery be used as a starting point to rebuilding economies so that they become more inclusive and are based on sustainable production and consumption.

To mark its **75th anniversary**, the United Nations started a **global conversation**, inspiring IFHE to further expand its advocacy work. We invited members and friends to share their ideas on building the future and promoting education & research on the responsible management of resources in order to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Home economists have always tried to define the value of unpaid care. When IFHE saw the pandemic unloading an unfair burden on women, it actively promoted the **UN Women HeForShe campaign**. Women end up with three times as much unpaid work at home as men and make up 70% of workers in the health and social sector. They are front-line responders, and the pandemic is contributing to widening the gender gap. Because the campaign promotes the "home" as a place of value that men and women act within on equal terms, it struck a chord with the basic values of the home economics community and beyond.



Women make up **70%**  
of workers in the health and  
social sector and do **THREE TIMES**  
as much unpaid care work at  
home as men

*UN HeForShe campaign*



# MAKING HOME ECONOMICS MORE VISIBLE



Best Practice Poster Reducing Food Waste (design: S. Lee)

## NEW POSTER ON HOW TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE

In its series of best practice posters that feature advice on the responsible use of household resources, IFHE published No. 8 in early 2020: an edition on food waste. The poster covers the complex issue in a scientifically sound but easy

sustainably at home. It is designed as a practical guide for households in both developing and industrialized countries.

All our posters are based on peer-reviewed scientific literature and address activities that have a significant impact on the sustainable use of household resources. They cover everything you need to know about such fields as cooking, storage & refrigeration or laundering in an icon-based and easy to understand design. Posters are available in English, Arabic and German and can be downloaded from the IFHE website.

to understand way. It explains how to reduce food waste and how to consume food more

## HOW GENDER EQUALITY & POPULATION ISSUES ARE LINKED

To showcase our professions, IFHE often uses the visibility of large international events or home economics-related United Nations observances. On **World Population Day** on July 11<sup>th</sup>, for example, IFHE called attention to population issues, which are directly linked to gender equality at home. Home economics knowledge aims to empower both men and

women to improve their situation at home. By teaching basic life skills such as sustainable nutrition or health & hygiene, including access to information, financial literacy or education on contraception and sexually transmitted diseases, home economics education can help achieve gender equality and address population issues.

## ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Each October 16<sup>th</sup>, on **World Food Day**, the Food and Agriculture Organisation calls attention to the dramatic issue of hunger, in 2020 focusing on sustainable food systems and the need to provide healthy diets for all while preserving natural resources. This was an excellent occasion for IFHE to demand the integration of home economics into curricula to educate on sustainable food management. From a home economics perspective, food production and consumption are closely linked. People make their consumer choices at home so that is where education in home economics can promote sustainable food production or shopping for locally sourced and

sustainably produced food. If the women who make these choices are disadvantaged, however, their decisions can have a negative impact on their food production and the nutrition choices of all members of the household. IFHE has therefore always seen food procurement and preparation as up-to-date and practical tasks that all household members should equally engage in, that way achieving sustainable living for all.



Best Practice Poster



### WORLD HOME ECONOMICS DAY 2020

**World Home Economics Day** is an annual global event launched in 1982 to promote the profession. Each March 21<sup>st</sup>, it focuses on a specific household-, consumer- or family science issue. This year, IFHE concentrated on homelessness, the lack of access to adequate housing and the multi-dimensional threat this poses to people. We discussed how our profession’s multi-disciplinary approach can contribute to address poverty risks, hunger, poor health, lack of access to education or to clean water and sanitation.



*World Home Economics Day preparations in the Philippines*

As in previous years, IFHE published online resources to support members in preparing for the event. What became very popular was our basic curriculum for educators on how to integrate home economics into their classes. Titled “Without a home...just economics?”, the curriculum covered the many factors that can lead to homelessness such as natural disasters or the breakdown of family structures. Other reasons can be loans exceeding property value, lack of home care for elderly family members, foster children reaching adulthood or eviction because of land grabbing and more.

Usually, a whole number of member-organized public relations activities around the globe accompany World Home Economics Day. This was of course not possible in 2020, but IFHE members kept their positive spirit and went right on to prepare World Home Economics Day 2021. Its thematic focus will be on demographic transition & ageing, and in November, a social gerontologist held a kick-off webinar on the theme’s implications on our profession, drawing a big international audience from more than 15 countries.

### THE ROLE OF FAMILIES DURING CRISES



During the 2020 pandemic, it became obvious how important families and homes are for everyone. Families are a hub of intergenerational interaction, providing support during hard times. They bear the brunt of the crisis, sheltering their members from harm, caring for out-of-school children while simultaneously continuing their work responsibilities.

The **International Day of Families** saw IFHE address the enormous challenges that the most vulnerable household members face. During economic duress, poverty deepens and in times of uncertainty, stress increases. IFHE wants to draw attention to how this pressure can increase instances of violence against women and children.

## IFHE IN SOCIAL MEDIA



LinkedIn:

@ifhehomeec



Facebook:

@ifhehomeec



Instagram:

@ifhe\_homeec



Twitter:

@ifhe\_homeec



# INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

## HOME ECONOMISTS PROFIT FROM THE IFHE DEVELOPMENT FUND

IFHE supports home economists around the world with its **IFHE Development Fund**. This fund is a vital part of helping IFHE achieve its global mission and aims. Every four years, our US-based IFHE affiliate raises donations, which an international board then awards to home economics-related educational and charitable purposes. The small competitive grants support research, educational programs and studies.

This year, the fund received fourteen grant proposals for the 2020–2024 cycle. The first

one was awarded to the Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE). Through micro solar hatchery enterprises, the funded project will focus on enabling livelihoods, improving nutrition, and empowering women in villages in Uttarakhand, India. The second grant winner was the College of Home Economics, University of Peshawar, Pakistan with a project called “Pathways to Pain with that extra Chromosome: Relations between Societal Discrimination, Parental Functioning and Child Psychosocial Well-Being” in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa District.



*Annual Meeting 2020*

## DISASTER ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP

The **Disaster Assistance Partnership** supports home economic and family and consumer sciences programs to recover after being hit by natural disasters. Target areas are usually in low and lower-income economies but can be adapted such as after the devastating hurricane season hit the Caribbean end of 2017. The Disaster Assistance Project is a multi-organizational coordinated effort under the auspices of IFHE and incorporated into the structure of International Home Economics Services (IHES). Typical activities include training and distribution of basic kits to rebuild home economics education and services.

Unfortunately, limitations in international shipping brought activities to a standstill in 2020. While DAP has successfully assisted six countries in the last couple of years, it has not been able to hold ongoing “Product Sales Tables” at various conferences where there is usually good response for purchasing donated items that has helped significantly with shipping costs. DAP has still been receiving individual monetary donations but will need to resume collecting materials to be sent and funds for shipping.

## IFHE JOINS FOOD LITERACY EDUCATION RESEARCH

IFHE applied to join a research consortium exploring food literacy education across geographic locations. The Canadian Social Studies and Humanities Research Council will provide funding to bring together scholars and practitioners. These will share their work,

developing teaching and learning materials to support food literacy educators. The consortium wants to include IFHE's expertise in food and nutrition education in the home economics field. Planned initial research locations are in Canada, Australia, USA and Sweden.



## EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Continuing its successful involvement in EC-funded sustainability education initiatives, IFHE is becoming an associated partner in a project called "New Dimensions in Education for Sustainable Development". Running until 2023, the project will emphasize interdisciplinarity, interculturality and inter-religiousness – widening the scope for sustainability education. Students and professionals in vocational training and education will be motivated to develop a mindset for sustainability that includes not only knowledge and skills but also value orientation.

The project will develop ICT-based tools and a curriculum awarding credit points, a blended-learning course and learning materials for vocational education.

### PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Since 2016, IFHE awards the **International Professional Home Economist (IPHE)** certificate to professionals who promote international recognition of our discipline. The certificate adds an international dimension to credential systems for home economists and sets an international benchmark. Applications are accepted online and are evaluated by an international board of renown academics.



# CONNECTING THE PROFESSION

## NETWORKING EVENTS – REALIZED AND PLANNED

Opportunities for in-person exchanges were of course limited in 2020, but IFHE managed to organize two events for home economic professionals just before the pandemic hit. The first was during the **United Nations** session of the **Commission for Social Development**. Prior to the session, IFHE had asked members to contribute to a statement and had invited four authors to attend. An IFHE representative later commented on the networking experience: “I met people from all over the world saying that our work as home economists is key in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. Home economists have the necessary knowledge base and unique skill set that we all need to realize our collective dreams of a better world.”

We also managed to hold our **Annual Meeting** in Bonn just before the pandemic shut down public life in Europe. Participants from Africa, the Americas and Europe provided an exchange platform for IFHE working groups and a forum to discuss the advancement of the Federation’s public outreach. Keynotes by



*World Congress (postponed)*

the presidents of the American Association for Family and Consumer Studies and Graduate Women International gave excellent insight into communication challenges in other membership-based organisations.

Just when registrations had opened, abstracts had been accepted and travel grants awarded, it became obvious that holding an international event was unthinkable, and we had to postpone the **XXIV IFHE World Congress** to 2022. This large 1,000 participants event is traditionally organized by the hosting member’s volunteers, and their extraordinary commitment will allow us to hold the first post-pandemic international home economics gathering in Atlanta, United States in August 2022.

## EXPERT GROUPS AND DIGITAL LEARNING

IFHE expert groups address specific topics of relevance to home economics, exchange on practical and scientific questions and contribute to IFHE publications. Luckily, our members are well-equipped and used to online communication between different places and across time zones and effortlessly switched to digital formats. Lively exchanges took place during various webinars for home economics professionals for example. The IFHE expert group on Household Technology & Sustainability organized a webinar with over 70 home economists participating. Four presenters shared their research on sustainability practices around the world, which included the use of solar cookers, food hygiene practices in rural restaurants, sustainable water management of rural households, or strategies to enhance the environmental stability of contemporary families.



*Screenshot of some delegates during the online Council*

Another online event addressed digital technologies from a home economics perspective and prepared us for advocacy activities at the United Nations in 2021. The year concluded with an international kick-off webinar for World Home Economics Day 2021, drawing an audience from over 15 countries.



## INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HOME ECONOMICS



IFHE's academic flagship, the **International Journal of Home Economics (IJHE)**, is a peer-reviewed e-journal bringing together emergent and breaking work on all aspects of Home Economics worldwide. It has been published biannually since 2008. The

journal is free of charge and can be downloaded from the IFHE website. It is in the process of being certified by the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature SCOPUS.

Issue 1/2020 for example, covered a wide range of up-to-date topics such as online pedagogy, digitally printed textiles, the educational content of nutrition and health or enhancement of ecological theory and family capacity-building in home economics practices.

Great efforts went into preparing a special issue on "Rapid response and lockdown learnings: Home economics, the global pandemic 2020, and beyond". Our call for contributions invited authors to address innovative and practical responses relevant to home economics. Possible topics can include food and nutrition, home economics education, mental health and wellbeing, families and communities as well as habits and habitats – behaviour and attitude change.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE IFHE NEWSLETTER

The quarterly **IFHE Newsletter** informs the global home economics community about relevant developments in the field and updates readers on member activities at regional and local level. Several articles drew increased attention in 2020. One was on the plan to integrate food literacy education into all school curricula in Ontario, Canada. Our local Canadian association had strongly advocated for this

development. They had repeatedly demanded that curriculum development be entrusted to qualified home economists.

Another inspiring article was about our Philippine colleagues successfully preventing home economics from being taken off the curriculum, supposedly because it was not relevant during the pandemic.



*Students celebrate World Home Economics Day in Uyo, Nigeria*

**IFHE membership spans almost 70 countries**



## UPDATES FROM THE MEMBER REGIONS

**AFRICA:** As in other parts of the world, IFHE membership organizations held their annual meetings online. Additionally, home economists in Egypt, Zambia and Nigeria focused on nutrition as an important aspect of sustainable household practices in face of the pandemic. Educational activities addressed a balanced diet, one example being a college symposium in Lagos on ‘Family Survival in a Pandemic: A Feminine Perspective’ and a webinar series on aspects of a protein efficient nutrition.

**ASIA:** The Asian Regional Association for Home Economics (ARAHE) had to postpone its biennial conference but published two issues of its e-paper (volume 27) and launched a new website. In September, the Malaysian Association for Home Economics organized the webinar ‘New Insight on Teaching and Learning : Lessons from COVID-19’ with 110 Asian home economists sharing teaching and learning strategies during the pandemic. The Thai Home Economics Association (THEA) organized a forum for ‘New Normal Home Economics’ in July and met with Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation representatives to foster joint academic conferences.

**AMERICAS:** The St. Vincent and the Grenadines government invited the local Home Economics Association (SVGHEA) to participate in national consultations revising the island’s nutritional guidelines. IFHE-United States built up its support and membership of younger home economists, inviting them to attend a webinar presenting the benefits of the Young Professionals Network.

**EUROPE:** The European Association for Home Economics (EAHE) worked on its official legal registration and the board developed a vision of more active participation of IFHE members in Europe. One initiative in this regard was started with a tradition of brown bag webinars offering insight to current home economics research and innovative approaches such as understanding the relation between sustainability of our consumption and lifestyles and our ethos of care about others, the planet and ourselves. Furthermore the regional website has been updated with the aim is to highlight current information on home economics related themes and activities.

**PACIFIC:** After in-person events had to be cancelled, Australian and New Zealand associations developed distance education materials to help teachers build their capacity to working with their students online. The Home Economics Institute of Australia (HEIA) organized the ‘2020 Professional Learning Series’ with 13 webinars where members participated in a range of discussions and workshops such as upcycling, fabric design, nutrition or native foods education.



# IFHE INTERNAL AFFAIRS



*IFHE-US Congress organizers*

## THE BIENNIAL COUNCIL GOES DIGITAL

Postponing the **World Congress 2020** meant that the 2020 delegates' meeting (**Council**), which traditionally takes place during the congress, became a virtual one. Being well-versed in digital communication, IFHE members were able to exert their rights through online voting. Nevertheless, the online Council was a new experience and some special care was required. The 69 country delegates who had registered managed to take some decisions, but topics that required comprehensive discussions were postponed in order to be fair to delegates with a slow internet connection. Council delegates also adopted a **resolution**, calling on governments to make home economics education mandatory for students, especially during these transformative times.



*Video message President*

## IFHE STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP

Having acted as interim president since October 2018, Gwendolyn Hustvedt, USA, took on the **IFHE presidency 2020-2024**. Because of the special circumstances during 2020, she gave her inauguration speech not at the World Congress, but shared her vision via YouTube. Under the new President's chair, the 13-member IFHE voluntary **Executive Committee** held a record number of 9 meetings in 2020. Representing all five IFHE regions, the group busily explored alternative options to holding the World Congress in 2020 and, together with the host IFHE-US, negotiated a postponement.



*IFHE General Secretariat Bonn*

The **IFHE General Secretariat** manages the Federation's operations. Staff include a part-time Executive Director, Membership Manager and (until July 2020) an intern. They managed all events and public relations activities, membership services as well as finances and legal affairs. They embraced new digital opportunities and launched the Federation's new social media presence posting more than 120 items in 2020. They were also in charge of setting up webinars and the virtual Council meeting.

## THE 2020-2024 PRESIDENCY

Gwendolyn Hustvedt is a professor in Fashion Merchandising at Texas State University with a focus on sustainable production and consumption, organic and animal welfare labelling and product development. For the IFHE, she wants to develop more opportunities for communication and cooperation and increase advocacy at the United Nations. Another goal is to collaborate on joint materials with partners, exploring further how home economics can contribute to achieving the SGDs. As an organization, IFHE will aim to connect more with the younger generation of professionals.



## DISTINGUISHED SERVICES AWARD

The IFHE Distinguished Service Award honours long-standing members for their outstanding contribution to IFHE and the profession as such. The 2020 award went to Canadian home economists Margaret E. Arcus, a former Professor for Home Economics and Family Studies at Utah and Iowa State University, before joining the faculty at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

Here, she taught and conducted research for 31 years, being instrumental in establishing the family studies programme at UBC. Margaret is a long-time member of IFHE with roles in the Executive and Research Committees. She organized the 1992 IFHE Congress in Hannover, Germany and wrote our history book “100 Years of the International Federation for Home Economics 1908–2008.” She also serves as a name patron for the Family Life Educator Award that the National Council on Family Relations (based in the U.S.) awards biennially. She received the IFHE Distinguished Service award for her remarkable contributions to family life education and her outstanding and continuous support of her home economic colleagues.

*Margaret E. Arcus*



## IFHE SCHOLARSHIP

Early in 2020, IFHE established a small nine-month scholarship to recognize students for achievements in promoting the profession and putting its interdisciplinary values into practice. The scholarship enables qualified home economics students to gain international exposure by reimbursing their travel costs.

*Gloria Makafui Mifetu* The first IFHE scholarship holder, Gloria Makafui Mifetu, is a graduate assistant at the School of Fashion Design and Merchandizing, Kent State University, USA. She grew up in Ghana where she obtained a Bachelor in Home Economics Education at Winneba University, before moving to the U.S. to continue her Masters in Fashion Industry Studies. Gloria worked as a costume designer and pattern maker for a manufacturer in Ghana. The intriguing title of the project concept she submitted to apply for the scholarship was “Home Economics – only for women?” (because travelling was not possible in 2020, the scholarship period was extended to 2021).

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**International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) e.V.**

Kaiser-Friedrich-Strasse 13  
53113 Bonn, Germany

Phone: +49 (0) 228-921 25 90  
Fax: +49 (0) 228-921 25 91

E-Mail: [office@ifhe.org](mailto:office@ifhe.org)  
Website: [www.ifhe.org](http://www.ifhe.org)

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