

Laudatory Speech for Dr. Peter Crowley

On the occasion of his commitment to the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family and the promotion of the International Year of the Family

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is both an honor and a sincere pleasure for me to deliver this laudatory speech today for a man whose decades of dedication to the cause of the family — and this is no exaggeration — has earned recognition across the globe: **Dr. Peter Crowley**.

When we speak of people who build bridges — between cultures, between generations, between civil society organizations and international institutions — then we must speak of **Peter Crowley**. For many years, he has been *the* leading figure of the **Vienna NGO Committee on the Family**, guiding and shaping it with great foresight, reliability, and humanity.

With his calm yet determined manner, he not only led the Committee with stability but transformed it into a platform of active exchange and lasting cooperation. Under his leadership, the dialogue between NGOs, UN bodies, academics engaged in family policy, and representatives of various states was maintained and fostered at a high level.

Especially noteworthy is his tireless dedication to promoting and embedding the **International Year of the Family**, proclaimed by the United Nations in 1994. For many, this was a symbolic event. For Dr. Crowley, it was the beginning of a long-term process.

We gladly look back on outstanding events such as the major Family Congress in **Malta**, with more than 200 participants from all parts of the world, and many significant seminars and forums held at the **Vienna International Centre (VIC)**, which were also published and have inspired family-related work worldwide. In this context, particular mention should be made of the two major studies marking the **10th and 20th anniversaries of the IYF**, both of which were initiated and edited under your leadership.

Even when the UN's social affairs departments relocated from Vienna to New York, you ensured that the **Vienna NGO Committee on the Family** remained active, and you carefully maintained connections with the relevant offices in New York.

Peter Crowley understood that the recognition and support of the family as a fundamental unit of society must be a continuous and evolving process. That is why he persistently advocated for follow-up initiatives, for the annual visibility of family issues, and for the consistent development of family-friendly frameworks in the international context.

With his ongoing focus on research and science, he was always aware: family is not a static construct, but a living space — full of challenges, changes, but also full of hope. Dr. Crowley's work has contributed significantly to ensuring that families, in all their diversity, are seen, protected, and strengthened.

Dear Peter,

Your dedication to families worldwide, your commitment to intergenerational solidarity, and your steadfast belief that the interests of families must always be considered in policy and science — all of this deserves our respect, our recognition, and our heartfelt thanks.

On behalf of all those who had the privilege of working with you and who were strengthened through your work: **Thank you.**

Thank you for your perseverance in this cause, for your tireless energy, and for all your efforts in the service of families!

And all the very best for your personal future!