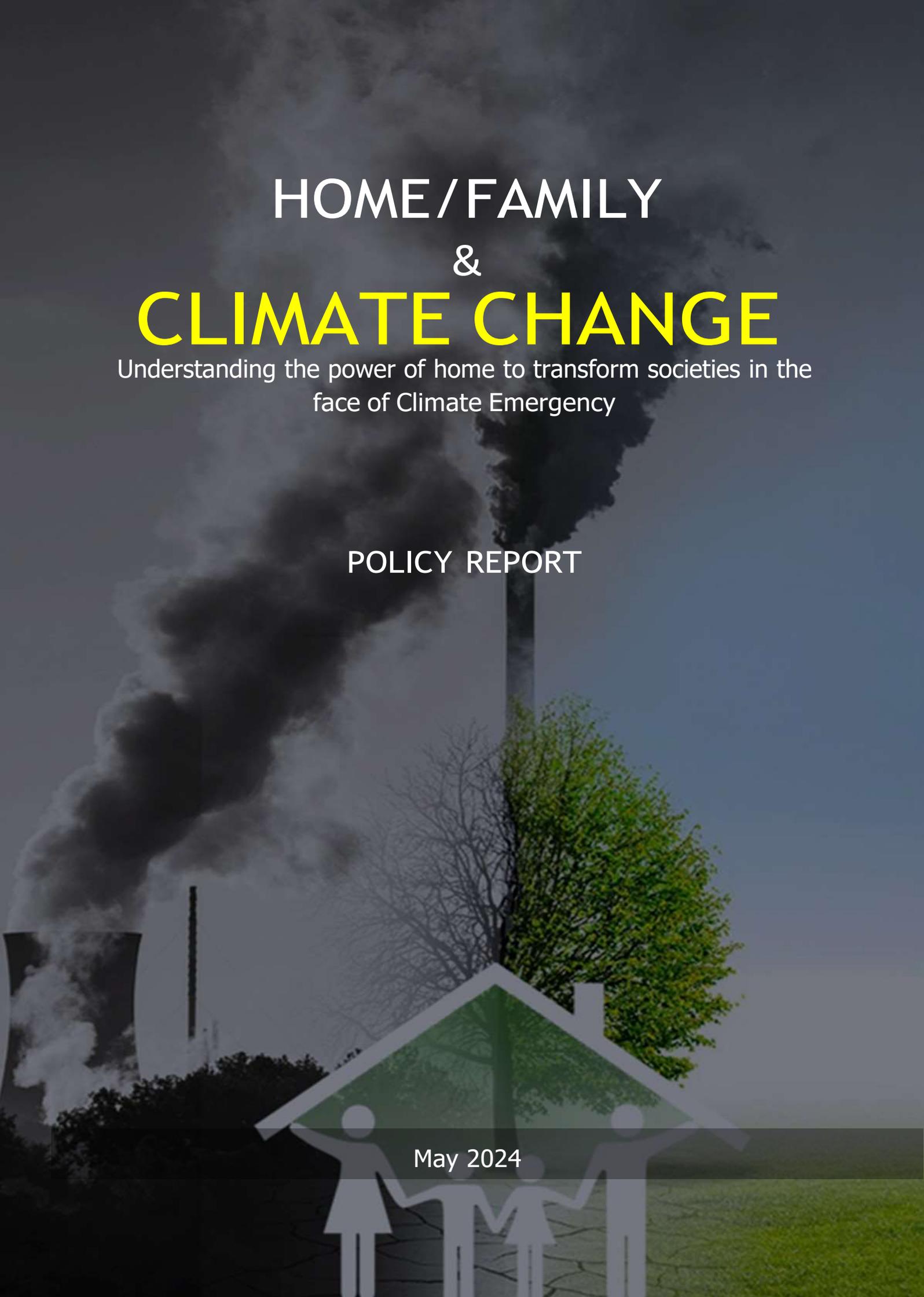


HOME/FAMILY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Understanding the power of home to transform societies in the
face of Climate Emergency

POLICY REPORT

May 2024





Acknowledgement:

The Content of this report represent the outcome of the 5th Expert Meeting of the Home Renaissance Foundation, which took place at Nottingham Trent University in the period of 28-29 September 2023. We are grateful to the generous funding and hosting by Nottingham Trent University and Home Renaissance Foundation.

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Partner Organisations

Home Renaissance Foundation, Nottingham Trent University, and The University of York. *In collaboration with*

United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report Editor:

Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem, University of York

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Home Renaissance Foundation
Nottingham Trent University, and The University of York
In collaboration with
**United Nations - Department of Economic and Social
Affairs**

Home, Family and Climate Change
*Understanding the power of home to transform societies in the
face of Climate Emergency*

Executive Summary & Policy Recommendations

May 2024

Foreword from Home Renaissance Foundation

It is a privilege to have been a partner with UN, Nottingham Trent University and University of York in the process which has resulted in this work on Home/Family and Climate Change. I must also emphasize the sense of urgency and priority which prompted this response; no current concern has both such a global reach and so many individual impacts. These challenges are the focus of our daily news *and* the daily reality for countless individuals and their families across the world.

Home Renaissance Foundation (HRF) has a distinguished record in championing the value of home to individuals and society, through academic research and publications on wide-range of issues affecting the home. It is key to recognize that attitudes and actions in the face of climate emergency– and any shift in these – begins at home. Identifying the ways in which homes already have the social infrastructure and skills to face the demands of climate change is an important strand to set alongside global, national and local initiatives to combat its effects. Asking what the home and families can already contribute moves the response of external agencies from seeking compliance to active cooperation and shared innovation.

The input of the international experts whose views and research are represented here shows what can be learnt from how families and households already cope with the impact of global climate change, and how they can be better equipped to deal with future demands on their daily domestic lives. The balance of the theoretical and practical represented in these multi-disciplinary contributions offers broad and deep insights into the issues at stake on our planet and in our homes.

The varying perspectives included here: individual home experience, connected and resilient neighbourhoods, sustainable housing choices, and the home-based economy, when added to the specific implications for education and public health, also demonstrate this breadth and depth of focus. The policy recommendations (attached) reflect this approach and attention. On behalf of HRF I endorse all that has been presented and would like to echo the recognition stated here that the relational structures of the home make it the primary and priority setting for learning attitudes and behaviours towards combating and preventing climate change, specifically in care-giving and receiving. Hence the priority for governments to understand homes and households as fundamental units and critical agents in learning, education and shared concerns about climate change.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of HRF, to thank Professor Gamal Abdelmonem for this very timely policy resource for the United Nations International Year of the Family +30 and contribution to the wider vital field of study.

Bryan K. Sanderson CBE

Chairman at Home Renaissance Foundation

Foreword from UNDESA

It is a distinct honour to welcome you to be part of the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2024 conducted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. This Expert Group Meeting is focusing on the megatrend of climate change, an issue of existential proportions and global consequences. I am truly grateful for the fruitful cooperation with the Nottingham Trent University and Home Renaissance Foundation which led to this meeting.

The United Nations has taken the lead in advocating for action on climate change starting with the 1987 Brundtland Report, which came up with the definition of sustainable development “that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 2015 Paris Agreement were followed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the blueprint for development with SDG13 focusing on climate action.

Besides its intergovernmental work, the UN supports efforts to help communities to adapt to the changing climate which includes projects related to disaster risk reduction, sustainable agriculture, water management and more. The UN raises awareness of the need for action and encourages governments, private sector and individuals to take steps to mitigate climate change and environmentally friendly practices that can positively impact communities and families.

As an intergovernmental organization, UN efforts aim to harness political will to take action on climate change. Those efforts are of paramount importance; however, we need to think of innovative ways to approach the issue of climate change. There is not enough attention paid to the home and the role of families in climate change action, despite the fact that two thirds of global emissions come from our lifestyles. Clearly, a lot can be done at home to mitigate climate change and the potential of families and family-oriented policies to achieve SDGs, including SDG 13 remains to be fully addressed in overall socio-economic policy making.

The Summit for the Future is to take place in 2024. It will be a once-in-a generation chance to reaffirm existing commitments including those on climate change. We owe it to future generations. Never before have we had such an abundance of knowledge, technology and resources to succeed in saving the planet. This abundance has to be matched by action at all levels, including at home.

We need evidence-based research and advocate for a family focus in socio-economic policies. The SDGs include targets to ensure that, by 2030 people everywhere have the relevant information, education and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

This meeting has contributed to achieve this important commitment. We learnt about the

net zero homes as localities for households, neighborhoods, and natural environments. We went beyond mitigation and adaptation strategies to include psychological theory and resilience structures to manage the impacts of climate change. We focused on positive environmental aspects of working from home and sustainable architectural designs for homes and communities.

We are proud to transmit this knowledge through our work on at the United Nations and hope to inspire all stakeholders committed to sustainable development.

Renata Kaczmarska
UNDESA, United Nations

Foreword from the Expert Meeting Chair

This Home/Family and Climate Change Report represents a critical transformation in our intellectual and cultural understanding of the central role of the home and family as a critical institution in our combat against Climate Change. This Experts Meeting focused on their role in addressing the risks of climate change and as a starting point for novel and effective responses to this global and existential challenge. The line-up of the international experts offers wonderful mix of perspectives, disciplines, professional backgrounds and research cultures. They addressed such a collective challenge from varying angles, methods, and creative solutions.

The papers presented in this report are diverse, inclusive and offer very interesting takes and distinctive challenges and contexts that challenge of conventional perception of the role of the family in combating climate change. They have the capacity to inform policy, guide international agreements on shared objectives, and offer evidence on how sustainable homes, families and communities need to be. The findings of the papers contributed substantially to the development of the report Executive Summary and Policy Recommendations, to provide important and practical steps to alter the current course of events and policy making towards a more inclusive and collaborative approach towards climate change. This report offers a set of findings and recommendations that consider the family and home as central players in the active and societal response to Climate Emergency.

Following two days of extensive meetings, discussions, and collective debate, we co-produced a series of principles and measures that governments and intergovernmental organisations can consult and take as reference while shaping their nation's response and actions to combat climate change. We do not assume those steps as inclusive or universal in their implementations. Rather, actions and solutions need to be community and context based where communities and local stakeholders must take a central role in shaping meaningful and effective action plan.

I wish to thank all experts, authors and contributors for their extensive efforts, critical studies, papers and contributions to the panel discussions and the write up of the policy recommendations. Without their insights and evidence-based studies, this report or its recommendations would not be possible. We are also grateful to all partner organisations and institutions who contributed through various means of support or sponsorships to enable and facilitate our experts research and work on this project. We are particularly grateful to the Experts Meeting key organisers, led by The Home Renaissance Foundation, its Chairman, Bryan Sanderson CBE, and the United Nations' Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Focal Point on the Family, Renata Kaczmarek. Finally, we are very grateful to the generous support and sponsorship of meeting by Nottingham Trent University and its Pro-Vice Chancellor (International), Professor Cillian Ryan, under the University's UN-SDG Initiative.

Professor Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem

Report Editor and Experts Meeting Chair, University of York

Executive Summary



Venue: Nottingham Conference Centre, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, UK

Date: 28-29 Sep 2023

Executive Summary

The Fifth HRF International Experts Meeting (EM2023) 28-29th September 2023, at Nottingham Conference Centre, Nottingham Trent University, addressed the growing impact of climate change on families and domestic lives around the globe. Participants explored innovative and creative approaches to understanding the impact of climate change on daily behaviour and attitudes of families in their home's daily lives. More importantly, new methods were highlighted, alongside policy guidance, to engage households, families, and communities more effectively in combating the adverse impact of the global warming. The meeting brought together 17 experts from multiple disciplines, professions, countries and cultures to discuss policy and research papers designed to show new evidence of the potential contribution homes and families can make in the face of climate change. From this discussion, which is detailed below, a series of policy recommendations for international governments and intergovernmental organisations has been prepared (refer to end of the Report)

Key discussion points and challenges addressed:

Panel 1 The Care of the Planet

Professor Antonio Argandoña and Dr Ilaria Malagrino debated the nature of the home and its philosophical connotation to the planet: *'We do not inherit it from our predecessors, we borrow it from our children'*, and hence emphasize the individual and collective responsibilities to future generations. Human beings inhabit a planet, but we are not free to consume it. Progress has accustomed us to take the planet for granted and its availability for our patterns of consumption and to use as we wish. Both authors emphasized the moral and ethical responsibility towards the planet's natural resources as a fundamental aspect of everyday life that must be embedded in education, starting at home and coordinated with schools. The younger generation as much as adults need to learn the importance of the common home, so that people value it as their own. Preserving the planet and combating climate change should be a shared effort between home and school-based integrated learning and appreciation of the planet's limited resources.

In the discussions, experts noted political reluctance to see the centrality of home/family in social and public policy or through central funding models and taxation. This raises the questions: How do we support families if we accept their primary role in combating climate change? Why are we willing to fund companies to do specific technical work, but not families to help transform their living patterns into more sustainable lifestyles.

Key discussion points:

- Relational structures of the home make it the primary and priority setting for learning attitudes and behaviours towards combating climate change, specifically care-giving and receiving.
- The concept of the planet as "a common home" is derived and lived out in individual homes; hence, it must share everyday values of collective protection and survival.
- Justice is a key virtue in the ethics of care in the broader understanding of needs, responsibilities towards others and the consequences of our own actions. Climate Justice needs to follow similar connotations to rights and duties.
- There is a need to reconsider and reinvent social practices within the home and schools to instil a sense of collective and global responsibility towards our shared planet.

Panel 2 Climate Change and Public Health

Professor Jigna Desai and Professor Rowena Hill addressed Climate Change and Public Health, from two distinctive but mutually enlightening perspectives. Professor Desai offered research from lived- experience of climate challenge in Ahmedabad, India, while Professor Hill outlined the psychological challenges and barriers to effective mitigation/adaptation strategies. For both, resilience was not just a keyword but a vital characteristic of successful engagement with current and future emergencies. Both also addressed the challenges facing both top-down policy makers and bottom-up community leadership in their preparedness for risks and adverse impact of climate change. Professor Rowena Hill discussed psychological distance where local households and families think of climate change as a distant and future event, rather than as a daily reality; *'what is further away matters less to us, we are only impacted by what happens nearby, because geographical distance or more distant circles prevent us from empathising with the suffering of others'*. Professor Hill discussed the challenges facing policy makers and local authorities in the

UK, to cross this psychological distance, in their attempts to develop effective communications with communities to change their attitude towards climate changes.

By contrast, the bottom-up approach was best presented by the case of Ahmedabad, an Indian city where climatic emergencies are a fact of life, and where the lack of water and extreme weather result in loss of human lives, resulting in frequent waves of internal migration. Professor Desai outlined how with limited government support, the municipal corporation has implemented strategic solutions that expect society to self-organise and transform to face the challenges facing the city. Traditional housing choices in Ahmedabad, India prove resilient to rising temperatures: flexible room use, shade use, shared/threshold space. In this context, connected living and wider familial neighbourhood networks impact behaviours under local advocacy and cultural support systems. In the face of those challenges, the role of women and their mutual support and knowledge exchange proved more effective at times of crises maintaining both inward and outward-looking care.

Discussions in this panel, stressed that whilst the reliance on this spontaneous bottom-up approach was effective in the emergency of COVID, it is not sustainable or enduring with the almost permanent impact of climate change and adverse weather conditions. Experts indicate that there has to be a strategic and coordinated change of cultural and social norms through well-funded public training, education and development plans supported by governments and administrations. Our daily behaviour has a great impact on the planet, and our attitude towards it will need to be more proactive.

Key discussion points:

- *There is a substantial challenge in communicating national targets, goals and risks to local communities and individual households. There is a problem with language and approach when trying to prepare people for risk.*
- *Adaptation and changing lifestyles in preparation for risks and scarcity will continue to prove unpopular to individuals and the government at times of economic and social stability.*
- *The hierarchical structure of climate action does disconnect a family's daily objectives and challenges from those of the governments and their agencies. National targets must be effectively translated into vital and measurable actions to understand local impact. This is a gap at the regional level that connects locality to national goals.*

Panel 3: Consumption and Ecological Footprint

Professor Amin Al-Habaibeh reported his research into home energy economies in the UK, and the behavioural household variables which affect their success. Enrico Marzano described the ambitious project of Campus Bio-Medico (hospital and university) in Rome, to create a series of green spaces to capture both the imagination and intentions of patients, students, and the wider neighbourhood. The complementarity of small actions and bigger visions was an important strand of the meeting. These two papers covered collective attitudes of families and households toward climate actions in both the UK and Italy, and highlighted the critical importance of how practical and small steps of change in daily behaviour of families can have a large impact of our consumptions. Professor Al-Habiabeh studied the impact that our behaviour in the home has on the planet. Energy consumption and carbon emission at home represents 50% of total energy consumption in the UK-based on statistics from COVID-19 period. Studying building performance indicates that the behaviour of people in their homes, in terms of opening windows is critical for building insulation to achieve its objectives and targets. Similarly, attitudes to cooking indicate that

different habits have a significant effect on energy savings. Collectively, the general change of attitude and behaviour in either cooking and use of windows, or cooking devices could make substantial change in our patterns of energy consumption and CO2 emissions.

Enrico Marzano presented a co-authored study on a community-centered approach to sustainable living and decision making, the Social Green Master Plan at the Campus Bio-Medico in Rome. The authors reminded us of the importance of modifying these habits and suggested doing so not as an imposition but as an empathetic acceptance of the planet. The theoretical and empirical scientific research programmes of the Campus Bio-medico developed an innovative approach towards educating the university community on the social and environmental principals of sustainable living. It made the case for a new model of innovation around thematic parks (Spirituality, Thinking, Sociality, Listening, Harvesting and Care, amongst others). The authors advocate an integrated approach towards sharing net-zero and environmental goals amongst all university community members.

Discussions in this panel highlighted the critical role for knowledge exchange with local people. The Campus Bio-Medico fosters an ambitious model of societal transformation towards benefits, whilst households need to advocate upgrading their environmental performance and change family attitudes and consumptions in everyday lives.

Key discussion points:

- *Due to their sheer volume of consumption and impact of basic and common daily behaviour and attitudes, homes are key to implementing incremental and measurable small actions to build climate resilience confidence.*
- *Whilst governmental policies focus on major strategies like transportation, infrastructure and green technology, small actions like installing smart meters, altering domestic devices, or becoming energy-aware will inform and impact energy choices with tangible rewards.*
- *Grand policies about managing the energy market and prices are not flexible enough to support the household transition towards greener choices, nor do they provide equal investments for scaling up community energy plans such as -in the UK- District Heating.*

Panel 4: Connected Locality: NetZero Homes & Neighbourhoods

Studying two types of localities, socially inclusive development from one side and connected homes of older people from another, this panel made the case for novel approaches to combating climate change through revising principles of community-based design and participation. Professor Bridgette Wessels and Jennifer Challinor examined how households and families can be more effectively engaged as resilient units to help societies and economies combat climate change in Scotland. Their study focused on 'connected locality' - how people, place and planet come together to shape households that then become 'net zero by default'. For homes to be net zero by default, it is necessary to integrate designs and retrofits that not only respond to net zero targets and climate ambitions, but also to the needs of households to live well.

Along similar lines and putting the elderly at the centre of climate action research, Professor Gamal Abdelmonem proposed a novel approach to seeing connected homes as growing forms of smart home design that aim to improve the quality of life for the elderly, their families and wider households. Such models foster better management of household activities, connectivity with family, caregiving and services. With the growing proportion of people ageing at home connected to a large infrastructure of services and technology, smart home connectivity and management will enable safer homes.

More importantly it will enable households to be more efficient in managing resources and consumption as people age at home. In our collective effort to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change we need to revisit some of our behavioral attitudes and develop new habits and lifestyles, which make use of advanced and increasingly accessible and affordable technology in response to more frequent challenges of climate impact

Owing to the magnitude of the challenge, small unitary efforts at institutional or policy change may have only a limited effect. By contrast, with millions of older households, families and homes around the world, adopting environmentally conscious attitudes to sustainable living and efficient lifestyles will enable a widespread outcome and have a substantial impact on reducing our carbon emissions. The homes of older people and their families are at the centre of this effort.

Key discussion points:

- *There are limited, if any, measures to ensure equity in any energy scheme (to avoid disparity of benefits versus wealth) and work with housing developers to build in climate and "whole life" adaptations as standards rather than extras.*
- *Older people are growing in representation within modern society. With the emergence of climate change as a major external force that impacts older people more than other age groups, the quality-of-life indicators and attitudes must be shifted to link their living and consumption patterns to the impact on the environment.*

Panel 5: Building Climate Resilience

This panel focused on educational models for young people and professionals for more integration with the natural environment at times of climate emergencies. Architect and educator Professor Pablo Campos addressed Building Climate Resilience through the lens of school and university design and construction. During the discussion of this presentation led by Professor Abdelmonem, Chair of Architecture at NTU, the relevance of this "learning by living" approach was seen to have much to add to the home agenda as well as educational settings.

Professor Pablo Campos studied schools through the influence of home environments on spaces of learning and education. He stressed the importance of designing schools with appropriate criteria that include affective, collaborative and integrative environments that respond effectively to climate change and shape the future mindset of young people. School design projects that aspire to be exemplary for promoting and educating for climate change must be designed with due intentionality and commitment to comprehensive quality, and integration in actual context and increasingly challenging environments for a sustainable future.

Acting with sensitivity to local circumstances helps considerably in terms of vulnerability. For Campos, the adaptation to the social environment adds an 'educational' role to the architecture and ensures that the spatial design is linked to building traditions and local culture, affirming the sense of identity in the community. In his commentary Professor Abdelmonem, emphasized two critical points: the consideration of classroom as a three-dimensional textbook, as a real learning environment, and the radical shift in teaching models for architects; moving from 'learning by doing' to 'learning by living' in real context where climate change impact is real and experienced. Professor Abdelmonem stressed that critical importance of integrative approach to design, rather than the professional and elitist creative design approach.

Key discussion points:

- *Family spaces of living at home are the first learning spaces where an intimate approach to learning, affection, collaborative education, integration and compassion is practised.*
- *There is a need to change our perception of educational spaces from physical spaces to a three-dimensional textbook, learning in context.*

Panel 6: Remote economy and home-based work

This panel tackled aspects of telework as a sustainable solution that has a positive impact on work-life balance, carbon emission reduction and family dynamics. Both Professor Maria Jesus Alvarez and Maria Jose Monferrer brought their research and experience of the Remote Economy and Home-Based Work to their presentations. While Professor Alvarez evaluated the benefits and costs (personal and environmental) of teleworking, Maria Jose Monferrer widened the focus to recommend universal services to allow an equitable new world of work.

The panellists under this strand advocated that adopting telework as a viable work model can lead to happier and more satisfied employees, more flexibility and autonomy for workers, a greener environment and strengthened family ties. As we navigate the complexities of the modern world, telework presents itself as a promising tool for achieving a more sustainable and balanced future for people and planet. Beyond its impact on work and the environment, telework has demonstrated its potential to bring families closer together.

Professor Maria Jesús Álvarez argued that with the flexibility of working from home, employees can spend more quality time with their families, especially their children. Telework encourages shared care and domestic responsibilities, fostering stronger family ties and promoting a supportive partnership within households. The new generations value autonomy and flexibility as important values. They see it as enabling them to have other life projects, such as a family project among others. Addressing factors such as productivity, well-being and energy consumption will help policy makers and organisations to develop evidence-based strategies to optimise the benefits of telework.

Finally, and as a result of Prof. María José Monferrer's research, a series of recommendations are offered with regard to urban planning, promoting teleworking and creating sustainable living environments. These are suggestions in response to the current change in commuting patterns and work dynamics. She suggests balancing the needs of different demographic groups and adopting innovative solutions that can contribute to a more equitable, efficient and environmentally friendly future.

Lessons from the impact of telecommuting on work-life balance and family well-being underline the need for well-thought-out policies and considerations. Balancing technology, workspace design, "right to disconnect" policies and prioritising family well-being in future work analyses are crucial steps. In addition, addressing the challenges and opportunities related to migration from urban to rural areas due to remote working requires integrated policies and infrastructure development. In this way, societies can reap the benefits of remote work while ensuring the well-being of households and families.

This panel highlighted the role of the household and family as critical in harnessing the current shift in commuting and work dynamics to reshape urban planning, promote telecommuting and foster sustainable living environments. They enable adopting equitable policies, incentives and the active participation of citizens to facilitate a transition to clean energy consumption and generation. They also ensure family well-being, address the challenges of urban-rural migration and achieve comprehensive sustainable development.

Key discussion points:

- *With the growing influence of technology and internet access to knowledge, information, and news updates, we must recognise the critical importance of equal access to basic technology as a source of information and collective safety and security in the face of climate change challenges and impact.*
- *Access to the internet became a critical source of not only knowledge but also work, income and information at times of crises and emergencies. However, the locality lacks the necessary social and cultural infrastructure to support this reversing of living patterns.*
- *There is a need to be alert to the potential risks and harms involved in empowering total predominance and freedom of online communications and uninterrupted and equal access to the internet, especially for young people's protection.*
- *The remote economy has repositioned the home and locality as a central hub for livelihoods within the over-reliance on major transportation links or carbon-heavy daily mobility towards city centres. It enables multi-tasking at home and strong family connections. Yet, it also distributes work and family pressures and increased levels of domestic consumption.*

Roundtable Panel

Addressing UN policy priorities and climate emergencies and the role of the family

The meeting has developed conversations leading to key themes and streams of debate. There is a clear need to revisit some of the principles of current policies and strategies that ignore the role of the home as the centre of power and influence on actions to combat climate change. The home and household need to be reactivated as agents of change, where behavior, knowledge and change need to be empowered.

There is a recognition that climate change has already developed major risks and hazards around the globe that require multiple levels of interventions and policy changes to inform collective and effective models of integration with nature, realizing individual responsibility towards the planet and toward future generations. In this discourse, despite its centrality, the family and the home remained on the margin of government policies and action plans. Instead, there is a reliance on national agencies, industry, and technology to act as key enablers for carbon neutral world. This approach overlooks the agency of the family and household relationship with nature, community, and its role as an economic unit. This round table discussed the key questions and policy recommendations for governmental and intergovernmental agencies to reposition the family at the centre for our adaptation to deal with the increasing challenges of climate change.

Empowering families to be in control of their lives and have the agency to make decisions on their strategies and actions is key to counter climate change. This comes through small actions, changed behaviors and attitudes on daily basis. Working from home and access to online could exacerbate inequalities and social divisions between those who can afford to work from home and those who cannot. This could result into disparity of resources, access and even wealth. In light of these discussions, the meeting developed a series of policy recommendations as detailed in the separate Policy Recommendations Report.

Acknowledgement:

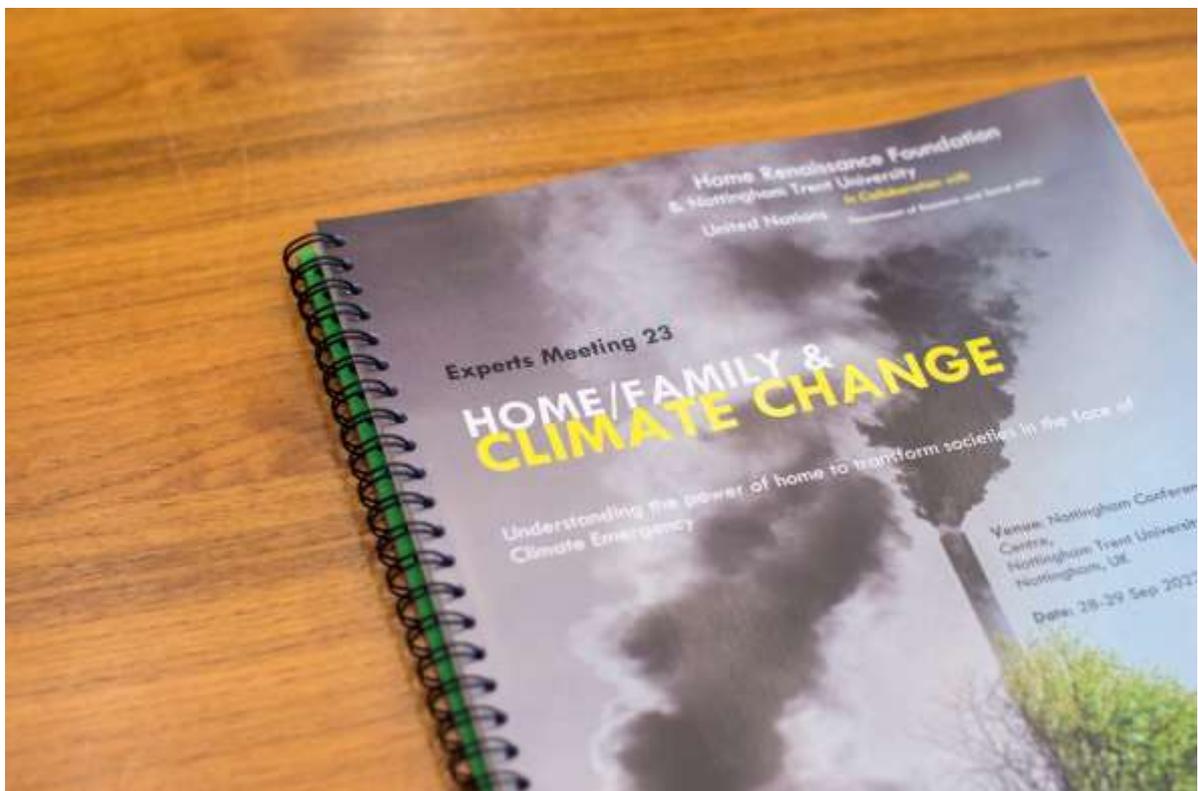
The United Nations' Department of Economic and Social Affairs was represented by Ms. Renata Kaczmarek, Social Affairs Officer & UN Focal Point on the Family, whilst the Home Renaissance Foundation was represented by its Chairman, Mr. Bryan Sanderson, CBE. The meeting was chaired by Professor Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem, Chair of Architecture and the Founding Director of the Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Global Heritage (CAUGH) at the University of York (then at Nottingham Trent University).

Experts and panellists represented The University of Glasgow, Universidad de Navarra, Campus Bio-Medico De Roma, Queen Mary University of London, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, CEPT University in India amongst others.

For further information about the Experts Meeting and its participants, you can visit the event Webpage and short documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITgu6qnverw>

<https://homerenaissancefoundation.org/article/hrf-ntu-un-experts-meeting-in-nottingham/>

<https://caugh.org/home-and-climate-change>









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Policy Recommendations

POLICY RECOMMEDATIONS

Policy context and recommendations for climate response.

In our recognition of the centrality of the home and family in our collective battle against the devastating impact of Climate Change and its accelerating and destructive speed, The Expert Meeting 2023, “The Home/family and Climate Change”, met on 28-29th September in Nottingham, UK, recognize the critical need for radical change in the international community, organisations and individual governments’ approach towards climate action. The singular effort, top-down policies, and investments have persistently returned limited rewards.

We, the participants and signatories of this document, strongly support a change in policy perception from an enforcer of change to an enabler and agent that encourages families and households to change their daily routine, consumption patterns and ecological footprint. This could be achieved under the following six strands of action. Under each strand, we highlight the current policy context and challenges, followed by policy recommendations and change.

Panel 1: The Care of the Planet

Policy context

- Relational structures of the home make it the primary and priority setting for learning attitudes and behaviours towards combating climate change, specifically care-giving and receiving.
- The Concept of the planet as "a common home" is derived and lived out in individual homes; hence, it must share everyday values of collective protection and survival.
- Justice is a key virtue in the ethics of care in the broader understanding of needs, responsibilities towards others and the consequences of our own actions. Climate Justice needs to follow similar connotations to rights and duties.
- There is a need to reconsider and reinvent social practices within the home and schools to instil a sense of collective and global responsibility towards our shared planet.

Policy recommendations

- *Public institutions and national governments must prioritise families, homes and households as fundamental units and critical agents in learning, education and shared concerns about climate change. They must inform life-long climate choices as a collective social unit rather than the current focus on individual attitudes.*
- *There is a need for policy innovation and resource opportunity, whether funding schemes or tax reliefs, to gauge the impact/benefit on households to influence changing attitudes directly or indirectly towards more sustainable living.*

Panel 2: Climate Change and Public Health

Policy context

- There is a substantial challenge in communicating national targets, goals and risks to local communities and individual households. There is a problem with language and approach when trying to prepare people for risk.
- Adaptation and changing lifestyles in preparation for risks and scarcity will continue to prove unpopular to individuals and the government at times of economic and social stability.
- The hierarchical structure of climate action does disconnect a family’s daily objectives and challenges from those of the governments and their agencies. National targets must be effectively translated into vital and measurable actions to understand local impact. This is a gap at the regional level that connects locality to national goals.

Policy recommendations

- *National governments must prioritise modelling and reinforce positive behaviours by supporting local practical projects and initiatives supported by simple, accessible training and resources.*
- *Governments need to revisit their top-down instructional approach and work within regional/ community "real" boundaries and ecosystems for change rather than the current focus on political messaging and national targets that have limited meaning on the family and community level.*
- *Empower community-level and local responsibility for delivering adaptations and achieving realistic self-sufficiency and carbon neutrality through reinforcing subsidiarity on the level of the home and locality, Enabling the lowest level of decision-making and the highest level of response.*

Panel 3: Consumption & Ecological Footprint

Policy context

- *Due to their sheer volume of consumption and impact of basic and common daily behaviour and attitudes, homes are key to implementing incremental and measurable small actions to build climate resilience confidence.*
- *Whilst governmental policies focus on major strategies like transportation, infrastructure and green technology, small actions like Installing smart meters, altering domestic devices, or becoming energy-aware will inform and impact energy choices with tangible rewards.*
- *Grand policies about managing the energy market and prices are not flexible enough to support the household transition towards greener choices, nor do they provide equal investments for scaling up community energy plans such as -in the UK- District Heating.*

Policy recommendations

- *Governments must seek to develop and inform place-based and context-aware inspirational models of sustainable living through investing in good practice local educational model, where communities and workplaces must act as agencies for change, education, and integration with nature.*
- *Governments must focus their policies on key investment programmes for behavioural change in domestic attitudes to living with clear and tangible rewards. Major policies, such as transportation, infrastructure, and green technology, must be integrative and complementary to household-based action and support programmes.*

Panel 4: Connected Locality: Net-Zero Homes & Neighbourhoods

Policy context

- *There are limited, if any, measures to ensure equity in any energy scheme (to avoid disparity of benefits versus wealth) and work with housing developers to build in climate and "whole life" adaptations as standards rather than extras.*
- *Older People are growing in representation within modern society. With the emergence of Climate Change as a major external force that impacts older people more than other age groups, the quality-of-life indicators and attitudes must be shifted to link their living and consumption patterns to the impact on the environment.*

Policy recommendations

- *Governments need to reposition the climate emergency as a key driver for housing schemes, and the participatory design process needs to be normalised as a standard process for adaptive place-based schemes.*
- *Governments need to force a radical approach towards a holistic approach to housing within a relational model of lived neighbourhoods where natural and social interests are integrated and complementary within a meaningful, connected and sustainable living.*
- *Due to their growing representations, influence and impact, the definitions and models of ageing well at home for older people have to link the ability of older people to live independently and actively contribute to combating climate change through connected homes, families and locality.*

Panel 5: Building Climate Resilience

Policy context

- Family spaces of living at home are the first learning spaces where an intimate approach to learning, affection, collaborative education, integration and compassion is practised. We need to change our perception of educational spaces from physical spaces to a three-dimensional textbook, learning in context.

Policy recommendations

- *Governments and professional bodies need to revisit their regulatory formworks and design principles to enable the spaces of education and training to become laboratories for ecological living, where professionals and designers live a carbon-neutral ecological and socially active life that helps them enhance their professional attitudes towards architecture and nature.*
- *There is a need for a radical shift from the educational model of 'learning by doing', that is, to become 'learning by living', where integration in natural environments is a key driver for sustainable and future design.*

Panel 6: Remote Economy and Home-based Work

Policy context

- With the growing influence of technology and internet access to knowledge, information, and news updates, we must recognise the critical importance of equal access to basic technology as a source of information and collective safety and security in the face of climate change challenges and impact.
- Access to the internet became a critical source of not only knowledge but also work, income and information at times of crises and emergencies. However, the locality lacks the necessary social and cultural infrastructure to support this reversing living pattern.
- There is a need to be alert to the potential risks and harms involved in empowering total predominance and freedom of online communications and uninterrupted and equal access to the internet, especially for young people's protection.
- The remote economy has repositioned the home and locality as a central hub for livelihoods within the over-reliance on major transportation links or carbon-heavy daily mobility towards city centres. It enables multi-tasking at home and strong family connections. Yet, it also distributed work and family pressures and increased levels of domestic consumption.

Policy recommendations

- *International organisations must recognise access to the internet as a human right as it enables families to be connected with access to essential communications and information. This is key for families at risk of climate impact, emergencies or disasters.*
- *Governments must consider access to online educational and knowledge resources at home for early-age children as critical infrastructure. This will ensure that access to knowledge is a global right regardless of ethnicity, religion or social status.*
- *Policy about home-based work must consider access to associated activities and infrastructure such as education, access to technology and resources to support our combating climate change.*

