



## **DOHA INTERNATIONAL FAMILY INSTITUTE SEEKS PROPOSALS EXAMINING FAMILY POLICY IN THE ARAB WORLD AHEAD OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

*Qatar Foundation Member Looks Ahead To Key Summit On Political, Economic And Cultural Challenges Facing The Arab Family*

**Doha, 28 September 2014:** The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), is seeking proposals for papers examining traditions and policies that shape families in the Arab world, ahead of its Annual Conference on Family Research and Policy next summer.

The Conference on - 'The Arab Family in an Age of Transition: Challenges and Resilience' conference is being held as part of Qatar Foundation's mission to enhance human, social and cultural development in Qatar and the Arab region.

The three-day event in May 2015 is being organised in collaboration with the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University, engaging scholars and renowned key note speakers in discussions analysing family policy in the Arab world and global issues impacting the Arab family.

The main objectives of the conference are to focus on research, theory and practices to advance DIFI's knowledge of the Arab family and to highlight the role of the family as a defining force in shaping society, focusing on regional trends, areas of strength and resilience, and challenges affecting families in Arab countries.

The conference will also examine the role of policy in supporting the family and to consider global issues, which impact the Arab family, either positively or negatively, from a multidisciplinary perspective, and engage with scholars and practitioners on discussions that analyse mutually beneficial practices within the context of family policy.

In preparation, the DIFI Organising Committee is calling for applicants to submit proposals for papers on several themes, including political, economic, and cultural challenges facing the Arab family in different regions of the Arab world.

These include marriage and divorce; the causes and consequences of separation and divorce; and the role of state policies on family formation and stability, including the effect of the absence of such policies.

Applicants should be currently engaged in research in the Arab region. Comparative papers are welcome, provided that the main focus is on the Arab region.

DIFI will present a Best Paper Award and a cash prize in each of three sub-topics constituting the conference themes. Proposals must be submitted electronically by 15 October 2014. For more information about the guidelines for submission, please visit: [www.difi.org.qa](http://www.difi.org.qa).

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#### **About DIFI**

Acknowledging the importance of the family in society, The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), formerly known as Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development (DIIFSD), was established in 2006 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation. The mandate of the Institute is based upon the affirmations set forth in the Doha Declaration on the Family, which was the outcome of the Doha International Conference on the Family, organized in 2004 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Family. The Institute has a special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC).