



IFHE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

Our Work in 2025

ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE
ON THE RESPONSIBLE USE
OF RESOURCES AT HOME



2025
2026

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



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INTRODUCTION

RESPONSIBLE LIVING STARTS AT HOME

IFHE is a membership-based non-profit organization (founded in 1908). We are politically and denominationally independent and have consultative status with the United Nations.

As the global voice for home economics, we support:

- Education and research on the responsible use of household resources
- The power of individual choices to transform societies towards a sustainable future
- Households as places where equality prevails and everyone can realize their full potential

HOME ECONOMICS: A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Responsible use of resources at the household and consumer level encompasses many areas: food consumption, early childhood education, clothing and textile production, community services, consumer research, education,

environmental science, food production, nutrition, gender, age science, health, household technology, human ecology, institutional care, personal finance, sanitation and hygiene, waste management and many more.

Dear members and friends of IFHE,

As President of the Federation, it is with both pride and gratitude that I present to you the IFHE Annual Report for 2025 which details and reflects on our activities, actions and accomplishments. As is evident from this report, 2025 was a busy year for the Federation as we continued engagements that demonstrated our commitment to the mission and values of IFHE.

World Home Economics Day (WHD) is our annual celebration event which facilitates us to promote the diverse work of IFHE members and Home Economists around the world. The theme for World Home Economics Day 2025 was 'Tackling Overconsumption'. A diverse range of activities took place in all five regions of IFHE and ranged from media appearances, seminars, development of education resources, awareness days, fashion design and fashion shows, upcycling events etc. The highlights presented in this report are truly inspirational and demonstrate the multidisciplinary nature of Home Economics.

Our activities across the year were marked by resilience, collaboration, and steady progress toward our mission. Thanks to the commitment of the staff of the IFHE office in Bonn, the Executive Committee of IFHE, and all of the active members from around the world, the work of the Federation continued to serve communities; respond to emerging needs; and advocate for lasting, positive change which can improve the quality of life for individuals, families and society.

This report highlights not only our achievements but also presents insights that will guide us as we move forward to the coming year. As 2026 approaches, we remain committed to deepening our impact, strengthening our Federation, and working together on many global initiatives to create a more just and healthier, sustainable future.

As President of the Federation, I extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to our shared vision. Thank you for being part of our journey.



Amanda McCloat
President



Christiane Pakula
Executive Director

ADVOCACY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

We use our consultative status with the UN to promote international education and research on the responsible use of resources at household level. We promote knowledge on household and consumer issues as key to achieving sustainable living. Where possible, we seek to increase impact through joint action with other NGOs and membership of networks.



IFHE AT THE NGO-UNESCO YOUTH WORKING GROUP

Dr. Gabrielle Edwards represents IFHE at the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee Youth Working Group. In addition to holding regular meetings, the Youth Working Group contributed to shaping the

18th International Forum of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO which looked at the Greening Education Partnership. Gabrielle participated in the forum as a panellist for the Greening Schools session where she discussed conditions for successful implementation of whole school approaches. She is also currently contributing to writing the Youth Working Group's recommendations for the Greening Education Partnership based on that event. The Youth Working Group will continue to

reflect on and actively engage in forums and initiatives organised by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee throughout the 2025–2026 period.

Gabrielle is a Researcher at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. She is passionate about food and environmental education and empowering individuals to be actors of change in their local and global communities. Her work focuses on systemic approaches to food and climate education and how schools can promote sustainable citizen action. Gabrielle works with participatory approaches and is committed to conducting research in ways that have implications for policy and practice.



IFHE PRESIDENT DR. AMANDA MCCLOAT AND DR. SUZANNE PISCOPO ATTENDED THE UNESCO MEETING IN PARIS

IFHE President, Dr Amanda McCloat and IFHE member Dr Suzanne Piscopo attended meetings hosted in UNESCO

HQ, Paris with colleagues from Europe, Japan and South America.

The group discussed issues pertaining to sustainable development as members of the International Advisory Board of the Centre for Collaborative Learning for Sustainable Development, University of Inland, Norway. A very rich and engaging discussions took place over the two-day meeting in March 2025 in the wonderful setting of UNESCO, Paris.

MAKING HOME ECONOMICS MORE VISIBLE

IFHE PRESIDENT DR. AMANDA MCCLOAT VISITS TALLIN UNIVERSITY

During a visit to Tallin University, Estonia in March 2025, the IFHE President, Dr Amanda McCloat had an opportunity to present on IFHE and encourage Home Economics faculty members of the University to join IFHE and become part of the Federation.

IFHE members in ATU St Angelas Ireland, Tallin University Estonia and University of Helsinki Finland are collaborating on a Horizon

funded project called SHAREE, (STE(A)M for Home Economics and Research Exchange). Pictured

are IFHE members Dr Amanda McCloat & Dr Helen Maguire (ATU St Angelas), together with colleagues from the Tallin University.



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HOME ECONOMICS

The International Journal of Home Economics (IJHE) was launched at the 2008 World Congress. It is currently in its 17th year and has published more than 30 issues to date. IJHE is an electronic, peer-reviewed journal that is published twice a year. IFHE contributes to the costs by covering some of the design aspects of production. IFHE acknowledges the contribution by Prof. Dr. Pendergast and Griffith University who make in-kind and direct

financial contributions to offset the additional costs of running the journal. The editorial advisory board consists of Home Economics academics who volunteer their time to review individual manuscripts. Issues 17/2 and 18/1 were published in 2025. The journal is freely accessible via the IFHE website. It makes a significant contribution to the publication of household science research.

KAREN MUGLIETT – INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST 2025

Since 2016, IFHE awards the International Professional Home Economist (IPHE) certificate to professionals who promote the recognition of our discipline at a global level. The certificate adds a new dimension to credential systems for home economists and sets an international benchmark.

What makes the IFHE international certification so successful are the benefits it offers to the individual, their professional reputation, and their academic institution. These include competitive advantage and professional credibility for academics through showcasing international competence and documenting the professional status at international level. Also,

institutions appreciate the IPHE as it strengthens employer reputation, featuring staff that qualify for international benchmark standards. It offers great net-working opportunities within a global community of distinguished professionals.

Applications are evaluated by a board of renowned academics. Certificates are valid for four years. Full details on the certification are available on the IFHE website.



CONNECTING THE PROFESSION

HOME ECONOMICS TEACHERS SEMINAR SERIES

The online seminar series for home economics teachers remains a successful event also in its third year.

Apr 30th 2025:

Exploring Food Literacy

Drs Janine Duncan, USA & Kerry Renwick, Canada

May 29th 2025:

Threads of change: Clothing and textiles pave the way to a sustainable future

Drs Elizabeth Kempen, Nadine Sonnenberg & Sweta Patnaik, South Africa

Oct 20th 2025:

STEM+ on a Plate: Exploring Home Economics through 3D Food Printing

Dr Johannah Soo, Ms Candice Yong & Ms Elisa Chng, Singapore

Nov 12th 2024:

Global Citizenship in the Home Economics Classroom

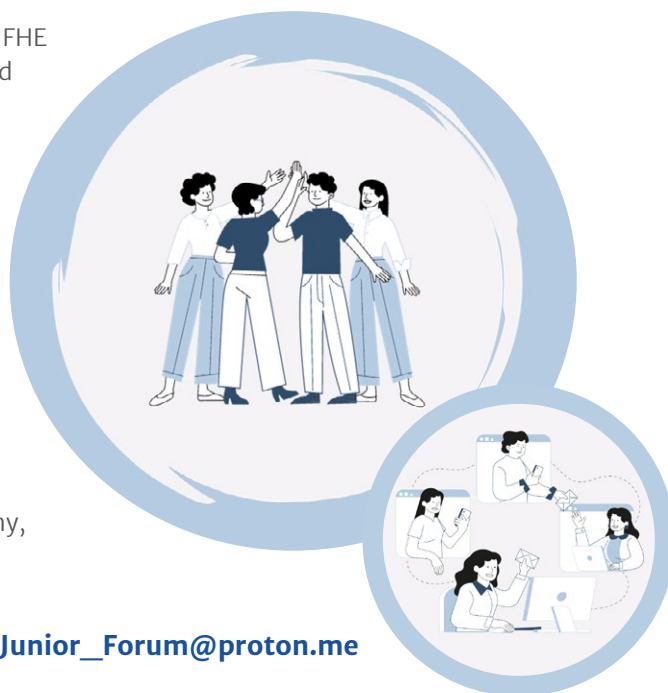
Drs Kathryn Mc Sweeney, Ireland

Despite the different time zones, home economics teachers from all over the world took part in the online seminars. Following the approximately half-hour presentations by the speakers, lively discussions were held and experiences exchanged. The presentations were recorded and further teaching material was made available for teachers to prepare their own lessons.

INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR FORUM

The International Junior Forum supported by IFHE (IJF) has gained further momentum in its third year. The IJF is a group that facilitates global exchange in the fields of home economics, including food, nutrition, family, consumer studies, textiles, crafts and fashion as well as educational research. By the end of 2025, 120 emerging researchers in home economics have joined the IJF mailing list.

The IJF communicates through this mailing list, a Telegram group, and a padlet as well as videoconferences. In 2025, four videoconferences were organized to study home economics in a global lens. Presenters from China, Germany, Nigeria, and Australia shared their insights.



For more information, please contact: Int.Junior_Forum@proton.me

IFHE ANNUAL MEETING AND INTERNATIONAL AFTERNOON AT THE IFHE OFFICE IN BONN/ GERMANY

From 1st to 3rd June 2025, the IFHE Office in Bonn welcomed the IFHE Executive Committee to a very special Annual Meeting.



IFHE Annual Meeting



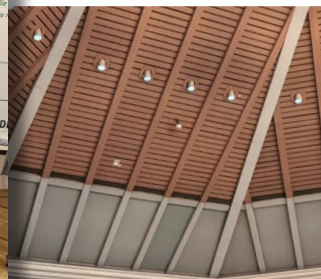
**DEUTSCHER
HAUSWIRTSCHAFTSKONGRESS**

The meeting began on Sunday with an 'International Afternoon'. The vice-presidents and representatives of the five IFHE regions – Americas, Africa, Europe, Asia and Pacific – presented the particular challenges facing home economics in their region, they showed local work and home economics projects, as well as the situation of home economics education.

More than 30 home economics colleagues from Thailand, China, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Norway and Germany attended the meeting and discussed differences and similarities of home economics around the world. The International Afternoon ended with a casual get-together with snacks and drinks, allowing people to connect and be inspired by the vibrant international atmosphere at the IFHE Office in Bonn.

On Monday morning, the members of the Executive Committee travelled from Bonn to Cologne to attend the 3rd Congress of the German Home Economics Council with the theme 'Home Economics, Future Transformation'. The international group were greeted with loud applause from the German Colleagues.

IFHE Treasurer Prof. Dr. Kerry Renwick (Canada) gave the welcoming speech on behalf of IFHE President Dr. Amanda McCloat. First, she thanked the German home economics colleagues for their longstanding support of IFHE down through the years. She then referred to the technological transformation that societies are facing today and emphasized that as home economists, we have a responsibility to shape the understanding of technological advancements and AI in ways that will prioritise society's best interests, reflecting values of fairness, inclusivity, transparency, and respect.



WORLD HOME ECONOMICS DAY 2025

The IFHE has been celebrating World Home Economics Day (WHED) on 21st March since 1982. Each year, the international event focuses on a specific topic and draws attention to home economics and consumer issues. It also promotes the profession and recognises the contribution that home economists make to the quality of life of people around the world. The motto of this year's World Home Economics Day was 'Tackling Overconsumption'

As every year, the WHED patron Prof. Dr. Gwendolyn Hustvedt, USA, kicked off the theme with an online meeting and a promotional film. President of IFHE, Dr Amanda McCloat, Ireland, gave an address to members of IFHE and the video was posted on YouTube and social media channels. This was followed by a variety of activities organised by IFHE members around the world.

A half-day activity under the theme 'Tackling Overconsumption' in the context of World Home Economics Day 2025, was organised by the Home Economics Unit of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare at the National Women Development Centre, in Phoenix, **Mauritius**. The programme featured a certificate award ceremony to 20 participants who successfully completed six different Home Economics projects across Mauritius. Highlights also included: a sharing of experience session by two participants; a talk on "Mindful Consumption – Reducing Food Waste at Household Level" delivered by Associate Professor, Mrs Daya Goburdhun, from the University of Mauritius; and a presentation by the staff of the Home Economics Unit.



The IFHE President addressed an event at ATU St Angelas Campus, Sligo, **Ireland** to mark the day and the theme 'Tackling Overconsumption'.

Household Science Day took place on 21st March at Blåsenhus, Uppsala University, **Sweden** under the theme: Food, Environment, and Economy – Opportunities and Challenges with Research and New Findings in Home Economics Studies

In **Germany**, a position paper on the topic of World Home Economics Day 2025 with relevant demands was sent to decision-makers in business and politics. The paper highlights the important role of home economics knowledge to support people in making reasonable decisions in terms of sustainable consumption.



Enjoy food instead of wasting it! The Digital Encyclopaedia of Sustainable Home Economics by the German Association for Home Economics includes a new Tipp related to SDG 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production.



Raising Awareness on Over Consumption: **IFHE colleagues in Malta** were the main speakers on one of Malta's top discussion programs, airing on the national TV station, where they delved into how Home Economics can provide valuable skills and knowledge for a more sustainable life.

A diverse range of activities aligned with the WHED theme "Tackling Overconsumption" was observed across the Caribbean, including in Guyana. In **Jamaica**, colleagues hosted an online panel discussion titled "Tackling Overconsumption for a Better World" while in Antigua and Barbuda, a leading television station featured Home Economists and a school principal in a special World Home Economics Day interview.



HOME ECONOMICS PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA
Celebrates
2025 WORLD HOME ECONOMICS DAY
THEME: TACKLING OVERCONSUMPTION FOR A BETTER WORLD

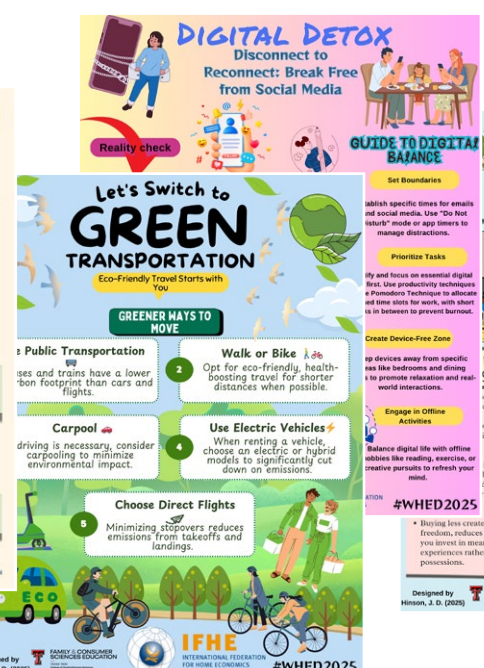
Meet our Speakers

			
PROF. NKIRU T. MELUDU HEPAN, PRESIDENT, FSTA, NPF	PROF. NGOZI MARY UZUEGBUNWA UNN, NSUKKA	PROF. JAMILA SHUARA BAZE UNI, ABUJA	MRS. TOLULOPE KUNLE-AGBOOLA PRESIDENT, HOME SCIENCE ASSOCIATION, LAGOS

FRIDAY 21ST MARCH, 2025 10AM
ZOOM ID: 864 0165 2127
PASSWORD: 580870
Dr. Beatrice Oganah-Ikujenyo : Chairman, WHED Committee (08023002528)

A key highlight in **Antigua and Barbuda** was the initiative undertaken by the Antigua Grammar School, an all-boys institution that examined sustainable textile consumption. Students designed garments using recycled materials and presented them in a public fashion show attended by senior government officials. Other schools across the island addressed various dimensions of Family Resource Management through presentations and practical demonstrations, a Smoothie Contest, and a Teacher Cook-Off.

Jacinta Dentaa Hinson (IFHE Scholar 2024–2026) created seven posters relating to the WHED 2025 Theme 'Tackling Overconsumption': Buying Less, Living More; Digital Detox; Every Drop Counts; Greener Ways to move; Power Down, Save More; Spend Smart, Save More and Zero Food Waste. Free download of the seven posters in pdf format is **available on the IFHE Website**.



IN FOCUS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEMBER REGIONS

IFHE members are both organisations and individuals from over 50 countries. They are organised in national IFHE member organisations and regional associations. In addition to the activities for World Home Economics Day, IFHE members have once again organised and designed an impressive number of home economics activities around the globe. Some highlights from our regional and national associations are listed here:



In addition to the World Home Economics Day 2025 activities and participation in the IFHE Teacher Seminar Series 2025, the Asian Regional Association for Home Economics held the 22nd Biennial Congress of the Asian Regional Association for Home Economics (ARAHE). The conference was hosted by the Philippine Home Economics Association (PHEA) in partnership with PATHESCU and OTLEP, the congress gathered educators, professionals, and advocates from across Asia to explore the theme “Empowering Future Generations: Home Economics in the Age of Advanced Technology.”

The Journal of Asian Regional Association for Home Economics (Journal of ARAHE) is an official international journal for home economics in the Asian Region. The Publication Office of ARAHE managed to publish two series of Volume 32 for the year of 2025, Volume 32 Number 1 (February) and Volume 32 Number 2 (August). ARAHE has members not only from the Asian Region but also from many other regions, and this journal also accepts paper submissions from members all over the world.

ASIA

The Home Economics Professionals Association of Nigeria (HEPAN) rocked Owerri from October 29 to October 31, 2025! Hosted at Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education, the conference theme: ‘Tech-Enabled Home Economics: A National Strategy for Empowerment and Sustainable Development’ showcased how technology is transforming our field for a brighter, sustainable future.

The event brought together over 160, Educators, researchers, Practitioners Policy makers and students from across the country. The conference provided a platform for advancing the role of technology in Home Economics Education and practice; emphasizing digital literacy, innovation and technological adoption. Highlights included keynote speeches, lead paper presentations, a technical session on digital food security, e-textiles, virtual resources management and digital entrepreneurship.

The event ended on a high note on Friday night with a gala and awards — celebrating 7 new academic fellows and 3 special recognition honourees!

AFRICA



The Pacific region continues to show stability and engagement. We are pleased to report strong, consistent membership numbers within New Zealand and Australia. This core support base provided a successful foundation for the World Congress 2028. Growth Objective: While NZ and Australia are performing slightly better, a key strategic focus for the coming year is to increase membership and representation in other Pacific nations to ensure a truly diverse regional voice.

The Educational Landscape in the Pacific region shows challenges and opportunities. Home Economics subjects are currently undergoing a period of significant challenge and transition across both Australia and New Zealand. There is a pressing need for appropriate recognition of the subject's importance by governments, curriculum bodies, and school leaders. A lack of systemic support creates direct challenges for schools, reduces the pipeline of specialist teachers, and limits student access to essential life-skill education.

The ongoing collaboration with HETTANZ remains a priority. Colleagues in the Pacific region are actively engaging with curriculum reviews to ensure Home Economics remains a robust and recognized part of the New Zealand educational framework.

Western Australia serves as a primary example of how structured advocacy can yield results: An advocacy Committee has successfully been established by Sandy SMITH, Representative IFHE region Pacific. This committee (composed of five Home Economists and HEIAWA Executive members) has provided a direct line to curriculum governing bodies. The WA governing body has acknowledged the committee's recommendations. As a result, two requested actions are currently underway, and new supportive resources for Child Care (Years 9 & 10) are due for release in early 2026.



The IFHE region of Europe continues their well established Brown Bag Webinars, which are an online gathering of Home Economists at Lunch Time.

28 Jan

Framework Factors in Home Economics Education, their Significance and Optimization for High Educational Quality (Swedish perspective).

Elina Larsson, researcher and HE-educator, EAHE president, Stockholm University, Umeå University

8 May

Transforming School Food Politics – Examples from Finland and Around the World

A discussion on how school food politics are being reshaped across the globe, with a spotlight on the Finnish context

30 Sept

European Conference 2026 in Joensuu Finland.

The Conference Organisation Team introduces the theme of the European Conference 2026: *Rethink and Re-organise – Home Economics bringing preparedness and resilience to everyday life*

11 Nov

Leadership Examples on the Macro-, Micro-, and Research Level in the Climate/ Castle of Beilstein. From Data to Practice.

Dr. Brigitte Schober-Schmutz



IN FOCUS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEMBER REGIONS

AMERICAS

The IFHE Region of Americas was very productive during the 2025 year. The Region delivered its first IFHE webinar on Food Literacy to IFHE members gathered. The process included bimonthly meetings to determine a plan of work and the dedication of home economists from Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States to study, discuss, and develop multiple sections of the webinar. Emerging ideas included addressing misinformation, food justice, food literacy education, and engaging with advocacy. During the second half of the year, attention turned to developing a summer seminar series to better integrate young professionals to build and sustain membership. The Region continues its engagement across countries. At the end of February, the 18th Canadian Symposium on Home Economics featured a showing of “A Nation’s Table – Anita Stewart & the Food Day Canada Story” and hosted the Gwen E Leslie Memorial Health Protection Lecture. Led by Ary Maharaj, the Outreach and Education Co-ordinator with the National Eating Disorder Information Centre, he presented on how educators can engage young people in conversations about health, food and eating.

The Caribbean Association of Home Economists Inc. celebrated its 25th Biennial Conference at the University of Trinidad and Tobago Maritime Campus (UTT), in Chaguaramas, Trinidad. From 13 – 16 April 2025, 200 home economists gathered to engage with sessions developed around the theme, “Home Economics, AI, Values, and Attitudes: Interrogating the Nexus.” This was an important topic to be examined, given potential impacts on this professional field and those we serve.

And in June, the IFHE-US held its annual meeting adjacent to the AAFCS National Conference, in Kansas City, Missouri, USA. At this meeting, information was provided about the Nigerian grant project, “Capacity Gap and Intervention Impact Assessments on the Design and Administration of Electronic Questionnaires for Use in Data Collection among Home Economics Researchers in Nigeria.” IFHE-US gathered for the Sharon McManus Cultural Event, to learn about the birth of jazz music and its importance in Kansas City.

World Home Economics Day was highlighted across the region with IFHE-US hosting the webinar, “Tackling Overconsumption: Food, Housing, and Travel,” and multiple activities hosted by home economists across the Caribbean, Canada, and the U.S.

The Region thanks long-serving and valued members Marilyn Weber (Canada Liaison), Louise Neufeldt (Treasurer), and Lois Grey (Secretary) for their service to IFHE across Canada. We are grateful that a new team is in place, including Diana Mager (IFHE CA Representative), Myrna Grahm (Treasurer), and Jodie Bezdietny (Secretary). Similarly, we thank Professor Leonie Clarke for her service as CAHE President, and welcome Madame President, Lucille Marcelle CPHE.

Finally, the Region is thrilled to celebrate Professor Geri Holdelin, who will be recognized with the IFHE Distinguished Service Award at the 2026 IFHE Council Meeting in South Africa!



IFHE INTERNAL AFFAIRS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2025

On 3rd June 2026, members of the Executive Committee met at the IFHE Office for their once-a-year in-person meeting. Throughout the year, the Executive Committee meets online every two months.

In the afternoon, IFHE Treasurer Prof. Dr. Kerry Renwick took the opportunity to sign official documents at the notary's office. IFHE is registered as an NGO under German law and providing the necessary signatures in person always makes the process of the Federation's legal affairs much easier.

IFHE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

The IFHE General Secretariat is based in Bonn and runs the business, including event management and public relations, member support as well as finance and legal matters for IFHE. Since April 1st, 2024, the business premises have been used together with the German Society for Home Economics.

The IFHE Office Staff, Dr. Christiane Pakula (Executive Director) and Anke Wiedemann (Membership Manager) welcomed the members of the IFHE Executive Committee and prepared a casual get-together at the IFHE Office in Bonn.

The Executive Director organises and technically supported four Teacher Seminars in 2025 and maintained the Federation's Social Media Channel facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. In autumn 2025, the Social Media Campaign 'Why do you teach Home Economics' was successfully implemented.

Also, in autumn 2025, the Executive Committee decided to start a re-work of the IFHE Website. The Executive Director planned and prepared the work on the website that will be finished early in 2026.

IFHE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2024–2026

The Executive Committee of the International Federation for Home Economics comprises the President, the Treasurer, the Past President, the Vice-Presidents, and Representatives of the five traditional IFHE regions. The board members are elected by the Council Delegates Assembly for four years. The terms of office of the board members overlap to ensure continuity of the board's work.

- **Dr. Amanda MCCLOAT** (Ireland)
IFHE President (2024 – 2028)
- **Prof. Dr. Kerry RENWICK** (Canada)
IFHE Treasurer
- **Prof. Dr. Gwendolyn HUSTVEDT** (USA)
IFHE Past President
- **Prof. Dr. Janine Marie DUNCAN** (USA)
Vice President Region Americas
- **Mme Audrey JONES-DRAYTON** (Barbados)
Representative Region Americas
- **Prof. Dr. Stella LEMCHI** (Nigeria)
Vice President Region Africa
- **Dr. Hosea Lupambo CHISHALA** (Zambia)
Representative Region Africa
- **Dr. Elina LARSSON** (Sweden)
Vice President Region Europe
- **Dr. Karen MUGLIETT** (Malta)
Representative Region Europe
- **Mme Wee Leng SOO** (Malaysia)
Vice President Region Asia
- **Prof. Dr. Shinjii IMAKAWA** (Japan)
Representative Region Asia
- **Dr. Sarah WIRTH** (New Zealand)
Vice President Region Pacific
- **Dr. Sandy SMITH** (Australia)
Representative Region Pacific





IFHE

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FOR HOME ECONOMICS

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Mugliett

