

global **KINSHIP** care week 2026



Family
for every child

Campaign
Participation Pack



2026 key campaign dates

This year's campaign will run from
Monday 5th until Sunday 11th of October



About this pack

The third annual Kinship Care Week aims to raise awareness about *the importance of Kinship Care as a tool for family strengthening*.

Based on the [Global Kinship Care Guidance Paper](#), the purpose of the campaign is to call for more support and recognition of Kinship Care.

The campaign has been developed by Family For Every Child's network of locally-led member organisations, who are calling for change nationally and globally.



Key messages

- We are deepening global understanding of kinship care.
- **We want governments to recognise kinship care as a key strategy for strengthening families and preventing family breakdown.**
- We call on governments to provide adequate and equal support to all kinds of kinship care arrangements.
- **The Kinship Care Policy Mapping has been showing us how national laws and public policies frame and support kinship care, what works and what can be improved.**



Now, we want to share these examples and tell the stories of what is and isn't working in kinship care policy and practice around the world.

The key questions:

What policies and practices exist around the globe that create the conditions for kinship care to thrive?

And what have we found that is and isn't working?



global **KINSHIP** care week



Family
for every child

2026

The context



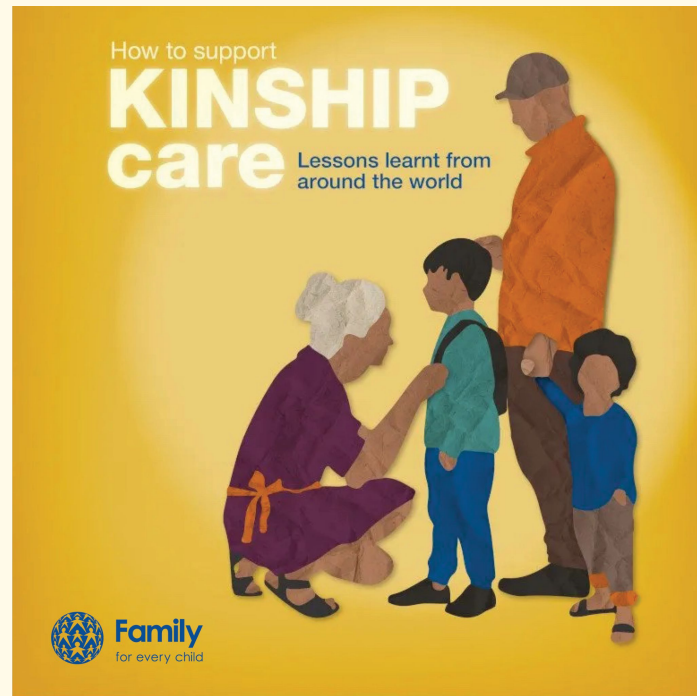
The 2024 Global Guidance on Kinship Care

...has been helping us understand what should be happening to better support kinship care.

The Global Guidance on Kinship Care was published by Family For Every Child in 2024 and endorsed by the 30+ agencies.

With a foreword by Ann Skelton, former Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, this is the first ever global, practitioner-informed guidance on how to support kinship care. It is aimed at policymakers and programme managers working to improve the care of children.

It includes over 40 examples of promising practice from across the world and is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.



The 2026 Kinship Care Policy Mapping

*...has been showing us how national laws and public policies frame and support kinship care, **what works and what can be improved***

Family for Every Child's 2026 Global Kinship Care Policy Mapping gathered responses from 21 countries across Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia-Pacific, in partnership with Lumos.

With 21 of our member organisations, we took the findings from the Global Guidance on Kinship Care and applied them across the globe, to find out what is and isn't working in policy and practice, and where the gaps are.

What is the state of kinship care policy around world? What are the key statistics that illustrate what's working, and which stories can we tell to highlight promising practice?

A policy map across 21 countries

Participating organisations

Africa

1. Liberia — [Children Assistance Program](#)
2. South Africa — [CINDI \(Children in Distress Network\)](#)
3. Rwanda — [Uyisenga Ni Imanzi \(UNM\)](#)
4. Kenya — [Pendekezo Letu](#)
5. Zimbabwe — [FOST \(Farm Orphan Support Trust\)](#)
6. Egypt — [Hope Village Society](#)

Asia - Pacific

7. Nepal — [Voice of Children](#)
8. Philippines — [CPTCSA](#) / [Quidan Kaisahan Foundation](#)
9. Bangladesh — [Centre for Services and Information on Disability \(CSID\)](#)
10. Sri Lanka — [Foundation for Innovative Social Development \(FISD\)](#)
11. Aotearoa New Zealand — [Family for Every Child](#)
12. Kyrgyzstan — [Semya](#)



A policy map across 21 countries

Europe

- 13. Bulgaria — [Lumos](#)
- 14. United Kingdom — [Children and Families Across Borders](#)
- 15. Ireland — [Kinship Care Ireland](#) / [Treoir](#)

Latin America and the Caribbean

- 16. Guatemala — [CONACMI](#)
- 17. Colombia — [Centro de Desarrollo Psicosocial - Taller de Vida](#)
- 18. Mexico — [Fundación Juconi](#)
- 19. Guyana — [ChildLink](#)
- 20. Paraguay — [Enfoque Niñez](#)
- 21. Brazil — [ABTH \(Associação Brasileira Terra dos Homens\)](#)



The Global Kinship Care Policy Mapping

The statistics that we want to share



The Global Kinship Care Policy Mapping | Survey Findings

Findings from Family for Every Child's 2026 Kinship Care Policy Mapping, completed by respondents in 21 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe & Central Asia, Latin America and Asia-Pacific, in partnership with Lumos. **Here's what we call for:**



1

Define kinship care in law

2

Make kin-first policy real for every child

3

Build a consistent support package

4

Remove formalisation as the gatekeeper

5

Count kinship carers in national data

We mapped findings against recommendations from p.32 of the **Global Guidance on Kinship Care**

 	
Acronyms	
Acknowledgements	
Introduction	
Background on kinship care	
Principles of good practice in supporting kinship care	
Creating an enabling environment for kinship care	Policies, strategies, and guidance on kinship care Kinship care needs to be recognised in relevant policies, strategies and guidance, including: • laws, policies, and national or sub-national strategies on children's care, • guidance for the social service workforce, including case management guidance, and • policies, strategies, and guidance on issues that may affect the well-being of kinship care families, such as social protection/financial supports, education, justice, health care, identity and birth registration, parenting, early childhood development, disabilities, and migration and immigration.⁹⁸ Combined, policies, strategies and guidance related to kinship care should: • define kinship care and lay out the different forms that it takes, • promote a kin-first approach, that ensures kinship care is used when in the best interests of the child, and adheres to the other principles of good practice in supporting kinship care outlined here (see Example 2).⁹⁹ • outline a package of support for kinship carers and children in kinship care (as discussed in the section on services and support) that is consistent across the country, and • explain when and how kinship care should be registered, and the circumstances in which social service workers should intervene.  If implemented, effective policies, strategies and guidance should ensure more comprehensive and consistent support for kinship care.
Pathways to services and support and the formalisation of kinship care	Policies, strategies and guidance must be based on evidence, including the perspectives of children and carers.¹⁰⁰ They should recognise the different forms that kinship care takes, and explain how both formal and informal kinship care will be supported.¹⁰¹ In some countries, the focus of care reform efforts is on reducing the number of children in residential or institutional care. Policies and strategies on kinship care provide an opportunity to broaden this agenda to enhance the care of all children outside of parental care.¹⁰² In addition to developing policies, it is of course also important to ensure that policies are communicated and implemented. Policies need to be accompanied by strategies and resource allocations. Examples 8, 9 and 10 provide kinship care-related policies, strategies and guidance from Kenya, Cambodia, and Liberia.
Services and support for kinship care	
Variations in support to kinship care	
Concluding remarks	
Examples	

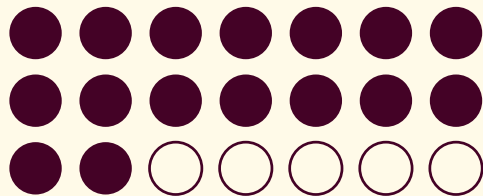
The Global Kinship Care Policy Mapping | The statistics we want to share

Findings from Family for Every Child's 2026 Kinship Care Policy Mapping, completed by respondents in 21 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe & Central Asia, Latin America and Asia-Pacific, in partnership with Lumos.

1

Formal recognition in law

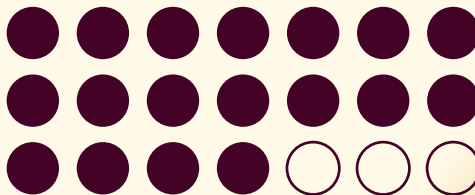
76% of countries formally recognise kinship care in law. Only 48% recognise customary or traditional forms, and 62% distinguish non-relative carers.



2

Prioritisation in law

81% have a kin-first policy in principle. But only 38% specifically address disadvantaged children within kinship care policy.



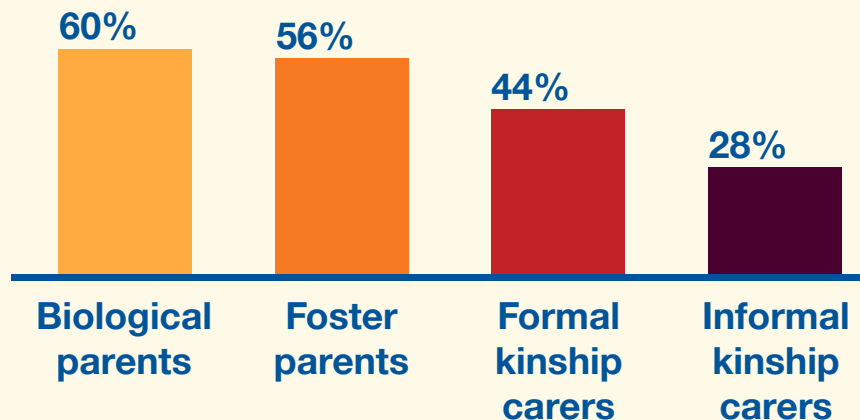
The Global Kinship Care Policy Mapping | The statistics we want to share

3

Support for kinship carers

Kinship carers receive far less support than other caregivers. Averaged across 7 support types, informal kinship carers receive support in just 28% of countries, versus 60% for biological parents and 56% for foster parents.

Support types surveyed: cash assistance, parenting & caregiving support, psychosocial support, legal aid, health & education, solo-parent benefits, monitoring.

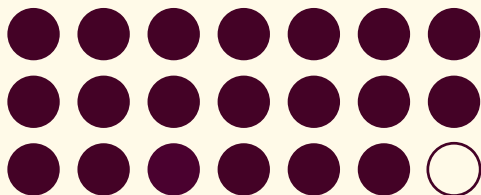


The Global Kinship Care Policy Mapping | The statistics we want to share

4

Registration & social services

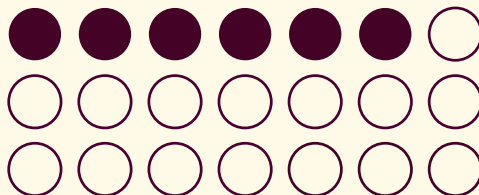
95% require formal legal status for decision-making authority. *62%+ of countries have no dedicated mechanism to monitor informal kinship arrangements.*



5

Data

Only 29% of countries can confirm their data distinguishes formal from informal carers. *Where data systems exist, they are usually built around formal placements only.*



The Global Kinship Care Policy Mapping

The stories we want to tell



What good looks like | One country per finding

1 Rwanda

Formal recognition in law

Rwanda formally recognises kinship care in national law, including customary and traditional arrangements.

The law distinguishes kinship carers who are relatives from those who are non-relatives (particularly within formal foster care) and prioritises both categories over institutional/residential care. This sits within Rwanda's broader child protection architecture: the Tubarerere Mu Muryango (TMM) programme integrates kinship care into community-level family-strengthening work, and kinship care is named as the preferred placement option in national policy. Cash assistance is available to both formal and informal kinship carers through the VUP (Vision Umurenge Programme) social protection scheme, rather than a standalone kinship-specific benefit.



What good looks like | One country per finding

2

Colombia

Prioritisation in law

Colombian law and policy prioritise kinship care as the preferred placement option ahead of other forms of alternative care.

Assessments explicitly build in a disadvantage lens: forced displacement, poverty, conflict-affected areas, and ethnic origin are all named as factors considered when placing a child. Family-tracing mechanisms exist, including for cross-border cases, through Colombia's child protection system (ICBF, the Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar), operating within administrative processes such as the Proceso Administrativo de Restablecimiento de Derechos (PARD) under Ley 1098 de 2006.



What good looks like | One country per finding

3

South Africa

Support for kinship carers

South Africa's universal services (healthcare, education, school nutrition, social services, and birth registration) are explicitly designed to be accessible regardless of whether a kinship care arrangement is formal or informal; this was a deliberate legislative and programme-design choice, not an incidental gap.

Informal kinship carers can access the Child Support Grant via an affidavit process, without needing a court order. The Old Age Grant is a further example of intentional design: it was built with the understanding that it also supports dependants (commonly orphaned grandchildren) in an elderly carer's household, making it a child-centred response even though it is nominally a grant for the caregiver.



What good looks like | One country per finding

4

United Kingdom

Registration & social services

UK local authorities are under a statutory duty to consider kinship (or “connected persons”) placement before unrelated foster care whenever a child cannot remain with their parents.

Where a child becomes formally “looked after,” kinship carers go through a staged assessment: an initial, time-limited viability assessment allows the child to be placed quickly, with a full fostering assessment (or a Special Guardianship application) completed afterward. Approved carers, recognised as “connected persons foster carers”, are subject to the same statutory safeguarding checks and home assessments as any foster carer, plus ongoing care planning and review. This preference is set in statute: under the Children Act 1989, s.22C(7)(a), when deciding where a looked-after child should live, the local authority must give preference to a placement with a connected person (a relative, friend, or other person connected with the child) who is also an approved local authority foster parent, ahead of placement with an unrelated foster carer or in a children’s home.



What good looks like | One country per finding

5

South Africa

Registration & social services

South Africa's government digital data systems include kinship care, captured via household-head and primary-caregiver fields rather than a dedicated 'kinship care' category.

Unusually among the countries surveyed, that data is disaggregated both by the gender of the carer and by their formal/informal status. It is gathered partly through population-level surveys (for example, surveys on violence against children), not only through administrative case records, which broadens what the data can capture beyond people already known to the child protection system.



More context

2nd Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children

*Prevention at scale: ending violence against
children in, and through, homes and schools*

Date | 18-19 November 2026
Location | Manila, Philippines



Second Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children

*Prevention at scale: ending violence against children
in, and through, homes and schools*

Date: 18-19 November 2026 **Location:** Manila, Philippines

CONTEXT

In November 2024, 120 member states and 80 Ministers gathered with child, youth, survivor, practitioner, faith, and funder leaders in Colombia for the first-ever Global Ministerial Conference (GMC) on Ending Violence Against Children. The event exceeded expectations in vibrancy and the volume of commitments, generating pledges to accelerate action on SDG 16.2 from an unprecedented 109 member states. Critical investments in the life chances of the billion boys and girls who experience violence each year.

Momentum has been maintained and will continue to grow in the lead-up to the next Ministerial Conference. At the first-year anniversary, over 60% of pledge-making member states officially reported back on progress made. Additional pledges have been made since the 1st GMC, including during regional convenings. Member states have joined the Pathfinding Alliance 2.0 since its launch at the First Ministerial Conference, and have met at the regional level to exchange solutions and progress.

The Second Global Ministerial Conference to End Violence Against Children will be hosted by the Government of the Philippines – in partnership with WHO and UNICEF – in November 2026 (18-19) in a world much changed from that of the First Ministerial Conference. Shifts in stability, power and fiscal space make for a more complex and contested landscape.



The 2nd Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children

...is happening on 18–19 November 2026 in Manila, Philippines

Co-organised by the Government of the Philippines, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, in collaboration with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (SRSG-VAC).

For this conference, we are calling our members to join a specific ask:

We want governments to pledge their commitment to support kinship care through better policies, at the conference. Global Kinship Care Week 2026 will be a key stepping stone in raising our profile as a network, in the lead up to pushing for the first explicit, ministerial-level political recognition of kinship care as a legitimate, valuable form of family-based care that deserves direct policy attention and financial support.

The conference will happen one month after #GlobalKinshipCareWeek. Use the campaign to build advocacy momentum in your country and community, to strengthen your ask.

Prevention at scale:

**Second Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence
Against Children**



World Health
Organization

In collaboration with:



The conference is co-organized by the Government of the Philippines, as host, together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and in collaboration with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (SRSG-VAC).

Shorts

*The conference will happen
one month after
#GlobalKinshipCareWeek.
We encourage you to use
the campaign to build
advocacy momentum in
your country and
community, to strengthen
our collective ask in Manila.*

We have collected stories and examples of good practice from around the world. Now, we want to share them to deepen global understanding of what we know: Kinship care is a key strategy for strengthening families and preventing family breakdown.



global **KINSHIP** care week



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Assets and materials for your
advocacy activities are in **this**
folder.



Note: Spanish and Portuguese assets and documents will be added by Friday 18 September

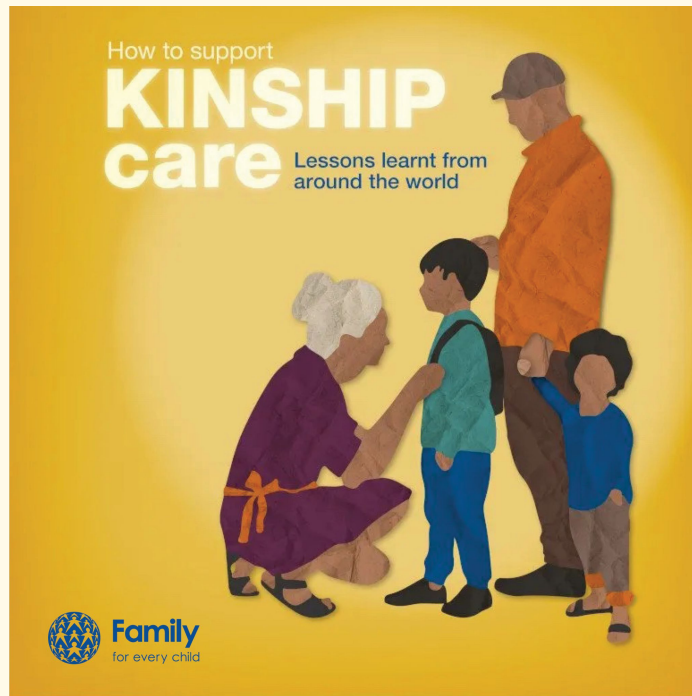
Campaign brand

The campaign's brand is based on the visual identity design of **Family for Every Child's Global Guidance on Kinship Care**, which was published by Family for Every Child and endorsed by the 30+ agencies in early 2024.

The aim is to create a clear visual link between this importance guidance paper and this global campaign.

Why us?

[Learn about our position](#)



Campaign logo

The logo has been provided in a number of versions: blue, purple and white.

You can find the logo files in the [campaign Google Drive folder](#).



Campaign key messages

We have created key messages for this campaign which you can use to build your communications. These key messages have been developed following our member workshops for the campaign.

Find the campaign key messages document [here](#).



The campaign video

Last year, we shared a campaign video that explains kinship care and helped amplify our call.

This video is still relevant this year, and in this folder here.



Social media posts are prepared for you

We have prepared text and images that you can use on your social media channels to talk about the campaign.

You can use these posts in any order and amend them to your particular context and campaign activities.

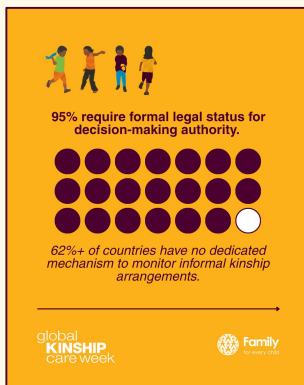
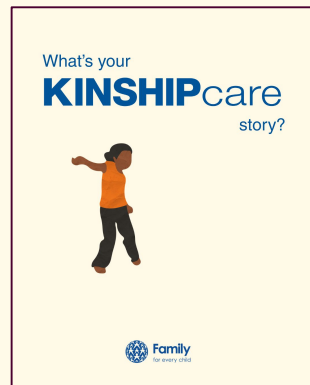
The suggested text and links to images can be found in [this document](#).



Social media assets

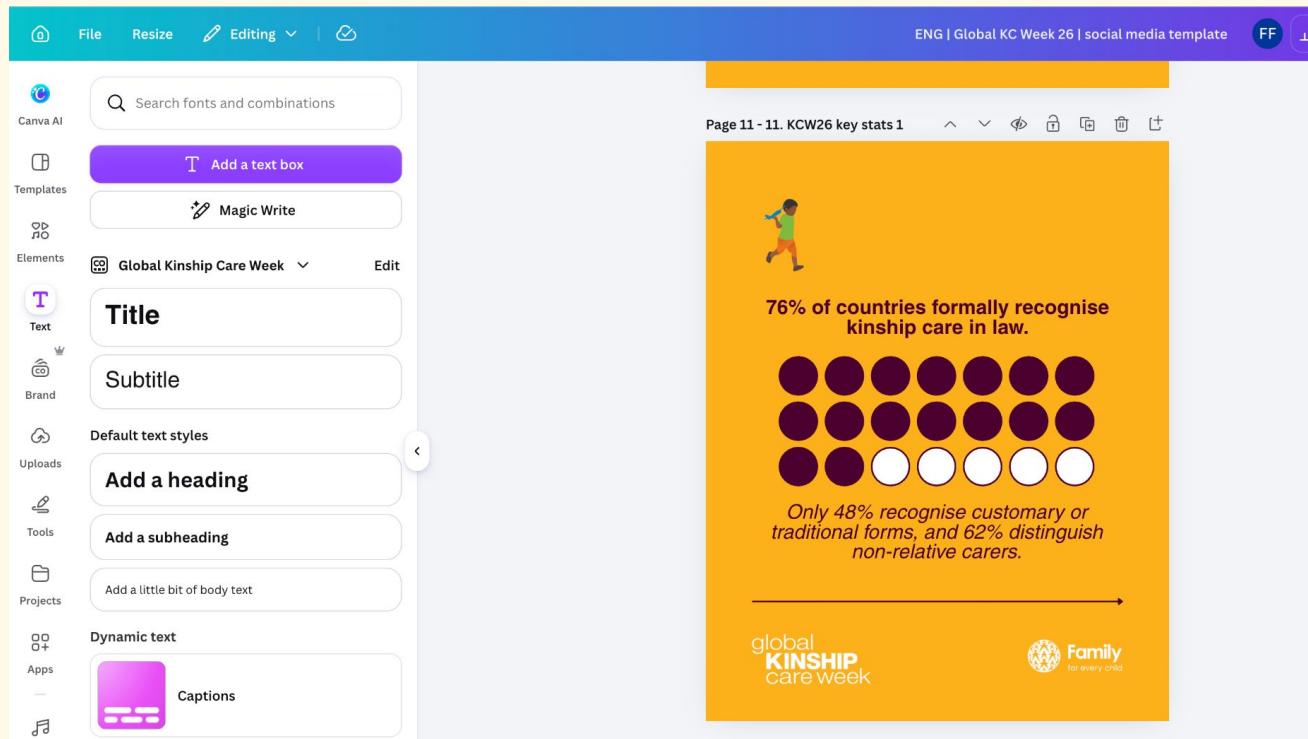
We've designed a set of social media assets for you to use.

You can download them from this folder [here.](#)



Creating your social media posts

If you would like to add your logo, **you can do so using our campaign templates on Canva.**



Global Kinship Care Week landing page

There is a landing page on the Family for Every Child website dedicated to this campaign.

familyforeverychild.org/kinshipcareweek

Here, you can find case studies, key links and more stories and context behind the Global Kinship Care Policy Map



Changemakers for Children Kinship Care Community

For communications that are mostly relevant to other practitioners, we encourage you to direct them to the **Kinship Care Community on Changemakers for Children**.

This is the URL:

changemakersforchildren.community/landing-page/kinship-care-community

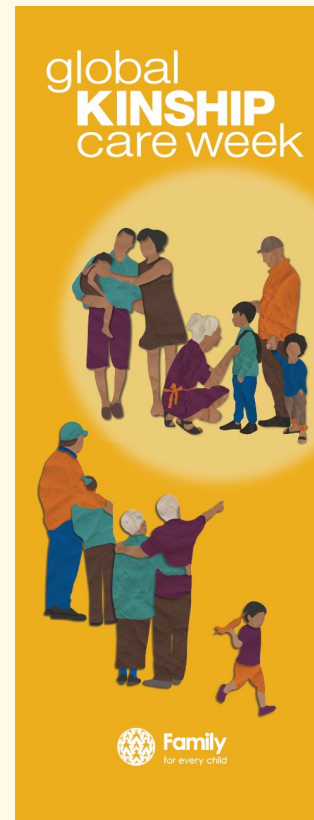


Printable material for the campaign

We have created a set of printable campaign merchandise for participating members to use in their advocacy efforts during Kinship Care Week.

This includes:

- A pull-up banner [here](#)
- A set of T-shirt designs [here](#)



Other digital assets

To support your campaign activities and communications around Kinship Care Week 2026, **we have also created:**

- [A Powerpoint / Google slides template](#)
- [An email signature](#)



Participating members

Please follow the other participating organisations on social media – it would be great if you can support each other by mentioning each other, connecting, sharing and commenting on social channels.

Tag **#GlobalKinshipCareWeek**

The more you engage with each other's content, the more people will end up seeing this campaign.



Are there any campaign materials missing that could strengthen your campaign? Is there anything we can create to make your advocacy easier? Let us know.



global **KINSHIP** care week



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Want more information?

For general queries:

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For comms and social media support:

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