

Leading expert on intercultural families

7.10.2026

WHAT IS FAMILIA?

- Founded in 1988
- National social sector organization
- We support the wellbeing of intercultural families by offering peer support and volunteer activities, information, and advice.
- We also aim at making improvements in the social and legal systems, so that the needs of intercultural and multilingual families and Finns would be better met.
- We focus on relationships and family relationships, parenting, bilingualism and multilingualism, supporting children's identity development, integration and employment, anti-racist education and work against racism and discrimination
- Main funding comes from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

INTERCULTURAL FAMILIES IN FINLAND

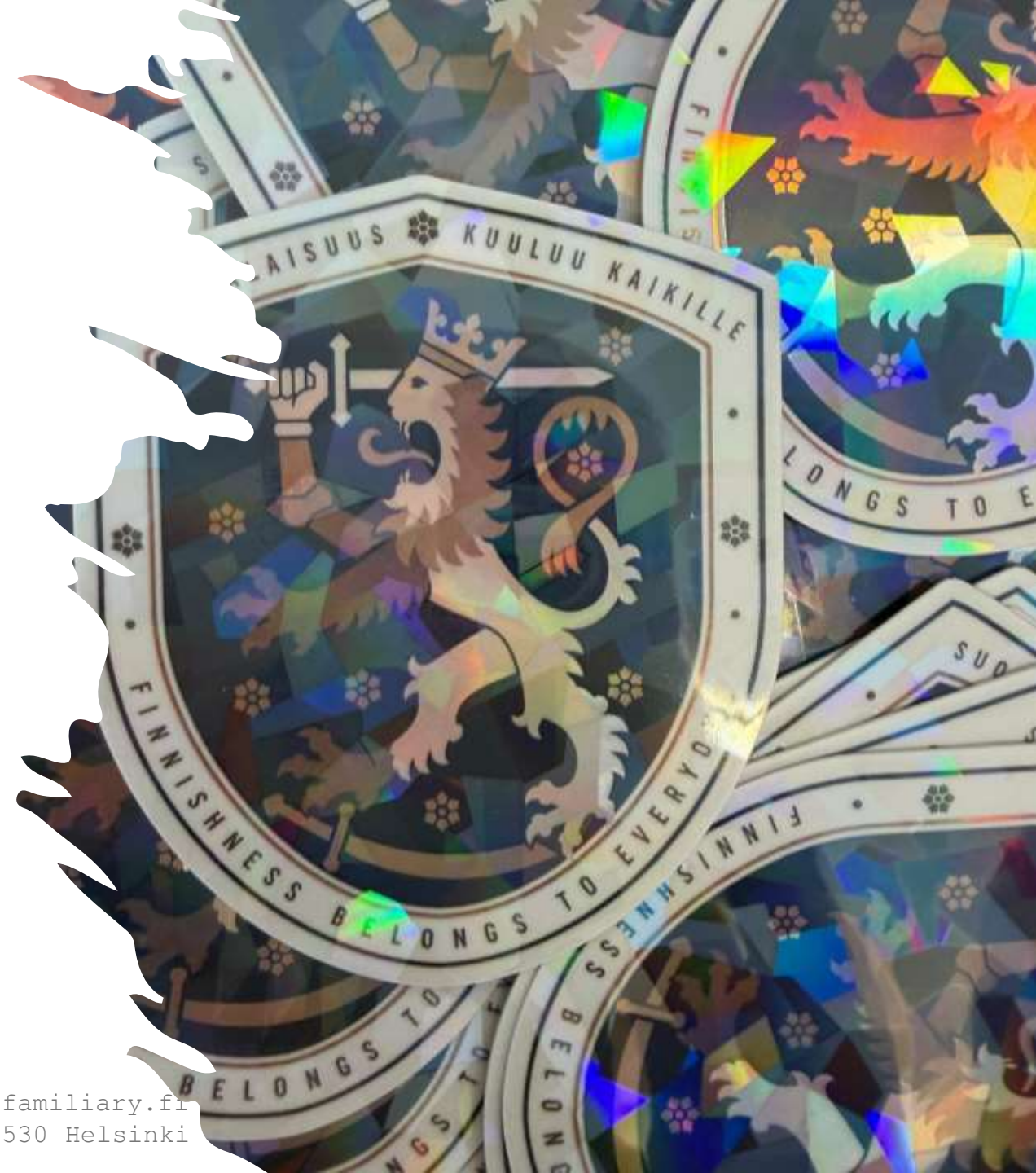
- Over 92 000 intercultural couples and families living in Finland in a cohabitation/marriage, where one spouse was born in Finland. About half of them are families with children.
- In addition, there are 80,7343 families living in Finland where both spouses were born abroad, of which 17,380 are families where the spouses have different countries of birth.
- Intercultural families make up about 7% of all families living in Finland, the number of intercultural families has tripled in 30 years in Finland.
- About 11.5% of families living in Finland are multicultural
- 13.5% of all marriages in Finland in 2024 are intercultural
- 2,000–3,000 international marriages are concluded annually
- About 15 percent of all divorces in Finland are divorces between intercultural families
- There are over 150,000 children and young people under the age of 30 with a intercultural background living in Finland, of whom about 110,000 are under the age of 18

KEY CHALLENGES

- The current government has tightened all legislation concerning immigrants (Aliens Act, Citizenship Act, Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration)
- Finland has taken example of the other Nordic countries
- Immigration policy has shifted to emphasize employment – Most of the spouses moving here leave behind careers and networks in their home countries, often without a job waiting for them
- Immigration policy does not encourage starting a family in Finland—secure residency status is crucial for intercultural families
- Plans and legislative proposals for reduced social security for immigrants
- Plans of making it more difficult to have dual citizenship

KEY CHALLENGES

- In general, those who move to Finland for love are overlooked in discussions about immigration
- The dehumanization of immigrants
- Racism and discrimination
- Integration is a two-way process—society also has obligations
- Impacts on children, young people, and families



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WHAT IS NEEDED?

- A journey back to 2023 – Almost all legislative changes from this parliamentary term should be reversed
- Finland says it needs immigration and babies. However, the policies implemented do not support starting a family or moving to Finland
- Zero tolerance for racism – that does not cost anything to speak and act respectfully
- Put an end to the dismantling and silencing of civil society.

ADVOCACY

- Parliamentary election objectives 2027
- Racism and discrimination experienced by intercultural couples and families in Finland 2026
- Report on weakening the wellbeing of intercultural families 2025
- Report on dual and multiple citizenships 2025
- Municipal election objectives 2025
- County election objectives 2025
- Family leave in intercultural families survey 2022
- Mother Tongue Instruction survey 2021

More advocacy material and news can be found here.

OUR MATERIAL

- Tools about speaking racism and discrimination (also available in Finnish, Swedish, Spanish, French, Arabic, Farsi and Chinese)
- Love and Parenthood in an Intercultural Family
- Intercultural Family Relationship Discussion Cards
- Hairday Activity Book

All material can be found here.