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International Children’s Day: How it became an official holiday in Romania



The International Children’s Day was adopted by dozen of states as a celebration of children and childhood in 1925 and it was later established by the United Nations as the Global Day of Parents. In 2016, the Parliament of Children managed to obtain from the Parliament of Romania the approval for making Children’s Day a national holiday.

The International Children’s Day was first proposed as an international observance in 1925, at the first conference dedicated to children’s welfare and held in Geneva, Switzerland. Many governments have adopted it as a national observance on June 1.

It is celebrated in over 50 states on June 1, while other approximately 100 countries observe the day on different dates.

The goal of the International Children’s Day is to recognize childrens’ right to receiving affection, to access education and health services no matter their race, colour, sex, religion, ethnicity, nationality or social status.

The UN General Assembly established in 2012 the Global Day of Parents on June 1,

in order to send a message about the important role of the family in raising children and in their welfare.

In Romania, the Parliament of Children decided in 2016 to promote a draft law aiming to make June 1 a legal national holiday. The campaign was supported by Itsy Bitsy FM, the children's radio station.

The project was approved by the Parliament of Romania at the end of 2016. Starting from 2017, June 1 has become an official holiday in Romania.

The Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church established in 2009 to dedicate the first Sunday of June to the mothers, the fathers and their children educated in the light of the Christian faith.

"In a world deeply marked by individualism and secularization, the Family, the Church and the School are called today to provide children with the help necessary for their personal and communal development, to cultivate the freedom, responsibility and dignity of children, because they are God's gift for family and humankind," transmitted Patriarch Daniel in his 2020 message for the Sunday of Parents and Children.

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