



## Hague Mothers Newsletter August 2023

Dear <<First Name>> ,

Welcome to the August Newsletter – a little shorter than usual since many of our members have been taking a well-earned break.

We're continuing to raise awareness of the Hague Abduction Convention in the lead-up to the Special Commission meeting in October. And you can help!

### 1. Sign and share the Protect Hague Victims petition

This international petition was set up by GlobalARRK in collaboration with: New Zealand Hague Collective; Ark of Hope, Australia; Hague Collective, US; New York Sanctuary for Families; Hague Mothers Japan; Maes de Haia, Brazil; Revibra, Europe & Brazil; Far From Home, India; and FiLiA Hague Mothers. It's been translated into eight languages and, at the time of writing, has gathered over 35,000 signatures.

[Please help to #ProtectHagueVictims and sign, share, and share again!](#)



## **2. Watch and share our Time for Change information video**

Over 1000 people have seen our [information video](#) presented by Hague mother and Court Crisis founder Nataly Anderson, directed by filmmaker Vaishnavi Sundar. It has been funded by Northumbria University through a research project into domestic violence and the Hague led by Dr Rima Hussein. Please help us get the word out about the injustices caused by the Convention.

**And more...**

**Please participate in this important survey:**

### **Mothers and Children Across Borders – Impacts of the Hague Convention**

A number of survivor-led organisations have joined forces to design a survey for mothers who have left, tried to leave, or wish to leave the country they were (or are) in, but found their freedom of movement has been denied and/or restricted under the laws of the Hague Convention.

The aims are to:

1. Understand what causes mothers to leave their homes and move with their children to other countries.
2. Gather evidence on how the lives of mothers and children are impacted by the Hague Convention.
3. Enable us to seek legal advice on steps that mothers and children impacted by the Hague Convention may take collectively to restore their rights and secure changes to the law.

For the survey link, please contact them directly at [haguedmums@pm.me](mailto:haguedmums@pm.me).

**Two new survivor-led initiatives:**

### **Hague Explained CIC**

A fabulous and much-needed organisation founded by Anita Gera and Sara

Kinnaird. Hague Explained does exactly what it says on the tin, offering to ‘empower your multinational corporation and its employees with invaluable knowledge about the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction’. We hope to have a podcast with Anita and Sara next month. Meanwhile, you can find out more via their excellent [website](#).

### **EU Hague Mothers**

Hague Mothers whose cases involve EU Member States, including the UK, prior to 1 January 2021, are forming a group to:

- Lobby the bodies of the European Union to abolish the Hague Convention between EU Member States.
- Examine the future implementation of the Hague Convention between the EU and third countries.
- Secure compensation from the EU for harm caused to victims of the Hague Convention.

Please stand in solidarity with them by following them on [Twitter](#). You can email them at: [EUHagueMothers@proton.me](mailto:EUHagueMothers@proton.me).

### **Additions to our resource library**

#### **[The 1980 Hague Abduction Convention. Inequality of Arms: mothers' experiences](#)**

A briefing paper was prepared for us by Dr Gina Masterton (HM Australia/New Zealand Strategy Group).

#### **[Hearing Children's Objections in Hague Child Abduction Proceedings](#)**

A comparative study of how children's objections to return are dealt with across three jurisdictions (England & Wales, Australia, USA) from Michelle Fernando (University of South Australia) and Jessica Mant (Monash University, Melbourne).

#### **[Presentation: Ending the injustices of the Hague Abduction Convention](#)**

Many thanks to WDI for inviting us to present at one of their weekly webinar sessions. And thank you to Hague mum Nataly Anderson, for her moving presentation.

Please watch and share.

### **Not to be missed!**

#### **[Contemporary children & families: Opportunities and challenges in law, policy and practice](#)**

In-person and online conference 6th & 7th September. Edinburgh Napier University Centre for Child & Family Law & Policy.

A superb range of speakers, including Kim Fawcett (Brunel University and HM UK Strategy Group) will be giving a brief online overview of the Hague

Abduction Convention, its problems and possible solutions. Many thanks to the organisers for fitting us in at beyond the last minute!

**PS The FiLiA Conference is just over six weeks away!**

Hague Mothers will have a stall, a social and a strategy meet-up – all thanks to Michelle’s exceptional organising abilities. Hope to see some of you there!

***Thank you for your support.***

***In solidarity with Hague mothers across the world.***

*Ruth, Michelle & FiLiA*

#SolidarityWithHagueMothers #HagueMothers

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