

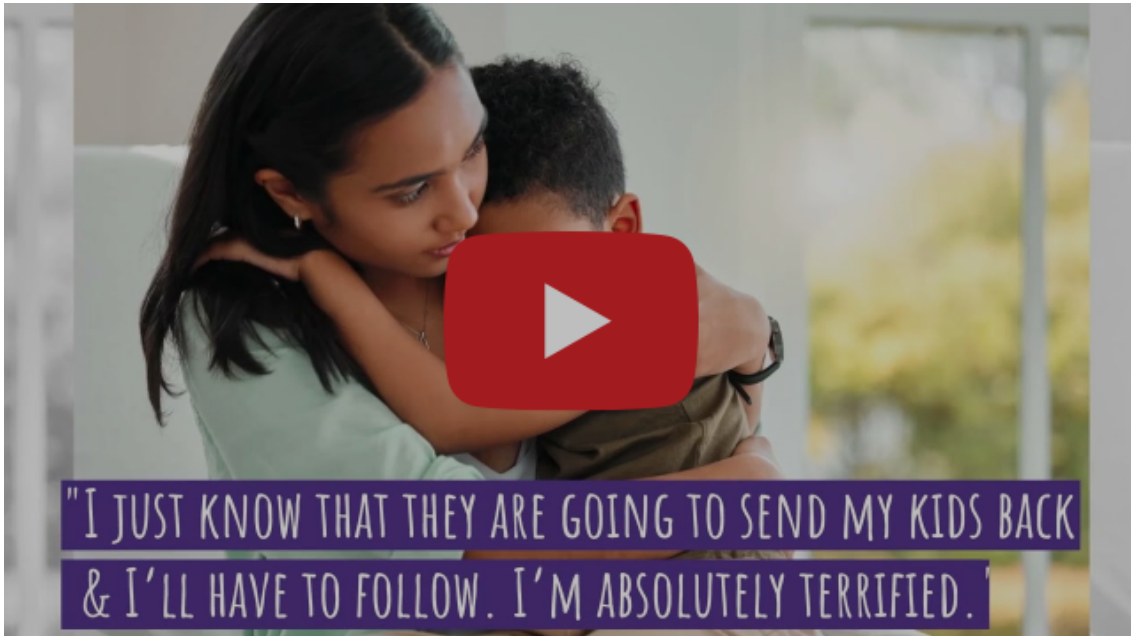


Hague Mothers Newsletter March 2023

Dear <<First Name>>,

Hague Mothers, FiLiA, & Brunel University Global Lives Research Centre are delighted to invite you to an International Webinar on 21 April 2023 at 22.00–23.45 BST: **From Abduction to Protection: Ending the Injustices of the Hague Convention**

Apologies for the late scheduling – it's intended to maximise the opportunity for a global audience to attend, and ensure that our panellists are all awake! Please check your time zone!



The 1980 Hague Convention was intended to deal with fathers who abduct their children across international borders without the mother's permission. It has been weaponised. In over 75% of cases, abusive fathers now use it to compel children, and therefore mothers, to return to the country they have fled. The Hague Mothers campaign aims to end that terrifying injustice. Find out how from our stellar international panel: Adrienne Barnett (UK), Miranda Kaye (Australia), Sudha Shetty (US), Nicole Fidler (US), Jeffrey Edleson (US), Ben Keith (NZ).

Over 120 tickets already snapped up. Attendees from 20 countries. Endorsements from: Sanctuary for Families NY, SHERA Research Group, Women's Legal Services Australia.

Unmissable! Please watch & share our [video](#) invite. And [register now!](#)

[Hague Mothers go to Melbourne!](#)

Hague Mothers was recently invited to a Hague Abduction Convention roundtable event as part of the Attorney-General's consultation process. Click the link to find out what happened (spoiler – it was a success!). Our thanks and appreciation to Miranda Kaye, Yvette Cehtel, Jessica Raffal, and Gina Masterton for their expert participation. You did us proud!

Hague Mothers go to London!

On Wednesday 22nd March, Hague Mothers went to the House of Parliament for a debate on the Hague Abduction Convention. The debate

had been called to highlight the stories of 'left behind' parents and to call for more government support for them. Nothing was to be said about the original intention of the Hague, or of the 75% of cases brought against mothers – most of whom are fleeing domestic violence.

Having been alerted to the debate by Hague mother Nataly Anderson, UK Steering Group members Adrienne Barnett, Sonja Ayeb-Karlsson, and Kim Fawcett produced a briefing paper: **The 1980 Hague Convention & the flight from domestic violence** which was circulated to key MPs. Our thanks to Nataly's MP Jonathan Lord, who name-checked us and eloquently presented the research which is now written up in Hansard.

[Here's the link to the full debate.](#) Jonathan's contribution is at 15.32.

[And here's a link to our briefing paper,](#) 'The 1980 Hague Convention & the Flight from Domestic Abuse'.



The Global Sisterhood is Growing

We now have over 60 wonderful women in the international HM team and the team page on our website was overflowing. So designer Liz Price has tidied us up. Check out our [team page](#) – we promise it will inspire you. Just to get you started, here's our **international Strategy Group** (full details on our [team page](#)):

Adrienne Barnett (UK)

Adrienne is a Reader in Law at Brunel University London. She specialised for 25 years in Family Law, primarily representing parents and children in serious care cases and in private law cases involving allegations of domestic abuse. She is a member of the Advisory Group of Rights of Women and of Women's Aid's Expert Advisory Group to the Child First campaign.

Nicole Fidler (US)

Nicole Fidler is the Director of the Pro Bono Project at Sanctuary for Families, a New York-based non-profit. She participated in the creation of the New York Hague Child Abduction Bench Guide for Federal & State and is co-chair of the New York City Bar Association's Pro Bono & Legal Services Committee

Cris McCurley (UK)

Cris is a Solicitor Advocate at Ben Hoare Bell LLP, and a Resolution-accredited specialist in International child abduction, domestic violence work and cases involving forced marriage and honour-based violence. She's also a member of various Ministry of Justice working groups on domestic abuse and family law.

Sudha Shetty (US)

Sudha is the founder and director of The Hague Domestic Violence Project at UC Berkeley. She has been working with judges, lawyers and academics across the US to create judicial benchguides and training, to protect women and their children from the unintended consequences of the Hague Convention. She's also

Miranda Kaye (Aus)

Miranda teaches & researches family law at UTS law school in Sydney. Her research draws on socio-legal research methods to investigate real world impacts of family law principles and procedures. She recently represented Hague Mothers at the Family Law Council Hague roundtable (see blog link above).

Jessica Raffael (Aus)

Jessica is a Manager Lawyer with International Social Service Australia, a non-profit organisation working in international parental child abduction law and the 1980 Hague Convention. She is leading a research and advocacy project about domestic violence and the Hague Convention with the goal of achieving better protection for victims/survivors of DV in Australia's implementation of the HAC.

Merle Weiner (US)

Merle is the Philip H.Knight Professor and the founder of the Domestic Violence Clinic at the University of Oregon School of Law. She is an expert in domestic abuse law, family law, international and comparative family law, family law policy and the HAC. Her article, 'You Can and You Should', was written to

a founding member of Chaya, a South Asian domestic violence prevention program in Seattle.

help trial courts apply the Hague Convention justly when the respondent is a DV survivor.

If you'd like to be part of our global movement for justice, get in touch with Ruth: Hague@FiLiA.org.uk

Our [twitter account](#) is now followed by almost 400 people and last month our website had 1,291 visits from 55 countries; the top five were UK, US, Australia, Canada & New Zealand. Please do tell others about the campaign; together we can and will end the injustices of the Hague Abduction Convention.

On the Blog

[The parental alienation belief system and its impact on mothers](#)

UK team member Dr Elizabeth Dalgarno & the SHERA Research Group have produced this superb video which gives an overview of the harms of the so-called 'Parental Alienation' belief system, which is used globally to deny child sexual and other abuse. The group hopes this video will help raise awareness of the plight of mothers and children and the structural violence they face in family courts. If you want to find out more about the research please contact her at: Elizabeth.dalgarno@manchester.ac.uk or via her [website](#).

Thank you for your interest in the Hague Mothers' project.

Together we can, and will, make change happen.

Ruth, Michelle, and the international Hague Mothers' project team.

#SolidarityWithHagueMothers #HagueMothers

Follow us on Twitter: [@FiLiAHagueMums](#)



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Our mailing address is:

FILIA
C/O Women's Resource Centre
41 North Road London
London, UK N7 9ER
United Kingdom

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