



Hague Mothers Newsletter November 2022

Dear <<First Name>>,

A special welcome to all our new subscribers!

We have almost doubled the number of subscribers since the FiLiA Conference. Please do share [this link](#) with others and help us to spread the word.

Hague Mothers at the FiLiA Conference

We're absolutely delighted to share the recording of the Hague Mothers' session from the amazing FiLiA Conference in Cardiff.



At the start of the video are audio clips from Hague Mothers and project participants from across the world. Huge thanks to them for their contributions and commitment to this campaign. The session recording starts at 15.30.

The event was dedicated to the memory of Hague Mother **Narkis Golan** who died on 20th October.

The Conference itself was absolutely wonderful with over 1700 Women from across the world coming together to celebrate the sisterhood, to raise our voices against injustice, to laugh, rage, cry, sing and dance, and to take action. Particularly moving for us was the fact that so many Hague mothers had made the journey to Cardiff, from the UK, Europe and the USA. For some, the Hague Court is a distant memory but the impact remains profound; some are trying to pick up the pieces of their lives in the aftermath of the Convention; others remain enmeshed in the nightmare. Their courage, determination, and endless generosity to each other is truly inspiring.

Allies and Co-Campaigners

We set up a Hague Mothers' stall at the Conference and gave out hundreds of leaflets and badges to attendees. The campaign drew lots of attention and support as did three other Hague campaigning groups: the long-established [Global ARRK](#), the [Hague Collective](#) (USA-based) and [Hague Convention Mothers](#) (UK-based). We intend to work closely with these groups, and with the [New Zealand Hague Collective](#) and Australia's [Her Hague Story](#), to maximise our reach and impact.

Our 'offers of help' sheet filled up quickly – we are following up on those offers which have come from lawyers, domestic violence professionals, child psychologists, journalists, activists, mothers, and grandmothers. Thanks to all of you.

Spreading the Word

Our latest website stats show that we've had 5,112 visits altogether, with 1,875 of those in October. Visitors came from 50 countries with the top 5 being the US, UK, Australia, Spain and South Africa. In October, 465 (42%) of visits came from organic search; the others were via media articles. These include:

- [Surviving Rape and Abuse in an International Marriage](#) – A Hague mother writes about surviving rape and abuse in an international marriage: *My body belonged to my husband. I was not free to use contraception – since my husband forbade it and doctors were unwilling to prescribe without his consent, even if I did manage to get to them. My husband forbade abortions, I had miscarriage after miscarriage due him beating me. My body and psyche were under siege. I pushed myself down under in order to survive.*
- [The dilemma mothers face when they become victims of abuse abroad – child abduction or domestic violence](#) – The view from Australia and the possibility of change: 'Shadow Attorney-General Julian Leeser has called on the Labor government to urgently review this aspect of the law. "The courts giving insufficient weight to evidence of family and domestic violence in Hague convention cases can have devastating consequences," he said. With an excellent overview from **Gina Masterton** of the Australian HM Steering Group.
- [Hague Mothers](#) – An article by **Julie Doughty** (a member of the UK project team) for the [Transparency Project](#), a UK charity that aims to make the processes of the family courts and family law more clear, open and available for challenge.
- [Children Forcibly Returned To Abusive Settings Under Hague Convention](#) – A piece for human rights' organisation Each Other which includes an interview with **Ruth Dineen** and with Hague mothers **Kim Fawcett** and **Anita Gera**.
- An [NBC article](#), and another from [Yahoo News](#), covering the death of **Narkis Golan** who had recently won an important Supreme Court ruling in a Hague case she had been fighting for six years.

A call to Action!

Very few people know about the Hague Abduction Convention. In no small part, this ignorance enables the injustice to continue. As a subscriber, please would you commit to telling two or more people about the Hague and asking them to tell others. Link people to our [website](#), and to the [resources](#) we have created for domestic violence professionals and for mothers who might be at risk of the Hague. Or share this Newsletter.

Who in your network needs to know? Family members, friends, work colleagues; do you know of lawyers, DV specialists, child psychologists, human rights activists, people working with immigrant women or refugees, academics, journalists, media experts, filmmakers, social workers, politicians, or influencers?

The greater our numbers, the stronger our voice.

Acknowledging Narkis Golan

Narkis wrote to her fellow Hague Mothers just a few days before she died. That letter was read out in full at the Conference. These were her closing words:

Be loud, be proud. Stand your ground and always stay true to what you believe in. Till the end. Because I believe in happy endings.



Copyright © 2022 FiLiA, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

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

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).