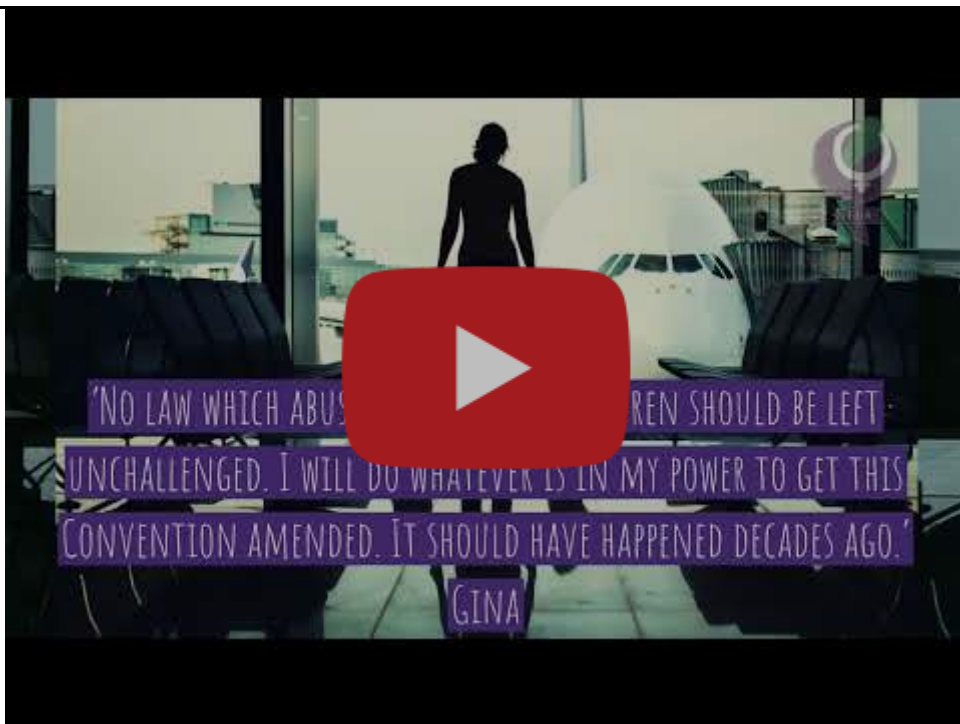




Hague Mothers Newsletter September 2022



FiLiA2022 Session Announcement: Hague Mothers: Injustice to Activism

Over 1250 tickets sold, another 150 for speakers, stall-holders and volunteers... [get yours now](#) before it's too late!

The main [Hague Mothers'](#) session will be on Sunday 23rd October, 4.00–5.30 p.m. with US lawyer & activist **Sudha Shetty**, academic & activist **Gina Hope Masterton** (Australia), Hague Mother turned Hague academic **Kim Fawcett** (UK) and the voices of Hague Mothers from across the world.

If you are coming, please let us know – there will be informal meet-ups arranged during the Conference and it would be so good to get to know you in real life!

Dear <<First Name>> ,

International Steering Group

We hope to be able to announce our International Steering Group at the Conference and we can promise you it's impressive! Our three country leads are already in place: **Adrienne Barnett** (UK), **Sudha Shetty** (USA), and **Miranda Kaye** (Australia/New Zealand). Huge thanks to them. The final line-up will include representatives from each country – academics, lawyers, domestic violence professionals, activists and Hague Mothers.

Spotlight on the HM project team...

We know that the Hague process itself, and the invariable court hearings that follow, is often traumatic in the extreme. Mothers experience it as a continuation of abuse. We're therefore particularly delighted to welcome UK academics **Rima Hussein** and **Imane El Hakimi** on to our [team](#). Rima is the principal investigator of a CAPE funded project creating vlogs to support Women domestic abuse survivors entering into the family law court system in England and Wales. As survivors of domestic abuse and the Family Courts, Imane and Rima are working on a paper which focuses on 'poetically tell[ing] our own stories'. Their powerful [Conversation piece](#) encourages Mothers to 'find the words and courage to be heard'. As they have so eloquently done.

Hague Mothers is a women-led and women-focused campaign – the international Sisterhood in action. Working alongside that powerhouse is a highly select number (three to be precise) of advisors:

Jeff Edleson of UC Berkeley has been supporting the project almost from the get-go. His research examines the impact of adult violence on children, international parental abduction in cases of domestic violence, and the evaluation of interventions and policies on family violence. Jeff is a member of the National Advisory

Ben Keith is a New Zealand barrister specialising in constitutional, human rights and international law. **Daniel Vincent** is a director at CS Law in Wellington, specialising in complex family litigation, especially involving international and cross-border issues. Ben and Daniel argued the Hague case known as LRR – the first

Committee on Violence Against Women and the founding director of the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse. And the book which he co-authored with Taryn Lindhorst – *Battered Women, Their Children, and International Law* – makes a powerful case for change.

successful appeal to the New Zealand Court of Appeal in a Hague grave risk case since at least 2003. In doing so, they secured some important substantive and, particularly, procedural improvements in the Convention as applied in New Zealand – improvements that put women and children fleeing violence in a fairer and better-supported position. We hope to build on this success.

Hague Mothers' Story Archive

Preparation and planning for this is almost complete. In October we'll put out a request to Hague Mothers to tell us their stories, and we'll begin to collect them in November. A key aim will be to understand and share the impact of Hague Convention decisions on Mothers who are escaping domestic abuse. By interviewing Women who have been through this experience, we hope to raise awareness about the effect of such decisions, create a powerful evidence-base, and utilise it to challenge the way the Convention is currently being applied.

Hague Convention Mothers – new radical-feminist charity

Our last Newsletter mentioned the newly-created Hague Collective charity in the US, and the NZ survivor-led support group. And here's the latest addition: project-team members Kim Fawcett and Anita Gere are about to launch a charity which aims to promote a Mothers' right to a private and family life with her children throughout the world. The Women-focused charity will provide information to mothers on how and when the Hague Convention applies, and to provide education and training to relevant public, statutory and other bodies, in order to avoid these bodies giving incorrect, albeit well-meaning, advice to Mothers fleeing domestic abuse abroad with their children. They also plan to undertake and promote research into the aftermath of Convention cases and the impact a return has on a Mother and her children.

Sounds wonderful. The website goes live soon:

www.hagueconventionmothers.org

Hague Mothers Film

US-based filmmaker Robert Abbott will be at the FiLiA Conference and will be conducting on-camera interviews for a documentary film he is producing and directing on The Hague Convention and how it is being used to separate children from their Mothers. Robert has won six Emmy Awards in five different categories, and his work on [Corrective Rape](#) was named the story of the year in 2011 by the United Nations. More about Robert [here](#).

If you'd like to find out more about the film, or are interested in speaking to Robert – on or off camera – his contact details are:

robert@heyabbottentertainment.com [linkedin.com/in/robert-abbott-03931766](https://www.linkedin.com/in/robert-abbott-03931766)

Global ARRK Online Sessions for Professionals

We recently sent out briefings and posters to all domestic violence organisations in the UK and Ireland and have had some positive feedback which is appreciated. Serendipitously, [Global ARRK](#) are offering free online sessions on the Hague for UK professionals. Here's the information:

We would like to invite you to sign up for a free Zoom session aimed at professionals who work with families affected by international child abduction under the Hague Convention 1980 and international relocation / leave to remove. This will be a short 30-minute introductory session, discussing the issues parents face and what we can do to help families. Please [sign up here](#) to receive information about the session dates.

And...

Sally Jackson recently interviewed **Emma Katz** for [an episode of the FiLiA Podcast](#). It's compelling and chilling in equal measure. Emma describes what coercive control is like for Mothers and their children and importantly how the Mother-child relationship affects both its impact and their recovery. The podcast is based on Emma's recently published book [Coercive Control in Children's and Mothers' Lives](#) which is available to purchase from the FiLiA Book Shop.

In Sisterhood and Solidarity
The Hague Mothers Team.

Thank you for your interest in the Hague Mothers project.

Please do share this newsletter and information about the project with others.

Together we can, and will, make change happen.

#SolidarityWithHagueMothers

#justiceForHagueMothers



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