



Hague Mothers Newsletter March 2024

Dear <<First Name>> ,

The sun is sparkling, the daffodils are dancing, and the blossom trees are about to burst into flower here in Wales. Here's to hope, growth and rebirth in 2024. And...

Stop Press!

Rapporteur of 1980 Convention proposes 'reinterpretation' to take account of domestic violence.

In a hugely significant [interview](#) for Uruguayan newspaper *La Diaria*, one of the originators of the treaty, Judge Elisa Pérez-Vera, told journalist Patricia Álvares:

'If I had to write it today, I would think that one of the circumstances that judges can take into account when affirming that there is an exception to the return of the child to the place of habitual residence, is precisely the existence of an abuser, of a father who exercises gender violence on the mother, and normally also in a vicarious way, on the abducted child.'

The full interview, and other powerful articles on the injustices of the Hague

Convention can be found on [The Hague Papers website](#), a new venture set up by Patrícia to connect journalists across the world who are interested in investigating and writing about the Convention.

Heartfelt thanks to Patricia for this important initiative.

Pretoria Forum: the Hague, domestic abuse & Article 13b.

We've had confirmation that the Forum will go ahead in Pretoria (18th–21st June 2024). Here's the registration information from HCCH (we'll post the full information on our website).

Registration will occur in two stages, commencing with pre-registration by e-mail to secretariat@hcch.net

Pre-registration will be open until 12 April 2024, 5.00 p.m. (CEST) by providing the name, function and e-mail address of the designated attendee(s) and using the following subject line: 'Pre-registration for Forum DV 1980 Convention - [name of HCCH Member or non-Member Contracting Party]'. Please specify for each representative whether the representative(s) will attend the Forum in person or online. Online attendance will be passive.

Earlier this month, we sent the Secretary-General a proposal for the three-day programme. Our suggested **core aims** are:

- to build sustainable relationships of trust and mutuality among all stakeholders
- to extend knowledge and understanding of the impact of the HCCH on victims of domestic abuse
- to begin, through collaborative dialogue, a process of change that protects victim-survivors of domestic abuse in relation to the HCCH

And our proposed **key outputs** are:

1. The Pretoria Declaration: a set of practical recommendations focused on ensuring that:
 - domestic abuse victims (mothers and children) are protected by the HCCH
 - the safety and wellbeing of the child is at the heart of its implementation
2. Buy-in from participating states who commit to:
 - implement the recommendations
 - undertake research to track the efficacy of these actions
 - share the results of the research in order to make further progress.

This is a real opportunity for mothers' voices to be heard, and for meaningful change. We are keeping everything crossed.

On the website...

[Podcast with Revibra Europa](#)

'Sometimes going back [to Brazil] is the only way to ensure that they will stay alive and to protect their children. If you are in a place where you don't have a support system, you don't have a network, you don't know that you can stay there ... they can't file a complaint. They are stigmatised by the system, by the government, by the courts, by the state.'

Sally Jackson in conversation with Janaina Albuquerque of [Revibra Europa](#), a network of legal experts and psychologists who provide advice and support to Brazilian victims of domestic abuse. They have considerable experience of Hague cases, and of the additional barriers faced by migrant women in negotiating the court hearing and the aftermath. We're delighted to be working in partnership with them - thank you for your time and expertise Janaina!

Guest blog: Case-law - Article 13b Defence

We're delighted to feature this [guest blog](#) from [Right to Equality](#) whose founder and CEO, Dr Charlotte Proudman, represented the mother in a recent UK case which helps set a precedent that domestic abuse is serious and can create a situation where the child is at grave risk if returned to their abuser.

From the Resource Library...

- [The struggle of migrant mothers: escaping abuse and confronting international abduction charges](#) by Ana Dutra Tagliati for Migrant Women's Press
- [Women's Rights and Child Abduction under the Hague Convention](#) co-authored by HM US members Stephanie Brandt and Valentina Shaknes, along with Justine Stringer.
- [Ameliorative Measures gut the Grave Risk exception under the Hague Convention](#) Valentina Shaknes and Justine Stringer argue that 'ameliorative measures' do not protect children facing 'grave risk of harm' upon return to home country and that consideration of such measures should be eliminated by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Plus we've set up a [case-law section](#) which includes the UK case that Dr

Charlotte Proudman was involved in, and the Amici Curiae brief submitted by 83 Italian domestic violence organisations in support of Narkis Golan.

If you have any relevant case-law documents, please send them to us at Hague@FiLiA.org.uk

Admin support for the HM campaign.

We've achieved a huge amount since we launched two years ago but, as we've grown in size and influence, the workload has become somewhat overwhelming. So we're thrilled to announce that FiLiA will be funding a part-time admin support post to help us move to the next level. We'll share the advert in our next issue.

Thanks to our members and supporters across the world – working together to change the Convention and protect survivor mothers and their children.



Finally... for all those fans of **PeopleToo Jewellery**, [these exquisite 'stop' earrings](#) are back in stock, with a donation to FiLiA Hague Mothers made on each purchase. They represent the fight against male violence against women & girls, but they are also a gesture of connection.

Available in sterling silver or gold vermeil. Thanks Dittany!

Ruth & Sally

#SolidarityWithHagueMothers #HagueMothers



Copyright © 2024 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](#).