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Hague Mothers Newsletter May 2024

Dear <<First Name>>,

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction is '**A Good Law Gone Bad**'. Find out about our **Plan** to fix it, and get a **Legal Overview** of the situation.

Our main focus currently is preparing for the unprecedented **Forum on the Hague Convention & Domestic Violence** taking place in South Africa from 18th to 21st June.

- Apply to attend online via secretariat@hcch.net and let us know if you are going to be there so that we can say hello.
- Hague Mothers is a [FiLiA](#) Male Violence Against Women and Girls (MVAWG) project.
- We have recently had funding for a temporary part-time Admin Support role to

help with the preparation for, and outcomes of, the Forum. That role has been split between the two women below:

Introducing Our Admin Support



Arlene is a brilliant administrator with a background in business development. As a Hague mum herself, she understands the brutal impact of the Convention, and so her focus will be on looking after our 70+ members. She is currently working on our Mother's Voices project which aims to get your voices heard at the Forum. If you are a Hague mother and are able to contribute anonymously, please get in touch on hagueadmin@filia.org.uk



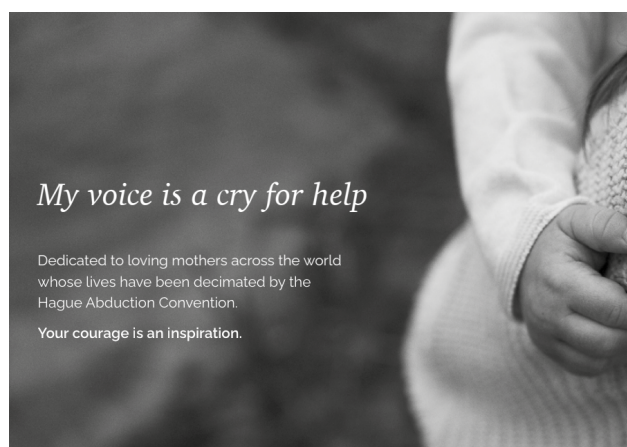
Dee is a [jewellery designer](#) with a background in project management and language assessment publishing. Eclectic! She is a FiLiA volunteer – the newsletter editor – and will be working on communications related tasks for Hague Mothers. She puts this newsletter together, and helps Ruth Dineen with [Twitter](#). She is also organising live tweeting of the Forum.

Forum on the Hague Convention & Domestic Violence

This ground-breaking event takes place in Johannesburg from 18th to 21st June with around 100 invited attendees from across the world and many more watching online.

It has come about in response to the #ProtectHagueVictims [global petition](#) which garnered over 37,000 signatures; our [open letter](#) to the Special Commission signed by over 90 international experts; and an [open letter](#) to the Commission from **UN**

Special Rapporteur on VAWG Reem Alsalem and two of her colleagues. But most of all, it is happening because of Hague mothers and children from across the globe who wrote to the Hague Secretary-General and who shared their stories in our [Mothers' Voices](#) booklet.



Our thanks to every one of you for helping to create this opportunity; thanks also to the [Hague Conference on Private International Law](#) (HCCH) for acknowledging that the Hague is failing to protect victim-survivors of domestic violence and for enabling these discussions to take place.

FiLiA Hague Mothers will be there – along with partners and Hague mothers – to raise awareness and share evidence of the harms caused to children by a Convention which was intended to protect them.

The Programme

There are ten sessions in a very packed programme. Among other topics they cover the trauma caused by domestic violence, hearing the voice of the child, mediation, risk assessment and protective measures, post-decision support for children and families, and relocation.

A key session for us is Wednesday morning's lived-experience panel. We have been working with [GlobalARRK](#), [Revibra](#), Australia's [Her Hague Story](#) and the [New Zealand Hague Collective](#), and with mothers across the world to ensure that, for the first time, testimonies of the real-world impact of the Convention are heard in this influential setting. It will be a powerful event.

Attendees

A number of our international experts will be attending in-person. Our coordinator **Ruth Dineen** will be there along with:

- **Dr Adrienne Barnett** (Brunel University)
- **Roz Osborne** (GlobalARRK)
- **Nicole Fidler** (Director Narkis Golan DV Initiative)
- **Lisa Fischel-Wolovick** (US attorney, social worker, author)
- **Louise Godbold** (Echo trauma consultant, US)
- **Donna Johnson** (feminist activist, writer, counsellor, Canada)
- **Dr Ruth Lamont** (University of Manchester)
- **Dr Miranda Kaye** (UTS Law School Australia)
- **Jessica Raffal** (International Social Service Australia)
- **Valentina Shaknes** (US attorney, Krauss Shaknes Tallentire & Messeri)
- **Professor Merle Weiner** (University of Oregon)

Others are attending online including **Professor Stephanie Brandt** (Weill Cornell Medical College) and **Professor Jeffrey Edleson** (University of California Berkeley) who have been invited to present online.

Janaína Albuquerque and **Juliana Wahlgren** of Revibra will be presenting in-person and online respectively.

Short bios of most of the above are on our Hague Mothers [team page](#) – they are a truly extraordinary group with extensive knowledge of all aspects of the Hague Convention and domestic violence and an absolute commitment to safeguarding mothers and children who are caught up in Hague proceedings or who are dealing with the aftermath.

Our team

Hague Mums attending

We will be particularly proud to share a platform with two Hague mothers, **Justina** who founded Her Hague Story in Australia, and **Sammie** who co-founded the New Zealand Hague Collective. Their courage and their generosity in fighting for other mothers is absolutely inspiring.



You might be able to help Sammie of New Zealand Hague Collective to attend the Forum. If you can, please donate to their funder.

Donate here

Website Updates

Our [Resource Library](#) is a great source of information for Hague mothers and for Academics and others working in the field of domestic violence, coercive control and the family courts.

You will also find all previous editions of this newsletter there.

Newsletters

Newsletters



APRIL 30, 2024



MARCH 29, 2024



FEBRUARY 29, 2024



JANUARY 29, 2024

The Forum won't change the world but it is a first important step towards ensuring that the original intention of the Convention – to safeguard children – once again becomes the priority. Currently it is causing serious, even lethal, harm.

Ruth, Dee, Arlene & Sally

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#SolidarityWithHagueMothers #ProtectHagueMothers



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