



## Hague Mothers Newsletter January 2023

Dear <<First Name>> ,

**Happy (rather late) New Year!**

We're looking forward to an inspiring and action-filled year, and to the beginning of the end of the injustices of the Hague Convention.

**The Project Team is growing (and growing)...**

A number of new members have joined us, from the UK, Australia, Canada and the US. They include Hague Mother **Nataly Anderson**, founder of Family Court Crisis; **Elizabeth Dalgarno**, chair & co-founder of SHERA Research Group; award-winning solicitor **Rachel Horman-Brown**; psychotherapist and human rights advocate **Saira Khan**; **Nicole Fidler**, pro-bono lead for Sanctuary for Families in New York; Canadian activist, counsellor and writer **Donna Johnson**; and solicitors **Gabrielle Craig** and **Amy Power** of Women's Legal Services New South Wales. And **Natalie Page** of The Court Said has offered to support us in an advisory role.

In addition, FiLiA volunteer **Michelle Kerwin** is now working on the project one day a week, providing much-appreciated administrative and organisational assistance.

**Thanks to all for sharing your expertise, skills, and passion for justice.**

## Website update

We're in the process of updating our website, adding to the Project Team page, and also to the [Resource Library](#), which is expanding to include:

- [Practicalities](#): We will be adding resources at regular intervals for legal, domestic violence, and social work professionals, expert witnesses, academics, and mothers who may potentially find themselves facing a Hague case or are currently involved with the courts and the aftermath.
- [Academic Resources](#): Key texts relating to the Hague Abduction Convention and associated topics. We will prioritise open-source titles from the past decade.
- [Media articles](#)
- [Hague Judgments](#): As a resource for mothers, their lawyers, and expert witnesses, we'll be compiling published Hague judgments, particularly in cases where a return order has not been granted.

We'd be grateful for any suggestions for additions to these resources.

## 2023 priorities

In the face of technical problems and time-zone impossibilities, we have held our first international meeting to discuss our priority actions. The Hague Special Commission will be meeting in October: in the lead-up to that event, our aim is to raise our profile through a number of webinars, presentations and articles, and to produce one or more submissions for the Commission – as Hague Mothers and/or as individuals.

## And our members have been busy...

Rachel Horman-Brown's book [A Practical Guide to Coercive Control for Legal Practitioners and Victims](#) is receiving rave reviews, including from Cris McCurley: *'What Rachel Horman doesn't know about coercive control is not worth knowing ... This accessible, easy to read guide is an excellent tool for practitioners and victims alike. It is packed with useful hints for identifying and understanding the issue, getting legal aid, and representing victims to achieve best outcomes ... I can't recommend it highly enough.'*

Miranda Kaye & Annabelle Gray's article [Redressing the balance: how Australia's approach under the HAC is still endangering victims of domestic violence](#) has just been published in the International Journal of Law, Policy & the Family. It looks at the *'concerning reality that the courts continue to prioritise a prompt return over the safety and well-being of women and children exposed to domestic violence'*.

And here's a recent blog from **Adrienne Barnett** & Charlotte Proudman, published by Women's Aid: [KvK – a retreat from progress in the family courts?](#) Their research '*found serious shortcomings in its implementation and deep-rooted systemic barriers to achieving meaningful cultural change, leading to a continuous 'cycle of failure'*'.

**Saira Khan** has written a clear and comprehensive guide: [How to support survivors of coercive control](#): 1. Believe them & be patient; 2. Know they will not trust you; 3. Do not remain neutral; 4. Encourage them to trust themselves; 5. Encourage them to connect with others who will support them.

Finally, **Jan Ford**'s book – [The Loving Abductor](#) – will be reduced to 99p on Amazon on 28th January as part of the promo for International Storytelling Week. If 50+ people buy a Kindle copy on 28th, Amazon will promote it. It's a powerful account of the brutality of the Convention – let's help Jan spread the word!

***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



Copyright © 2023 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](#).