



Hague Mothers Newsletter July 2023

Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to the July issue of our Newsletter. Please share with friends and colleagues and spread the word about our campaign.

Meeting with UN SR Reem Alsalem

Members of our International Strategy Group had the huge pleasure of meeting with UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women Reem Alsalem this week, to discuss our campaign and consider how we might build on what's already been achieved. Her recent report on 'Custody, violence against women, and violence against children' is clear about the potential harms of the Hague and recommends that:

*'The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction be revised to better protect abused women and their children by allowing a stronger defence against return if there is family & domestic violence, incorporating **an understanding that a child's return order may compel an abuse survivor to return to violence and harm** [emphasis added], and that courts with jurisdiction under the Convention be required to consider family & domestic violence when interpreting and applying its provisions.'*

We look forward to working with Reem to achieve our shared goals. Heartfelt thanks to her from Hague Mothers and FiLiA, for her steadfast commitment

to women and girls worldwide.

Time for Change information video

In case you're not one of the over 800 people who have viewed our newly-launched [information video](#), we recommend you do so now! It's presented by Hague mother and Court Crisis founder Nataly Anderson, directed by filmmaker Vaishnavi Sundar, and funded by Northumbria University through a research project into domestic violence and the Hague led by Dr Rima Hussein. Thanks to all of them, and to the Hague mothers whose voices are included in the video.

Time for Change co-design workshop

Funding for this research project also enabled us to facilitate a co-design workshop on 7th July to consider how we might safeguard mothers and their children who are victims of domestic violence and facing a Hague petition or dealing with the aftermath of the court decision. Lawyers, academics, DV professionals, and Hague mothers worked together on a set of priority actions focused on every stage of the journey: pre-flight, pre-court, court, post-court. Their creative ambition was hugely energising. Here's [the report](#) from the workshop. Huge thanks to everyone who took part, and to Rima for making it possible.

The Hague and Domestic Violence policy brief

The other important outcome from Part 1 of the Time for Change research is this comprehensive policy brief [*Protection of Abducting Mothers in Return Proceedings under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*](#) co-authored by Professor Katarina Trimmings (Aberdeen University), Konstantina Kalaitsoglou (Pinsent Masons), and Dr Rima Hussein (Northumbria University).

Protect Hague Victims petition

This international petition was set up by GlobalARRK in collaboration with: New Zealand Hague Collective; Ark of Hope, Australia; Hague Collective, US; New York Sanctuary for Families; Hague Mothers Japan; Maes de Haia, Brazil; Revibra, Europe & Brazil; Far From Home, India; and FiLiA Hague Mothers. It's been translated into eight languages and, at the time of writing, was heading towards 30,000 signatures.

Please help to #ProtectHagueVictims and [SIGN](#), share, and share again!



Webinar. Private International Law and the Voices of Children

Last month, Miranda Kaye of our International Steering Group took part in an [international webinar](#), alongside Philippe Lortie of the [HCCH](#) (from 29 minutes).

Philippe suggested that the Hague Abduction Convention *‘implement[s] the best interests of the child... all safeguard the right of the child to be heard, to express their wishes’*.

Miranda strongly disagreed: *‘the welfare or best interests of the individual child are NOT the focus of Hague proceedings’ ... ‘harms on return included violence, intimidation, control, financial abuse, homelessness and separation from their children – despite them returning – because orders had been made in their absence’ ... ‘The law can simply not protect women and children’*.

Thank you for your expertise and eloquence Miranda. It is concerning that a senior member of the HCCH appears to be unaware of the realities of the Hague Convention for mothers and children in abusive relationships.

From the blog

In India, a core group of just 10 women created a campaign to persuade their government not to sign the Hague Abduction Convention treaty. And they won. ‘In a sea of despair for women aiming to reform the convention, it provides hope and shows what is possible with limited time and resources.’ Thanks to author **Leela**



Misra, founder of Far from Home and a member of our US team, for sharing this inspiring [story](#).

Additions to our Resource Library

Here's our [submission](#) to the Australian Legal & Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry in relation to the Hague Abduction Convention.

And another excellent research presentation from the indefatigable Gina Masterton on [Inequality of Arms: mothers' experiences.](#)

And we're still growing...

Our latest, very welcome, members are: writer and US human rights attorney **Dorothy Kozak Snock**; designer and activist **Irina Olalde Farjardo**; and human rights lawyer **Samantha Rodríguez Santillán**. And we're now active in Mexico!

If you have skills or expertise to offer and would like to join us, please get in touch with Ruth at Hague@FiLiA.org.uk

Together we will make change happen.

#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](#).

