



Hague Mothers Newsletter May/June 2023

Dear <<First Name>> ,

In case you missed it...

Nearly 350 people registered from 28 countries, and the YouTube recording has already been viewed by almost 270 people. If you missed it, here's the link – it was superb! And please continue to share.

[From Abduction to Protection: ending the injustices of the Hague Convention](#)

HAGUE Mothers From abduction to protection: Ending the injustices of the Hague Convention

Chair
Adrienne Barnett

Panel
Jeffrey Edleson
Nicole Fidler
Miranda Kaye
Ben Keith
Sudha Shetty

Q&A co-ordination
Kim Fawcett
Sonja Ayeb-Karlsson

FiLiA | Brunel University Global Lives Research Centre

International Actions

We're working on a range of international initiatives leading up to the Eighth Meeting of the Hague Special Commission in October. We'll share information about these in future Newsletters, and ask for your help in amplifying our message.

UK updates

So much happening here – especially in academia...

The Hague at Brunel University's Research Festival

Dr Adrienne Barnett, Reader in Law at Brunel, Dr Sonja Ayeb-Karlsson, Lecturer in Policy, Intersectionality and Violence at University College London (UCL), and Kim Fawcett, Hague mother, Teaching Fellow at Durham University and Co-Director of the Durham Gender and Law Research Centre, gave well-received presentations on 'Fleeing Domestic Abuse Across Borders' at the Brunel Festival.

The recordings should be available soon.

University of Manchester International Festival of Public Health

FiLiA Hague Mothers will feature at the conference on 6th and 7th July along with former Chief Crown Prosecutor Nazir Afzal OBE, and former Green Party Leader Baroness Natalie Bennett. Hague mother Nataly Anderson will be speaking in the End Male Violence Against Women and Children session, along with Dr Elizabeth Dalgarno (also of Hague Mothers and founder of SHERA Research Group), Dr Emma Katz, world-leading expert and author of *Coercive Control in the Lives of Mothers and Children* (and a member of the project team), Leanne Patrick RN a sector-leading specialist RN(MH) in domestic abuse and sexual violence and Murylo Batista, anti-violence researcher-activist. [You can register for the event here.](#)

Hague co-design workshop & information video

Thanks to Dr Rima Hussein of Northumbria University, we are facilitating an online Time for Change co-design workshop on 7th July to consider how we might safeguard mothers and their children who are facing a Hague petition, or dealing with the aftermath of the court decision.

It's the culmination of a research project into DV and the Hague that Rima is leading. In Part 1 she is working with Dr Katarina Trimmings (Aberdeen University) on research and policy; Part 2 focuses on awareness-raising and action-planning.

We'll also launch our Northumbria University-funded Time for Change Hague information video at the event, presented by Hague mother Nataly Anderson,

and directed by filmmaker Vaishnavi Sundar. We'll share the link in the next newsletter.

Updates from Australia

The Australian Attorney-General is continuing to take a lead in safeguarding Hague mothers and children who are fleeing domestic abuse and coercive control. Following our [roundtable meeting](#) with the Family Law Council we sent our '[What Needs to Change](#)' paper to the Attorney-General to encourage him to take an holistic, context-based approach to safeguarding Hague mothers and their children. In response, we have been invited to meet with one of his senior staff to discuss the paper. We particularly wish to emphasise: the necessity for mothers to receive specialist legal support that is domestic violence and trauma-informed; and the need for the child's opinions, wishes and feelings to be fully considered in Hague cases.

On the Hague Mothers Campaign Blog

- A powerful [podcast](#) from Anna Kerr, founder and principal solicitor of Feminist Legal Services in Sydney: "There needs to be a presumption in favour of children remaining with their mothers where the mother is the primary care-giver. The onus should not be on a mother to prove that she should retain care of her own child."
- And an energising conversation with Dr Sonja Ayeb-Karlsson of UCL, and Kim Fawcett of Durham University about their innovative approach to [Teaching the Hague & Inspiring Activists](#). Information about UCL's Global Humanitarian Studies programme is [here](#).

Stop Press 1

[Family Courts. The inside story.](#)

Dr Adrienne Barnett in conversation with Phil of Dark World Podcast.
Unmissable!

Stop Press 2

[The Research Handbook on International Child Abduction](#) edited by Marilyn Freeman & Nicola Taylor is out now. Of particular note is Chapter 7 'Fleeing for safety: Helping battered mothers and their children using Article 13(1)(b)', written by HM project advisor Jeffrey Edleson, International Strategy Group member Sudha Shetty and Mary Fata.

The team...

We're still growing! Our latest, very welcome, members are: Stella Furquim co-founder of GAMBE, a grassroots organisation that supports Brazilian

women in vulnerable situations around the world; Stephanie Brandt MD, New York adult & child psychiatrist & psychoanalyst and expert witness in Hague Convention cases; Hague mother Lisa Ogawa who is launching a Hague support organisation in Japan; and Hague mother Julia Erickson in Vienna who is working with other mothers in Europe to support them through the legal and emotional minefield of the Convention.

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.

In solidarity with Hague mothers across the world.

Ruth, Michelle & FiLiA

#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](#).