



15 Years of the HCCH Washington Declaration

Progress and Perspectives on International Family Relocation

2-4 April 2025

Embassy of Canada, Washington DC

DRAFT AGENDA

Last updated: 2025-04-01 at 11h30 CET

Wednesday 2 April 2025	
Time	Item
12:00 – 13:00	Security Check & Registration Embassy of Canada, 501 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.
13:00 – 13:30	Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Canadian Senior Government Official- Rachael Kelsey, President of IAFL- Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General, HCCH Agenda overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Philippe Lortie, First Secretary, HCCH
	Afternoon Moderators <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Noelle Hunter, Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Alabama in Huntsville, and Founding Partner in the Coalition to End International Parental Child Abduction- Carolina Marin Pedreno, Vice President of IAFL

13:30 – 15:00	<p>Session 1 - Setting the scene: The harmful effects of international child abduction and international family relocation as a potential tool to help prevent it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Washington Declaration on International Family Relocation – 15 years Later - Diana Bryant, former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia, Chair of the Board of the 9th World Congress on Family Law & Children's Rights and Chair of the Drafting Committee for the March 2010 Washington Declaration on International Family Relocation, former Member of the IHNJ - The impact of child abduction and relocation on children - Dr. Ruth Zitner, Psy.D. - The impact of depriving children of parental contact - Dr. Jorge Guerra, Member of the International Association for the Maintenance of the Best Interest of the Child (IAMBIC), International Council on Shared Parenting (ICSP) - Overview of international family relocation - Professor Robert George KC, University College London, Barrister at Harcourt Chambers <p>Q&A</p>
15:00 – 15:30	Group photo & coffee / tea break
15:30 – 17:00	<p>Session 2 - International family relocation - State of play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HCCH Conventions - Philippe Lortie, First Secretary, HCCH - HCCH Tools - Laura Martinez-Mora, First Secretary, HCCH - A study of how applicant parents experience relocation proceedings to return to the country they consider home - Dr. Nishat Hyder-Rahman, Postdoctoral Fellow, MSCA Impact Fellowship Programme, <i>Vakgroep privaatrecht en economisch recht</i> (PREC) - Relocation under Canada's <i>Divorce Act</i> - Geneviève Laurence, Counsel, Family Law and Youth Justice Policy Section of the Department of Justice Canada <p>Q&A</p>
17:00	End of Day 1

Thursday 3 April 2025	
Time	Item
8:30 – 9:00	<p>Security Check</p> <p>Embassy of Canada, 501 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.</p>

	Morning Moderators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michelle Bernier-Toth, Special Advisor for Children's Issues, US State Department - Melissa Kucinski, IAFL Fellow
9:00 – 10:30	Session 3 - States with specific relocation procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canada - Judge Gwen B. Hatch, Associate Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench of Manitoba (Family Division), Winnipeg, Member of the IHNJ - Chile – Javiera Verdugo Toro, Lawyer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs - South Africa - Ronaldah Lerato Karabo Ozah, Director of Centre for Child Law, University of Pretoria - United Arab Emirates - Awatif Al Khouri, IAFL Fellow, and Dr. Hassan Elhais, Co-Chair of the IAFL Relocation Committee, IAFL Fellow - Presentation by: Awatif Al Khouri <p>Q&A</p>
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee / tea break
10:45 – 12:15	Session 4 - States that follow case law or guidelines in relocation cases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Australia - Diana Bryant, former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia, Chair of the Board of the 9th World Congress on Family Law & Children's Rights and Chair of the Drafting Committee for the March 2010 Washington Declaration on International Family Relocation, former Member of the IHNJ - India - Anil Malhotra, Secretary of the IAFL Relocation Committee, IAFL Fellow - UK (England & Wales) - Lord Justice Stephen Cobb, Court of Appeal Judge, Royal Courts of Justice, London - USA - Hiram Puig-Lugo, Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Washington D.C., Member of the IHNJ <p>Q&A</p>
12:15 – 13:45	Lunch
	Afternoon Moderators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Javiera Verdugo, Lawyer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile - Emmanuelle Jacques, Counsel, Department of Justice Canada
13:45 – 15:15	Session 5 - States that follow case law or guidelines in relocation cases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Argentina - Judge Marcela Sandra Trillini, Judge in charge of the Family Court No 9, San Carlos de Bariloche, Río Negro, Member of the IHNJ - France - Anthony Manwaring, <i>Magistrat de liaison</i>, Embassy of France in Washington DC - Hungary - Soma Kölcsényi, IAFL Fellow - Spain - Lola Lopez-Muelas, President of AEAFA, IAFL Fellow <p>Q&A</p>

15:15 – 15:30	Coffee / tea break
15:30 – 17:00	<p>Session 6 - States that utilise best interests assessments as guidelines in relocation cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brazil - Judge Guilherme Calmon Nogueira Da Gama, Vice-President, Regional Federal Court of the Second Region, Rio de Janeiro, Member of the IHNJ - Germany - Judge Martina Erb-Klünemann, Judge of the Family Court, District Court of Hamm, Member of the IHNJ - Mexico - Judge Oscar Gregorio Cervera Rivero, Family Magistrate, Superior Court of Justice of Mexico City, Member of the IHNJ - Netherlands - Judge Annette C. Olland, Family Law and International Child Protection Division, District Court of The Hague, Member of the IHNJ <p>Q&A</p>
17:00	End of Day 2
17:00 – 19:00	<p>Reception</p> <p><i>Nelson Mullins 101 Constitution Avenue, NW 9th Floor Washington, DC 20001</i></p> <p><i>*Enter through the main lobby entrance on Louisiana Avenue, NW. There will be a check-in table in the main lobby where guests will be directed to the proper elevator bank to go to the 9th floor</i></p> <p>Kindly sponsored by:</p> <div>  </div>

Friday 4 April 2025

Time	Item
8:30 – 9:00	Security Check Embassy of Canada, 501 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.
	Morning Moderators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andrea Wright, Senior Legal Adviser, Ministry of Justice of the UK - Laura Martinez-Mora, First Secretary, HCCH
9:00 – 10:30	Session 7 - Research & Policy work on international family relocation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Social Service (ISS) - Marc Bauer, Deputy Director, ISS Germany - Asociación Internacional de Juristas de Derecho de Familia (AIJUDEFa) - Patricia Kuyumdjian de Williams, President of AIJUDEFa, IAFL Fellow - International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL) - Anna Worwood, Co-Chair of the IAFL Relocation Committee, IAFL Fellow - Global Research on Relocation - Professor Marilyn Freeman, Co-Director, International Centre for Family Law, Policy and Practice; Principal Research Fellow, University of Westminster; Chair, International Association of Child Law Researchers (IACLaR); 4PB Door Tenant; IAFL Associate Fellow, and Professor Nicola Taylor, Faculty of Law, University of Otago, New Zealand; Secretary, International Association of Child Law Researchers (IACLaR); IAFL Associate Fellow <p>Q&A</p>
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee / tea break
10:45 – 12:15	Session 8 - The use of alternate dispute resolution and other services in cases of international family relocation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reunite - Alison Shalaby, CEO reunite - Overview of a mediation training initiative for Central Authorities under the 1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions - Marzia Ghigliazza, IAFL Fellow - GlobalARRK - Roz Osborne, CEO GlobalARRK - Mediation experience - Alexander Jones, Lawyer / Mediator <p>Q&A</p>
12:15 – 13:00	Concluding remarks
13:00	End of Day 3 – End of Conference