

Cross-border child protection: Legal and social perspectives

Towards a better protection of children worldwide – The 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention in practice

21 to 23 October 2015

Centre Œcuménique, Route de Ferney 150, Geneva, Switzerland

Provisional Agenda

Wednesday 21 October 2015

- 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m. Registration
- 9.00 a.m. – 9.30 a.m. **Official opening and welcoming remarks**
- 9.30 a.m. – 9.50 a.m. **The protection of vulnerable children in cross-border situations: Introduction to the conference and information on the parallel workshop on international family mediation**
- Presentations
- 9.50 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. **The socio-legal framework of the 1996 Convention**
- Presentation(s) and Discussion
- 10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m. Coffee Break
- 10.45 a.m. – 12.45 p.m. The operation of the 1996 Convention in practice – selected thematic topics:
- The role of the 1996 Convention in international custody, access and relocation cases**
- Presentation(s) and Discussion
- International child abduction – ensuring the safe return of the child**
- Presentation(s) and Discussion
- 12.45 p.m. – 1.45 p.m. Lunch Break
- 1.45 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. The 1996 Convention in today's world:
- Promoting the 1996 Convention in non-Contracting States – current state of play and new horizons**
- Presentation(s) and Discussion
- 3.00 p.m. – 3.15 p.m. Coffee Break
- 3.15 p.m. – 5.15 p.m. **The relevance of the 1996 Convention in Islamic legal systems**
- Presentations and Discussion
- Round table: Ensuring the harmonious development of the child worldwide - Example: right to be heard and best interests of the child**
- Presentation(s) and Discussion

- 5.15 p.m. End of Day One
- 6.00 p.m. Official welcome at the Palais Eynard (Rue de la Croix-Rouge 4, Geneva)

Thursday 22 October 2015

- 8.30 a.m. – 8.45 a.m. Review of Day One
- 8.45 a.m. – 10.45 a.m. The operation of the 1996 Convention in practice:
- International Co-operation between authorities including Central Authorities, local authorities, Consulates and Embassies**
- Presentation(s) and Discussion
- International Co-operation among judges – the value of judges’ networks and direct judicial communication**
- Presentation(s) and Discussion
- 10.45 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. Coffee Break
- 11.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. The operation of the 1996 Convention in practice:
- Complementarities and synergies between the 1996 Convention and the Brussels IIa Regulation**
- Presentation(s) and Discussion
- 12.00 p.m. – 1.00 p.m. (two events in parallel) (In plenary session)
- The socio-legal dimension of international child protection – an ISS perspective (plenary session)**
- Presentation(s) and Discussion
- (Optional workshop)
- The practical experiences with the Brussels IIa Regulation (e.g., concerning jurisdiction, recognition and enforcement of judgments, ongoing review process) – any lessons to be learned for the 1996 Convention?**
- Presentation(s) and Discussion
- 1.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m. Lunch Break
- 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. The operation of the 1996 Convention in practice – selected thematic topics (cont’d):
- The protection of particularly vulnerable children including refugee children, unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking, sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse**
- Presentation(s) and Discussion
- Cross-border placement of children in practice**
- Presentation(s) and Discussion

Building the bridge between “habitual residence” and “substantial connection”

Presentation(s) and Discussion

4.00 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.

Coffee Break

4.15 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.

The implementation and practical operation of the 1996 Convention: The Way Forward

Panel Discussion

6.00 p.m.

End of Day Two

7.00 p.m.

Tentative informal event for the conference participants (more information will follow)

Friday 23 October 2015

8.30 a.m. – 8.45 a.m.

Review of Day Two

8.45 a.m. – 9.15 a.m.

Update on the “Malta Process” and the Working Party on Mediation

Presentation

9.15 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

Cross-border mediation in 1996 Convention cases:

The role of mediation in solving international custody, access and relocation cases under the 1996 Convention

Presentation(s) and Discussion

Mediation in international child abduction cases: ways to reach an amicable solution within a strict timeframe

Presentation(s) and Discussion

11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

Coffee Break

11.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

Outcome of the parallel workshop on international family mediation:

An International Charter on International Family Mediation and recommendations for a strengthened co-operation

Presentation

12.00 p.m. – 12.45 p.m.

The Way Forward:

Promotion, implementation and monitoring of the practical operation of the 1996 Convention

Discussion (to include an ISS proposal)

12.45 p.m. – 1.30 p.m.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Discussion

1.30 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Concluding remarks and closure of the conference

(Please note that lunch will not be provided.)