Dear Supporter,

From Professor Marilyn Freeman: International Child Abduction and Domestic Violence

Re: A project to investigate the effects and outcomes of abduction on children where the abduction occurred for protective reasons against a background of domestic violence and/or abuse towards the taking parent and/or the abducted child.

Further to my earlier body of research on international child abduction, I am currently undertaking a research project to investigate the differences in the effects and impacts, if any, where domestic violence has been involved. The project's aim is to investigate the effects on children abducted (usually by their primary carer mothers) from their State of habitual residence to another country where that abduction occurs against a background of violence and/or abuse to the taking parent and/or children, and any differences which may exist between the effects on abducted children in such circumstances and those where children have been abducted for different, non-protective, reasons. The study will provide much-needed information for the international family law community, including on the operation of the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention, where taking-parents claim to have abducted their children to escape violence at the hands of the other parent.

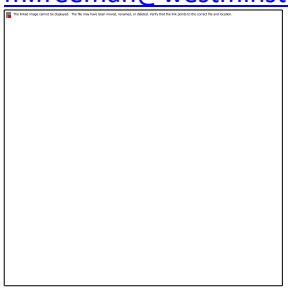
Interdisciplinary family justice professionals around the world are being invited to complete an online survey which can be accessed at **this web link**. Once you click on the web link**,** you will find all the required details relating to the survey, including the Participant Information Sheet, and a tick-box where you can indicate your consent to participate in the survey. The survey will **go live on 22 March 2023 and close on 26 April 2023.** It will **take about 20 minutes to complete**, and is anonymous. Brief responses to the open text questions will be fine.

Ethical approval has been granted by The University of Westminster, London, (ETH2122-3167) and the project will conclude with a report published by The International Centre for Family Law, Policy and Practice (ICFLPP) of which I am co-director. We will be happy to advise you when the report is available.

You are most welcome to pass on this email and survey to any of your colleagues who may be interested in the project and/or in completing the survey - we are keen to involve as many people as possible who are working professionally in the field across different disciplines and jurisdictions.

I want to thank you personally for taking the time to complete the survey and share your experience and views on this challenging issue. I understand only too well the demands on your time, and I certainly do not take your support for granted. However, the importance of the information provided by this survey for the international community is such that I hope you will be willing to find a little extra time in your already overloaded diary to make your own contribution to our knowledge-base on this topic.

If there is anything else that you would like to know, or with which we can help, please contact Taylor MacDonald-Plummer at plummet@westminster.ac.uk who is acting as my research assistant on this project.

With great appreciation,

Professor Marilyn Freeman PhD
Co-Director International Centre for Family Law Policy and Practice
Principal Research Fellow, Westminster Law School
m.freeman@westminster.ac.uk