

ICCS

General Assembly

Paris, 8 October 2026



HCCH CURRENT WORK AND PROJECTS

Laura Martínez-Mora

First Secretary, HCCH

Three Work Divisions of the HCCH



International Family & Child Protection Law

- Child Abduction
- Adoption
- Child Protection
- Protection of Adults
- Child Support
- Maintenance Protocol



Transnational Litigation & Apostille

- Apostille
- Service
- Evidence
- Access to Justice
- Choice of Court
- Judgments



International Commercial, Digital & Financial Law

- Trusts
- Securities
- Choice of Law Principles

Parentage / Surrogacy Project

Conseil on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP):

- Welcomed the Final Report of the Working Group on the Feasibility of a possible Convention on the Recognition of Judgments on Legal Parentage
- Decided not to advance to a Special Commission at this stage
- The issue may be revisited at a later stage
- PB to monitor legal and practical developments and reporting such developments to 2028 CGAP

1993 Adoption Convention

- Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission to review the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention
- Intercountry Adoption Technical Assistance Programme
- Working Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption



**Special Commission on the practical operation
of the 1980 Child Abduction / 1996 Child Protection Conventions
October 2023 – The Hague, Netherlands**

1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions

- e-Country Profiles
- Model Forms for Return and Contact (1980 Convention)
- Model Forms to Cooperation Request Model Form and Placement Request (1996 Convention)
- Malta VI Conference

Why this Convention?



Wrongful removal or retention is
harmful to the child

Thus:

- *Prevent* child abduction
- *Address* child abduction

Objectives of the Convention



Prompt return of children wrongfully removed, or retained, to their country of habitual residence (Art. 1(1))

Ensure that rights of *custody* and of *access* are effectively respected (Art. 1(2) & 21)

Why return?

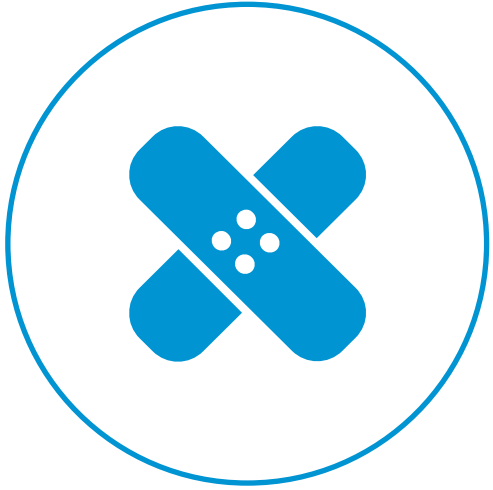
Authorities of the State of habitual residence are *best placed* to decide on custody issues

Safe return

To protect the child's right to continuing *contact with both parents*



Article 13(1)(b)



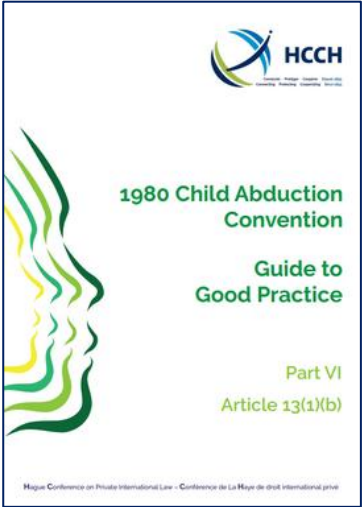
expose
the child to
physical harm



expose
the child to
psychological
harm



otherwise
place the
child in an
intolerable
situation



Protection Orders

- Working Group on a potential future convention on cross-border recognition and enforcement of protection orders (REPO)
- Build on previous work by the PB in 2011-2018
- Questionnaire
- First meeting in London, November 2026

Thank you very much for
your kind attention

secretariat@hcch.net