

PRESS RELEASE

MORE THAN 260 EXPERTS FROM 85 STATES MEET TO DISCUSS PRACTICAL OPERATION OF THE HAGUE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION CONVENTION

Intercountry adoption is an emotional and sensitive issue. At its best it may offer the advantage of a permanent family to a child when a suitable family cannot otherwise be found within that child's own country. At its worst, it may allow the abuse of a child's fundamental rights and treat the child as a commodity. The Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption is designed to protect the rights of these children, their birth parents, and the adoptive parents from corruption or illegal practices. These procedures have two basic goals in mind: (1) that the best interests of children are considered with each intercountry adoption; and (2) the prevention of abduction, exploitation, sale, or trafficking of children.

The Hague Conference on Private International Law will present the **Conclusions and Recommendations** from its Special Commission on intercountry adoption held from 17-25 June 2010 at a **Press Conference on Friday, 25 June at 2pm**.

WHAT	Conclusions and Recommendations of the Special Commission on the Operation of the Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention. In particular, the Conclusions and Recommendations will highlight attendees' work on abduction, sale and traffic in children in the context of intercountry adoption and strengthen safeguards against abuses following natural disasters.
WHEN	The media is invited to attend a Press Conference on Friday, 25 June at 2pm once the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Special Commission are completed.
WHERE	Academy Building of the Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2 (The Hague)
CONTACT/ REGISTRATION	Permanent Bureau, Hague Conference on Private International Law 6, Scheveningseweg, 2517 KT The Hague, The Netherlands Tel: +31 (70) 363 33 03 or +31 (70) 302 96 68 (direct); Fax: +31 (70) 360 48 67 E-mail: secretariat@hcch.net ; website: www.hcch.net Media registration deadline: June 24 (e-mail preferred). Registration is required to attend.
MEDIA FACILITIES	Press kits will be available. Complimentary WIFI access, electric outlets, etc. can be provided. Photographs of the Special Commission are available upon request.

The objective of the Special Commission is to review the practical operation of the *Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* and to achieve consensus on the main elements of a *Guide to Good Practice on Accreditation and Adoption Accredited Bodies*, a very useful book for adoption agencies which undertake the majority of intercountry adoptions.

The programme included a Special Session on the **Abduction, Sale and Trafficking of Children**, which, among other things included presentations on:

- Global perspectives on trafficking
- Screening of a documentary on adoption abuses, *Paper Orphans*

The Special Commission also reviewed the practical implementation of the Intercountry Adoption Convention with a focus on:

- Applying safeguards
- Intergovernmental and judicial co-operation
- Learning from experience (including post-disaster relief)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE THE HAGUE, 23 June 2010

The Hague Conference is the world organisation for cross-border co-operation in civil and commercial matters. It has 69 Members located on every continent. Furthermore, more than 130 States are Parties to one or more Hague Conventions. In essence, the purpose of the Organisation is to build bridges between various legal systems, while respecting their diversity. In doing so it reinforces the legal security of private persons – an essential role in an age of globalisation in which rules and guidelines are needed.