

INVITATION to the Conference on Child Removal Proceedings in the Council of Europe Member States and Related Human Rights Issues

This international conference that will take place in Prague on October 3, 2014, is the remarkable effort of JUDr Marica Pirošikova, Agent of the Government of the Slovak Republic before the European Court of Human Rights, who was instrumental in securing the release of the Boor brothers back to Slovakia from fosterhome and forced adoption in England. JUDr Marica Pirošikova's initiative is based inter alia on her personal experiences of the British system and the December 2012 NKMR Report to the Council of Europe.

Programme

CONFERENCE on the CHILD REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS in the COUNCIL of EUROPE MEMBER STATES and Related Human Rights Issues

Prague, Charles University, October 3, 2014

Morning session

08:30 – 09:00 Registration of the participants

09:00 OPENING

General remarks. Presentation of the objectives of the Conference.

09:00 – 09:30 Representative of Charles University

9:30 – 10:30 THEME 1

Child removal cases in the United Kingdom (description of the current situation – organisation of the system and its deficiencies, statistics, victims, description of the proceedings before the family courts, possible third party intervention from other States if the parents are foreign nationals, Sir James Munby's judgment dealing with the court's approach to care proceedings concerning children from other European countries)

- *Suggested key note speakers:*

09:30 – 09:50 Mr John HEMMING, member of British Parliament

09:50 – 10:10 Ms Marie-Claire SPARROW, barrister at Holborn Chambers and at European Family Law Chambers

10:10 – 10:30 Ms Helen NEWMAN, solicitor

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 13:00 THEME 2

Child removal cases in the Nordic countries (description of the current situation – organisation of the system and its deficiencies, statistics, victims, description of the judicial proceedings)

- *Suggested key note speakers:*

11:00 – 11:20 Mrs Ruby HARROLD-CLAESSON, president of the Nordic Committee for Human Rights - NKMR

11:20 – 11:40 Mr Johan BÄCKMAN, associate Professor of Sociology of Law, University of Helsinki

11:40 – 12:00 Mr Søren Bernhard LINDEGAARD, attorney, Denmark

12:00 – 12:20 Mrs Venil Katharina THIIS, attorney, Norway

- *Discussion*

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

Afternoon session

14:30 – 15:30 THEME 3

International standards concerning child removal cases (the relevant ECHR case-law, the execution of the ECHR judgement, the PACE resolution 1908 (2012) adopted on 30 November 2012, activities at the Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament)

- *Suggested key note speakers:*

14:30 – 14:45 Mr Grégory THUAN Dit DIEUDONNE, attorney, former senior lawyer at the ECHR

14:45 – 15:00 Ms Nuala MOLE, senior lawyer, the [AIRE Centre](#)

15:00 – 15:15 Ms Lucja Miara, lawyer, Department for the Execution of Judgments of the ECHR

15:15 – 15.30 Ms Sabine Kurjo McNEILL, [Association of McKenzie Friends](#)

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00 THEME 4

Practical experiences

- *Suggested key note speakers:*

16:00 – 16:20 Ms Florence BELLONE, journalist

16:20 – 16:35 Ms Norika STUDENCOVA, Slovak grand-mother (Boor case)

16:35 – 16:50 Laila BRICE, Latvian single mother

16:50 – 17:05 Jacque COURTNAGE, South-African mother

- *Discussion*

For more information and registration, please contact **Erik Bihary AT eupsi.cz**

