

Newsletter of the Global Network: “Child Support Worldwide”

**Dear network members and child support experts  
all over the world,**

**Belarus: TAIEX Workshop on The 2007 Hague Convention**



Belarus is preparing for the ratification of the 2007 Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance. To be ready for its implementation, a workshop on the practical application of the Convention took place in Minsk on 7/8 April 2016, organized by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus and the Technical Assistance and Information

Exchange (TAIEX) of the European Commission. The approximately 80 participants were comprised of judges from the Supreme Court and first instance courts, representatives of the Belarusian Central Authority and the Ministry of Justice.

Philippe Lortie (Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference), Isabelle Jaeger-Mailllet (German Institute for Youth Human Services and Family Law) and Ian Curry-Sumner (Voords Legal Services, Netherlands) were presenters of an introduction and overview of the main features of the Convention, as well as of the applications for establishment, modification, recognition and declaration of enforceability, and enforcement of maintenance decisions. The presentations were followed by discussions of hypothetical cases. Particular questions of implementation were reflected upon in the context of the Belarusian legal system.

The two days clearly showed that the global community of cross-border recovery of child support and family maintenance can look forward to working with an informed as well as experienced new partner in international legal relations.

**New Zealand Now Available in the Child Support Worldwide Web Guide**



We are happy to announce that New Zealand has been added to our [CSW Web Guide](#). With this recent addition, the Web Guide now includes a total of 105 countries and provides information about child support and family law for each country.

**Do you know NCSEA?**

The **National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA)** is a non-governmental organization based in the United States with a 45 year history of providing professional development and networking opportunities



for professionals around the world working in the area of child support or maintenance. With members from national and local governments and agencies, community and corporate partners, NCSEA provides a forum for the development and enhancement of services supporting families involved in child support and maintenance programs. NCSEA encourages and supports the international maintenance community and was an accredited non-governmental participant in the negotiations on the 2007 Hague Child Support Convention and the 2007 Protocol on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations. NCSEA's delegation provided valuable input during the Convention negotiations, ensuring that the Convention could address the day-to-day practical realities of international maintenance obligations.

NCSEA has an **International Subcommittee** which includes child support practitioners from governments and agencies in a number of countries around the world, as well as child support professionals from across the United States who manage international cases. Monthly subcommittee conference calls focus on legal, practical and operational issues encountered in the day-to-day management of these cases. NCSEA's annual **Leadership Symposium**, held in August each year, provides an opportunity to meet leaders and emerging leaders in child support from across the United States and around the world. The program always contains a number of workshops highlighting international maintenance cases and issues, and site visits to the local child support agencies are arranged for international guests. NCSEA is partner of the Child Support Worldwide Network and has worked with the DIJuF and the Hague Conference on Private International Law to organize conferences for child support/maintenance professionals in Heidelberg, Germany in 2013 and in Hong Kong in 2015.

We encourage anyone working in the area of international child support to join NCSEA and join the international subcommittee. It's a great way to improve your understanding of international child support/maintenance issues and to get to know others who do similar work around the world. Please visit [www.ncsea.org](http://www.ncsea.org) for more information.

### **6<sup>th</sup> LAWASIA Family Law & Children's Rights Conference**

"The Modern Family" is the title for the 6<sup>th</sup> LAWASIA Family Law & Children's Rights Conference in Hong Kong SAR, to be held from Thursday 9 June to Saturday 11 June 2016 (see [conference website](#)). The Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA) is an international organisation of lawyers' associations, individual lawyers, judges, legal academics, and others who focus on the interests and concerns of the legal profession in the Asia Pacific region. LAWASIA facilitates its members' participation in the most dynamic economic region in the world. Through its linkage to over 40 member organisations, LAWASIA has exposure to a collective membership of over 1 million lawyers worldwide. This broad network facilitates relationships in the legal community across the region.

### **Hague News: Ukraine Signs Hague Protocol 2007**

In March 2016 Ukraine signed the Protocol of 23 November 2007 on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations (the "2007 Child Support Protocol") as well as the Hague Convention of 30 June 2005 on Choice of Court Agreements (the "2005 Choice of Court Convention"). Moldova became the 81st member of the Hague Conference, and Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia are currently seeking membership of the organization.



### **USA: 2015 Child Support and Family Law Legislative Enactments**

During the 2015 legislative session, 47 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands enacted more than 160 bills addressing various topics such as child support prevention, the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, issues of

what happens to child support when the obligor parent is incarcerated, and other topics, such as parentage and family law. Of the more than 160 bills that were enacted, several were addressed by multiple states. For more information, please see the 2015 Child Support and Family Law Legislative Enactments on the NCSL website sorted [by state](#) or [by topic](#).



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