

The leading UK charity specialising in international parental child abduction

reunite International Child Abduction Centre is the leading UK charity specialising in international parental child abduction and the movement of children across international borders. The objectives of **reunite** are to provide advice, information and support to parents, family members and guardians whose children have been abducted or who fear abduction. **reunite** will also provide advice and information to parents who may have abducted their children, and assists and advises in international contact issues and cases of 'permission to remove'. **reunite** provides an advice line service in the UK specialising in international parental child abduction. An essential key feature of the advice line is that it offers an emergency service outside of office hours.

International parental child abduction continues to be an increasing problem and in recent years there has been an increase in demand for **reunite's** services. During 2011, the advice line received 1,485 new cases relating to the movement of children across international borders. Of these, 512 were abduction cases involving 741 children, and 394 were prevention cases involving 533 children.

reunite provides **Child Abduction Prevention Guides** which offer clear and concise information on the legal procedures and practical steps to take if a child is in danger of abduction. Prevention Guides are available for England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Spain and Greece and are available through the advice line or can be downloaded from our website.

reunite has established an information resource database covering 40 Muslim States which includes a summary of the relevant information for each country and, as far as possible, copies of the key pieces of legislation as well as relevant articles and reports. This information is available electronically and as a paper resource and can be obtained by contacting the **reunite** office or viewing our website.

reunite has a Parent Forum on our website which enables parents to have a voice on the issue of international parental child abduction and offers them an opportunity to express their thoughts and contact others in a similar situation. We also have a Facebook page where parents can post messages and discussion topics.

reunite provides specialist advice and training to lawyers, government departments and other professionals involved in this area and we work closely with the Ministry of Justice and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

reunite co-ordinates and publishes a list of national and international lawyers who specialise in abduction and child custody cases and holds an extensive database of lawyers worldwide.

reunite offers a mediation service in cases of abduction, prevention of abduction, contact across international borders, and leave to remove a child from one legal jurisdiction. Mediation is a voluntary process that offers parents the opportunity to meet together with two mediators in an informal, confidential atmosphere where they are helped to identify the issues they want to resolve and then to reach workable solutions that are acceptable to them both and which are focused on the best interests of their child. **reunite's** mediators are impartial and independent in relation to both parents and have considerable experience of mediating in cross-border family disputes.

reunite undertakes research into issues of concern to those who use our services and also areas of research which will make a useful contribution to the debate surrounding the manner in which abduction matters are dealt with. We are currently researching the long-term effectiveness of mediation in those cases resolved through the **reunite** specialist mediation service.

For further information on the work of **reunite**, please view our website at www.reunite.org.

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