

Notice and Call for Papers
ISFL REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN ISRAEL: CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND INTERESTS
December 9-10, 2019

The conference will mark the upcoming 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (in November 2019)

The adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in November 1989, the first international instrument which recognized children as rights bearers, was seen by many as signaling a new era in the approach of the nations of the world to children. Indeed, since the widespread signing and ratification of the Convention much progress has been made globally and domestically in prioritizing and emphasizing children's rights. For instance, significant progress has been made in fighting ritual practices of female genital mutilation, in centering custody and abduction decisions on the best interests of children, and in fighting human trafficking of children. Yet, there is still much more work to be done and much that the Convention leaves unaddressed. The Convention focuses on best interests, a standard which is exceedingly hard to apply, and leaves vague how much of children's rights should be governed by parental discretion as opposed to children's own voices or state intervention. Putting children front and center in family law and beyond is a work in progress that must be continuously discussed to be furthered .

We invite speakers to discuss advances in children's rights since the signing of the Convention, the ways in which the Convention has come up short and the challenges faced in attempting to achieve optimal realization of children's rights and interests. Such advances, hurdles and challenges need not have been directly caused or related to the Convention, but where relevant the Convention and its affects should be discussed. The conference will discuss all public and private law aspects of children's rights and interests, including, but not limited to:

- Children's right to participate in decisions concerning them
- Children's right to know their biological parentage
- Children's right to education
- Children's right to health
- The impact of parental separation on children
- The impact of religion and culture on children
- The impact of migration, refugee status, and deportation on children
- Poverty and children's rights
- Corporal punishment of children
- Children's right to privacy
- The extent to which local and international child protection legislation protects children's rights
- The work of the UN Children's Rights committee and other organizations devoted to protecting children's rights

- The impact of EC legislation and decisions on children's right
- Advancing children's interests in diverse family forms and relationships

The Committee welcomes a range of approaches to matters concerning children's rights and interests, including both doctrinal and theoretical work, the presentation of clinical work, interdisciplinary approaches, domestic concerns relating to the laws of a particular country as well as and cross-border issues.

Location: The Academic Center for Law and Science, Hod Hasharon Israel (near Tel-Aviv).

Dates: 9-10 December 2019.

Submission of Paper Proposals: Persons wishing to present a paper at this conference should submit a one-page proposal containing the following information: Working Title of the Paper, Author's Name, Academic or Professional Title, Institutional Affiliation, Mailing Address, Phone, and Email Address, and a one-or two paragraph description or outline of the issues, ideas and points they intend to discuss in their paper. The Committee also welcomes proposals for pre-formed panels of 3-4 papers. Send proposals as an email attachment to **CRC30Anniv@gmail.com**. Deadline for submission: **April 15, 2019**. (earlier submissions preferred; acceptances will be made on a rolling basis).

Publication of Papers: We plan to publish selected papers from the conference to mark 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We have not yet finalized the venue for publication, but please indicate on your abstract if you may be interested in publishing your paper, if not previously published, as part of your participation in the conference. We will circulate the details of publication when they are finalized

Co-conveners: Dr. Ayelet Blecher-Prigat, Prof. Rhona Schuz, Prof. Pamela Laufer-Ukeles, Dr. Tehila Alon.

Scientific Committee: Olga Khazova (the Institute of State & Law within Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. Elected member the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child), Tamar Morag (Academic Director, Child Advocacy Clinical Program , Hebrew University); Maria Donata Panforti (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia), Patrick Parkinson (Academic Dean and Head of School for the TC Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland), Carol Rogerson (University of Toronto), Helen Stalford (University of Liverpool)

Registration: Details including hotel information to follow, which will be published on the ISFL website. <http://www.isflhome.org/>