

### Effect of family violence on children

- What causes it?
- How can we deal with it?
- How do we protect children (and adults) from it?
- What skills are required of agencies such as police, child care workers and others in order to protect children?
- The dilemma of sexual abuse allegations; how should they be dealt with/evaluated? How should “ambiguous” behavior be interpreted? When (if ever) is “sexualized behavior “normal”?

### Education

- Deficits in the education of children: how do we teach them their “rights”?
- Legislation: does it lead or follow social standards?
- What does research tell us about families? What research is needed? How do we learn from it?
- What is the role of legal studies at school?
- Is there a need for a national human rights institution? What is its nature? Role? How can its advocacy be effective?

### Expert analysis, evaluation and therapy:

- Psychiatric and psychological disorders
- Children and same sex parents
- Right of a child to express his/her sexual orientation and our attitude towards that.
- The role of forensic psychiatry/psychology in assessing the best interests of the child.
- How to deal with difficult family dynamics: child care arrangements, children's behavioural patterns

All papers will be subject to review by members of the papers review committee and may be rejected on content, suitability, and program scheduling requirements.

If you wish to respond to this invitation, please submit your abstract online at [www.wcflcr2013.com](http://www.wcflcr2013.com) under Call for Papers. On submission you will receive an official receipt number for correspondence reference.

The abstract should not be more than 250 words in length. If it is co-authored, the presenting author should be listed first under the “authors” heading. Notification of paper acceptance will be emailed to speakers on 15 April 2012. Speakers are required to provide a full paper by 15 January 2013.

All speakers are required to register for the Congress at the specially reduced speakers rate. Those speakers who have been accepted but who have not registered by 15 December 2012 will automatically be dropped from the program.

It has been the policy of the World Congress Board that apart from a small number of selected international keynote speakers and some key delegates from developing countries, no form of financial support is given.

### Program Committee

**The Hon. Chief Justice Diana Bryant QC**  
Family Court of Australia, Joint Director of Studies

**The Hon. Joseph Kay**  
Former Judge, Family Court of Australia, Joint Director of Studies

### Important Dates

Call for papers closes	1 March 2012
Notification of paper acceptance	15 April 2012
Early Bird registration closes	15 October 2012
Deadline for speaker registration	15 December 2012
Full papers required	15 January 2013

Call for Papers submission

[www.wcflcr2013.com](http://www.wcflcr2013.com)

Submission Closes 1 March 2012

### World Congress Office

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# 6th World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights

17-20 March 2013  
Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre  
Sydney, Australia

## Call for Papers

BUILDING BRIDGES

From Principle to Reality

[www.wcflcr2013.com](http://www.wcflcr2013.com)

Convened by the World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights Inc  
ABN: 41 190 760 139

## Introduction

The World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights has entered its 6th cycle and will return to Australia for the first time since the inaugural congress in 1993.

Since that time, congresses have been convened in San Francisco, United States of America in 1997, under the patronage of the then First Lady of the United States, Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton; in England in 2001, under the patronage of Mrs Mary Robinson, the former President of Ireland and the then High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations; in Cape Town, South Africa in 2005 under the patronage of Ms Graça Machel Mandela, the wife of President Mandela of South Africa; and in Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada in 2009 under the patronage of The Rt Hon Madam Chief Justice McLachlin of Canada

The congress is a major event focussing on family law and family law processes and the rights of children and youth. Each congress has proceeded in its children's rights work from a consideration of those rights of children recognised in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Each congress has offered an opportunity for delegates to challenge existing protocols and to formulate resolutions on the

rights of the child, not only in their own country but to provide support for those endeavouring to change laws relating to the denial of human rights for children globally.

The speaking program will have many common areas of black letter law for discussion and debate as well as specific children's rights issues. This congress will look at the world's experience and method in making those rights recognised by the convention a reality, for the children who universally possess them.

The program will benefit government officials, family law practitioners, jurists, advocates, policing and protection agencies, medical practitioners and other organisations with a common interest in the active protection of children and the promotion of good family law.

We hope that if you feel that you have a contribution to make in the area of family law and children's rights, you will respond to this Call for Papers and come to Sydney in March 2013 to meet with colleagues, further your knowledge and draw media attention to the plight of the many disadvantaged children in our world.

**The Hon Justice Stuart Fowler AM**  
Co-Chair

**The Hon Justice Rod Burr AM**  
Co-Chair

## World Congress Board

**The Hon Justice Rodney Burr AM** – Co-chair, Family Court of Australia, Adelaide

**The Hon Justice Stuart Fowler AM** – Co-chair, Family Court of Australia, Sydney

**Sally Nicholes** – Vice Chair and Treasurer – Managing Partner, Nicholes Family Lawyers, Melbourne

**Justin Dowd** – Hon Secretary – Partner – Watts McCray, Sydney

**Richard Foster** – Chief Executive Officer, Family Law Courts of Australia, Canberra

**Leisha Lister** – Executive Advisor to CEO of Family Law Courts of Australia, Canberra

**Geoffrey Sinclair** – Partner, Barry Nilsson, Brisbane

## World Congress Advisory Group

**The Hon Justice Jim Williams**, Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Canada

**Her Hon Judge Maureen Roddy**, United Kingdom

**His Hon Judge David Harris**, United Kingdom

**David Truex**, International Family Law Chambers, United Kingdom

## Secretariat

**Gail Fowler** – Executive Director, World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights Inc.

[gail.fowler@lawrights.asn.au](mailto:gail.fowler@lawrights.asn.au)

## Keynote Speakers

Previous Keynote Speakers have included:

**Mary Robinson**, Executive Director, Ethical Globalisation Initiative, USA; former UN Commissioner for Human Rights and former President of Ireland.

**The Hon. Chief Justice Diana Bryant QC**  
Family Court of Australia, Joint Director of Studies

**Carol Bellamy**, former Executive Director, UNICEF, USA

**The Rt Hon Baroness Hale of Richmond**, Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, United Kingdom

**Mr Ibrahim Kamara**, Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance, Sierra Leone

**Chief Federal Magistrate John Pascoe** AO of the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia

**The Rt Hon Madam Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin** PC, Canada

**Dr Alvin Zipursky**, Founder Programme for Global Paediatric Research, Canada

**Judge Peter Boshier**, Principal Family Court Judge of New Zealand

**Ms Suraya Pakzad**, Executive Director, Voice of Women Organization, Afghanistan.

**The Rt Hon Sir Mark Potter** PC, President of the Family Division of the High Court of England and Wales

**Hon Alastair Nicholson** AO RFD, former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia

**Judge Yvonne Mokgoro**, Constitutional Court of South Africa

## Call for Papers

The Director of Studies, on behalf of the World Congress Board, invites you to submit an abstract on the topics listed below. We invite paper presentations that focus on the suggested streams listed below. There is however room to consider papers on any area of family law or children's rights that might be of interest to an international congress. You are welcome to submit a number of papers, but no more than one under each sub-theme.

### Suggested streams are:

#### Better care of children:

- Preventing the exploitation of and trafficking in children for labour, prostitution, commercial and non-commercial surrogacy, respecting the rights of children in utero
- Children as refugees; The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on Refugees
- How to further international cooperation, information sharing and law enforcement.
- Dealing with online sexual and other exploitation of children
- Gender dysphoria: the law/medicine/responsibility for therapeutic surgery
- What would UNCROC look like if drafted in 2013.

#### Protecting the rights of indigenous children and preserving their culture

## Juvenile Crime and Justice

- What are the social conditions that create juvenile crime/disadvantage?
  - Physical and mental disability
  - Drug and alcohol addiction
  - Lack of education/health care
  - Lack of family support
  - Welfare dependence
- Is a juvenile justice system the appropriate way to deal with that social situation?
- Is a specialist juvenile justice system the optimum? Can there be alternative streaming for young offenders?
- How do we change adult and child behaviour through treatment programs rather than the criminal law system?

## Family Law Issues

- Resolving the forum conveniens in a standard way: a "Hague Convention" for financial matters?
- The international recognition and enforcement of orders, child support agreements and financial agreements, including pre-nuptial agreements
- The Hague and non-Hague convention countries: how can it work better? How should international relocation be approached and resolved? International child abduction and protection issues.
- International arbitration and mediation;
- How can the views of the child be ascertained and taken into account in an international family situation?
- When we listen to children, do we hear what they are saying?