



SAVE THE DATE : ONLINE SYMPOSIUM

# Child's right to identity in family relations

16 MAY 2023 | 13H TO 16H CET

The family is unanimously accepted as the cornerstone of society providing for the “growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children” which is “entitled to protection by society and the State” (1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 16(3); Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Preamble).

As part of festivities surrounding International Family Day – celebrated annually on 15 May since the 1993 UNGA resolution - Child Identity Protection (CHIP) with its partners are hosting an online symposium on the importance of the child's family identity. The event builds on initiatives promoting birth registration and nationality, by focusing on family relations, a crucial element of a child's identity. This symposium complements efforts within the UN and regional mechanisms to ensure the preservation and restoration of every child's identity in accordance with the CRC, Arts.7-8 and SDGs 16.9 and 16.3.

Despite such international standards and initiatives, millions of children have been and are unnecessarily separated from their families. The natural course of interaction between birth parents and children may be severed, for example when they are abandoned, placed in alternative care, adopted, born through surrogacy, sold and/or trafficked, displaced or migrating, or when conflict or natural disaster arises. Moreover, systems may be designed to conceal information about the child's origins including potential family. These situations can lead to a deprivation of identity in family relations with massive ramifications from a legal, psychosocial and medical perspective. Loss of identity can equally create obstacles in children accessing other rights such as education, health, economic, social and cultural.

The symposium explores the right to have one's family relations legally established or recognised, as a stand-alone right. This is significant, as every person has a family history – genetic, gestational, social and legal – that contributes to his or her identity and origins. It further addresses what mechanisms should be in place to better preserve all family identity elements and re-establishment, when there are gaps including falsification.

#### REGISTRATION:

[us02web.zoom.us](https://us02web.zoom.us)

## Speakers coming from all regions with multi-disciplinary backgrounds focusing on a range of issues include :

- **Child's right to identity and family relations**  
Professor Velina Todorova - CRC Committee member
- **Stolen identities - The devastating impact social work services has on the identity of children living in poverty in the UK.**  
Aurelia, Kaydence and Tiegan, ATD Fourth World and Teen Advocacy
- **Supporting families and preventing unnecessary separation**  
Aniruddha Kulkarni - UNICEF
- **Preserving the child's identity in cross-border family matters – perspectives from HCCH**  
Philippe Lortie/Laura Martinez-Mora - HCCH
- **Preserving «family relations»: an essential feature of the child's right to identity**  
Christina Baglietto - Child Identity Protection
- **Identity and child participation rights in family law proceedings**  
Professor Marilyn Freeman - International Centre for Family Law, Policy and Practice; and University of Westminster and Professor Nicola Taylor - University of Otago
- **Child identity in the context of parental child abduction**  
Dr Katarina Trimmings - University of Aberdeen
- **Donor conceived persons perspectives**  
Audrey and Arthur Kermalvezen - Association Origines
- **Child's right to identity in family relations from an Asia Pacific perspective**  
Professor Elizabeth Pangalangan -University of Philippines
- **Child's right to identity in family relations from an African perspective**  
Karabo Ozah, Centre for Child Law - University of Pretoria
- **Child's right to identity in family relations from a European perspective**  
Olga Khazova - former CRC Committee member and CHIP special advisor
- **Child's right to identity in family relations from a Latin Americas perspective**  
Eduardo Rezende Melo - International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates

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### FURTHER INFORMATION:

[www.child-identity.org](http://www.child-identity.org) or  
[info@child-identity.org](mailto:info@child-identity.org)

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