



GlobalARRK:

Global Action on Relocation and Return with Kids

Charity Number: 1170455

**Trustees' Annual Report
for the Period
April 2022 – End of March 2023**

<https://www.globalarrk.org/>





REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

The Trustees

Name	Role	Date of Appointment
Lisa Jane Burden Brain	Trustee	30 January 2023
Matthew Pincombe	Trustee	19 September 2022
Sophia Lopez Khan	Trustee	19 September 2022
Dr Onyoja Momoh	Trustee	08 April 2021
Dr Isabel Ruth Lamont	Trustee	08 April 2021
Duncan Millard	Trustee	09 February 2021

Retired this year:

Ian Burden	November 2021 - March 2023
Miranda Theobald	July 2021 - May 2022

The Organising Committee

Name	Role
Rosalind Osborne	CEO
Amy Carlse	Parent Support Coordinator
Virginy	Social Media Moderator and Volunteer Befriender
Sarah	Social Media Moderator
Garri	Volunteer Befriender
Jhilmil	Volunteer Befriender
Elanor	Volunteer Befriender
Eilidh	Volunteer Befriender
Laura	Mental Health Lead
William	Parent Support Volunteer

Description of Charity's Trusts

Type of Governing Document : Constitution

How the Charity is Constituted: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee Selection Methods : Appointed by the chair and other trustees

Objectives and Activities



Summary of the Objectives of the Charity as set out in its Governing Document:

The charities objectives are:

To relieve the needs of children and families at risk of, or undergoing, international custody and residence conflict including international parental child abduction, by:

- Educating families and the public, raising awareness of the risks of relocating abroad and the possible legal implications for families
- Supporting children and parents in need who are 'stuck'* in a foreign country
- Advocating for the rights and best interests of children and parents who are 'stuck'* abroad
- Providing families with information and signposting to mediation, counselling and other support services
- Encouraging and undertaking research and study into such issues and publicising the useful results

*The term 'Stuck' means: unable to lawfully return to live in the country they consider 'home' with their children after an international residence / custody dispute with the other parent

Mission:

To prevent international custody disputes and reduce their devastating impact on children and parents stuck in a foreign country by raising awareness and connecting parents to support services to meet their needs.

Vision:

A world where few families go through international custody crisis but when it does happen the family have all the support they need

Values:

We work with Compassion, Courage and Persistence to reach our mission!

Summary of the Main Activities Undertaken for the Public Benefit in relation to the Charity's Objects:

GlobalARRK is a user led charity with a strong community of volunteers many of whom were once were stuck in another country and share similar experiences. We support 'Stuck Families' by assessing their needs and providing information, signposting to expert legal professionals and specialist charities (eg domestic violence, immigration, homelessness etc) and speaking to parents to offer emotional support via a free call back helpline and befriending support. We also offer parents the chance to join our peer support groups and befriending support. Parents report that our peer support groups reduce isolation and increase empowerment enabling them to act legally and continue to care for their children. The aftermath of International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA) can be devastating: emotionally and financially. For the child it can mean several cross-border upheavals, exposure to high conflict and violent situations and can even result in the loss of contact with one parent and we will be supporting directly over the coming years. GlobalARRK has a solutions-based approach and tackles the root causes of IPCA.



"When we fled, I had only one suitcase for my and my baby. I was petrified as I boarded the plane, praying it to leave quickly. We spent 32 hours travelling across the world back home. I didn't see any other way to keep myself and my baby safe."
A Stuck Parent



"The younger me didn't realise that when I took a plane to leave my home in search of new experiences as a late teenager, I was giving up the chance to have my loved ones close by when I became a mother."
A Stuck Parent

Educating and Raising Awareness

The problem:

International Family Law regarding the wrongful movement of children across borders is complicated. Parents and the wider public struggle to understand it which can lead to parents unwittingly falling foul of the law or ending up 'stuck' in a foreign country.



”

“If I had known about this Hague Convention I would have seriously reconsidered having a child abroad” - A Stuck Parent

77%

said they were unaware they would be unable to return home with their children unless the other parent gave permission

70%

said that if they had been made aware of the Hague Abduction Convention it would have affected their decision to emigrate

(Taken from our contact form (273 responses) and survey (52 response) this year.

We raise awareness via our Website, Social Media and via interviews and other media.

In October we re-vamped our website and have received 21,190 views this year.

Our Facebook Page reach is 49,472 with 326 new likes. We have 2.4K Followers on Facebook.

We introduced Instagram last year to aim to reach out to younger parents and we have a reach of 2681 on Instagram. On Twitter we have 11,769 tweet impressions.

We have given interviews for Resolution's Podcast, Sky News, VICE and Resolution's newsletter.

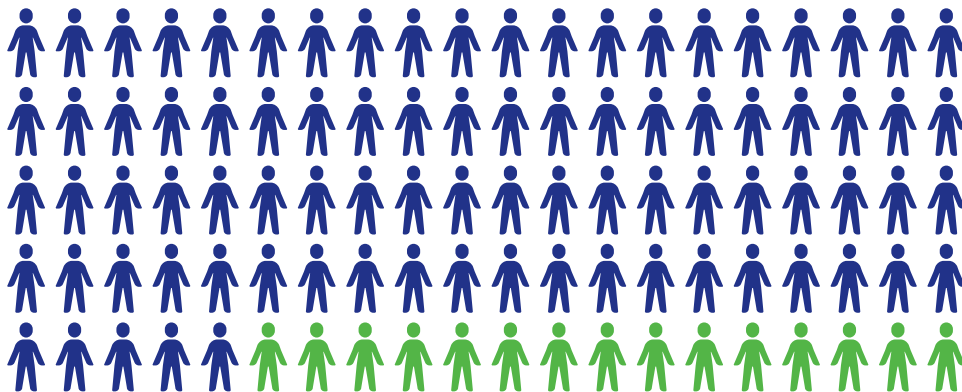
Family Support

The problem:

Parents are 'stuck' in a foreign country and struggling to cope. They are at high risk of harm from intimate partner violence / domestic abuse and other risk factors such as poverty, isolation, homelessness, lack of immigration status, mental health issues.

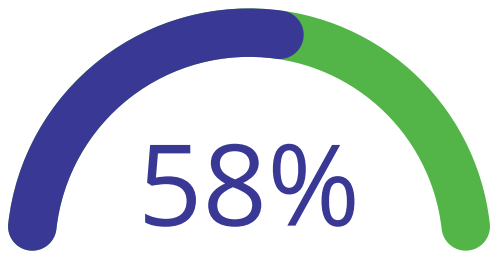


"I had a baby abroad with someone from my home country. As soon as our child was born, the abuse started, slowly getting worse. I realized this man didn't love us, and didn't want what was best for our child. I suffered emotional, sexual, financial, psychological and occasionally physical abuse" – A Stuck Parent



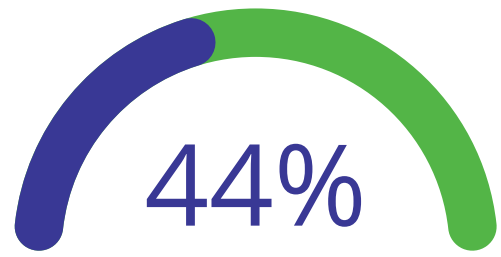
DOMESTIC ABUSE

85% report having suffered partner violence / domestic abuse



FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

58% say there are experiencing financial difficulties



LEGAL REPRESENTATION

48% say they don't have legal representation



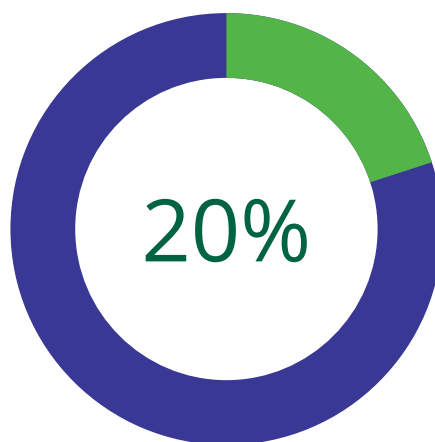
LANGUAGE BARRIERS

37% experience language barriers where they are 'stuck'



INSECURE HOUSING

38% are living in insecure housing



IMMIGRATION

20% have immigration issues

Our Parent Support Activities and Impact:

We have supported **346 new and 298 existing stuck parents** this year. We have given **free supportive calls to 293 families**.

88 parents have been added to a peer support group. We sent **3,113 supportive emails**.

We have dealt with **87 safeguarding** concerns.

We have **signposted 178 parents** to local charities or organisations that can assist them.

We have sent **223 Information Guides** to parents.

We have supported **27 parents with specialist Relocation advice** from an International social worker.

Our befriending team of **9 volunteers have befriended 30 stuck parents** with **121 calls**.



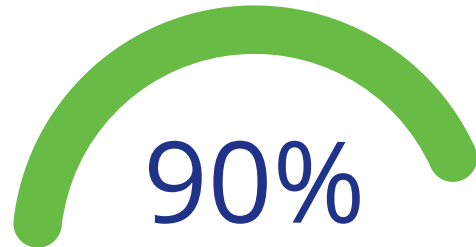
”

“GA offered me a safe haven, when everything around me was falling apart and nobody understood what was happening to us, even the ones who were trying to give us advice. Unless you have been through this process yourself or are very close to someone who has, you cannot know the dark web of suffering and despair that it plunges you into. ..Having the support of the others stuck parents has been a life-saver in my darkest, scariest moments, when I feared the worse, and was confronted with such cruel and overwhelming waves of attacks by my narcissistic ex. It was invaluable to have these amazing, strong people hold my hand through it all, with unwavering support amidst such darkness.” –
A Stuck Parent



56 parents have filled out our
feedback form this year

90% said the calls
were extremely
helpful



91%

said the
information guides
were extremely
helpful



85%

said the lawyer
connections were
extremely helpful



95% said they
would
recommend
GlobalARRK to a
friend

Befriending



“The phone calls have helped me to take my own needs seriously and to take real steps.” A Stuck Parent



121 calls completed



30 alerts for extra support flagged



10 safeguarding issues reported



9 volunteers



30 parents befriended



Befriending training and on-going support provided to 'past' stuck parents



“Having someone to talk to who listened and was really encouraging and supportive” – A Stuck Parent

Cost of Living Crisis Hardship Grant

In December 2022 we raised enough money in donations to support 8 parents with a Hardship Grant. This year many families have been struggling more than ever to pay the bills and keep the lights on. One mother said she would spend it on:

“Electricity bills and council tax payments. I'd like to take my daughter swimming/to the movies or an indoor play park. It would help to relieve the huge financial stress. I just received the outcome today that we aren't able to relocate so all hope for a better situation has gone out of the window.”

Below we have shared how some stuck parents used their hardship grant or the impact it had on them and their children:

“I went food shopping with my littles yesterday (they were able to get a food treat each) and I paid the electricity bill so we'll be able to have a Christmas meal and electricity for January.

Am in tears: this has meant so, so much to me. I was feeling utterly without hope and seeing my littles surprise and joy in the supermarket was truly something special. Receiving the grant has helped me remember there is goodness in the world. And given me back some sense of hope. ”

Legal Support

We have 27 law firms in our legal network from a range of countries: NZ, Australia, Netherlands, United States, Portugal, Canada and France. These firms all offer pro bono consultation and follow an ethical code of practice. This year we referred 237 parents to an expert lawyer.

Workshops

We have hosted workshops for our stuck parent community to help provide information, connect our community and enhance emotional support.

Advocating

The problem:

Relocation proceedings are often unaffordable and can take many years to be resolved in court. Therefore, many families are unable to apply to go back to their home country and are 'stuck' in a foreign country where they struggle to survive. Some 'stuck' parents take their children 'home' without permission from the other parent and are then accused of 'international child abduction' under the Hague Convention 1980 which can have devastating consequences for families.

Our Activities and Impact:

This year we have published and promoted our Principles for Change document which is available on our website. It has helped to inform other organisations and public bodies on this little understood issue. Over the next year we will be working with other organisations to advocate and campaign on behalf of our Stuck Parents leading up to the Special Commission meeting in October 2023.



"GlobalARRK really care, they are helpful and attentive" A Stuck Parent



"It was great to speak with a friendly, supportive and knowledgeable person." A Stuck Parent

78%

OF PROFESSIONALS IN ENGLAND AND WALES SURVEYED BELIEVE LEGAL AID SHOULD BE AVAILABLE EQUALLY TO BOTH PARENTS IN HAGUE CONVENTION CASES



90%

OF PARENTS SURVEYED IN ENGLAND AND WALES SAID THEY DID NOT FEEL THERE WERE ADEQUATE PROTECTION MEASURES IN PLACE.



72%

OF PARENTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES SURVEYED DID NOT HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE LAW BEFORE THEIR HAGUE PROCEEDINGS



Research

The problem:

There is a general lack of research and data on this subject so systems are not well informed and families are suffering as a result.

Our Activities and Impact:

GlobalARRK and partners are currently undertaking a piece of research on how being unable to return to live in the country you consider 'home' after an international family law dispute can typically affect mental health.

We will be hearing from those who have experienced proceedings involving the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspect of International Child Abduction, international permanent relocation/ leave to remove applications or wardship proceedings.

It is a collaborative research project between Dr Laura Kean (Dr. Laura Kean, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, NHS Borders,), Dr Onyoja Momoh (Centre for Private International Law, University of Aberdeen) and GlobalARRK.



"Everything was stacked against us. Even with the evidence of DV, unemployment, poverty and homelessness it was clear I wasn't going to win a relocation home"- A Stuck Parent



"Unless you have been through this process yourself or are very close to someone who has, you cannot know the dark web of suffering and despair that it plunges you in to. It's as if you are drowning, in the middle of an endless ocean." - A Stuck Parent

Thank you!

We are incredibly grateful to all of our supporters including:

Our Funders:

Beacon Lodge
The Souter Charitable Trust
Allen Lane
The Foyle Foundation
The Society of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ)

The Legal firms in our network:

Kennedy Partners Lawyers
Heyeur Jessop
MacDonald & Partners LLP
Cabinet Moissinac
AVRA LEGAL
STG Advocaten
De Boorder Advocaten
Medlicotts
Norris Ward McKinnon
Langseth
Divorcio & Familia Advogados
Domènech Abogados
K J Smith Solicitors
TV Edwards
LDJ Solicitors
Moore Barlow
Weightmans
Stephensons Solicitors LLP
Bindmans
Macnabs
Brethertons
MSB
Royds Withy King
Paradigm Family Law
Dawson Cornwell
MK Family Law

Statutory Declaration:

The trustees declare that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Brief Statement of the Charity's Policy on Reserves: We aim to have between three and six months running costs.

Brief Financial Review Details: This year we were extremely grateful to have received grant funding from the Society of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ), Allen Lane, Beacon Lodge, The Foyle Foundation and the Souter Trust to the total of £25,000.

We have also been supported by many of our ex-service users who then fundraise for us. This year they have been doing sponsored runs, walks and birthday fundraisers. Along with our Hardship Appeal at Christmas, we have raised £3,097 in individual donations and £3,483 in Legal network donations this year.

Due to working remotely our core costs have remained low with the majority of our spending going on salaries, IT and other basic running costs.

We have a fundraising strategy and pipeline in place to further support the financial sustainability of the charity and to be able to increase the depth of support we can provide to beneficiaries.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

GlobalARRK

1170455

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
06/04/2022

To

Period end date
05/04/2023


Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
SHCJ	-	10,000	-	10,000	17,470
Beacon Lodge	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
The Foyle Foundation	-	4,000	-	4,000	-
Allen Lane	-	4,000	-	4,000	-
The Souter Charitable Trust	-	2,000	-	2,000	-
Donations	1,080	-	-	1,080	5,997
Legal Donations	-	3,483	-	3,483	-
Hardship Donations	-	2,017	-	2,017	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,080	30,500	-	31,580	23,467
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,080	30,500	-	31,580	23,467
A3 Payments					
Fundraising Expense	84	-	-	84	35
Wages & Staff Costs	-	17,604	-	17,604	9,405
Training	-	466	-	466	55
Communications	-	752	-	752	784
IT costs	-	315	-	315	592
Legal & Professional Services	-	1,468	-	1,468	234
Office & Running Costs	-	1,155	-	1,155	839
Hardship Grant	-	1,720	-	1,720	-
Expenses: Travel	-	48	-	48	-
Sub total	84	23,528	-	23,612	11,944
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	84	23,528	-	23,612	11,944
Net of receipts/(payments)	996	6,972	-	7,968	11,523
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	13,780	7,162	-	20,942	9,419
Cash funds this year end	14,776	14,134	-	28,910	20,942

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	14,776	14,134	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	DUNCAN MILLARD	11/09/23

GET IN TOUCH



info@globalarrk.org



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