



Cross-Border Family Mediation Training (CBFM)
Sunday, 3rd October – Saturday, 9th October 2021
Berlin, Germany

The MiKK 50-hour advanced training course aims to qualify practicing family mediators to mediate cross-border family disputes, including international child abduction, access and custody cases. The course will cover the relevant legal aspects of international family conflicts, differences in national family legislation, the 1980 and 1996 Hague Conventions, the Brussels II bis Regulation and the new Brussels II b (Recast) Regulation. Participants will be introduced to tools and methodologies for mediating high conflict cases with the aim of safeguarding the best interest of the child. Other key topics featured in this training include: *Culture and Communication, Bi-lingualism and Mediation, Guidelines to Co-mediation and the Voice of the Child in Mediation*. Drawing on the participants' experience, we will examine the issues involved when mediating across cultures. Case studies and role plays form an integral part of the course. Interdisciplinary cooperation is a key aspect of the course.

A team of international, multi-disciplinary trainers who are experts in their respective fields and have hands-on experience will lead this highly interactive training course, aiming to equip international mediators with the required knowledge, skills and tools to mediate complex cross-border family dispute cases. The concept employed in MiKK's training was originally developed and piloted in the EU Civil Justice project, "Training in International Family Mediation 2010 – 2012". Over the past 10 years the training has been continually adapted and updated by MiKK, to keep abreast of any changes in the mediation landscape, recent legal developments and to incorporate the feedback of participants. We look forward to working with legal, psycho-social, educational and other professionals from a variety of cultural backgrounds and nationalities!

MiKK is an internationally recognized, independent NGO that has been providing expertise in the field of cross-border family mediation for over 15 years. MiKK is active in the field of advocacy, training and promotion of international family mediation working with international stakeholders, such as Central Authorities, judges, lawyers, mediators, the EU Parliament Office of Children's Rights, the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) and international NGOs. MiKK offers a multi-lingual, free-of-charge Advisory & Pre-Mediation Service to parents from all over the world and organizes mediations for these parents.

Mediators who successfully complete the 50-hour MiKK CBFM training may join the international MiKK Network of specialized, multi-lingual family mediators and have their profile featured on the MiKK website. MiKK Mediators are eligible to co-mediate cross-border family cases that are referred to them via the MiKK Pre-mediation Service.

Core Trainers

Christoph C. Paul, Lawyer, Notary (ret.), Mediator, Trainer, Patron of MiKK e.V.
Ishtar Khalaf-Newsome, Family Lawyer, Mediator, Trainer, Head of MiKK Advisory Service

Guest Trainers

Dr. Lesley Allport, Mediator, Trainer, Supervisor, United Kingdom
Spiros Livadopoulos, Lawyer, Mediator, Trainer, Greece
Dr. Joanna Guttzeit, Family Judge, Berlin, European Judicial Network & International Hague Network Judge (IHJN)
Susana Borges Gomes, Child Psychologist, Berlin, Germany, Portugal
Catharina Laverty, Mediator, Trainer, Supervisor, Coach, Advisor and Fundraiser at MiKK

Guest Speaker

Konstanze Welz, Cross Cultural Consultant, Mediator, Munich, Germany

Programme / Overview

SUNDAY, 3rd October 2021

9.30 – 18.30

Christoph C. Paul, Ishtar Khalaf-Newsome

- Introductions – expectations – programme
- Mediating across cultures and national family law
- Models and styles of mediation
- Different models of international family mediation

Konstanze Welz

- *A Personal Story*

Evening Dinner at restaurant with all participants & trainers (at own expense)

MONDAY, 4th October 2021

9.00 – 18:30

Christoph C. Paul, Ishtar Khalaf-Newsome

- Framework and specifics of mediating Hague Convention cases
- The changing face of families in a globalized world
- Guidelines for preparing co-mediation
- Introduction to the case study
- Role Play session I in groups “setting the stage”
- Tools and Methodologies I
- Model of mediating high conflict / abduction cases
- Role play session II: “Telling the story and setting the agenda”

TUESDAY, 5th October 2021

9.00 – 13.30

Ishtar Khalaf-Newsome

Legal Module

- International Legal Instruments in Matters of Parental Responsibility
- 1980 and 1996 Hague Conventions
- Brussels II *bis* Regulation
- National family law
- Mediation law EU guideline
- Memorandum of understanding (MOU)

14.30 – 16.30

Dr. Joanna Guttzeit

Introducing Mediation in The Courtroom from a Judge’s Perspective:

- MiKK Mediators in the Courtroom (MIC)
- How liaison judges can actively support the implementation of agreements resulting from a mediation
- Making the memorandum of understanding legally binding
- Working with mirror orders and safe harbour orders
- Hague Convention Liaison Judges Network

16.30 – 18.30

Ishtar Khalaf-Newsome, Catharina Laverty

- Mediation across cultures
- The importance of networking in CBFM (prep. for Wednesday’s group) work
- Tools and methodologies II
- Mid-seminar evaluation

WEDNESDAY, 6th October 2021

Lecture Free Day • Networking Day • Berlin Walking Tour (optional)

- 3 hour Berlin Historic City Walking Tour with Historian and professional Tour Guide Viktor Kucharski – Participation free of charge

THURSDAY, 7th October 2021

9.00 – 18.30

Dr. Lesley Allport, Susana Borges Gomes, Ischtar Khalaf-Newsome

The Voice of the Child in Mediation

- Focusing on “the best interests of the child” in mediation
- Engaging with children in mediation (age appropriate interview techniques and tools)
- Role play session III: “The voice of the child”
- Role play session IV: “Developing and reviewing options that focus on the best interest of the child”

FRIDAY, 8th October 2021

9.00 – 13.30

Ischtar Khalaf-Newsome

Mediation and languages:

- Handling bilingualism in mediations: models and options
- Communicating across cultures
- Role play session V: “Working with turning points & mediating dilemma situations”

14.30 – 18.30

Spiros Livadopoulos, Ischtar Khalaf-Newsome

- Dilemma situations
- Role play session VI in groups: “Working towards agreement”

SATURDAY, 9th October 2021

9.30 – 15.30

Ischtar Khalaf-Newsome, Spiros Livadopoulos, Catharina Laverty

- Aspects of cross-cultural communication & dispute resolution
- Role Play session VII: “Drawing up a memorandum of understanding”
- Cooperation, training, networking with other professionals
- Awareness-raising
- Discussion – Feedback - Evaluation - Certificates – Closing

Registration fees

Full Fee: EUR 1,850*

Early Bird Discount: EUR 1,700 ([extended to 25th June 2021](#))

A discount applies for participants from **eligible countries.*

For the eligible country list please refer to the MiKK website under “Training”.

The course is recognised for **Bildungsurlaub** in several German Federal states.

Please contact the MiKK office on training@mikk-ev.de for more information.

Training Venue

**NLP Institut Steglitz
Althoffstraße 20
12169 Berlin – Steglitz**

*Hygiene and Safety Measures will be put in place at the training venue.
Please do not attend the training if you have symptoms of a Corona-virus infection.*

Information on the Trainers

Core Trainers

Christoph C. Paul



Christoph C. Paul is an attorney, notary ret., trainer and cross-border family mediator. He is co-founder and patron of *MiKK e.V. - International Mediation Centre for Family Conflict and Child Abduction*. He is editor of various publications on cross-border family mediation, including *Cross-Border Family Mediation*, Paul, C.C. and Kiesewetter, S. (eds.), 2014. He holds the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for the implementation of cross-border mediation in family conflicts and child abduction and he received the Socrates Award for Mediation in 2010 for his longstanding work as a mediator and a “mediator of mediation” in institutional contexts.

Contact: paul@paul-partner.eu

Ischtar Khalaf-Newsome



Ischtar Khalaf-Newsome is a trainer, cross-border family mediator and family lawyer. She is Head of Advisory Services and Co-CEO at *MiKK e.V. - International Mediation Centre for Family Conflict and Child Abduction* in Berlin. Prior to joining *MiKK* in 2014 she practiced family law for nine years with Dawson Cornwell, a London based family law firm specialized in international family law disputes including child abduction cases. Before that, Ischtar worked as a case manager at the child abduction NGO *Reunite International* in London. She completed her Legal Studies in London at BPP University Law School and holds a Master’s Degree (MA) in Near & Middle Eastern Studies and Islamic Law from SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London, as well a Master’s Degree in German and English and a teaching qualification from the Freie Universität (FU) Berlin. Ischtar qualified as a mediator with the Family Mediators Association (FMA) in London as well as with Inmedio (Multi-Track Peace Mediation) in Berlin. She also trained in Child Inclusive Mediation (CIM) with the FMA. Ischtar is a practicing cross-border mediator and has provided diverse training in this field for *MiKK* internationally as well as for other organizations, i.e. the Academy of European Law (ERA). She has published on family law and mediation in e.g. *The Family Law Journal*, *Spektrum der Mediation* and *Die (Wirtschafts)mediation*. Contact: ischtar.newsome@mikk-ev.de

Guest Trainers

Dr. Lesley Allport



has a long career in mediation spanning the last 26 years. Working initially as a family mediator in the 1980's, she has been involved in developing new areas of practice, particularly in the context of Special Educational Needs and Disability Conciliation. She mediates in workplace disputes, has experience in community mediation and is trained to mediate in cross border family disputes and parental child abduction cases. Lesley began training mediators 18 years ago. She delivers foundation courses in several contexts as well as training for supervisors, mediators working directly with children and general continuing professional development.

She has a keen interest in developing professional standards. She is a Board member of the College of Mediators and currently chairs the Professional Standards Committee. She also sits on the editorial board of the new College journal "Mediation: Theory and Practice". Lesley also has an academic interest in mediation. In 2005, she completed a European Masters' Degree in Mediation, as part of which she developed a model of supervision specific to mediation. In 2016, she successfully completed her Ph.D. at the Birmingham Law School where she was examining the comparative growth of mediation, identifying similarities and differences of practice across a number of contexts of mediation delivery.

Contact: lesley.allport@ladr.net

Dr. Joanna Guttzeit



Dr. Joanna Guttzeit is a judge in Berlin. She graduated from the Law Faculty of the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany and from the Adam-Mickiewicz-University in Poznań, Poland. She received her Ph.D. in Law from the Karl-Ruprecht-University in Heidelberg in Germany.

After working as a judge in Cologne for several years, she was seconded 2015-2017 to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Currently, Dr. Guttzeit works at the Pankow/Weißensee Family Court in Berlin, where she is in charge of proceedings involving international cases (child abduction, maintenance etc). She is also a liaison judge within the International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ) and the European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters (EJN).

Spiros Livadopoulos



is a lawyer with seventeen years' experience providing consulting and litigation services to individuals and organizations in civil, commercial and family law matters. Accredited by the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) in the UK and the Greek Ministry of Justice, with extensive experience in the field of mediation, negotiation and conflict resolution in Greece and abroad. He is working also in the field of family mediation mostly on cross border cases. He has been further trained and certified in International Family Mediation by the EU TIM project. As trainer he regularly trains mediators at Piraeus Mediation Center (Greece). He has also offered workshops in International Family Mediation organized by the European Law Academy ERA to lawyers and judges. He is a Rotary Peace Fellow 2017 and he is certified in Peace Building and Conflict Resolution. Contact: slivadopoulos@gmail.com

As trainer he regularly trains mediators at Piraeus Mediation Center (Greece). He has also offered workshops in International Family Mediation organized by the European Law Academy ERA to lawyers and judges. He is a Rotary Peace Fellow 2017 and he is certified in Peace Building and Conflict Resolution. Contact: slivadopoulos@gmail.com

Susana Borges Gomes



Susana studied educational sciences and media studies in Freiburg. She then trained as a child psychotherapist at the Academy of Psychotherapy and Intervention Research at the University of Potsdam. From 2011 to 2019 Susana was Head of the Day Clinic for Toddler and Preschool Children at the Child Psychiatry Department of St. Joseph Hospital in Berlin. Since 2018 she has also been working in private practice. Susana is specialized in child attachment disorders and posttraumatic stress disorder. Contact: Susana-gomes@web.de

Catharina Laverty



Born and bred in Berlin Catharina moved to Belfast after finishing school to work as a volunteer in a cross-community reconciliation project and in a number of youth outreach groups. Ever since she has been hooked on the idea of furthering communication between people. Catharina initially worked as a translator and interpreter for English, German and Spanish for a few years. She then trained and worked as a Mediator, Supervisor and Coach to be more directly involved with people and their communicational needs. Catharina is trained as a cross-border mediator with MiKK and has undertaken cross-border mediations in both English and German. Having trained as a Supervisor has enhanced her ability to support those who support others. Catharina feels it is vital that professionals have the opportunity to reflect upon their work and to strengthen their own practice. She also works in the advisory service at MiKK.

Contact: catharina.laverty@mikk-ev.de

Guest Speaker

Konstanze Welz



Building bridges between different cultures has always been at the heart of my work. For almost two decades - as a project manager in the German film industry - I have been traveling between Germany and Asia to bring together creative talent and economic forces from these parts of the world.

Born into a German - Indian family and brought up in Germany, India and the US, I learned to navigate different cultures at an early age. In 2018, I started my own business as a cross cultural consultant. I wanted to combine my professional intercultural expertise with my very personal experience to support individuals and families struggling with cultural differences. When I learned about MiKK, I knew that my work had to become even more personal. I had been abducted to India as a toddler and returned to Germany more than two years later. I experienced all the emotional pain this causes for a child and the whole family. I now work as a MiKK mediator and am currently training to become a trauma recovery coach.

Further reading



Kiesewetter, S. & Paul, C.C., Family Mediation in an International Context. In: Christoph C. Paul and Sybille Kiesewetter in cooperation with MiKK (eds.). Cross-Border Family Mediation - International Parental Child Abduction, Custody and Access Cases. 2014, Frankfurt/Main: Wolfgang Metzner Verlag, second and updated edition

EU Parliament. IPOL Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs: Indepth Analysis – 40 years of the Hague Convention on child abduction: legal and societal changes in the rights of a child, November 2020; p.1-20, PDF ISBN 978-92-846-7452-7;

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2020/660559/IPOL_IDA\(2020\)660559_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2020/660559/IPOL_IDA(2020)660559_EN.pdf)

Freeman, Marilyn, Parental Child Abduction: The Long-Term Effects. 2014

<http://www.famlawandpractice.com/researchers/longtermeffects.pdf>

Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH): Guide to Good Practice Mediation under the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. 2012

http://www.hcch.net/upload/guide28mediation_en.pdf

Keshavjee, Mohamed, Islam Sharia and ADR – Mechanisms for Legal Redress in the Muslim Community. 2013, I.B.Tauris & Co Ltd.

Parkinson, Lisa: Family Mediation – Appropriate Dispute Resolution in a New Family Justice System. 2011, Jordan Publishing Limited, Bristol

Paul, Christoph C. & Walker, Jamie: An International Mediation: From Child Abduction to Property Distribution. In: American Journal of Family Law 3/2009, p. 167-173

