



Adoption and Fostering Alliance
Scotland

Legal Adoption & Fostering Forum Conference

Families Across Borders

*exploring the legal, social and personal implications of placing children
outwith their country of origin*

Friday 7 October, 2016

Discovery Point, Discovery Quay, Dundee 10.15am – 4.30pm

Theme

Intercountry and UK cross border adoptions were once a rare occurrence for lawyers, private practice solicitors, advocates and social work practitioners. This has changed due to the influx of unaccompanied asylum seeking minors, the need for the adoption of children outwith their own or parents' country of origin and the rise in the number of English couples seeking to adopt Scottish children. In response to this, professionals are expected to be familiar with the law and its application in different jurisdictions. Additional considerations need to be taken into account when placing a child in a foreign country or with adopters whose national identity is not the same as that of the child.

Helping to navigate delegates through uncharted waters will be a host of experts whose experience and insight will point the way towards a greater understanding of these issues.

Speakers will include

Professor Peter Selman - a renowned expert in international adoption

A visiting professor at Newcastle University, Professor Selman has been in the vanguard of research and the dissemination of information relating to intercountry adoption for many years. He has published widely on this subject looking at trends, research, policy and practice. From 1995 to 2013, he was Chair of NICA (Network for Intercountry Adoption).

Kirsty Hood QC

Ms Hood has particular expertise in cross-border matters, namely questions of jurisdiction, choice of law and recognition of judgments. She is the author of "Conflict of Laws within the UK" (2007), of the 'Court of Session' chapter in "Greens Scottish Lawyer's Factbook" (loose-leaf, 2002 to date), of the 'Cross-border Jurisdiction' section in "Scottish Family Law Service" (loose-leaf, 2015), and was a contributor to Wilkinson & Norrie, "The Law Relating to Parent and Child in Scotland" (3rd edn., 2013). She is currently Clerk of Faculty and is also the Advocate Member on the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service Board.

Dr Helen Connolly

Dr Connolly is a lecturer in social sciences at the University of Bedfordshire. She has a particular interest in the rights and experiences of asylum seeking children within the UK. Published articles and research have focussed on the perspectives of children and how legal systems acknowledge and meet their particular needs.

Who should attend

This conference will be of interest to all professionals involved in child-care, fostering and adoption practice, including solicitors for local authorities and in private practice, advocates, social work professionals and managers, adoption and fostering panel members, curators *ad litem* and safeguarders, children's panel members, children's reporters, sheriffs and medical advisers.

**AFA SCOTLAND LEGAL ADOPTION & FOSTERING FORUM
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

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Date: Friday 7 October, 2016
Venue: Discovery Point, Discovery Quay, Dundee

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Cancellation within one week of the date	100% of fee

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