

# SHORT COURSE

Continuing Education

## Executive Training on Civil Aspects of International Child Protection (ICPT)

December 2023 > April 2024

Distance Learning



CENTRE FOR CHILDREN RIGHTS STUDIES  
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ACADEMY



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE



## Steering committee

- **Prof. Gian Paolo Romano**, Professor at the Private International Law Department, University of Geneva
- **Dr Roberta Ruggiero**, Director Children's Rights Academy, CIDE, University of Geneva
- **Prof. Karl Hanson**, Director of the Centre for Children's Rights Studies, University of Geneva
- **Vito Bumbaca**, PhD, Former Assistant Lecturer, Department of Private International Law, University of Geneva

## Coordination

- **Vito Bumbaca** | [vito.bumbaca@unige.ch](mailto:vito.bumbaca@unige.ch)

## Public

Professionals of child protection and related areas; Legislators on child protection and related areas (i.e. City of Geneva, Canton of Geneva, Swiss Confederation); Ombuds Office Children's Rights Switzerland; Researchers on child protection and related areas, PhD candidates // MAS and CAS participants on child protection and related areas; Embassies; Consulates; UN Permanent Missions; International Organisations; Governmental authorities; Courts; Notaries; Child Protection Services.



## An interdisciplinary and comprehensive executive training programme addressing the complexities of international child protection, encompassing legal issues, collaborative justice, and protective mechanisms, catering to professionals seeking to advance their knowledge in this field.

The field of international child protection covers a wide range of legal issues, from the promotion and preservation of children's fundamental rights and their participation as individual rights holders to the desired collaborative justice through the determination of the competent court and applicable law and the implication of ADR methods; passing through vulnerable families, asylum children and separated children all seeking justice. The subject at stake is transversal and topical, as well as universal in that many international law instruments govern and aim to coordinate protective mechanisms and measures supporting children's transnational movements across the globe and affecting children's personal/ family statuses as well as their personal and property rights. This programme aims to offer advanced training, improve and transfer knowledge through a series of short modules on selected topics. It is recommended for anyone interested in international child protection, especially those with a legal background.

This programme responds to the need for more continuing education in the field of child protection. It is part of the continuous education programme offered by the Centre for Children's Rights Studies (CIDE), in collaboration with the Department of International Private Law of the University of Geneva. It falls within the Children's Rights Academy Executive Training programme offered to professionals of all ages.



## Objectives

- Learn about the latest studies, policies, and practices in critical areas of child protection
- Foster constructive and transversal discourse among academics, practitioners and stakeholders in the field of international child protection
- Encourage scientific research, educational programmes and career development on civil aspects of child protection

## Skills and Competencies

At the end of the short course, participants will be equipped to:

- acquire deeper and transversal knowledge on the research, policy and practice in the field of international child protection, with particular focus on the selected topics;
- apply and transfer knowledge in each respective field, at the national and transnational levels;
- research, analyse, interpret and argue about complex legal, including societal, matters.

## Teaching Methods

Dynamic methods combining lectures, group discussions and workshops allowing interaction between theory and practice.

## Structure

4 half-day modules. Module 1 and 2 have a duration of 4 hours. Module 3 and 4 have a duration of 3 hours. The total number of hours is 14 hours. All modules are online. This short course does not offer ECTS credits.



## Programme

### Module 1 |

### **Children's Individual Rights in Transnational Parental Relationships**

07 December 2023, 14:15 to 18:45

This module pertains to the intersection of international child protection and children's rights. Children in need of protection hold individual rights that are impacted by parental relationships, behaviours and conducts. Such rights are enshrined in universal, regional and national legal instruments, such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the European Convention on Human Rights and national Constitutions at first. Inherently, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the European Court of Human Rights, respectively as quasi-judicial and judicial bodies, have in many occasions pinpointed the undeniable legal consequences, arising from parental relationships and litigation in national and transnational contexts, on the protection of children and their fundamental rights. Particularly, but not exhaustively, civil abduction, custody, adoption, surrogacy, family reunification, migration status, children's properties have been crucial in the courts view for the determination of children as individual rights holders and subject to international protection. Lecturers will present selected topics of current research and practice, focusing on the above intersection. Discussions will follow after each intervention.



## Module 2 |

### **International and Comparative Family Law**

18 January 2024, 14:15 to 18:45

This module concerns the implementation of private international law rules governing international child protection, known as 'International Family Law'. The latter includes international conventions and regional instruments typically determining jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition, cooperation among governmental and other bodies. As a comparative assessment, national laws, known as domestic rules, and national case law are part of this module. Parental relationships and litigation are the subject of multiple legal instruments, of national, regional and international nature, whose knowledge and interplay are fundamental for the timely transnational enforcement of child protection policies and measures. Also, alternative dispute resolution methods (i.e. Arbitration, Mediation) are referred to in this module as a way of preventing parental litigation in court. Lecturers will present selected topics of current research and practice, raising awareness about the above implementation and related issues, with the support of actual case law and law clinic. Discussions will follow after each intervention.

## Module 3 |

### **Vulnerable Migration**

29 February 2024, 14:15 to 17:45

This module deals with the protection of unaccompanied minors, as well as with separated and displaced children seeking asylum. The context is the one of transnational movements whereby various vulnerable scenarios would be encountered, such as guardianship, legal representation, family



reunification, civil abduction, child custody, recognition of child and family statuses. These are some of the legal situations that are envisaged by parallel family law and migration law procedures involving interconnected issues of vulnerable migration and child protection for civil purposes. Lecturers will present selected topics of current research and practice, handling this specific context in which transversal knowledge of international family law and migration law is required. Discussions will follow after each intervention.

## Module 4 |

### **Practice of Child Protection Stakeholders: Focus on Inter-agency Co-operation in Context**

18 April 2024, 14:15 to 17:45

This module accentuates both the legislative and practical course of transnational governance of child protection policies and civil measures, addressing the question of “who does what”? What are the potential fora in which international child protection policies are discussed, approved and enforced? Practically, when a child is victim of international abduction, which actors may be involved and how do they cooperate? This module aims to clarify and assess the role of all actors possibly involved in legislating and implementing child protection civil procedures, also with respect to vulnerable migration and asylum contexts, notably civil abduction, parental responsibility, maintenance, alternative care. Lecturers will present selected topics of current research and practice from the perspective of the stakeholders involved in international child protection policies and practices. Discussions will follow after each intervention.

## Certificate Awarded

The Certificate of Attendance for the Short Course “Training on Civil Aspects of International Child Protection (ICPT)” is awarded by the Centre for Children's Rights Studies of the University of Geneva to participants having met the necessary requirements.

## Practical Information

### Admission Procedure

Candidates are required to hold a university degree (or judged equivalent) and are expected to have at least two years of relevant professional experience. They must also have a very good working knowledge of English. The programme is open to anyone interested in international child protection and does not require a legal background.

### Registration before 18 January 2024

Early bird registration before 25 November 2023

For a single module: at least two weeks before the start of the module in question

Register online at:

[www.unige.ch/formcont/en/courses/child-protection](http://www.unige.ch/formcont/en/courses/child-protection)

### Location and Schedule

Online

14:15 to 17:45 or 18:45 (Geneva time, UTC +2)

### Tuition Fees

- full programme 4 modules: 600 CHF early bird  
– 800 CHF regular registration
- per module: 200 CHF regular registration

Any withdrawal before the start of the programme will incur an administration fee of CHF 150.-. Fees will be payable in full once the course has begun.

### Contact

[cra-secretariat@unige.ch](mailto:cra-secretariat@unige.ch)



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