



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON
COUPLE AND FAMILY RELATIONS

54th International Conference

Barriers to Access:
Finding Paths to Inclusiveness

Edinburgh, Scotland
5 – 8 June 2007



in collaboration with

relate
scotland
the relationship people

SCOTTISH MARRIAGE CARE

Working for the whole community

Barriers to Access: Finding Paths to Inclusiveness

The International Commission on Couple and Family Relations in collaboration with **Scottish Marriage Care** and **Relate Scotland**, extends an invitation to participate in its 2007 International Conference to members of all those professions concerned with the welfare of people in their family settings.

Once again, the Commission will offer a unique forum in which legislators, policy makers, legal experts, researchers, and those responsible for the delivery of front-line services to couples and families, from countries throughout the world, can join in an examination of influences affecting couples and family life today.

The research findings and practice developments of leading specialists will be presented. International networking between members of participants' own professions will be enriched by opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogues and collaboration, and the chance to understand more about approaches being adopted in other cultural settings.

The focus of this year's Conference

Despite the plethora of activities, laws and resources seemingly available for individuals and families in difficulty in today's world, many barriers remain that prevent those in need accessing the support and personal affirmation they require. Numerous barriers present themselves, including: language, both cultural and technical; ill health, both physical and mental; economic inequalities; and legal and political systems.

Despite these barriers, practitioners continue to seek ways to reach out to others. Many creative, even subversive, responses have ensured that services and support still get through to people, if not all the time, and such ingenuity surprises us all time and again.

The 2007 Conference of ICCFR/CIRCF will share experiences of barriers, in order to understand them and their impacts. But, more importantly, it will focus on the creativity, ingenuity and courage demonstrated throughout our world in the service of couples, relationships and families. Join us in Edinburgh and be part of the solution.

The Conference Programme makes room for both the practicalities of the services and philosophical perspectives being shaped to support couple and family life in the future. The combination of keynote presentations, specialised workshops, and the activities of multicultural, interdisciplinary groups ensure that participants will be able to pursue their own specialist interests while also gaining new insights and ideas from colleagues working in other fields.

Acknowledgement of support for this conference:

Scottish Marriage Care, Relate Scotland, Marriage Care UK, the Scottish Executive, Scottish & Newcastle, the ICCFR Trust, the Foundation of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Suzie S. Thorn Family Foundation and Kids' Turn, San Francisco

BARRIERS TO ACCESS: Finding Paths to Inclusiveness

54th ICCFR International Conference – Edinburgh 2007

PROGRAMME*

Tuesday, 5 June 2007

- 12.30 – 13.30 Registration of Participants
- 14.30 – 16.30 CONFERENCE OPENING SESSION
- Welcome by ICCFR Chair Terry Prendergast
- Opening Address by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh
- Welcome Speech on behalf of the host organisations by Mary Toner, Chief Executive - Scottish Marriage Care
- PLENARY SESSION
- Introduction by Emeritus Professor Janet Walker - Newcastle University, UK, and Chair - AFCC International Committee
- Keynote Presentation:
“Barriers to Access between Children and Parents: Who is a Parent?”
Professor the Hon. Alastair Nicholson - University of Melbourne, Australia, Chair – Children’s Rights International
- 17.15 Depart Heriot-Watt Conference Centre for Edinburgh Castle
- 18.00 – 20.00 Opening Reception at Edinburgh Castle**
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Wednesday, 6 June 2007

- 09.00 – 11.00 PLENARY SESSION
- CONFERENCE PREVIEW: ICCFR Chair Terry Prendergast
- Keynote Presentation:
“Is a Child still a Child? Challenges 2007”
Prof. Edgar Mhlanga - University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
Chaired by Simone Baverey, ICCFR Treasurer and Past Director - FAMSA Durban, South Africa
- 11.00 – 11.30 Break / Refreshments
- 11.30 – 13.00 Discussion Groups – Session 1
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch
- 14.30 – 16.00 Presentation of Workshops 1-5 (see section “Workshops”)
- 16.00 – 16.30 Break / Refreshments
- 16.30 – 18.00 Discussion Groups – Session 2
- 18.30 Round Table Dinner**
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* programme confirmed at time of printing

** See section “About the Programme”

Thursday, 7 June 2007

09.00 – 10.00	PLENARY SESSION Keynote Presentation: “Access to service for parents after domestic violence” Dr Patricia van Horn, University of California San Francisco, USA <i>Chaired by Claire Barnes, ICCFR Board and Executive Director - Kids’ Turn, San Francisco, USA</i>
10.00 – 10.30	Break / Refreshments
10.30 – 12.00	Discussion Groups - Session 3
12.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.00	PLENARY SESSION Keynote Presentation: “Parenting the Child - Accepting Diversity” Dr.Indu Balagopal and Ms.Usha Ramakrishnan, Bala Mandir Foundation Chennai, India <i>Chaired by Suzie S. Thorn, ICCFR Board and President - American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Foundation, USA</i>
15.00 – 15.30	Break / Refreshments
15.30 – 17.00	Presentations of Workshops 6 – 10 (see section “Workshops”)
18.30	Dinner followed by Ceilidh**

Friday, 8 June 2007

09.00 – 10.30	Discussion Groups – Session 4
10.30 – 11.00	Break / Refreshments
11.00 – 11.45	Group Feedback and Conference Resumé
11.45 – 12.45	PLENARY SESSION Keynote Presentation : “Families in the Mind – Psychoanalytic stories of exclusion and inclusion” Judith Fewell, University of Edinburgh, Scotland <i>Chaired by Robin Purvis, ICCFR Board, Child and Family Therapist, Australia</i>
12.45	CLOSING SESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflections on the Conference - ICCFR Chair Terry Prendergast• Presentation of the official Invitation for the 2008 ICCFR Conference
13.30	Lunch and End of conference

** See section “About the Programme”

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKERS

TUESDAY, 5 JUNE:

“Barriers to Access between Children and Parents: Who is a Parent?”

Barriers will be discussed having regard to the child's right “to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis, except if it is contrary to the child's best interests”, as provided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Barriers presented by hostility between parents are considered, as are barriers constituted by a history of sexual or other abuse of the child, a history of family violence or the desire of the child not to have access with a parent. Other barriers discussed include illness and disability of a parent, poverty, homelessness, incarceration and distance. The definition of parents, including those in same sex and transgender relationships and that of sperm donors and surrogates, parental rights and the rights of children born as a result of in vitro fertilisation programmes will be considered.

Professor the Honourable Alastair Nicholson AO, RFD QC - Australia

Professor Nicholson graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1960, practiced as a barrister from 1963, was appointed Queens Counsel in 1979 and a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Victoria in 1982. He was appointed Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia in 1988 and retired in July 2004. He has written and spoken extensively relating to children's issues. He is a former President of AFCC and chaired the World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights in San Francisco in 1997. In 2004 he was appointed an Honorary Professorial Fellow in the Department of Criminology at the University of Melbourne. He is also the chair of or patron of a number of organisations working for children in Australia and elsewhere, including Children's Rights International, an international advocacy organisation for children. As a judge he gave landmark judgments in areas of surrogacy, transgender issues, children's rights including the rights of disabled children, and international law and domestic law. Recently published articles include articles on Bills of Rights affecting children, same sex relationships, family law and child homelessness in Australia. He was an officer of the Royal Australian Air Force Reserve, retiring with the rank of Air Vice Marshal in 1992 and was Judge Advocate General of the Australian Defence Force from 1987-1991. He has been married to Lauris for 44 years and has three daughters and four grandsons.

WEDNESDAY, 6 JUNE:

“Is a Child still a Child? Challenges 2007”

In the face of natural and man-made disasters, the world must still respond appropriately to children's needs. Countries have recognized the need for comprehensive and community-based interventions to meet the challenge of children in distress. Attempts have fallen short because of inappropriate policies based on faulty/inadequate information. Children need physical, spiritual and intellectual support. Extended family networks are fast becoming extinct. It is to give challenges that we expect children to face, alone and in the face of the greatest challenge, where child-headed households make it almost impossible for children to access health care for themselves and their siblings in situations where HIV has devastated communities and families. In the face of HIV and AIDS, when is a child a child? Pain starts before loss. Advocacy and creativity are needed if children are to be saved. The presentation suggests ways of improving access to care for children.

**Dr Roland Edgar Mhlanga MB ChB (Natal), DMCH (Natal), FCOG(SA), MPH(UNC-CH)
– South Africa**

Dr Mhlanga obtained his MB ChB at the University of Natal Black Section in 1977. He obtained a Diploma in Maternal and Child Health in 1985, and a Fellowship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 1987. In 1988 he returned to the rural hospital as the only specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist in government employ for six other hospitals. In 1992 he went to Chapel Hill to study towards MPH at the University of North Carolina. Upon his return, Dr Mhlanga was appointed Director of Maternal, Child and Women's Health, National Department of Health, South Africa in 1995. In 1999 he became Chief Director: Maternal, Child and Women's Health and Nutrition. He helped establish the Notification of and Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths. He works with various partners as an advocate for quality care for women and children. Since 2004, he has been Head: Community Obstetrics and Acting Head: Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban in South Africa. He is a fellow of the W K Kellogg International Leadership Programme. His interest is in Community and Youth Development. His passion is the promotion of the rights of women and children.

THURSDAY, 7 JUNE:

“Access to Service for Parents after Domestic Violence”

Domestic violence can be traumatizing for children and can cause rifts in children's relationships with their parents. Frequently, violence and conflict continue after separation. As courts attempt to protect children's relationships with both parents by ordering frequent and continuing contact with both offending and non-offending parents, it is important to offer services that can support the parenting of both mothers and fathers. This talk describes a model of co-parenting dyadic treatment in which young children are seen with each of their parents in families that have separated following domestic violence. The same clinician works with both the mother-child dyad and the father-child dyad with a goal of helping both parents understand the child's experience of their violence and conflict and use that understanding to change their behaviour toward each other.

Patricia Van Horn, J.D., Ph.D. - USA

Dr. Van Horn is a licensed psychologist in the State of California, Associate Clinical Professor of in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California San Francisco, and Adjunct Professor at the University of San Francisco School of Law where she teaches in the Child Advocacy Clinic. She is Associate Director of the UCSF Child Trauma Research Project located at San Francisco General Hospital, and co-author of the books *Losing a parent to death in the early years: Guidelines for the treatment of traumatic bereavement in infancy and early childhood*, and *“Don't Hit my Mommy!”: A manual of child-parent psychotherapy with young witnesses of family violence*. Her research is with children under the age of six who witnessed or experienced violence in their families or communities.

THURSDAY, 7 JUNE:

“Parenting the Child – Accepting Diversity”

When a family has a child with special needs, the focus is mainly on the disability, and on “normalizing” the child. Children with high-risk birth histories may have an uneven developmental profile, lagging in some areas of development, while doing well in others. The child's strengths remain unnoticed and untapped. Often, the domain with the lowest level of attainment overwhelms the attention of the parents. The emotional well being of the child is, all too often, least understood and therefore, given scant importance. The “Learning Through Play” calendar, a pictorial guide for early childhood care, developed in Canada, was taken up for translation and dissemination by Bala Mandir in India. It was then adapted to allow for multi-segmentation of the developmental profile where a child can be at different developmental levels in the different domains. The profile obtained enables attention

to be focused appropriately on the domains individually, providing a holistic perspective. It is inclusive of all children, and makes it easier for the community and individual families to accept children with their differences. Through this tool, ALL children will be understood in a different perspective, and appreciated for their special abilities or needs, and will be helped to achieve their potential.

Dr. Indu Balagopal and Usha Ramakrishnan - India

- Usha Ramakrishnan graduated with Psychology from the University of Madras, followed by studies in Special Education from SNDT University Mumbai and is a certified master trainer for the Education of the Developmental Young from the University of Manchester and IICP Kolkatta. After two decades of working with children, she is currently the Chairperson of Vidya Sagar Chennai (formerly The Spastics Society of India Chennai branch) that works towards their education, employment, empowerment and inclusion. She is on the Council of Management at Bala Mandir Research Foundation Chennai. She advises the Government of Tamil Nadu for their UNDP sponsored Integrated Child Development Scheme.

- Indu Balagopal is a medical doctor who has worked for more than two decades with underprivileged children. As Secretary of Mobile Creches in Mumbai, she administered a daycare programme for more than of 3000 children per year. She is an advisory member of the child-to-child Trust in London, Consultant to Health Promotion International, Sydney, Advisory member of Arab Resource Centre, Lebanon and member of the Balamandir Research foundation, India. Also member of the advisory Group on child-to-child programmes in Chetna, Ahmedabad, India. Has been a member of the Consultative group on Early Childhood care and Education, and vice-president of the Bombay International School Board.

FRIDAY, 8 JUNE:

“Families in the Mind – Psychoanalytic Stories of Exclusion and Inclusion”

This paper argues that we are all fundamentally relationship seeking; that it is in our first significant relationships we experience feelings of inclusion and exclusion, and where we learn how to receive and to give. If, for whatever reason, this intimate to-ing and fro-ing is interrupted, our capacity to make creative use of internal and external resources throughout our lives is compromised, sometimes severely so. These interrupted unsatisfactory patterns of relating can be passed on inter-generationally. In drawing upon contemporary attachment and psychoanalytic object relation theories and personal accounts of familial relationships I offer a framework for understanding these processes and how therapeutic practices may help restore a more productively reflective way of relating.

Judith Fewell - Scotland

Ms Fewell divides her time between working as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist and clinical supervisor in private practice in Edinburgh and as a lecturer in Counselling Studies at the University of Edinburgh where she is the director of the postgraduate Diploma in Counselling. Over the last twenty years she has worked extensively with counselling agencies in the voluntary and statutory sectors in Scotland as both a trainer and consultant. Judith originally trained as an English teacher and later undertook postgraduate research in gender and education. She taught gender studies and sociology at universities in Britain and the USA before completing her psychoanalytic psychotherapy training at the Scottish Institute of Human Relations in Edinburgh. She has made a significant contribution to the establishment of counselling training at Edinburgh University. She has co-authored with colleagues various papers on gender and education, therapeutic practice issues and counselling in the voluntary sector in Scotland. Her current research interests include applications of psychoanalytic ideas, theories of subjectivity and narrative and the implications for counselling and psychotherapy of current developments in attachment theory and developmental psychology. For all her professional satisfactions she gets the most pleasure from her partner and their two adult children, her home and garden and cooking for family and friends.

WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTERS

Wednesday, 6 June 2007

Workshop 1: “Overcoming cultural barriers: helping the families and children of migrant workers to integrate with the community in affluent cities of mainland China”
Presenter: Prof. Agnes Law Koon-chui (China)

Migrant workers from the rural areas are significant human resources of affluent cities in China that help fill positions in manufacturing, services and building industries. As different from the last decades when migrant workers regarded working in the city as a transient arrangement, many who now work in the city are aspired to bring their spouses and children to the adopted city and settle down. Problems of social exclusion, job insecurity, low income and poor health have made their integration with the community difficult. This workshop has the following aims:

- To share with the participants the present social and economic development of Pearl River Delta in Guangdong Province, a highly industrialized and urbanized region of Southern China, and how the economic, education and health systems respond to the needs of the migrant families.
- To discuss the need for a cultural sensitive work approach by the helping professions that can be more effective in helping migrant families and their children to overcome cultural, social and economic barriers encountered.

Agnes Law Koon-chui has a distinguished career in social work and education. She worked with City University of Hong Kong from 1984 to 2002 and was formerly Head of the Division of Social Studies. Prior to her academic career, she held a number of senior positions in non-governmental organizations in Hong Kong. She is currently Professor and Chair of the Social Work Research and Education Center of the Sun Yat-sen (Zhongshan) University in Guangzhou, China. Her research interests include social welfare policies, women’s issues, organization and community dynamics. She has a long track record in community services providing her professional contributions to governmental and non-governmental organizations in Hong Kong as well as in mainland China.

Workshop 2: “The impact of having a family member facing mental health problems on the caregiver and the family - How can social and psychiatric services be of help.”
Presenter: Dr. Anna Vella (Malta)

Based on a study with patients listed on the Psychiatric Outpatients register and patients receiving in patient treatment at Mount Carmel Hospital, approximately one person in every eight families faces mental health problems in Malta. The National Family Commission set up a multidisciplinary research group to assess the prevailing situation with a view to making appropriate recommendations. The results of the study shed interesting light on a wide range of issues, presenting a comprehensive profile; data relating to levels of care and encouragement, relationships, preoccupations, financial implications, psychological repercussions; and effects on children. It concludes with recommendations based on the interviewees’ responses regarding services used in this sector.

Anna Vella graduated in Medicine and Surgery at the University of Perugia- Italy in 1992. She read her Masters thesis in Public Health at the University of Malta in 2000 and her Post-Graduate Diploma in Women’s Health at the University of Dublin-Ireland 2005. She has been working in the Substance Misuse Unit at the General Hospital in Malta for the past 10 years where she holds a Registrar post, specialising in care for pregnant women with a substance misuse problem and women who are sex workers. Anna also lectures at the University of Malta on the subject of Drug Misuse in the Faculties of Medicine and Surgery, Nursing, Social work and Psychology Studies.

Workshop 3: “The goodbye process; the heart of family mediation”
Presenters: Cees van Leuven and Brigitte Chin-A-Fat (Netherlands)
with Emeritus Prof. Janet Walker (UK)

The focus of this workshop is a Dutch method of divorce mediation centered around the so called goodbye-process. Now that the government is trying ways to implement divorce mediation in the Dutch legal system, the result of mediation captured in numbers and success rates is emphasized

more often. Not only practice but research as well shows that for the clients it is important to give attention to the psychological process of getting a divorce. Even though many divorce mediators in the Netherlands received their training from experts from abroad, for example, John Haynes, divorce mediation has also developed in a specific Dutch way. This development in the Netherlands was led by two founding fathers: Peter Hoefnagels (emeritus prof. in Family Law) and Donald MacGillavry (psychologist). Divorce mediation(-training) can be described in short as follows: the mediation begins with the so-called '**goodbye process**' (originally introduced by Hoefnagels) and continues through an analysis of the parties' communication and relationship. In the workshop the focus will be placed on the goodbye process and mediator interventions. The workshop consists of a contextual part in which Professor Janet Walker will present the results of her UK research findings relating to the separation process and mediation, and an explanation of the Dutch system of divorce and qualifications for mediators (such as a code of ethics). The presenters will also use exercises, to give participants a feeling what it means to be or not to be able to say goodbye.

Janet Walker (FRSA AcSS is Emeritus Professor of Family Policy and Strategic Research Advisor in the Newcastle Centre for Family Studies at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in England. She has practised as a probation officer, family therapist and as a family mediator. Between 1985 and 2005 she was Director of the Newcastle Centre for Family Studies and has directed over 40 studies, and published widely on marriage and divorce, family mediation, marital counselling, family communication, post-divorce parenting, domestic violence, crime and policing and juvenile offending. Her research has required her to work closely with government departments and with practitioners in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. In the late 1990s she worked with the Council of Europe as expert consultant in the field of Family Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution. She is a member of the Social Security Advisory Committee; a Trustee of the National Family and Parenting Institute; a Board member of the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family; and Chair of the International Committee of the Board of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, USA.

Cees van Leuven (1953) is a Justice in the Hague Court of Appeal since January 1st 2006. Before becoming a Justice he worked as a lawyer and in his last years of practice mainly as family mediator. He also published frequently and co-authored a book called 'Children in mediation'. Cees van Leuven developed what is known in the Netherlands as 'Forensic mediation', a method in which the mediator works as an expert for and reporting to the court, working the most difficult contact cases, often in which an accusation of sexual abuse had been made by one of the parents.

Brigitte Chin-A-Fat (1975) studied law and psychology. After graduation she worked as a researcher and received her PhD at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam in 2004. In 2003 she became a lawyer and mediator specialising in family cases. Brigitte Chin-A-Fat publishes frequently, teaches mediation and is often a speaker at conferences. She also is an editor of the Dutch Journal of Mediation and a member of the international committee of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC).

Workshop 4: "The React Young Parents Project – Challenges and learning"

Presenters: Sonia Scott, April Mitchinson and Maureen Hally (Scotland)

This workshop will focus initially on the research that informed Scottish Marriage Care's (SMC) development of its first Community Project in an area of severe economic and social deprivation in Greater Easterhouse, a Glasgow housing estate. Greater Easterhouse was designated a Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) by the Scottish Executive in 1997 in response to the worsening social and economic situation. Almost 48% of parents in the area are under 25, however despite this high percentage, this group proved to be extremely hard to reach and very under-represented throughout all Greater Easterhouse agencies. This workshop will explore the challenges and lessons learnt from developing SMC's Young Parents Project. Focusing on the main issues of recruitment and retention of peer educators, including ethical dilemmas and the difficulties of engaging this client group.

Sonia Scott is the Relationship Education Co-ordinator with REACT. She has a broad range of experience which includes working in Mental Health, Sexual Health, Drugs and Alcohol. She is a fully qualified Relationship Counsellor and has a B.A. (Hons) in Sociology and English.

April Mitchinson is the Research and Communications Manager for Scottish Marriage Care. She has an Honours Degree in History and a Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism. Her background is in journalism and before commencing employment

with SMC she gained experience working within the wider regeneration and social inclusion field.

Maureen Hally is Service Development Manager with Scottish Marriage Care. She is a very experienced counsellor, supervisor and trainer with SMC. Maureen has worked extensively within the voluntary sector both in Castlemilk in Glasgow as a family counsellor for families experiencing drug and alcohol abuse, and in Perth as a project worker/counsellor for people experiencing homelessness and sleeping rough, with all the issues this lifestyle embodies.

Workshop 5: “Grandparents’/Grandchildren’s barriers to Access”

Presenters: Anne Berger Joanne Wilder, Suzanne Harris, Anita Rodarte (USA)

This workshop will examine, from several perspectives, the legal, emotional and geographical barriers that grandparents and their grandchildren face in North America today. The legal aspect will report on and examine selected laws in the various United States and in the Canadian provinces that provide for grandparent visitation, custody, and guardianship in cases of the death, divorce, or disability of one or more of the parents, and how those laws impact the relationships between the grandparents and their grandchildren, and in some cases, between the grandparents and their own children or the spouse or partner of a deceased child. The geographical aspect will report on and examine how the mobility in modern society has separated grandparents from their grandchildren and changed the roles that grandparents play in the upbringing of children. The emotional aspect will focus on the recent forensic psychological studies done to examine parental alienation and how alienation syndrome can affect the relationship between grandparents and their grandchildren.

Anne Berger is a partner in the Woburn law firm of Berger & Small. Ms Berger received her J.D. from Boston University School of Law. She has written and lectured extensively on family law and related issues. She was a council member of the Family Law Section of the Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) from 1996 to 1999. Ms Berger has been a Fellow of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers since 1997 and of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers since 1987. She is currently vice president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and has previously served as secretary and as a manager.

Joanne Wilder is a principal in the seven-lawyer matrimonial law firm of Wilder & Mahood in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Pennsylvania Family Law Practice and Procedure*, now in its sixth edition, and contributes articles on domestic relations and legal ethics issues to professional periodicals. Ms Wilder is a frequent lecturer at continuing legal education programmes and has taught family law as an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. She currently serves on the faculty of the Family Law Trial Advocacy Institute at the University of Houston and is Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers*. Ms. Wilder recently completed a six- year term as a member of the Supreme Court Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee, and is a past president of Neighbourhood Legal Services Association. Ms Wilder is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association House of Delegates and is a past chair of the Family Law Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. She currently serves as co-chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Ethics Committee and is a past chair of the ACBA Professional Ethics Committee. Ms Wilder has been listed in every edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Suzanne Harris is in private practice limited to family law. She is a 1977 graduate of UCLA Law School and a principal in the family law firm of Harris-Ginsberg LLP in Los Angeles. Before starting her own firm, Ms Harris practiced family law as a partner of the Los Angeles office of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton and at the family law firm of Trope & Trope. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a Specialist in Family Law Certified by the State Bar of California’s Board of Legal Specialization and a frequent lecturer to attorneys and others on family law topics.

Anita Rodarte is a 1984 Graduate of the University of Missouri Kansas City Law School and a shareholder with Bernstein, Rodarte and Hatheway, P.C. Ms Rodarte is licensed in Missouri and Kansas and limits her practice to family law. Ms Rodarte is a fellow with the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and is listed in the 2007 “Best Lawyers in America” in field of Family Law. She authored Chapter 6, “Dissolution of Marriage” – Missouri Bar “Family Law” 6th Edition Deskbook. She is a frequent lecturer on a variety of family law topics.

Thursday 7 June 2007

Workshop 6: Can listening to children moderate “zealous advocacy” and promote “best interests” in family law disputes.

Presenters: William J. Howe, III (USA), Dianne Gibson (Australia)

Mr. Howe's portion of the workshop will consider the applicability of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Children*, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers *Bounds of Advocacy*, and the *Best Practice Guidelines for Lawyers Doing Family Law Work* prepared by the Australian Government Family Law Counsel to the difficult practical problems facing lawyers when the client's instructions, in the opinion of the lawyer, collide with the "best interests" of children who are affected by the litigation. This workshop will examine the best practices ethical rules applicable to these situations.

Ms. Gibson's presentation will discuss how can children's voices and views be heard in a Family Court environment? The Family Court of Australia is presently considering a new approach that includes children's views and experience of separation in court proceedings. A new programme has been evaluated that includes children's views prior to trial and feeds back to parents and their legal representatives the children's ideas and feelings about future parenting arrangements in separated families. This presentation will include an outline of the new approach, the findings from the evaluation study, and a short DVD presentation about children and separation that is used with parents in this program.

William J. Howe, III, has practiced family law since 1975, currently with Gevurtz, Menashe, Larson & Howe, P.C., of Portland, Oregon, a 20 lawyer firm which limits its practice to family law. He is one of ten family law lawyers from Oregon included in the 2005-06 Best Lawyers in America. He was appointed by Chief Justice to Chair the Oregon Task Force on Family Law from 1993 to 1997 and later to Vice-Chair of the Statewide Family Law Advisory Committee. He has served as President of Oregon Family Institute, served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, serves on the Oregon Court of Appeals Mediation panel, has served as Pro Tem Judge and mediator, and was awarded the 2003 Pro Bono Challenge Award for the Highest Level of Pro Bono Public Service by the Oregon State Bar. In addition, Mr. Howe is a frequent author and speaker at Family Law Conferences in the United States, Canada, Australia and Europe, and has authored several articles on Family Law.

Dianne Gibson is the Director of Child Dispute Services in the Family Court of Australia. She has had extensive experience in both community and court settings in policy and practice design and implementation. Dianne was the founding Director of Mediation in the Family Court of Australia and has now returned to the Court after 10 years in the NGO sector that provides family relationships services to the Australian community.

Workshop 7: Participation of minors and parents: basis for an inclusive policy regarding youth care in Flanders

Presenter: Carine De Wilde (Belgium)

This workshop presents an outline of the implementation process of integrated youth care in Flanders. Integrated youth care is both a policy line and a policy project that creates preconditions for realising high-quality youth care in Flanders. These preconditions have been laid down by a Flemish Parliament Act. High-quality youth care is to be understood as youth care that meets the following principles: accessibility, demand-orientation, subsidiarity, participation, acceptance and emancipation. The aim of the workshop is to give you a clear insight in the way integrated youth care intends to achieve its mission at different organisational levels: in each youth care facility, at the regional level and at the policy making level of the Flemish Community. Various instruments and supporting initiatives to structurally incorporate the participation of minors and parents will be examined: a legal status for minors, networking of care facilities, advisory groups and steering groups with structural participation of minors and parents, environmental analysis and planning instruments, training and process support of social workers and last but not least sensitizing activities for both minors and parents about their position in youth care. During the presentation close attention will be paid to the way these actions interact, the assets and critical elements of the global process and to the way different actions are experienced by both social workers and clients in youth care.

Carine De Wilde is an executive staff assistant for integrated youth care policy support, in the Welfare, Public Health and Family Department of the Flemish

Government – Belgium. She has a Masters degree in psychological and pedagogical sciences, in the discipline of social welfare and a post academic degree on children's rights. She has work experience in scientific research in the field of the intergenerational transmission of poverty and special youth care as well as in policy preparation work in education and welfare. She has written various publications on children's rights.

Workshop 8: “Managing Diversity in the Workplace: Focus on Disability”

Presenter: Kimberly Fitzgerald (Ireland)

The Workpath Programme combines Disability Management, EAP, Vocational Rehabilitation and Return to Work counselling for working persons with disabling conditions. The WorkPath workshop will look at: counselling with special focus on adjustment to disabling conditions, workplace consultation, policy consultation, information and education activity, critical incidence debriefing, case management of return to work for employees with disabilities to include family members as necessary. The workshop will also address issues such as: productivity levels, absenteeism, human resources and employee retention. Expected outcomes of the workshop would be: participants will have a broader knowledge and understanding of disability management in the workplace.

Kimberly Fitzgerald is an accredited counsellor who has over 14 years experience in working with people with disabilities. She has a Master of Education degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counselling from the University of Texas at Austin. Kimberly previously worked as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellor in the United States. She specialises in workplace disability issues, particularly in the areas of disability management, case management, and counselling. Kimberly is actively involved with The Employee Assistance Professionals Association of Ireland and currently works as the Employee Assistance Coordinator for Access Ability.

Workshop 9: “Partnerships between the Voluntary and Statutory Sectors – Opportunities and Limitations.”

Presenters: Susanna Abse, Joanna Rosenthal (UK)

Since 2004, TCCR (Tavistock Centre for Couple Relationships) has been involved in a partnership project with the NHS through working links with the Adult and Child and Family Departments of the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust. The resulting growth in clinical work has increased access to psychotherapeutic help to couples for whom both the cost of treatment in the voluntary sector and the requirement to self refer has been felt to be prohibitive. The workshop will describe some of the difficulties and highlights of collaboration between two organisations, focussing on those that are especially related to the differences between the voluntary and statutory sectors. The workshop will also describe the work undertaken in both settings and explore the differences. Future initiatives that are currently seeking funding will also be described and how the availability of resources shapes the type of work undertaken. We will link this issue about resources to the question of conflict between couple focussed work and child focussed work. Clinical questions about referral between paying and non-paying services will be examined and client's responses to this will be described. The impact of introducing health service protocols into a fee paying service will be addressed and how this might operate as a barrier to access. The workshop will explore questions about how far public money should be required for interventions into private misery whilst arguing for services that are free at the point of delivery.

Susanna Abse is Director of The Tavistock Centre for Couple Relationships and a Senior Couple Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist. She a past Organising Tutor of the MA programme and was Head of Psychotherapy and Counselling at the centre until July 2006. Her most recent publications include:- Abse, S. (2006). Review of White, K. (Ed). Attachment and Sexuality in Clinical Practice. The John Bowlby Memorial Conference Monograph 2004. London: Karnac, 2005. Journal of Analytical Psychology 51(1):156-158. Abse, S (2006). “Whose illness is it anyway? Clinical issues of work With borderline couples” Journal of The Society of Couple Psychoanalytic Psychotherapists, Issue 2, London.

Joanna Rosenthal is a Senior Couple Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist at the TCCR and currently leads the project developing a working partnership with The Tavistock Clinic. She is author of many papers on psychotherapeutic work with couples, one of her most recent papers was: - Rosenthal, J. (2004) ‘Oedipus gets married’, in Oedipus and the Couple, ed. F. Grier. London: Karnac Books.

Workshop 10: “Restoring Character and Civility to Youth Sports”

Presenters: Steven Kinney (USA)

Youth Sports provide both fitness and a means to enhance the character development of young people in any country. According to Michigan State University’s Institute for the Study of Youth Sports, children participating in organized sports tend to achieve higher results in school, develop excellent interpersonal skills, and lead healthier lives. Experts in the USA estimate that more than 70 percent of children quit organized youth sports by age 13, saying: “It just wasn’t fun any more.” With less and less emphasis on physical education in American schools we see a rise in teenage obesity and teenage diabetes resulting in limiting social skills and isolation. The ICCFR Workshop focus will address these questions:

Has youth sports lost its child-centered focus and inclusiveness?

Do youth sports suffer from the actions of over-invested, unrealistic sports parents?

Are youth sports too focused on early sports specialization, leading to burnout, overuse injuries, the use of Performance Enhancing Drugs and a hyper-competitive atmosphere?

Has youth sports lost the voice of the child?

By providing the strong leadership necessary we encourage character development in youth sports, while promoting the values of inclusive sportsmanship, civility, respect, health, safety, fun and fitness among the young athletes.

Steven Kinney is currently the Executive Director of the National Consortium for Academics and Sports-Pacific West, Inc. (NCAS). The NCAS was born out of the Centre for the Study of Sport in Society at Northeastern University. The NCAS works to create a better society by focusing on educational attainment and using the power and appeal of sport to positively affect social change. Steven Kinney is the Founder of the Thomas-Kinney Group, a consulting firm specializing in Organizational Development, with emphasis on; Leadership Development, Team Building, Career Development and Cultural Diversity Training. Mr. Kinney was also vital in the development, and implementation of the Invest In Yourself program. Invest In Yourself was a first-of-its-kind, value-added career development/transition program, which stressed strategic planning, and has served more than 300 professional athletes in three countries and two languages. Steven Kinney has also participated in the design of, and serves as one of the coordinators of, the Leadership Education Program, developed for the United Roofers and Waterproofers Union. This program is an innovative labor/management training program, which has been ratified by the Meaney Institute (Labor College) for college level undergraduate credit. Mr. Kinney has worked with Kids’ Turn and Judge Donna Hitchens, the former presiding Juvenile Court Judge in the City of San Francisco to design, develop, and implement the Non-violent Family Skills Program for at-risk youth in San Francisco.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Languages

This conference will be held in English. Depending on demand, translation into/from French may be provided in plenary sessions, selected workshops and some of the groups. *Please let us know as early as possible (by 15 March at the latest) if you require this service, so the necessary arrangements can be made.*

Keynote papers

These will address the central issues raised by the conference's subject and provide input for plenary discussion and groupwork.

Workshops

Specialists working in different countries and disciplines focus on specific aspects of the conference subject and facilitate international comparisons and debates.

Registration for the workshops will take place during the conference.

Discussion Groups

The 2007 Conference Programme includes a series of four Discussion Group sessions. Similar series of sessions have been a highly appreciated feature of ICCFR Conferences for many years. The sessions offer conference participants the opportunity to give detailed consideration to the themes and issues raised by Keynote speakers and Workshop presenters. This will happen with people from other countries and other professions. To be successful the groups need members who will attend all sessions. Individuals registering for the conference are therefore asked to commit themselves to regular attendance on the Conference Registration Form. *Any questions raised by such a commitment should be discussed with a Board Member before the conference begins.*

Participants will be allocated to specific groups in order to ensure a good mix of nationalities and professions. Because groups will be of mixed nationality we ask all to be sensitive to the needs of colleagues whose first language is not the working language of the group. Each group will have a Facilitator. Facilitators will help to ensure that everyone's experiences and viewpoints are heard while helping the members to deal with the conference's main themes.

Groups can submit Recommendations if they wish. There will be a chance for individual group members to state their points of view on conference themes during a final plenary session. However, the detail of groups' discussions will be confidential to their members.

Cultural programme

- Tuesday evening (5 June): Welcome by a representative of the First Minister at the Opening Reception and Buffet dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Reception will conclude with a viewing of the Crown Jewels.
- Wednesday evening (6 June): The "Round Table Dinner" provides an opportunity to meet with fellow professional colleagues in their own specialist field in the informal setting of a dinner at the Heriot-Watt University.
- Thursday evening (7 June): Dinner followed by a "Ceilidh" – a traditional Scottish evening with music and dancing.

Display

All participants are invited to bring material about their work, their organisations and publications relevant to the conference subject, as the conference will offer the facility of a display area.

Participants' list

This will be available to participants at the conference. Please specify on your Registration Form if you do **not** wish your address to be included.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Conference Registration :

Ms. Angela Dunlea
MARRIAGE CARE
1 Blythe Mews, Blythe Road
London, W14 0NW, England
Tel: +44+20 7371 1341
Fax: +44+20 7371 4921
Email: angela@marriagecare.org.uk

Conference Information:

Mrs. Gerlind Richards MBE,
ICCFR General Secretary
4 Barnfield Wood Close,
Beckenham, Kent BR3 6SY, England
Phone/Fax: +44+20+8663 0445
Email: secretariat@iccf.org

PARTICIPATION COST

ICCFR Members are entitled to a reduction of £45 on the full conference participation fee.

1. Residential Conference Participation

Registration: - before 15 April 2007: **£495.00** / - after 15 April 2007: **£550.00**

This includes the registration and all conference material, full participation in all the conference programme, accommodation at Heriot Watt Conference Centre, and all meals from Tuesday evening, 5 June, until Friday lunch, 8 June.

• Accompanying Persons

Booking: - before 15 April 2007: **£250.00** / - after 15 April 2007: **£280.00**

This includes registration, cultural programme, accommodation at the conference centre in a double room shared with a full participant, breakfasts & evening meals from Tuesday evening, 5 June, until Friday morning, 8 June. (lunches not incl.), **without conference participation.**

A small number of double rooms are available at Heriot-Watt Conference Centre. Once these are allocated, accompanying persons will be accommodated in separate single rooms. Alternatively, double rooms can be booked at the nearby Dalmahoy Hotel (see below). Please let us know if you would prefer this option, if no double room at Heriot-Watt is available.

PLEASE NOTE: we cannot guarantee accommodation at the conference centre after 22 April.

Extra Nights (incl. breakfast) at Heriot-Watt Conference Centre before/after the Conference :

Single room: **£ 39** / Double room: **£ 55** - to be booked directly with Heriot-Watt University by email to reservations@HW.ac.uk; or telephone: +44 +131 +451.3669 (Reservations).

2. Non-Residential Conference Participation

Registration - before 15 April 2007: **£375.00** / - after 15 April 2007: **£400.00**

This includes the registration and all conference material, full participation in all of the conference programme, all meals during the conference (except breakfasts) **without accommodation.**

• Accompanying Persons

Booking: - before 15 April 2007: **£120.00** / - after 15 April 2007: **£150.00**

This includes the evening programme and meals.

3. Accommodation option at Dalmahoy Country House Hotel (see: "Local Information")

For participants preferring not to stay at the conference centre, a limited number of double rooms has been pre-booked at this Hotel.

- Double Room **£187.50** per person sharing for 3 nights, incl breakfast
- Single Room **£ 345** for 3 nights, incl breakfast

For Total Cost, please, select above "2. Non-Residential Conference Participation" / "Non-Residential Accompanying Persons" and add Dalmahoy accommodation cost.

4. Part time Conference Participation Rates:

- Opening Plenary Session and Castle Reception, June 5th: **£70**
- Closing Plenary and lunch, June 8th: **£60**
- Day Participation (June 6th or June 7th) which includes plenary session(s) and a workshop refreshments and lunch: **£90.**

BOOKING AND PAYMENT METHOD:

Please, send the enclosed Registration Form to the address indicated on the form together with the payment. Registration is only valid upon receipt of payment.

Payment Options:

1. By transfer to the account of MARRIAGE CARE (copy of transfer order to be sent with the Registration Form – all bank charges to be covered by payee) – **please identify payment "ICCFR"**

- o **Bank:** Royal Bank of Scotland, P.O. Box 412, 62/63 Threadneedle Street, London, EC2R 8LA
- o **Branch Code:** 15-10-00 / **Account number:** 22084855
- o **IBAN:** GB84RBOS15100022084855
- o **SWIFT BIC:** RBOSGB2L

2. By credit card to Marriage Care: please complete the payment slip on the Registration Form

CANCELLATION: before 22 April 2007: 75% refund.

We regret that no refund can be given after 22 April 2007

LOCAL INFORMATION – TRANSPORT – TOURS

A Certificate of Attendance in respect of CPD will be issued to all Participants.

Address of Conference Venue and accomodation:

Heriot- Watt Conference Centre

Edinburgh Campus
Riccarton,
Currie, EH14 4AS

Phone: +44 (0) 131 449 5111

Fax: +44 (0) 131 449 5153

E-mail: enquiries@hw.ac.uk

Website: www.hw.ac.uk (incl. local directions)

Heriot- Watt University Edinburgh is set in beautiful parkland in the west of Scotland's capital city, surrounded by mature woods beside a loch, within easy reach of the city centre. The Edinburgh Conference Centre at Heriot-Watt welcomes 25,000 delegates every year from around the world.

Heriot-Watt offers very few double rooms for participants wishing to bring their partners/spouses. Therefore a number of additional double rooms have been booked at nearby **Dalmahoy Country House Hotel**. These can also be offered for single occupancy, for participants preferring this type of accommodation.

The Georgian Mansion of Dalmahoy shelters at the foot of the Pentland Hills in 1,000 acres of parkland with views towards Edinburgh Castle and beyond. It is a 5**** Marriott Hotel and Country Club with two 18-hole golf courses and a leisure centre. Heriot- Watt University conference centre is a 4-minute taxi ride away.

HOW TO GET THERE

• **Flights:**

There are direct flights to Edinburgh International Airport from most major cities. Heriot- Watt University is approximately 10 minutes by taxi from Edinburgh airport.

• **To reach Heriot- Watt University from Edinburgh central –**

- o By Bus: Services 25, 34, 45, X40 and N25 serve the campus. Journey takes approx. 40 mins.
- o By Taxi: journey is about 30 minutes.
- o By Rail: One mile from the conference centre, Curriehill is the nearest local rail station with a regular train service into central Edinburgh.

WHAT TO SEE:

Edinburgh, the inspiring capital of Scotland, is a historic, cosmopolitan and cultured city. The setting is wonderfully striking; the city is perched on a series of extinct volcanoes and rocky crags which rise from the plains of the Lothians, with the sheltered shoreline of the Firth of Forth to the north. Edinburgh Castle dominates the city-centre skyline and from its ramparts you can look down on medieval lanes and elegant, sweeping terraces that hold over a thousand years of history, mystery and tradition. The Castle provides a stunning focal point at the head of the historic Royal Mile, leading down to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Queen's residence's in Edinburgh, which is open to the public. Yet you will also see a modern, dynamic capital where international festivals attract the world's leading performers, galleries display cutting-edge art, and bars, restaurants and clubs create a lively, cosmopolitan atmosphere with a distinctly Scottish twist.

The website of the Scottish Tourist Board www.visitscotland.com offers excellent information on Edinburgh city and the surrounding area, including information on guided tours. A good way of seeing Edinburgh and its sites is by double-decker bus which provide a commented tour as well as allowing you to stop and visit different places of interest at your own leisure. Most of these start opposite Waverley central railway station and require no prior booking.

EXCURSIONS

SCOTTISH TOURS operate a range of sightseeing tours of Scotland with a choice of 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5-day tours. You can find full information at www.scottishtours.co.uk. These tours can be booked prior to arrival, by using one of the following methods (which will enable conference participants to be put on the same tour):

- Online: please insert “**ICCFR**” after your name when booking;
- By email: write to ewan@prestigetours.com indicating “**ICCFR Conference**” with requirements;
- By telephone/fax or post addressed to Euan Finlayson (SCOTTISH TOURS, 6 Albert Road, Renfrew PA4 8ET, Scotland) Tel: +44+141+886 1000; Fax: +141+885 2442) indicating “**ICCFR Conference**” with requirements.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON COUPLE AND FAMILY RELATIONS ICCFR / CIRCF

The Commission (ICCFR/CIRCF), formerly the International Commission on Marriage and Family Relations (ICMIR/CIMRI), was established in 1953 as part of the International Union of Family Organisations (IUFO) that is now known as the World Family Organisation (WFO). ICCFR has developed an extensive membership base worldwide and is constantly encouraging new members to join. The wide variety of member organisations and individuals has ensured that the Commission has remained a relevant and ground-breaking forum for all those interested in family services provision, research and policy development. The Commission's annual international conference is committed to making an innovative and contemporary contribution to the understanding of the issues and challenges couples and families face throughout the world, and to finding the means by which the family-related professions can assist in addressing them. The newly established **ICCFR Trust (UK Charity Registration No. 1098678)** offers potential benefactors a tax-efficient and accountable means to support the activities of the Commission.

Material about the history and work of the International Commission on Couple and Family Relations is available prior to the conference from the ICCFR General Secretary Mrs. Gerlind Richards MBE in London (Tel./Fax: +44+20+8663.0445; E-mail: secretariat@iccf.org).

www.iccf.org

Scottish Marriage Care

This is a family support organisation with 60 years experience in adult relationships in the UK and 40 years in Scotland. It provides a professional family support service to the whole community through 20 local Centres and counselling outlets. Services are for couples and individuals of all ages and stages in their relationship whatever the status, i.e. married, cohabiting divorced or separated, regardless of social background, personal beliefs or race. It has the Scottish licence for the FOCCUS relationship inventory aimed at couples planning to marry/enter a committed relationship.

**72 Waterloo Street
Glasgow
G2 7DA**

**Contact: info@scottishmarriagecare.org
www.ScottishMarriageCare.org**

Relate Scotland

This is a national charity with a network of independent local services, counselling takes place in about 50 centres across Scotland. Our local services offer advice, relationship counselling, counselling for young people, family counselling, family therapy and sex therapy. We have been supporting families and relationships in Scotland for over 60 years. We work in partnership across the UK with Relate, Relate NI and Relate Cymru.

**18 York Place
Edinburgh
EH1 3EP**

**Contact: enquires@relatescotland.org.uk
www.relatescotland.org.uk**

ICCFR's 54th international conference is preceded by the annual conference of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts AFCC which is held in Washington DC, May 30 – June 2, 2007.

For further information about this event, please visit the website www.afccnet.org or contact AFCC, 6525 Grand Teton Plaza, Madison WI 53719, USA (tel: +1+608+6643750)