

Cape Town, South Africa 19-20 August: ISS through its General Secretariat with the Children's Rights Project at the Dullah Omar Institute, University of Western Cape, Faculty of Law, University of Western Cape and Centre for Child Law, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria hosted 25 experts to discuss the draft principles. Experts from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda provided an African perspective noting that surrogacy is historically intertwined in their culture where stigmatisation occurs where women cannot bear children. Lessons were drawn from South African altruistic practices where many pre-surrogacy protections such as insurance are in place providing solutions when unexpected circumstances occur.



London, UK: 13 – 14 September: ISS through its General Secretariat with Children and Families Across Borders (CFAB), ISS' UK member, British Association of Social Workers (BASW) and the BASW Project Group on Assisted Reproduction (PROGAR) hosted 40 experts at the Australian High Commission to discuss the draft principles. Members of the core group were able to learn from the experiences of various practitioners, academics as well as donor conceived/surrogate born persons. This consultation also provided an opportunity to consult with members of the Law Commission of England and Wales and to discuss their law reform work.



Geneva, Switzerland: 19-20 September: ISS met with the larger expert group at Brocher Foundation to consider the views from the consultations in South Africa and United Kingdom. Experts from Australia, Belgium, Cambodia, Georgia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Philippines, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine etc. provided insights into issues such as when, and in what circumstances, should a best interests determination occur. Discussions on other issues such as legal parentage, cooperation mechanisms, access to origins and preventing the sale, trafficking and exploitation of children were also held.



Moving forward: The above consultations have occurred in parallel with, and seeks to complement, consultations that will take place, or have already taken place, in other regions and international contexts. Planning for further consultations in the Americas, Asia Pacific and Eastern Europe as well as with donor conceived and surrogate born persons are underway for 2019 and 2020.

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