

A young girl with dark hair in pigtails, wearing a white shirt, is smiling and holding hands with two adults. The adults are partially visible on the left and right sides of the frame. They are outdoors in a grassy area with trees in the background.

CFAB

protecting **CHILDREN** and
uniting **FAMILIES ACROSS BORDERS**

Service Brochure

How we can help _____

Protecting children and uniting families across borders



As the only UK charity with an international children's social work team and the only UK member of the International Social Service (ISS) network, we work with partners in over 130 countries. Founded in 1955, we are experts in social work in an international context, cross-border child protection cases, care proceedings requiring cross-border cooperation and overseas placements.

As well as offering a wide range of case management and legal advice services to local authorities, we run a free Advice Line to provide guidance and practical support on international child protection issues. We also deliver specialised training in the field of international social work.

Our vision and values

CFAB exists to ensure that every child in the UK has the right to care, protection and family life, no matter where they come from.

Our vision is of a world where the complexity of migration and international separation does not deny children the right to care, protection and a safe family environment.

In an increasingly globalised world, we recognise the complexity of international social work. With our partners worldwide, CFAB works to increase efficiency and provide an effective, high quality service.

We provide our expertise and experience to local authorities, the courts and other public agencies to help ensure the best possible outcomes for children.

The story of Christina and Maria

Christina and Maria were just 6 and 8 years old when they were removed from their mother's care after experiencing physical and emotional abuse as a result of her severe mental illness.

The girls have dual British-Filipino nationality, and although they had regular Skype contact with their father in the Philippines, he indicated that he was unable to care for them permanently.

There was no family left to care for the girls in the UK, and so they ended up in the care system.

Thankfully, the children's local authority got in touch with CFAB to look into the possibility of Christina and Maria being cared for by their paternal aunt and uncle who lived in the Philippines.

CFAB used their worldwide network to contact their ISS partner in the country, who were able to complete an assessment of the family which was extremely positive.

Following CFAB's assessment, the girls were placed in the long-term care of their aunt and uncle. The UK local authority then requested CFAB conduct post-placement visits via their ISS partner to ensure the girls settled well into their new family life.

We are here to listen, explain and advise

Every child in the UK has the right to care, protection and a family life, no matter where they come from.

CFAB runs a free Advice Line, five days per week, to provide guidance and practical support on a range of complex international child protection issues.

Our team works with everyone: from professionals in local authorities, the courts, the police, NGOs, central government, and members of the public.

- Call our Advice Line **020 7735 8941**
- Email us: **info@cfab.org.uk**

Resources and Guides

The CFAB team have created a number of high-quality free resources and guides that are available on our website. These cover a range of topics from international child protection, to placing a child overseas, to international surrogacy. You can also access CFAB's research and guidance on our website, including the International Kinship Care Guide, which outlines good practice for placing Looked After Children into the care of a family member abroad.

Please visit www.cfab.org.uk for more resources.

Attending team meetings

The CFAB team are also available to attend team meetings to present on international considerations in children and family cases and how we can help.

For further information, please email info@cfab.org.uk or call 020 7735 8941.

“CFAB is an organisation of which I am a great fan; it is unique and fulfils a vital role not only in our jurisdiction but across the world.”

Sir Andrew McFarlane,
President of the Family Division,
November 2020.

We are here to provide assistance

We are experts in social work in an international context, cross-border child protection cases, care proceeding requiring cross-border cooperation and overseas placements.

We specialise in understanding UK local authority processes, international legislation and placements. Our position in the ISS network gives us unrivalled access to expert, on-the-ground support, allowing us to assess whether a child's return to their heritage country is realistic and in their best interests.

This is more effective, cost-efficient and safer than sending social workers from the UK to undertake assessments on foreign soil. Our expertise is not limited to ISS countries - we have extensive knowledge developed through our experience of working on cases across the world.

How CFAB can help

1



A child is in the care of a local authority. The local authority became aware that the child has a Grandmother in Canada. They contact CFAB's Advice Line.



2



The local authority refers the case onto CFAB. We contact our ISS partner in Canada and share the information provided by the local authority social worker.



3

Our ISS partner in Canada conducts a kinship assessment on the grandmother and the local environment and sends this back via CFAB.

Using evidence from this assessment the UK court decides that it is in the best interest for the child for them to be reunited with the grandmother.

4



CFAB, at the request of the court and local authority, arranges for post-placement visits to be conducted 6 and 12 months after the reunification.



Our Services

For further details and costs (where applicable), please see our website for further details.

www.cfab.org.uk

International child protection alerts

Reporting child protection concerns to child welfare organisations abroad within 24 hours



Record checks

Requesting and receiving social services records and information from authorities abroad



Welfare checks and home visits

A visit made by an overseas social service professional to the family home usually to ascertain the safety and welfare of the children and their living circumstances



Full assessments

(including kinship, parenting and best interest assessments)

Requesting and obtaining assessments from our partners overseas



Legal advice service

Legal advice for local authorities in England and Wales on care proceedings with an international element.



Court advice service

Representation of children as guardians in the courts to ensure decisions for and about children protect them, promote their welfare and are in their best interests.



Local assistance

An in-country social service professional accompanying and assisting a UK social worker to understand local culture, context, regulations and support services, when visiting overseas, to inform a final care decision



Pre-placement preparation

Direct support to prepare the family ahead of the arrival of the child



Post-placement support

Welfare visits by an overseas professional to confirm the children's health, safety, routine and emotional development within the new family environment



Life story work

Direct support for the child to help them process their feelings, to come to terms with their current circumstances linking to events in their past, to make sense of their present and to develop a clear sense of identity for the future



Virtual contact supervision

Multi-lingual supervision from a qualified social worker to ensure safe, positive contact of children with a non-resident family member via an online platform



Family reunification – in the UK

Practical and emotional support for young refugees who are reunited with family members in the UK. We also offer assessments for the family reunification process.



We are here to keep you informed

CFAB's expert team delivers specialised training programmes for social workers, solicitors and the judiciary and other professionals working with children with vulnerabilities.

Our trainers are qualified social workers with direct experience of cross-border casework. They have an in-depth understanding of local authority processes, current issues and an up-to-date understanding of national and international legislation and best practice.

We offer the following training sessions:

Protection from faith based abuse

This training course will explore the nature of child abuse linked to faith and belief, teaching you what it is, where it might occur. It will also highlight any indicators that will alert you to possible victims of faith based abuse and how you can help children suffering from faith based abuse.

Protecting against FGM

Attendees will learn about female genital mutilation and how girls can be protected from this form of abuse. You will learn about what it is and where it occurs, how to identify signs of FGM and how to best respond and act on safeguarding concerns.

International Child Protection & Kinship Care

Learn how to effectively collaborate with overseas authorities in safeguarding at-risk children and how to understand resources and networks for international collaboration to achieve the best outcome in placing children with close family and friends in other countries.

Child Trafficking

Learn how to improve awareness, identification and safeguarding of victims of child trafficking, improve your understanding of national and international legislation and improve your knowledge of how to refer and protect victims.

Best interest assessments for unaccompanied children

Improve your understanding of how and why children come to the UK, learn how to assess the best long-term plans for a child and gain a greater understanding of national and international legislation.

International Social Work Certificate

With an increasingly international population, it is essential that social workers keep up with global current events, as well as understand how to work within international legislation and cooperate with social service professionals overseas. We all have a responsibility to keep children safe - even when casework crosses borders.

CFAB has developed an International Social Work Certificate which will provide you with the knowledge and skills you need to handle casework which involves another country. It covers the basics in the areas of:

- **International Surrogacy**
- **International Adoption**
- **International Kinship Care**
- **International Abduction**
- **Forced Marriages & Harmful Practices**
- **FGM & Gender-Based Violence**

This self-paced online course contains lectures on each topic with an accompanying knowledge quiz and approximately 15 hours of CPD learning. The course uses a variety of real-life case studies, written text, self-reflection and interactive activities to help you understand your responsibilities.

We also welcome requests for bespoke training.

For further information, please email info@cfab.org.uk or call 020 7735 8941.

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We are here to offer greater value

To find out more about a closer contractual relationship with us, please visit our website or contact info@cfab.org.uk or call **020 7735 8941**

With more children born into multinational families than ever before, we work with local authorities, the courts and other agencies to increase efficiency in cross-border children and family cases.

By working with CFAB, you will have access to:

- **Expert advice and guidance on international cases**

Throughout our 65-year history, our team of inter-country social workers have built a wealth of expertise and experience to uphold every child's right to protection, care and family life.

- **Compliance with foreign social service regulations**

As the UK arm of the ISS, CFAB is part of a worldwide network of locally-qualified and regulated professionals in over 130 countries, allowing us to access support from around the world to protect children at risk.

- **Cultural competency**

We are able to bridge the gap between systems and professional practice, and work to ensure that the needs and requirements of UK courts and local authorities are met, while being conscious of the need to understand cultural, professional and structural differences in other countries.

If you represent a local authority, charity or social enterprise which regularly refers cases or accesses training from CFAB, you can benefit from discounts and faster service delivery with our pre-payment scheme. We would be delighted to speak to Service Managers or Commissioning Teams about taking out a contract with CFAB to be able to access our services without the need for prior authorisation – saving you time and money – and ultimately providing better care for children.

Benefits

Cost savings on discounted service fees

Flexibility of 5 annual payment tiers, designed to meet the demand for case referrals within local authorities

Up to 25% of additional value with all options

Multiple year options available to allow rollover of usage and ensure value for money is attained

Discounted rates on CFAB training courses

A 'fast track' referral process reducing administrative delay and pressure on front-line teams

Regular account management communication including, usage reports, newsletters, surveys

Priority booking for CFAB conferences and lectures, and invitations to CFAB events

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CFAB is the UK member of the International Social Service (ISS) network.
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