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MiKK Cross-Border Family Mediation (CBFM®) Training for Ukrainian Mediators ONLINE via ZOOM

Monday, 9th-11th March 2026 (Module 1)
Monday, 16th -19th March 2026 (Module 2)

In Ukrainian/English
(with simultaneous translation)

Four years have passed now since the start of the full-scale invasion. Its prolonged nature continues to shape the lives of millions of Ukrainian families. Over this extended period of conflict, almost 8 million Ukrainians have left the country. Most of them are mothers and children. What began as an emergency evacuation has, for many, turned into long-term or even permanent separation. Many children have had little or no contact at all with their fathers in those 4 years – a long time in a child's life. Others have attempted to sustain co-parenting over several years despite separation across international borders and an active conflict zone.

What challenges do these parents face? Both from a practical, emotional and legal point of view? How can parents settle their disputes regarding contact, country of residence, the involvement of grandparents and the extended family in the upbringing of children? How can mediation assist parents in resolving these issues amicably and what are the special features of mediating these cases having regard to the particular context and the specific challenges posed by the war?

To find answers to these questions we would like to **invite Ukrainian family mediators**, residing in the Ukraine and those residing abroad, to participate in the ***Cross-border Family Mediation Training for Ukrainian Mediators***. The 50-hour training course will also cover many other aspects of family mediation between parents separated by a border. It aims to qualify Ukrainian family mediators to mediate cross-border family disputes, including international child abduction, child access and custody cases. The course will cover relevant legal aspects of international family conflicts, including differences in national family law and the 1980 and 1996 Hague Conventions as well as the Voice of the Child in child abduction proceedings and mediation. Participants will get acquainted with the tools and methodologies of mediation in international family disputes with the aim of protecting the best interests of the child. Practical role plays form an integral part of the training.

This MiKK CBFM® Training has been specially adapted to equip mediators with the knowledge and skills to help resolve cross-border family disputes between Ukrainian parents, taking into account the specific challenges presented by wartime. Other topics featured in this training include: Parental Alienation and the Specifics of Trauma-informed Mediation.

Cooperation Partners & Funding:

This MiKK CBFM® Training is conducted in partnership with the **Ukrainian Mediation Academy** with co-funding of the **European Union** through the EU co-financed projects ACCORD 2 (MiKK) and Consent (UAM)¹ as well as funding and resources provided by the **IRZ, German Ministry of Justice (BMJV)** and trainer resources by the **Mediation School**.



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- MiKK - International Mediation Center for Family Conflicts and Child Abduction** is the leading international training provider in the field of international family mediation. MiKK and has been conducting cross-border family mediation trainings and workshops internationally for close to 25 years now. The standardised Cross-border Family Mediation (CBFM®) Training concept was originally developed by MiKK in the EU co-funded Training in International Family Mediation (TIM) project in 2010. Over the past 16 years, MiKK has continuously adapted, improved and updated its CBFM® Training to keep abreast of any changes in the mediation and legal environments and to take into account feedback from international participants. So far, over 500 mediators from more than 50 countries have successfully completed the MiKK CBFM® Training which is run in different countries (Germany, France, Spain, Japan, Singapore) and in different languages: in English, French, German, Spanish and also in Ukrainian/English. For this Zoom Training for Ukrainian mediators, which was piloted in 2023, the MiKK CBFM® Training concept was modified in parts to allow the integration of specialist modules conducted by expert trainers from the Ukrainian Academy of Mediation (UAM), the Ukrainian Central Authority, the Mediation School and other Ukrainian expert speakers as to address the problems and particular challenges arising for families in times of war.
- The Ukrainian Academy of Mediation (UAM)** was established in 2014 and is a leading non-governmental organisation in the field of mediation and ADR. Its mission is to promote the development and dissemination of mediation and other alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in Ukraine, as well as to increase the level of culture of peace and harmony in Ukrainian society. The UAM implements initiatives aimed at ensuring access to quality mediation services, promoting the harmonisation of Ukrainian legislation on ADR with the legislation of the European Union, facilitating the professional development of mediators, and conducting educational, training and research activities.

TRAINERS:

A team of international trainers from MiKK, UAM, Mediation School and experienced independent trainers, as well as representatives of the judiciary and Central Authorities all of whom are experts in their fields, will conduct this interactive training course, which aims to equip family mediators with the necessary knowledge, skills and tools to mediate complex international family disputes with a particular focus on cross-border disputes involving Ukrainian families.

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION, FEES & PREPARATION

General

- This training is open to certified Ukrainian family mediators only, regardless of their country of residence.
- The number of places is limited. Please apply as soon as possible. If the number of applications exceeds the maximum number of participants, preference will be given to practising family mediators.
- Registration for the training will be open until **1st March 2026** (participants will then be informed whether or not they have been selected to participate in the training).

Training Course Fee

- There is no training fee is payable for participating in this training, however in return for participating, mediators are asked to agree to making themselves available for conducting two pro-bono mediations in an international family dispute between Ukrainian parents. To implement this obligation, mediators are kindly requested to register on the mediation-help.com platform www.mediation-help.com After successful conclusion of the CBFM® Training for Ukrainian Mediators, mediators are obliged to include their offer to conduct 2 free-of-charge mediations to their Mediation Help profile (as was agreed as a condition for participating in the training).



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Preparation for the Training:

- Please allow at least 4 hours to prepare before the first training session on Day 1. Preparation will involve: familiarising yourself with the applicable international legal instruments, answering some questions on National Family Law (Ukraine and other countries) and watching a 35-minute film (online). All of this information will be sent to participants in advance. The total time of preparation, homework and reading for **both modules** amounts to **10 hours**.

Certificate & Listing:

- Active participation in at least 90% of the training is required in order to be selected and to receive a certificate.
- In addition to being listed on the Mediation Help Platform, each participant who has successfully concluded the training and has fluent English or German will be able to join the **International MiKK Mediators listing free-of-charge for two years (until 2028)**.

KEY DETAILS OF TRAINING:

Training Dates: The training will take place in two parts/modules:
9-11 March (3 days) & 16-19 March (4 days) 2026.

Times: Please note that there are shorter training days 11am-3pm (Ukraine time) and longer days 11am-5.30pm on days where there are afternoon role plays, as well as on the last day.

Format: Online (via Zoom)

Training language: The training language is **English** with **simultaneous translation** into **Ukrainian**; Some training sessions will be conducted **in Ukrainian** (and translated into English). Please note that the **language of the role plays will be Ukrainian** (the role-play sessions will be supported by the Ukrainian trainer team).

The Training is co-funded by the EU (ACCORD 2 and Consent Projects) and the simultaneous interpretation is funded by the IRZ (German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation) and the German Ministry of Justice.

¹ MiKK project ACCORD 2: Advisory Service on Mediation in Custody Disputes and Child Abduction Cases for Parents and Outreach to Strengthen and Promote Judicial Co-operation in the EU (JUST-2025-JCOO-JACC-OG-SGA) (ACCORD 2-2026) & UAM project Consent: Enhancement of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in Ukraine with focus on mediation. (CRIS/OPSYS number 431-395), 2022

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Programme / Overview

MODULE 1

9th – 11th March 2026

<p>9th March Day 1, Monday 11:00 – 15:00 (EET) 10:00 – 14:00 (CET)</p>	<p>Mediating Across Cultures & Models of International Family Mediation Ischtar Khalaf-Newsome, Shai Ordan, Luiza Romanadze, Svitlana Stadnyk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introductions – expectations - programme ▪ Models of International Family Mediation Break 15 min ▪ Mediation Styles ▪ Framework and Specifics of Mediating Hague Cases ▪ Film: Discussion <p><i>(no afternoon role play session)</i></p>
<p>10th March Day 2 Tuesday 11:00 – 17:30 (EET) 10:00 – 16:30 (CET)</p> <p><i>15.00-15.30</i></p>	<p>Framework and Specifics of Mediating Hague Convention Cases Shai Ordan, Ischtar Khalaf-Newsome, Anna Zubachova Afternoon Role Plays: Luiza Romanadze, Svitlana Stadnyk, Coaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to the Case Study ▪ Co-mediation and Understanding the Other’s Perspective Break 15 min ▪ Agreement to Mediate ▪ Stages of Mediation ▪ Mediation Tools ▪ Role-Play & Feed-back Rules Break 30 min ▪ Afternoon Role-Play Session: Role Play in Groups stage 1 & 2 “Setting the Stage & the Agenda”
<p>11th March Day 3 Wed 11:00 – 15:00 (EET) 10:00 – 14:00 (CET)</p>	<p>Legal Module Ischtar Khalaf-Newsome, Svitlana Stadnyk, Luiza Romanadze</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Legal Instruments in Matters of Parental Responsibility (1980 and 1996 Hague Conventions) Break 15 min ▪ National Family Law of different countries ▪ HCCH Guide to Good Practice, Principles of Mediation etc. ▪ Mediation law of Ukraine. International and Ukrainian context ▪ Code of Ethics of Ukraine ▪ Ethical Dilemmas <p><i>(no afternoon role play sessions)</i></p>

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MODULE 2

16th-19th March 2026

16th March

Day 4 Monday

11:00 – 17:30 (EET)

10:00 – 16:30 (CET)

15.00-15.30

Mediators in the Courtroom

Judge Martina Erb-Klünemann, Olha Zozulia (Central Authority Ukraine), Judge Moltmann-Willisch, Ishtar Khalaf-Newsome,

Afternoon Role Plays: Luiza Romanadze, Svitlana Stadnyk, Coaches

- Insights from an International Hague Network Judge:
 - MiKK Mediators in the Courtroom (MIC) in Ukrainian Cases
 - Making the MOU Legally Binding
 - Hague Convention Liaison Judges Network
 - Ukrainian Hague Return Cases – a German Judge’s Report

Break 15 min

- Report from the Ukrainian Central Authority
- Promoting Mediation in Family and Children Disputes: Practical Strategies for Encouraging Judicial Referral
- Prep for Role Play Stage 3: The Heart of the Mediation & relevant Tools

Break 30 min

- **Afternoon Role-Play Session:** Role Play stage 3 “The Heart of the Mediation”

17th March

Day 5 Tuesday

11:00 – 16:00 (EET)

10:00 – 15:00 (CET)

15.00-15.30

The Voice of the Child in Mediation

Dr. Lesley Allport, Tatyana Bilyk

- Focusing on “the Best Interests of the Child” in Mediation
- Child Inclusive Mediation
- **Break 15 min**
- Input PPP & Discussion: Child Psychology, Trauma through War
- Engaging With Children in Mediation (Age Appropriate Interview Techniques & Tools)
- Role Play: “The Voice of the Child”
- **Break 15 min**
- Domestic Violence as an issue in child abduction cases

Please note: longer day - but no afternoon role play sessions.

18th March

Day 6 Wednesday

11:00 – 17:30 (EET)

10:00 – 16:30 (CET)

War in Ukraine related knowledge and Parental Alienation

Tetiana Bilyk, Lisa Parkinson

Afternoon Role Plays: Luiza Romanadze, Svitlana Stadnyk, Coaches

- Trauma informed practice in family mediation: Key characteristics of crisis mediation.
- Practical tools for effective practice in the face of stress and trauma of participants in the mediation process.
- Principles of communication in mediation with participants who have experienced a traumatic event.
- Recommendations for family mediators practising in crisis conditions.

Break 15 min

- Role play "First contact with the parties in crisis mediation"
- Understanding Parental Alienation and Justified Resistance

Break 30 min

- **Afternoon Role-Play Session:** Role Play Stage 4 “Developing & Reviewing Options in the best interest of the child”

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19th March
Day 7 Thursday

11:00 – 16:00 (EET)

10:00 – 15:00 (CET)

Drafting the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) & Joining the CBFM® Community
Ischtar Khalaf-Newsome, Luiza Romanadze, Magdalena Janczuk, Svitlana Stadnyk, Coaches

- Input Drafting the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- **Role Play Session** Stage 5 “Drawing up the MOU”
- **Break 15 min**
- Cross border family mediation related information by Ukrainian Mediation Academy
- Cross border family mediation related information by MiKK
- Discussion – Feedback – Evaluation – Certificates

(no afternoon role play sessions)

** This Programme may be subject to change (Status 24.02.2026)*

Information on the Trainers

Core Trainers



Ischtar Khalaf-Newsome is Head of Advisory Services and Co-CEO of MiKK e.V. - International Mediation Centre for Family Conflict and Child Abduction in Berlin. She is a cross-border family mediator, family lawyer and MiKK cross-border family mediation (CBFM®) trainer. Prior to joining MiKK in 2014 she practised family law for nine years with *Dawson Cornwell*, a London based family law firm specialising in international family law and 1980 Hague child abduction cases. Before that, Ischtar worked as a case manager at *reunite International* in London. She holds an MA in Near & Middle Eastern Studies & Islamic Law (SOAS, University of London) and an MA in German & English (Freie Universität, Berlin). Ischtar qualified as a mediator with the Family Mediators Association (FMA, London) and with

Inmedio (Multi-Track Peace Mediation, Berlin). She trained in Child Inclusive Mediation (CIM) with the FMA. Ischtar has developed training content and conducted mediation trainings for MiKK and other institutions (ERA, EJTN) and for EU co-financed projects (LEPCA, VOICE, I-CARE) and has co-conceived EU co-financed projects (i.e. AMICABLE, ACCORD). Ischtar has presented on behalf of MiKK at the EU Parliament, JURI Committee; the Experts' Meetings EM I & II (London) and the Malta Process Conference of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). She is Co-editor of *Cross-border Family Mediation. International Parental Child Abduction, Custody and Access Cases* (Paul, Kiesewetter, Khalaf-Newsome eds., 3rd expanded edition, Metzner Publishing, 2023) in which she co-wrote the chapter on Mediation in Non-Hague Muslim countries and on the MiKK CBFM® Training. She is the author of the chapter on cross-border family mediation in *Research Handbook on International Child Abduction. 1980 Hague Convention. Edward Elgar Family Law Series*. (Freeman & Taylor eds., Edward Elgar Publishing, June 2023) and has published articles in *The Family Law Journal*, *Spektrum der Mediation* and *Die (Wirtschafts)Mediation*. Contact: ischtar.newsome@mikk-ev.org



Shai Ordan specializes in cross-border family mediation and trained with MiKK e.V. in 2013. He has served as Vice President of MiKK and is a regular co-trainer for the MiKK Cross-border Family Mediation (CBFM®) Trainings as well as for the MiKK Ongoing Training modules. He recently delivered (with Dr. Jamie Walker) an advanced training for MiKK mediators on the topic "Trapped in Ego: Dealing with Narcissistic Behavior and Attitudes in Cross-Border Family Mediation". Shai also specializes in international business disputes, including early-stage conflict prevention; he advises executives on corporate governance and leadership dynamics, and trains commercial negotiators and mediators.

Shai earned an LL.B. with distinction from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and was admitted to the Israeli Bar Association following clerkship at Israel's Supreme Court. He worked internationally at leading law firms, and in 2014 co-founded his independent practice in Berlin and Tel-Aviv. Shai is a Court Mediator for family and civil matters for the Israeli courts. He has served as a judge in the commercial mediation competitions of ICC (Paris) and IBA-VIAC (Vienna).

прошені Тренери // Guest



Luiza Romanadze - Attorney, IMI Certified Mediator, trainer, PhD in Law, Associate Professor, Honoured Lawyer of Ukraine, MiKK Ambassador in Ukraine.

President of the Ukrainian Academy of Mediation and Project Lead of the EU-funded initiative "CONSENT: Enhancing the Role of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Ukraine with a Focus on Mediation." Co-founder and Honorary Member of the National Association of Mediators of Ukraine, and Chair of the Mediation Committee of the National Bar Association of Ukraine. Co-author of the Law of Ukraine "On Mediation," the Code of Professional Ethics for Mediators, and the Core Principles for Training in Basic and Family Mediation Skills.



Tetiana Bilyk - Accredited international mediator (2009 CEDR, UK; 2021 MIKK, Germany), trainer and supervisor of mediators; Chairman of the Board of the NGO "League of Mediators of Ukraine"; Chairman of the Board of the NGO "International Training Center "Mediation School"; Co-founder and Member of the Supervisory Board of the NGO "Association of Family Mediators of Ukraine"; Contact of ISS (International Social Service, General Secretariat, Switzerland) in Ukraine within the framework of cooperation on cross-bordering family mediation. Psychologist, psychotherapist.



Dr. Lesley Allport has a long career in mediation spanning the last 26 years. Working initially as a family mediator in the 1980's, she has been involved in developing new areas of practice, particularly in the context of Special Educational Needs and Disability Conciliation. She mediates in workplace disputes, has experience in community mediation and is trained to mediate in cross border family disputes and parental child abduction cases. Lesley began training mediators 18 years ago. She delivers foundation courses in several contexts as well as training for supervisors and mediators working directly with children and general continuing professional development. She has a keen interest in developing professional standards. She is a Board member of the College of Mediators and currently chairs the Professional Standards Committee. She also sits on the editorial board of the new College journal "Mediation: Theory and Practice". Lesley also has an academic interest in mediation. In 2005, she completed a European Masters' Degree in Mediation, as part of which she developed a model of supervision specific to mediation. In 2016, she successfully completed her Ph.D. at the Birmingham Law School where she was examining the comparative growth of mediation, identifying similarities and differences of practice across a number of contexts of mediation delivery. Contact: lesley.allport@ladr.net



Lisa Parkinson is a grandmother in family mediation, as well as in her own family. 45 years ago, she co-founded the first family mediation centre in the UK and a few years later, helped to set up the first national association of family mediators with a Code of Practice and training programme. Lisa drew from her experience in mental health social work and family therapy to develop a family systems approach to mediation with separated couples, parents and carers, rather than settlement-seeking mediation focused on adult negotiations without considering the child's right to be heard. Parental conflict harms children's well-being and development, especially where there is litigation and continuing dispute. Together with five family lawyers in London, Lisa launched a pilot project in 1986 to extend mediation from child-related issues to all issues, including finance and property.

The Family Mediators Association was founded in 1988 (Lisa was appointed director and now a Vice-President), providing cross-disciplinary training in co-mediation on all issues. As a founder member of the European Forum on Family Mediation and World Mediation Forum, Lisa has taken part in conferences and given mediation training in many countries including Argentina, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the US. The 4th English edition of her book, *Family Mediation*, was published in 2020, with seven editions in other languages. Now retired from mediation practice, Lisa continues to give training mainly in child-inclusive mediation (ChiM – children in mediation), so that children and young people can be offered the opportunity to talk with a ChiM-qualified mediator, if they wish, and have their views and suggestions taken into account by their parents. Arrangements agreed within the family work better and last longer than a court order. In 2022 Lisa was delighted to win the National Mediation Significant Achievement Award.



Martina Erb-Klünemann is a German family court judge. She worked as a judge in general civil and criminal law cases at various courts before her appointment as a family judge in 1996. In this capacity she is responsible for international family conflicts pending at her court in Hamm/ North Rhine-Westphalia as a specialized court for a district covering nine million inhabitants. She has extensively published in the field of international family law and acts as an expert for the Hague Conference on Private international law and on the European level.

Martina is a network judge in the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters (EJN) and in the International Hague Network of Judges (IHNJ) as well as co-chair of the

Association of International Family Judges (AIFJ). She runs Europe-wide training courses on cross-border family law. For years she is involved in the training in cooperation in civil matters run by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN). Her main focus is on strengthening children's rights in cross-border proceedings.



Olha Zozulia is a lawyer. She is in charge of operations with the international treaties on child protection sphere in the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

Her professional skills and knowledge concern the theme of child protection and child abduction, including procedure of mediation in cross-border family disputes, custody issues and scope of the parental responsibility and other legal representatives of the child, applicable law, jurisdiction, procedure of recognition and enforcement.



Anne-Ruth Moltmann-Willisch, LL.M.(Mich.); former judge at civil courts of Berlin; judge mediator and coordinator of mediation by judges in civil court proceedings in Berlin (2009-2021); Trainer in mediation for judges in Berlin/Brandenburg and the German Judicial academy; member of the scientific advisory board and teaching qualification at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder; Freelance mediator and chairman of complaints committees (GEMA and DGPT).



Svitlana Stadnyk is a co-founder and a Member of the Board of the NGO 'Association for Family Mediators of Ukraine' (AFMU), honorary member of the 'National Association for Family Mediators of Ukraine'. Svitlana is an experienced family mediator certified in Ukraine and the United Kingdom and a mediator for Hague Convention Cross-Border Child Abduction cases certified by MiKK e.v. Contact: svitlana.stadnyk@gmail.com



Anna Zubachova - Co-founder of NGO "League of Mediators of Ukraine". Practising family and business mediator, and a mediator for Hague Convention Cross-Border Child Abduction cases certified by MiKK e.v., supervisor and trainer of mediators, psychologist, psychotherapist with 11 years of practical experience.

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Magdalena Jańczuk is Co-CEO of MiKK e.V. International Mediation Centre for Family Conflict and Child Abduction since 2019. She has been working at MiKK since 2014. As co-managing director is responsible for the financial and organisational aspects of the association's work as well as for human resources.

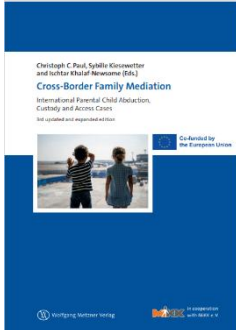
Trained as a mediator and cross-border mediator, she graduated in administration from the Faculty of Administration and Social Sciences at the Warsaw University of Technology (MA).

She has been involved in several EU projects implemented by MiKK at different stages, from planning to implementation (LEPCA II, iCare, ACCORD), as well as being largely responsible for the planning and preparation of the financial plan and implementation of the EU project

AMICABLE developed by MiKK, which involved project partners from four EU countries.

Suggestions for Reading

NEW!!



Cross-Border Family Mediation. International Parental Child Abduction, Custody and Access Cases.

Christoph C. Paul, Sybille Kiesewetter, Ischtar Khalaf-Newsome (eds.).

2023, Frankfurt/Main: Wolfgang Metzner Verlag.

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Allport, Lesley. The Voice of the Child in International Family Mediation. In: Roberts, M. & Moscati, M. (Eds.) *Family Mediation: Contemporary Issues*. 2020, Haywards Heath: Bloomsbury Professional.

EU Parliament. IPOL Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs: Indepth Analysis – 40 years of the Hague Convention on child abduction: legal and societal changes in the rights of a child, November 2020; p.1-20, PDF ISBN 978-92-846-7452-7;

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