



**BELGRADE DECLARATION OF THE  
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
AND  
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED  
AT THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION  
BELGRADE, 6 to 10 JULY 2011**

**RESOLUTION ON  
INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTIONS**

1. Alarmed at the significant increase in the number of reported international parental child abduction cases over the past several years,
2. Desiring to protect children internationally from the harmful effects of their wrongful removal or retention and to ensure their prompt return to the State of their habitual residence, as well as to secure protection for rights of access,
3. Endeavouring to support custody determinations by courts located in the habitual residence of the child,
4. Concerned that internationally abducted children are at risk of serious emotional and psychological problems and therefore that child abductions amount to a form of child abuse, and that left behind parents encounter substantial emotional and financial difficulties,
5. Concerned that abducting parents often abuse the legal system in the country to which they have fled and that abducting parents often manipulate and stall proceedings in order to impede return of the child, and
6. Persuaded that proper implementation of the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction will minimize the need for criminal law enforcement responses to international parental child abductions,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Urges those participating States, as well as OSCE Partners for Co-operation, who are not parties to the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction to ratify or accede to it, and seek to immediately resolve current cases predating ratification or accession to the Convention;
8. Urges those States which are party to the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction to fully implement their obligations under it, including by ensuring that their domestic legislation is in accordance with it, that effective legal and institutional mechanisms for its implementation are in place, and that law enforcement and judicial officials are trained on its provisions and implementation procedures; and
9. Urges the OSCE to take up the issue of international parental child abductions, including by considering a Ministerial Council decision on the issue to be adopted in Vilnius.