

**UNITED STATES EMBASSY THE HAGUE  
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## **U.S. Signs Child Protection Convention**

On Friday, October 22, 2010, U.S. Ambassador Hartog Levin signed, on behalf of the United States of America, the Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children. The signing took place at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague. Others in attendance included Secretary-General Hans Van Loon and Deputy Secretary-General William Duncan of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

This Convention is one of many family law conventions negotiated in the Hague Conference on Private International Law. The United States strongly supports the efforts of the Hague Conference in promoting the progressive unification of private international law.

The Convention's major benefit is that it provides for foreign recognition and enforcement of custody and visitation orders. The Convention also contains many helpful provisions addressing cooperation between States, including provisions relating to runaway children and the cross-border placement of children in a foster family or institutional care.

Secretary of State Clinton issued a statement shortly after the October 22 signing in which she said:

“Signing this Convention reaffirms the deep commitment of the United States to protecting the rights and welfare of children around the world. Our country is also a party to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. The U.S. Senate also recently approved the Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance.”

Going forward, the State Department will work closely with Congress, other Federal agencies, and state and local officials to address implementation of the Convention in the United States. And we look forward to working with the Hague Conference on Private International Law and other countries to implement it around the world.”

Photos and further information can be found on our website: <http://thehague.usembassy.gov/>