

A photograph of an older man with dark hair, smiling and holding a young girl on his shoulders. The girl has long dark hair in pigtails with yellow hair ties and is wearing a white lace-trimmed shirt. They are outdoors in a sunny, residential setting with a brick building and potted plants in the background.

How we can help

Service Brochure

CFAB

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

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, with partners in over 130 countries. Founded in 1955, we are experts in international social work, cross-border child protection cases, care proceedings requiring cross-border cooperation and overseas placements.

We offer 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 ensures 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 in which 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 due to her severe mental illness. The girls have dual British Lithuanian nationality, and although they had regular Skype contact with their father in Lithuania, 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 asked CFAB to assess the possibility of Christina and Maria being cared for by their paternal aunt and uncle, who lived in Lithuania. We used our worldwide network to contact our ISS partner in the country, who was able to complete a positive assessment of the family.

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 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 including professionals in local authorities, the courts, the police, NGOs, central government, and members of the public.

Resources and Guides

The CFAB team has created several high-quality [guides](#) that are available for free. These cover a range of topics from international child protection, to placing a child overseas, to international surrogacy. You can also access our [research and guidance](#), including the [International Kinship Care Guide](#), which outlines good practices for placing Looked After Children into the care of a family member abroad.

Cultural Family Life Library

We have created a series of guides for social workers to introduce them to the history and culture of families in diaspora communities in the UK. These guides are designed to help social workers consider cultural factors when assessing families or identifying safeguarding concerns. Access our cultural guides [here](#).

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.

Call our Advice Line

020 7735 8941

Email us

info@cfab.org.uk

"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, Nov 2020.

We are here to provide our expertise and assistance.

We are experts in social work in an international context, cross-border child protection cases, care proceedings 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 built extensive knowledge through our experience in working on cases across the world.

A child is in the care of a local authority. The local authority becomes aware that the child has a grandmother in Canada and so contact the CFAB Advice Line.



The local authority refers the case to CFAB. CFAB contacts our ISS partner in Canada and shares information provided by the local authority social worker.



Our ISS partner in Canada conducts a kinship assessment of the grandmother and the local environment and returns the assessment to CFAB.



Using evidence from this assessment the UK court decides that it is in the best interests of the child to be reunited with their grandmother.



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

Our Services

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 & Home Visits

A visit 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

Requesting and obtaining assessments from our partners overseas. *Including kinship, parenting and best interest assessments.*

Court Advice Service

Representation of a child as their guardian in the courts to ensure decisions protect the child and are in their best interests.

Best Interests Assessments

Assessments to assist asylum and family unification applications involving children. Exclusively for sponsors already living in the UK.

Immigration Advice Service

CFAB is accredited to provide Immigration Advice Authority (IAA) Level 1 services and support to refugee and migrant families.



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 to confirm the child's health, safety, routine and development in their new family environment.



Life Story Work

Direct support for the child to help them process their feelings, come to terms with their circumstances and 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 reunited with family members in the UK.



Family Group Decision Making Support

CFAB provides advice and support to local authorities to meet their statutory requirement, under the Children Schools and Wellbeing Bill 2026.



We are here to keep you informed.

CFAB's expert team delivers specialised training programmes for social workers, solicitors, the judiciary, and other professionals working with vulnerable children. Our trainers are qualified social workers with direct experience in cross-border casework. They have an in-depth understanding of local authority processes and current issues and an up-to-date understanding of national and international legislation and best practice.

We offer training sessions on:

Culturally Inclusive Practice

This course will look at the importance of culturally inclusive work. We will share practical skills and tips and explore opportunities for collaboration with overseas social services. We will discuss the diverse nature of culture in the UK and facilitate explorations of cultural misconceptions and bias.

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 Child Protection

Learn how to collaborate with overseas authorities when safeguarding children and how to understand resources to ensure the best outcome for a child.

International Kinship Care

Learn how to effectively collaborate with overseas authorities and network to achieve the best outcome when placing a child with close family or friends in other countries.

Pre-placement Preparation Sessions for Kinship Carers

Tailored pre-placement support sessions for carers according to individual family needs.

International Social Work Certificate

With an increasingly international population, social workers must understand how to work within international legislation and cooperate with social service professionals overseas.

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

- International surrogacy
- International adoption
- International kinship care
- International child abduction
- Forced marriage and harmful practices
- FGM and gender-based violence

This self-paced online course involves lectures and quizzes on each topic during approximately 15 hours of CPD learning. The course uses a variety of case studies, text, self-reflection and interactive activities.

Email info@cfab.org.uk or call 020 7735 8941 for more information.



We are here to offer great value.

With more children born into multinational families than ever, 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 70-year history, our team of inter-country social workers has 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 bridge the gap between systems and professional practice and work to meet the requirements of UK courts and local authorities while being conscious of cultural, professional and structural differences in other countries.

We are here to offer great value.

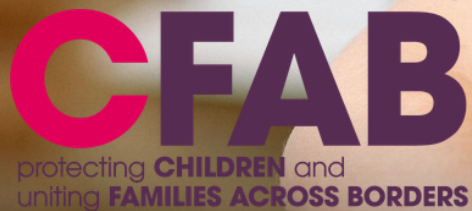
If you represent a local authority, charity or social enterprise which regularly refers cases or accesses training from CFAB, you can benefit from discounts and faster service delivery with our pre-payment scheme. We would be delighted to speak to Service Managers or Commissioning Teams about a contract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

Benefits of our pre-payment scheme

- Cost savings on discounted service fees.
- Flexibility of 5 annual payment tiers, designed to meet the demand for case referrals within local authorities.
- Multiple-year options are available to allow rollover of usage and ensure value for money is attained.
- A 'fast track' referral process reducing administrative delay and pressure on front-line teams
- Discounted rates on CFAB training courses.
- Regular account management communication including, usage reports, newsletters, and surveys.
- Priority booking for CFAB conferences and lectures, and invitations to CFAB events.

For more information on developing a closer contractual relationship, please visit our website, email info@cfab.org.uk or call 020 7735 8941.





www.cfab.org.uk

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