

# 2020 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



**Hilton Garden Inn**  
**1225 First Street, NE**  
**Washington, DC 20002**

WITH GENEROUS  
SUPPORT FROM



RAYMOND B. PRESTON  
FAMILY FOUNDATION

## Our Conference

The International Parents Conference connects families from across the nation and internationally with other parents, members of Congress, federal agencies and international diplomats, offering critical access to important decision-makers and stakeholders as they fight for their children's return. Children have come home as a result of the iStand Conference, and more are coming.

iStand helps new parents learn the 'ropes' of impassioned, effective advocacy for their children, and diverse workshops on a range of topics equip each participant to carry the message and the movement forward. For returning attendees, the Conference is an important opportunity to recharge, find new solutions and advance public policy form. It's not all work though! In the evenings, we come together again for festive fellowship, food and drinks to cap off action-packed days. Most importantly,

## Our History

In 2014, a small group of parents and survivors gathered in Washington DC, united in the belief that we could create and sustain a parent-driven movement to bring children home from International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA) and require more effective solutions and action from our government and the international community to prevent and end this crime against children and families.

That first conference of 10 parents and three formerly-abducted children served to **IGNITE** the flame that became iStand Parent Network Inc. Today, in partnership with the parent community, our Coalition partners and a growing network of friends of America's Stolen Children, we are strong in the **FIGHT** for their return and committed to helping every abducted child **REUNITE** with loving parents, families and communities.

## Our Time

Now more than ever, parents, families and friends need to mobilize to hold governments and nations accountable to return America's Stolen Children and to enact stronger prevention mechanisms to prevent their abduction. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a new international order, and has made it all the more imperative that we collectively rise up to refocus public attention and demand true reform on the issue of International Parental Child Abduction.

# Welcome to iStand 2020!

## The Hotel

We're excited to host the International Parents Conference at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Washington DC. Hotel staff have worked closely with us to ensure guest safety and to help facilitate an excellent conference experience for all. Guest rooms are cleaned and sanitized before each guest checks in. To guarantee that your room is sanitized, there is a seal placed on the door after housekeeping leaves. The seal will remain intact until guest arrival when they open the door.

## Health and Safety

### Masks

Masks are mandatory in Washington DC at all times when in public. This includes walking outside in public areas. There is a possibility of being fined if you are not wearing a mask.

### Social Distancing

At meals, only six people permitted per table. During gatherings, space out, and allow space between yourself and other groups of people.

### Temperature Checks

We will be performing temperature check-ins periodically to ensure minimal exposure.

### Careful Compassion

The Conference can be an emotional time for attendees, please be mindful to practice social distancing even when comforting someone. Now is the time to extend kindness with words, which can last longer than a hug!

## Communications

This year, we have an app for that! The iStand 2020 Guidebook is the best way to stay informed, receive push notifications, create a custom conference schedule and complete session evaluations. You can also connect with other conference participants. Each registered conference participant should have received an invitation to download the iStand 2020 Guidebook. See our Conference Coordinator Alexia Neal if you need help accessing this helpful conference tool.

Welcome to iStand 2020!

*The 7th International Parents Conference & Embassy Walk  
is made possible through the generous support of:*



## RAYMOND B. PRESTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Raymond B. Preston Family Foundation, in keeping with the legacy of its founders, and in conjunction with the Field & Main Bank, is dedicated to educational, artistic, and charitable needs focusing largely on the Henderson, Kentucky community.

### CORE VALUES

In all we do, we honor and celebrate our founders' legacy. Their belief in "giving back" inspires us to be responsible stewards of the foundation's resources and to do our work with compassion and respect.

***We value education*** and its power to transform lives, inculcate good citizenship, and improve communities adds intrinsic value to the human experience and creates self-sufficient, productive, and responsible citizens. We believe a vibrant democracy requires that a good education be accessible by all.

***We value the arts*** as integral to the human existence and as essential components of a complete community.

***We are committed*** to ethical decision-making, transparency, fairness, inclusiveness, diversity, and the public good.

***We will identify*** creative and strategic opportunities to make a difference.

***We value our heritage as a family foundation.*** Family involvement will remain a vital element of foundation governance.





# iStand 2020

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

***September 29 - October 2***

DAY	EVENT	LOCATION
T	Welcome Cocktail Reception	7 - 9 pm Astor Room
W	Continental Breakfast Constituent Calls Country Officer Meetings	8:30 - 9:30 am 9 am - 4 pm 10 am - 1 pm Stansbury & Paint Branch
W	Reception Movement Builder Working Dinner	5:30 pm 6:00 pm Stansbury & Paint Branch
TH	Continental Breakfast 7th International Parents Conference iStand Awards Luncheon	8:00 am - 9:00 am 9 am - 5:00 pm Stansbury & Paint Branch Astor Room
TH	I'm Still Standing! Post-Conference Mixer	7 pm Patio, Lily & The Cactus Hilton Garden Inn
F	Knocking on Doors of Nations, 7th Embassy Walk	Meet up @ hotel lobby 9:30 am
F	Relax. Relate. Release. Royal Thair Restaurant	507 H street N.W., Washington D.C. 20001

# iStand 2020

## SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

DAY	EVENT	LOCATION
W	Continental Breakfast Introductions	8 am - Astor Room Fremont Board Room
	International Spy Museum	10 am via Uber
	Lunch	Noon - Your choice!
	iStand Mural Project w/ the ELM Foundation	2:30 pm Fremont Board Room
	Dinner - Pasta Bar	6:00 pm Stansbury & Paint Branch
TH	Continental Breakfast	8:00 am - 9:00 am
	FBI Tour	9 am - 11 am FBI Headquarters
	iStand Mural Project w/ the ELM Foundation	1:30 pm Fremont Board Room
	Street Taco Party Mural exhibition	7 pm Lily & the Cactus Patio

## YOUTH TRACK



Melinda Riddle McCoy and the ELM Foundation return to iStand 2020 to bring the gift of art healing to the Youth Track. This year Melinda teams up with DC artist Luther Wright for the **iStand Mural Project**. Youth Track participants will paint mural panels during dialogue and communications exercises to promote creativity and healing. Their finished panels will be displayed at Thursday night's mixer and will be an exhibition in prime gallery space in New York City.

**ELM Foundation** was launched on February 20th, 2019 in honor of Emma Lauren McCoy. As a young artist herself, Emma's intense childhood story inspired the creation of this nonprofit organization. Children are often left without a true voice in adult situations, if not dealt with properly this can lead to deeper psychological issues. The use of arts and arts therapy gives kids a way to explore their feelings and express themselves in more productive ways in which they can relate. This, in turn, can promote personal development, increase coping skills, and enhance cognitive function.

**Luther Wright** is an Artist and Activist who challenges the boundaries of traditional painting as he merges old formal techniques with new modern techniques creating his own genre of art. Luther explores new ways to use color and texture and strives to create interesting compositions within his work. He draws inspiration from everyday situations, people, social engagements, the youth, as well as visions from his dream/meditation state.

# Welcome Reception!

HILTON GARDEN INN  
ASTOR ROOM

7 - 9 pm

*Attire: Cocktail*

## Registration

Check in, unwind and meet  
and greet your fellow  
iStand 2020 attendees!

## Appetizers

Shitaki Mushroom Spring Rolls

Fruit Kabobs

Veggie Sliders on Brioche

Sirlon Sliders w/ Aged Cheddar

Tomatoes, Mozzarella & Pesto  
(Gluten Free)

## Open Bar

Liquor Selections

Beer & Wine Selections

Sodas & Juices

WED.  
9/30



10 AM

\*Virtual Country Officer Meetings  
w/ U.S. Dept. of State

12 PM

Lunch On-Your-Own

130 PM

\*Virtual Constituent Calls  
U.S. House and U.S. Senate

530 PM

Reception

6 PM

Movement Builder  
Working Dinner - Hilton Garden Inn

\*Congressional offices are currently closed to the public. Unless this changes, coordinated virtual Constituent Calls will occur.

\*\*The Youth & Sibs track has separate planned activities.



# Welcome Remarks

7:00 pm

Stansbury & Paint Branch

*iStand Parent Network Inc.*

*proudly welcomes*

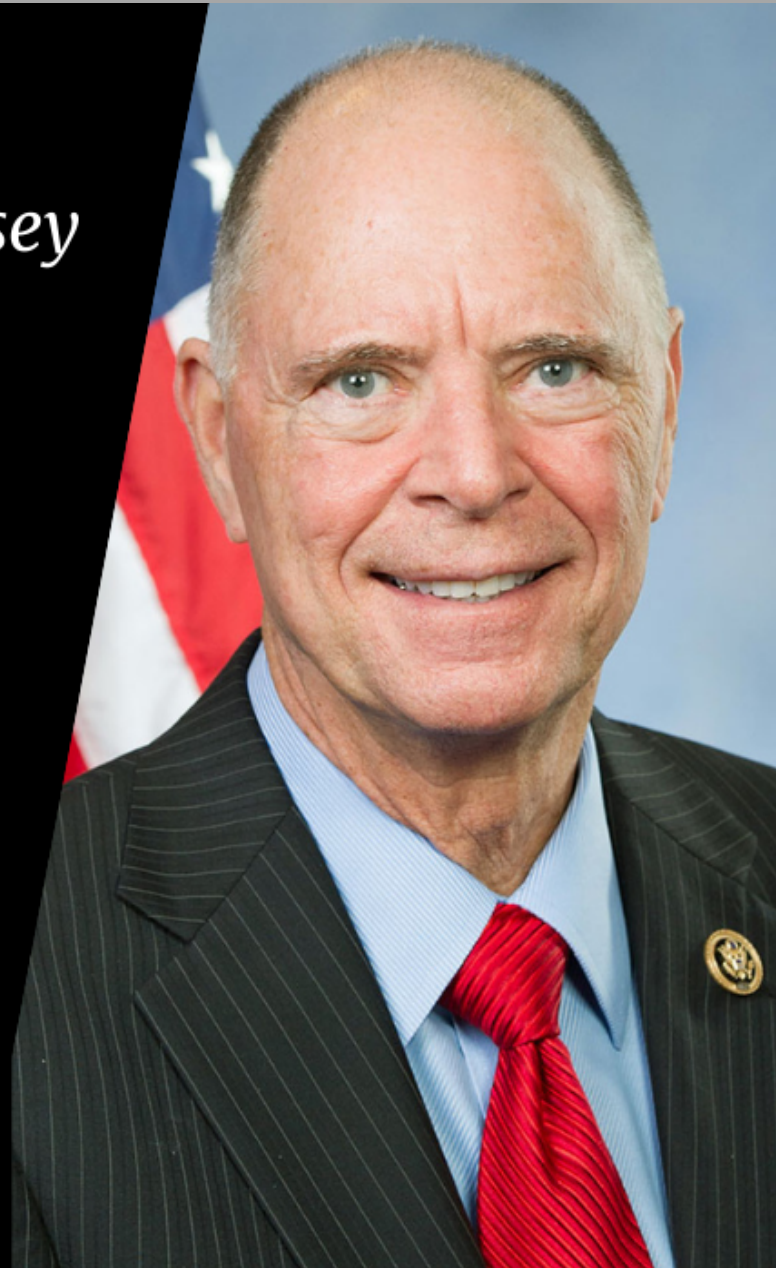
*U.S. Representative Bill Posey*

*to deliver*

*Welcome Remarks*



Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020



*Mr. Posey was instrumental in helping warrior mother Michelle Littleton bring her children home from parental abduction to Lebanon. Mr. Posey is the 2020 iStand Champion Award, nominated and voted on by the IPCA community for his impassioned defense of his constituents and calls for government reform for America's Stolen Children.*

# MOVEMENT BUILDER

## WORKING DINNER

STANSBURY & PAINTBRANCH ROOM

5:30 - 6:30 PM	OPEN BAR - RECEPTION
6:00 - 7:00 PM	PASTA BAR
7:00 PM	WELCOME REMARKS - U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BILL POSEY
7:15 PM	ASSESSING THE LANDSCAPE FOR IPCA REFORM
8:00 PM	ROUNDTABLE STRATEGY SESSIONS
TABLE 1	PARENT ADVOCACY ROUNDTABLE
TABLE 2	LEGAL REFORM ROUNDTABLE
TABLE 3	PUBLIC POLICY ROUNDTABLE
TABLE 4	COMMUNICATIONS ROUNDTABLE
TABLE 5	RESEARCH & SUSTAINABILITY ROUNDTABLE



THUR.  
10/1

@Hilton Garden Inn



8 AM

International Coffee Hour

900 AM

7th International Parents Conference  
Welcome, Conference Resolutions

915 AM

Opening Plenary: COVID-19 & New Realities for Returning  
Internationally Abducted Children  
~Director Scott Renner, U.S. Department of State Office of Children's Issues

1030 AM

Plenary: Repatriating America's Stolen Children  
~Jared Ginser, Managing Director, Perseus Strategies and Adjunct Professor of  
Law and Georgetown University Law Center

12 PM

7th Annual iStand Awards Luncheon

130 PM  
230 PM

Afternoon Breakout Sessions I & II  
Afternoon Breakout Sessions III

345 PM

Closing Plenary: Ending IPCA: Obstacles & Opportunities  
in the New Global Order  
Panel: International Diplomat Alf Friiso, U.S. Navy Admiral (Ret.) Paul Toland, and FBI SSA  
(Ret). Eugene Casey

700 PM

I'm Still Standing! ~ Post-Conference Mixer  
@Lily and the Cactus, Hilton Garden Inn Patio

# Plenary Session

10:30 am

Stanbury & Paint Branch

*iStand Parent Network Inc.*

*proudly welcomes*

**Jared Genser**

*for the plenary session*

*Repatriating America's Stolen Children  
at*



Thursday, Oct. 1 10:30 am



**This session will be livestreamed. Please be in the room prior to the beginning of the session. Please silence your cell phones before the session begins.**

2020

# iStand Awards Luncheon

Thursday, Oct. 1

11:45 am

*proudly welcomes*

2020  
*iStand Awards Luncheon*

*Emcee*  
*Rysa Samara Lee*



*Noon*  
*Thursday, Oct. 1*

*Hilton Garden Inn*  
*Washington DC*

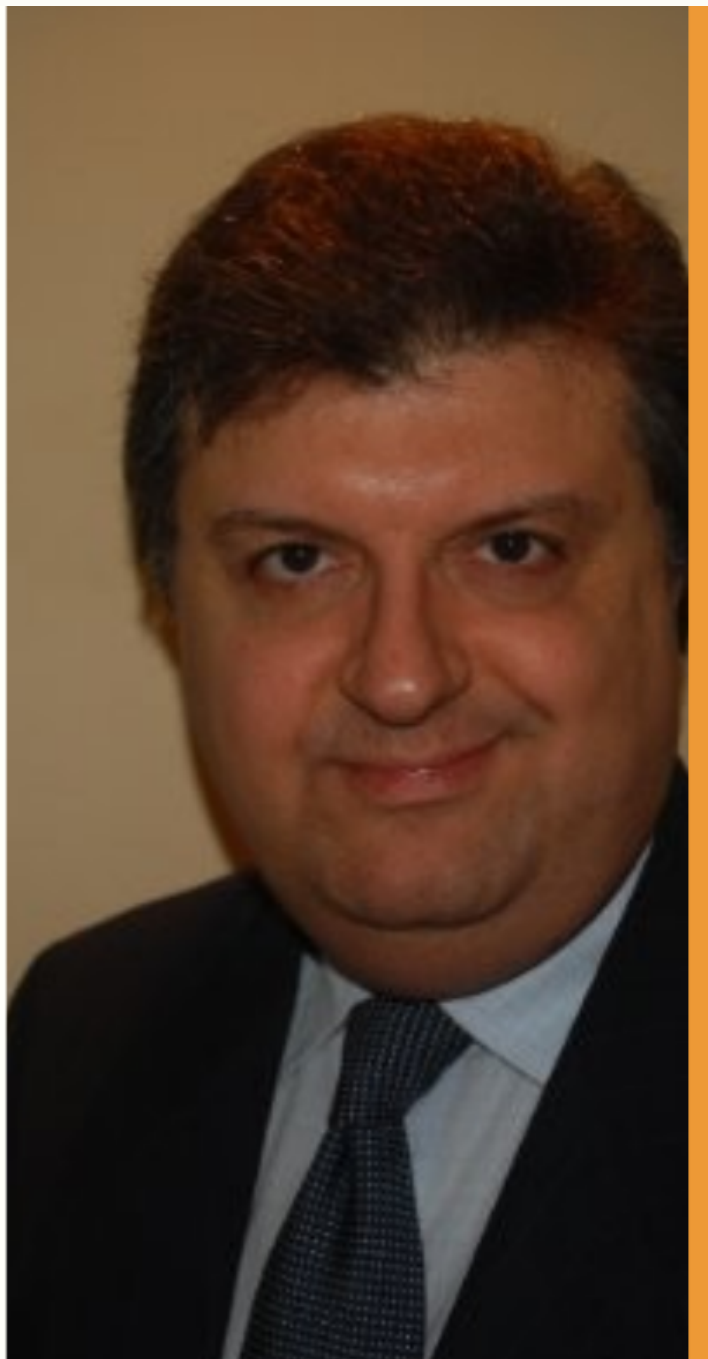


In 2012, Rysa's sister, Maayimuna, was parentally-abducted from their home in Morehead, KY. Then a teenager, Rysa persevered through the kidnapping of her little sister, and joined ranks with her mother, Dr. Noelle Hunter, to relentlessly lead the Mission4Muna. She was instrumental in her sister's homecoming in 2014. Rysa is personal banker at Renasant Bank and a pre-law student at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

*Our annual celebration of the heroes of*  
*America's Stolen Children*

Beacon Award ♦ Crusader Award ♦ Champion Award

# Afternoon Breakout Sessions



1:30 pm

Paint Branch

## The Goldman Act:

*Effective tool to obtain the return of internationally abducted American children or toothless paper tiger.*

There are currently no existing practical avenues for redress in obtaining compliance from rogue countries who systematically refuse to return internationally abducted children to the United States. The one tool that had been designed by Congress to put some teeth into the government's efforts to bring US citizen children back has been only superficially successful.

While the Goldman Act provides for the imposition of sanctions of increasing severity on states that systematically refuse to return children, the actual implementation of the Act has not resulted in the imposition of sanctions so far.

This session will attempt to answer 4 questions based on the last issued State Department Annual Compliance Report

**Jamil Zouaoui**

FATHER OF ABDUCTED CHILD,  
ATTORNEY



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FAMILY FOUNDATION



# Afternoon Breakout Sessions



Welcome  
Lauren Rivers  
Renew Art Therapy &  
Counseling

For the inaugural Self care/Aftercare Track session, we invite attendees to learn about an evidence-based brief therapeutic intervention that may help you heal from the trauma of IPCA, even if its still ongoing.

EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) is a psychotherapy that enables people to heal from the symptoms and emotional distress that are the result of disturbing life experiences.

Breakout Session 1

10/1 1:30 pm

## Self-Care Fact

Maintaining strong friendship networks contribute to a longer life.



Ignite. Fight. Reunite.

Sep. 30 - Oct. 2, 2020 | Washington DC  
7th International Parents Conference & Embassy Walk



THURSDAY 2:30

## Parents of Returned Children Sharing Session

STANSBURY



# Closing Plenary Session

3:45 pm

*Closing Plenary*

10/1 ~ 3:45 pm

## BRINGING CHILDREN HOME: OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NEW WORLD ORDER



Diplomat Alf Friiso



U.S. Naval Captain (Ret.) Paul Toland



Former FBI Special Agent Eugene Casey

In the closing plenary, parent-advocates Alf Friiso and Paul Toland relate their experiences and discuss the challenges of complex international arrangements that perpetuate International Parental Child Abduction. Eugene Casey shares suggestions for families seeking to engage law enforcement in their cases. This expert panel concludes iStand 2020 with an invitation to the audience to consider adaptive strategies for reuniting with their children and reforming the issue on a systemic level.

**This session will be livestreamed. Please be in the room prior to the beginning of the session. Please silence your cell phones before the session begins.**



FRI.  
10/2



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930 AM

Meet Up for Embassy Walk  
Hilton Garden Inn Lobby

10 AM

Knocking on Doors of Nations  
2020 Embassy Walk

12 PM

Lunch Break

1 00 PM

2020 Embassy Walk  
(continued)

2 00 PM

iStand 2020 Adjourns

7 PM

Relax, Relate, Release ~ Annual 'Wind Down'  
@ Royal Thai Restaurant, 507 H St. NW DC 20001



# MENUS



*Registration covers the following events and meals:*

**TUES. 9/29**  
**7 PM**

Welcome Reception  
Heavy Appetizers  
Open Bar

**WED. 9/30**  
**6 PM**

Movement Builder Working Dinner  
Pasta Bar

**THURS. 10/1**

International Parents Conference

- Continental Breakfast
- Plated Luncheon
- Afternoon Coffee/Snack Break

Post-Conference Mixer - I'm Still Standing!

- Street Tacos Bar
- Open Bar

**FRI. 10/2**

Grab & Go Fuel Packs for Embassy Walk

**FRI. 10/2 7 PM**

Relax, Relate, Release ~ Annual 'Wind Down' (dinner-on-your-own)  
@ Royal Thai Restaurant, 507 H St. NW DC 20001

\*All events have vegetarian options

[istand2020.com](http://istand2020.com)



*Thank you for attending*

**iStand 2020:  
Ignite. Fight. Reunite!**

***We'll see you in 2021!***

iStand Parent Network Inc  
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