

# 2023 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



*The Mayflower*

WASHINGTON D.C.

AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION®

10th International Parents Conference  
&  
Sunset Gala  
September 27 - 29, 2023  
Washington DC

*The 10th International Parents Conference & Sunset Gala  
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.

## Our History

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

That first gathering at the Hotel Harrington ignited the flame that became iStand Parent Network Inc. Since then, we've hosted the Conference at the U.S. Institute of Peace, the Hilton Garden Inn, and, now, the historic Mayflower Hotel. We've hosted international diplomats, members of Congress, renown attorneys and advocates, inviting them to stand with our community to reunite families and to end this terrible crime. For a decade, we've lead the way to Washington, opening doors of access and connecting parents, survivors, and families with federal and international help in their fight to reunite.

## The Conference

The iStand International Parents Conference empowers families affected by IPCA, facilitating peer support and access to important decision-makers and stakeholders, and providing tools to strengthen their fight for their children's return. The Conference also hosts youth track, nurturing a cohort of IPCA survivors and siblings through excursions, arts and a sense of belonging.

The Conference helps new parents learn the 'ropes' of impassioned, effective advocacy for their children, and diverse workshops 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 reform. 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. At the end of Conference, we all return home energized and ready to continue fighting for our children and for an end to International Parental Child Abduction.

## The Sunset Conference

**2023 marks the final iStand conference.** As iStand shifts our work toward survivor empowerment, coalition-driven advocacy, state-level reform, and global engagement, we welcome you to continue with us on the journey, and take a STAND for children in your home communities. We've planned for a memorable gathering to give this venerable conference a fitting sendoff and to seal the bonds of this special community. We welcome you to the iStand Sunset Conference & Gala.

*Welcome to iStand 10!*

# iStand 2023

## SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

DAY	EVENT	LOCATION
<b>Wed</b> <b>9/27</b>	<b>7:30 - 8:30 am</b> <b>Continental Breakfast</b>	<b>The Mayflower Hotel</b> <b>Palmer Court Ballroom</b>
<b>Wed</b> <b>9/27</b>	<b>9 am - 4 pm</b> <b>IPCA Advocacy Day</b> <b>on Capitol Hill</b>	<b>U.S. Capitol</b> <small>*Shuttle depart from front of The Mayflower Hotel</small>
<b>Wed</b> <b>9/27</b>	<b>7 pm - 10 pm</b> <b>Welcome Reception</b>	<b>The Mayflower Hotel</b> <b>Senate Room</b>
<b>Thurs</b> <b>9/28</b>	<b>8 am - 9 am</b> <b>International Coffee Hour with</b> <b>the Office of Children's Issues</b>	<b>The Mayflower Hotel</b> <b>Cabinet Room</b>
<b>Thurs</b> <b>9/28</b>	<b>9 AM - 5 PM</b> <b>10th International Parents</b> <b>Conference &amp; Awards Luncheon</b>	<b>The Mayflower Hotel</b> <b>Various locations</b>
<b>Fri</b> <b>9/29</b>	<b>Knocking on Doors of Nations</b> <b>10th Embassy Walk</b>	<b>Meet up @ hotel lobby</b> <b>9:30 am</b>
<b>Fri</b> <b>9/29</b>	<b>7 PM</b> <i>When the Stars Come Out:</i> <i>The iStand Sunset Gala</i>	<i>The Mayflower Hotel</i> <i>District Ballroom</i>



# iStand 2023

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

## YOUTH TRACK

DAY	EVENT	LOCATION
<b>Wed 9/27</b>	<b>7:30 - 8:30 am Continental Breakfast</b>	<b>The Mayflower Hotel Palmer Court Ballroom</b>
<b>Wed 9/27</b>	<b>9 am - 4 pm Washington DC Excursion Day</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Wed 9/27</b>	<b>7 pm - 10 pm Welcome Reception</b>	<b>The Mayflower Hotel Senate Room</b>
<b>Thurs 9/28</b>	<b>9 am - 4 pm iStand Youth Track Project Day</b>	<b>The Mayflower Hotel Delaware Board Room</b>
<b>Thurs 9/28</b>	<b>Awards Luncheon</b>	<b>The Mayflower Hotel Various locations</b>
<b>Fri 9/29</b>	<b>Knocking on Doors of Nations 10th Embassy Walk</b>	<b>Meet up @ hotel lobby 9:30 am</b>
<b>Fri 9/29</b>	<b>7 PM When the Stars Come Out: The iStand Sunset Gala</b>	<b>The Mayflower Hotel District Ballroom</b>





iStand Parent Network Inc.  
10th International Parents Conference

*The Mayflower*  
WASHINGTON D.C.

**Thursday, September 28, 2023**

**8:00 AM**

*International Coffee Hour*  
with the Office of Children's Issues  
Youth Survivor Track

**9:00 AM**

*Welcome & Conference Resolutions*  
*Remarks*

- U.S. Representative Chris Smith (invited)
- U.S. Special Advisor Michelle Bernier-Toth, Office of Children's Issues
- Raymond B Preston Family Foundation

**9:15 AM**

*Opening Plenary Session: A Global Paradigm for Family Reunification*

- Dr. Noelle Hunter, iStand Co-Founder & President Emeritus  
Director, International Child Abduction Prevention and Research Office (ICAPRO)

*10:15 AM ~ Break*

**10:30 AM**

*Plenary Session II: A Roadmap for State-level IPCA reform*

- Deana Herbert: Bianca's Law: A Mother's Successful Fight to Remove the Statue of Limitations and Expand Prosecution for Parental Kidnappers
- Dr. Arif Syed, Keep Our Kids Home, Intl: Passing the Maryland Child Abduction Prevention Act

**NOON**

*10th Annual iStand Awards Luncheon & Keynote Address*  
*Carolina Marín Pedreño*

Partner, Dawson Cornwell LLP, President, Human Rights Commission of the Union  
Internationale des Advocats (UIA), Vice President International Academy of Family Lawyers

**2:00 PM**

*Workshop: When Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide*  
*Listening and Feedback Session*

- Janell Rasmussen, National Amber Alert Program Administrator
- Bonnie Ferenbach, Program Manager, AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program
- Jeffery Morehouse, Dr. Noelle Hunter, The Coalition to End International Parental Child Abduction

*3:15 PM ~ Break*

**3:30 PM**

*Attorney Roundtable: IPCA Conflicts in International Family Law*

**4:45 PM**

*Closing Plenary Session: Final Reflections ~ Passing the Baton*

*9 pm ~ White House Candlelight Vigil for America's Stolen Children*