



Association for  
Conflict Resolution

International Section

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## Peacemakers honored for outstanding work in promoting mediation internationally and in cross-border family disputes

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**New Orleans, Louisiana** – Lada Busevac, Senior Country Officer for the International Finance Corporation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and MiKK, a non-profit organization specializing in international family disputes, have been chosen as recipients of the 2012 Outstanding Leadership Award from the Association for Conflict Resolution's (ACR) International Section. The awardees were selected in recognition of their extraordinary contributions to advancing conflict resolution internationally. The awards will be presented on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at ACR's Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana (USA).

**Lada Busevac**, of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has spearheaded a new business line devoted to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), as part of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the World Bank's joint Investment Climate Department. Leading an international team, Ms. Busevac developed a methodology to determine when countries or communities could benefit from ADR approaches, primarily with – though not limited to - commercial disputes. The methodology she helped to develop included a step-by-step analysis of how to evaluate and then implement an ADR program or center, including consultations with affected stakeholders such as ministries, legal bars, business and commercial associations, and local community members. Ms. Busevac's team led trainings for many mediators and helped to establish the business model for a number of ADR centers around the world. For more information and examples of some of the IFC's mediation initiatives, see: [www.wbginvestmentclimate.org](http://www.wbginvestmentclimate.org) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YM05xEL4q88> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9jJEzHIvtU>

**MiKK** (German acronym for “Mediation in International Conflicts involving Parents and Children”) is a small non-profit group located in Berlin, Germany that provides mediation training and has a roster of mediators to mediate in cross-border family conflicts including child abduction cases across all of Europe. The organization has been handling such cases since 2002. The distances involved in cross-border family conflicts can intensify the severity of the conflict. Parents are saddened and confused by the breakdown of their relationship or marriage and afraid of losing their children forever. Mediation in these cases must be flexible and has to conform to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. MiKK's mediation model is unique, requiring co-mediators to come from both countries/cultures involved, to represent both genders, and to have fluency in the parties' language. Mediation pairs must include one mediator with a psychosocial background and the other with a legal background and both are trained to act as neutral facilitators. The mediators are trained in all mediation styles and adapt these according to the needs of the clients. MiKK's family mediation model is a reflection on how we can apply cross-border and cross-cultural dispute resolution in many different areas. More information can be found on their website: <http://www.mikk-ev.de/english/english/>



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### **ACR International Day 2012**

This year's awardees will speak about their successes and experiences, at ACR's International Day, a premier networking event for conflict resolution professionals with a global focus. In addition to topics related to the awardees, International Day 2012 will focus on talks and discussion about environmental conflict resolution, in partnership with the Environmental and Public Policy Section. As always, attendees of International Day can expect strong networking with other international thinkers and practitioners, and a fruitful exchange of ideas around best practices in different settings.

International Day, on September 12, 2012 in New Orleans, is part of the Association for Conflict Resolution's 12th Annual Conference, "Creating Connections: Conflict Resolution in Deeply Divided Times". The conference will be held at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. For more information, visit <http://www.acrnet.org/annual2012/>

### **ACR International Outstanding Leadership Award**

Each year, the ACR International Section honors exceptional work promoting conflict resolution in development projects around the world. The award aims to celebrate leadership in the field and draw attention to the importance of conflict resolution in creating stronger democracies, economies, and communities.

### **About the Association for Conflict Resolution**

The Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR) is the professional organization dedicated to enhancing the practice and public understanding of conflict resolution. ACR represents and serves a diverse national and international audience that includes nearly 5,000 mediators, arbitrators, facilitators, educators, and others involved in the field of conflict resolution. ACR also publishes Conflict Resolution Quarterly Journal and ACResolution. For more information about ACR, visit <http://www.ACRnet.org>

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