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For Immediate Release

Parent Led Group Urges Prompt Action from President Obama and Prime Minister Modi to Secure Return of American Children Abducted to India

On November 7, 2015, [Bring Our Kids Home](#), a U.S. based parent organization, launched an [online petition](#) on Change.org to raise awareness of the serious and growing issue of international parental child abductions (“IPCA”) from the United States to India, and urged President Obama and Prime Minister Modi to take swift diplomatic action and provide relief to victims of this growing human crisis.

Vikram Jagtiani, father of 6 year old child, co-founder of the organization explains that, “the petition is aimed at leveraging the power of social media and the Internet to raise awareness of the international parental child abductions, and the serious emotional and psychological consequences of it on victimized children. He adds, “We are seeking robust, joint action from the U.S. and Indian governments, which will only help strengthen our bilateral ties”.

Members of the organization, will attend the upcoming Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas in Los Angeles (November 14-15). Based on [media reports](#), the theme for the event will be “The Indian Diaspora: Defining a New Paradigm in India-U.S. Relationship, capturing the ethos of the ongoing relationship between India and the U.S. and the important role being played by the diaspora in this regard.”

Mr Jagtiani added, “We are supportive of Prime Minister Modi’s vision for the Indian diaspora across the United States and the world. However we would also like the Government of India to do more when it comes to serious issues that impact our families, like international parental child abductions to India and putting in place robust policy and legal reform to combat this crime” Mr. Jagtiani also expressed hope that Honorable Minister Sushma Swaraj would agree to meet members of Bring Our Kids Homes during the Regional PBD event in Los Angeles.

India ranks as the top non-Hague signatory destination of child abductions from the United States, despite legal scholars and children’s rights groups calling on India to sign the 1980, Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Parental Child Abduction. India’s [stated position](#) for not signing the convention is, “if India signs the pact, it would put Indian women married to non-resident Indians or foreign nationals to disadvantage in cases of divorces and legal battles over the custody of children”

According to Bindu Phillips, who has been fighting to reunite with her twin boys abducted to India in 2008, “the Hague Convention is meant to protect children from the harmful effects of parental alienation and other forms of child abuse.” Ms. Phillips explains, “The Hague Convention isn’t against any parent or a specific gender. The Convention declares that custody decision should be made by the Court where children were residing prior to their abduction, thus prevent ‘forum shopping’ by the taking parent”.

Earlier, in October 2015, members of *Bring Our Kids Home*, held several meetings in Washington, DC, with Department of State, Department of Justice, Congressional offices and informal discussion with officials of the Indian Embassy. Ravi Parmar, father of child abducted to India in 2012, co-founder of *Bring Our Kids Home*, states that, “the U.S. Congress has taken serious note of the hardships faced by victimized parents and children, and is speaking with one voice on the issue”. Mr. Parmar adds, “However, the pace of progress is slow, primarily because victims don’t always get the assistance they need from various U.S. agencies, and the legal and cultural hurdles victimized parents face in India”. He urges both U.S. and India, “to publicly take a strong stance against IPCA, and declare a time-bound, commitment to finding a just and lasting solution to prevent more children from enduring the trauma of international abduction”.

Each year over 1,000 American children are abducted from the U.S. to other countries. Between 2010-2014 almost 6,000 American children were abducted. IPCA is a crime in the United States and several countries that have signed the Hague Abduction Convention (93 countries). India does not recognize IPCA as a crime, and as a result very few if any children are returned back to the United States. Cases linger for years in India and children are deprived of their left-behind parent.

Since 2014, *Bring Our Kids Home*, has been advocating for our children’s return from India and seeking a long term mechanism between the U.S. and India to combat this growing crisis. For more information on the organization’s efforts or the issue of IPCA please visit our website: www.bringourkidshome.org or email us at: [info\[at\]bringourkidshome.org](mailto:info[at]bringourkidshome.org)