

The Next Generation – an Introduction

We are delighted to be inviting you to the 2023 FMA Conference taking place on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th September at The Park Hotel Northampton.

For FMA's 35th Anniversary we felt we should celebrate in-person, and all in one place - accommodation, conference and celebration dinner will all be in the hotel. This is part of our post-lockdown commitment to a rolling programme of conferences on-line and in-person, and in London or elsewhere, so everyone has an opportunity to participate. Our focus will be on "The Next Generation" - of mediators, clients, and ideas - and we do hope you'll join us "to boldly go" to Northampton, where there will be a great opportunity to meet old and new friends, to network, to share, and to challenge.

This year's John Cornwell Lecture will be delivered by Mark Finnis, Founder and Director of L30 Relational Systems, who will be sharing ideas on "Exploring restorative and relational practice - building culture by design and not default."

Our theme, the frame through which we can view all these initiatives, is "the Next Generation." By this, we mean:

1. The Next Generation: A primary focus on children and young people throughout the conference – how we help and protect them now, and what sort of world we are leaving them
2. The Next Generation of Families: thinking wider about the people who approach us or might be encouraged to approach us, and whether we have the strategies and resources to meet their needs
3. The Next Generation of Mediation and Family Solutions: what new approaches do we have to offer for these challenges? – we will look at the Integrated Approach a year on, restorative practice with our guests on Day Two, and other innovative practice
4. The Next Generation of Mediators: our usual focus on how to support mediators on the way to accreditation, and proposed changes to the pathway. What should training and pathways look like? And how concerned should we be about the capacity of our profession?

Day One will include a looking forward and back with representatives of our Young Mediators Group, and members and Vice Presidents who have been around for somewhat longer, the future of mediation from the perspectives of Government, FMC and academics, and time to examine tricky areas such as voluntariness and online/ in-person choices.

Day Two will explore restorative practice and the latest thinking about what young people "need," followed by workshops and forums on practice issues. The afternoon will offer the usual blend of workshops and fora to assist your practice in key subject areas.

The Conference will be supplemented by video contributions, and the 35th Anniversary Dinner and entertainment will take place on the Wednesday evening.

Anna, Beverley, Carlie, Neil, Philippa and Ruth



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<https://thefma.co.uk>

Day 1 - Wednesday 27th September 2023

09.30 – 10.00	Registration with tea/coffee and a place to re-connect
10.00 – 10.05	Welcome to Day 1 - FMA President, Lord Justice Moylan
10.05 – 11.00	<p>Celebrating 35 Years of The Family Mediators Association</p> <p>An opportunity to share memories and celebrate changes and achievements over the last 35 years</p> <p>Panel and Table discussions, led by members of the Conference Committee and Jess Loram from Young FMA</p>
11.00 – 11.15	Break - Tea/Coffee
11.15 – 13.00	<p>Policy for the next generation and what it means for you</p> <p>The Future of Family Mediation from an FMC, MOJ and Family Justice System perspective – Vouchers, MIAMs and the recent MOJ Consultation.</p> <p>MOJ and FMC (Helen Anthony and Allan Blake) presentations and table discussions</p>
13.00 – 14.00	Buffet Lunch and Exhibition
14.00 – 15.15	<p>How Others See Us - The Future of Family Mediation from an academic perspective</p> <p>Professor Bryan Clark, Professor of Law and Civil Justice at Newcastle University</p>
15.15 – 15.30	Break - Tea/Coffee
15.30 – 17.15	<p>Mediation: The Next Generation</p> <p>An opportunity to shape our ambitions for the next generation of mediators and families</p> <p>Panel and Table discussions and Activities</p>
17.15 – 17.20	Closing remarks - FMA President, Lord Justice Moylan



<p>17:20</p> <p>17:30 - 19:00</p>	<p>Close of conference</p> <p>Followed by;</p> <p>Young FMA informal social and networking in the Buckingham Foyer (Sponsored by Our Family Wizard)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Is there life after mediation ? A chance to talk about our experience of (impending) retirement/recovery/reupholstery or alternatively reminiscence 'therapy' with Ruth Smallacombe in the bar area</p>
<p>19.00</p> <p>19.30</p> <p>22.00 - 23.00</p>	<p>Drinks reception in the Buckingham Foyer</p> <p>Celebration Dinner (dress code: smart casual)</p> <p>Silent Disco</p>



Day 2 Thursday 28th September 2023

09.30 – 10.00	Registration with tea/coffee
10.00 – 10.05	Welcome to Day 2 – FMA President, Lord Justice Moylan
10.05 – 11.05	<p>John Cornwell Lecture – Designing the Future</p> <p>Mark Finnis, Founder and Director of L30 Relational Systems</p> <p>Exploring restorative and relational practice in mediation – building culture by design and not default</p>
11.05 – 11.20	Break – tea/coffee
11.20 – 12.15	Table discussions and feedback with Mark Finnis
12.15-13.00	<p>Family Solutions Group Report: What about me? A child's right to matter</p> <p>Panel discussion chaired by Carlie Norris with Angharad Rudkin, (Chartered Psychologist) and Helen Adam, (Wells Family Mediation)</p>
13.00 – 14.00	Buffet Lunch and Exhibition
14.00 – 15.30	<p>Parallel workshops (Choose one from four)</p> <p>All workshops feature skills/resources/information/strategies/theories/models that can be used in the mediation space and are presented by friends of FMA</p> <p>1. Diffusing and de-escalating conflict – theory and practice led by Nicola Wallace (back by popular demand and based on her presentation at conference 2022)</p>



14.00 – 15.30	<p>2.Securing the future: pensions led by Phil O'Connor</p> <p>3.A workshop for mediators working towards accreditation led by Juliette Dalrymple</p> <p>4.Changing the future: the child and the family led by Sarah Turner (family and play therapist)</p>
15.30 – 15.45	Break – Coffee/Tea
15.45 – 16.45	<p>Conversations about practice – an opportunity to share ideas (Choose one from four)</p> <p>Funding a mediation service led by Sarah-Jane Turnbull</p> <p>Preparing clients for mediation led by Philippa Johnson and Paul Kemp</p> <p>Child-inclusive mediation led by Ruth Smallacombe</p> <p>What Core Documents do you need, and how can we help you? led by Neil Robinson and members of the Standards and Documents Group</p>
16.45 – 17.25	<p>Family Mediation 35 years on?</p> <p>Creating our time capsule – what do we want the family mediators of the future to find?</p> <p>Led by the FMA Conference Committee</p>
17.25	Closing remarks – FMA President, Lord Justice Moylan
17.30	Close of conference

