



FIGT UK - A NEW FORCE IN GLOBAL TRANSITION **September 2012**

A new force in global transition has been launched in the UK to provide support for globally mobile individuals and families.

Families in Global Transition (FIGT) has been championing cross-cultural education and training to support the entire expat family for more than 10 years and is the premier advocate and cross-cultural educational resource for families, organisations and service providers.



Wendy Wilson and Clare Snowdon
Co-chairs FIGT UK

Founded in the USA by TCK (third culture kid) expert Ruth van Reken, FIGT has grown into an internationally recognised 'think tank' for families transitioning globally and the organisations that support them. FIGT has built its global community by bringing together corporate, diplomatic, academic, the arts, military, missionary and NGO sectors to share and develop leading edge research and concepts that address international relocation issues.

Launched in June 2012 in Oxford, the UK affiliate of FIGT brings all this good work to British shores with a vision to take significant steps forward in four key areas: education, networking, research and support.

The launch reception was hosted by the University of Oxford's Said Business School and brought together 70 representatives from across the UK and a wide range of sectors relating to global mobility and global mobility issues. The evening succeeded in generating a lively networking buzz, with short presentations by Co-chairs Wendy Wilson and Claire Snowdon, culminating in a call to action to help FIGT UK build a local UK network across all sectors to provide a forum for exchange for globally mobile professionals, families and students.

FIGT UK's mission is to organise and host events, half-day workshops and discussion forums on all issues of global mobility, cultural transition and relocation. An enthusiastic response was received to a request for topic suggestions for future sessions and the 2012/13 FIGT UK programme will be based upon these suggestions to include relocation best





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practices, educational balance, cross-cultural challenges, working spouses, employee retention, elder care responsibilities and third culture kids.

By connecting this international community with local service providers and relevant organisations, FIGT UK hopes to develop a valuable resource for cross-cultural education and training and to create a deep sense of community among globally mobile professionals, families and supporting organisations.

FIGT UK also aims to empower organisations, individuals and families by sharing research and best practice before, during and after international transitions. The University of Oxford is internationally renowned for the quality and diversity of its research and the FIGT UK affiliate hopes to be able to capitalize on its unique location in Oxford to be able to share existing research and to also develop new research streams with relevance to global relocation and migration issues. For more information and details of FIGT's 2012-13 programme of events: www.figt.org/uk-affiliates

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