

## **Biography - Dr. Noelle Hunter**

Dr. Noelle Hunter is a clinical assistant professor of political science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) Department of Philosophy and Political Science, where she teaches courses on U.S. government, public policy, and international relations. She is the founder and director of the International Child Abduction Prevention and Research Office (ICAPRO) at UAH. ICAPRO advances data-informed solutions to the global problem of International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA). ICAPRO is an interdisciplinary research and practice initiative to improve IPCA prevention, response, and resolution.

Dr. Noelle Hunter is co-founder and president emeritus of iStand Parent Network Inc., a nongovernmental organization that empowers parents to recover their children from International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA) and advocates for public policy reform to prevent and end this crime against children and families. Dr. Hunter co founded iStand Parent Network after successfully recovering her daughter from an abduction to Mali in 2014.

Since 2014, iStand has assisted parents with reunifications of 54 children who were parentally abducted or wrongfully retained. iStand also works cooperatively with local, state and federal agencies, members of Congress, NGOs and international advocates to advance policy reform to strengthen domestic and global IPCA prevention and response.

Dr. Hunter has served as an invited witness on IPCA before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs and Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Global Human Rights. She has also offered expert testimony on IPCA before the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) and the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. She is an associate with Fox Valley Technical College and the National Criminal Justice Training Center.

In 2018, Dr. Hunter was appointed by Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin to lead the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the first African American to serve in that role. She is the former dean of students at Ohio Valley University and taught government and international relations at West Virginia University and Morehead State University. She is the former Walter Rollins Scholar for the West Legislature and the James E. Webb Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution Office of Policy and Analysis.

Noelle earned a bachelor of science in journalism from Ohio University in 1994, a Master of Public Administration degree in 2009, and a doctorate degree in political science from West Virginia University in 2007. She has been internationally recognized by Powerhouse Global Brand as one of “Fifty Women from Around the World” who are leading global change. Dr. Hunter also received the 2020 Humanitarian Award for her work from the Alabama chapter of the NAACP. Dr. Hunter has three daughters, Maayimuna, Rysa and Rachel.

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