



## **American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **THE AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY ON THE ABUSE OF CHILDREN PARTICIPATES IN HISTORIC EVENT IN RUSSIA**

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Elmhurst, Illinois, September 25, 2011— A joint venture between the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation; The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC); The Institute for Human Services (IHS); The United States Department of Justice (DOJ); the National Foundation for Prevention of Cruelty to Children in Russia (NFPCC); and the Republic of Buryatia resulted in the First Russian-American Child Welfare Forum being held at Ulan-Ude and Lake Baikal in the Republic of Buryatia Aug. 1-6, 2011.

The initiative was a result of discussions conducted by President Obama and President Medvedev's Bilateral Commission's Civil Society Subcommittee on Child Protection. APSAC, IHS, and DOJ contingent consisted of 16 members along with other organizations who provided consultation with a panel of Russian officials and child welfare professionals on a variety of issues critical to improving Russia's child welfare system.

Over 150 Russian government and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) officials attended the First Russian American Child Welfare Forum. The Forum is designed to be an annual event pairing local child welfare service providers with leading Russian and American specialists to tackle the most serious issues facing the child protection and welfare field today. The goal is to further the development of Russian-American dialogue and partnership in resolving pressing national and international child protection-related issues. Additional information is available at [www.racwf.org](http://www.racwf.org).

*The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children* is the leading national organization supporting professionals who serve children and families affected by child maltreatment and violence. As a multidisciplinary group of professions, APSAC achieves its mission in a number of ways, most notably through expert training and educational activities, policy leadership and collaboration, and consultation that emphasizes theoretically sound, evidence-based principles. APSAC envisions a world where all maltreated or at-risk children and their families have access to the highest level of professional commitment and service.

For more information on APSAC, visit [www.apsac.org](http://www.apsac.org). Or, contact APSAC, 350 Poplar Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Phone toll-free 877.402.7722. E-mail [apsac@apsac.org](mailto:apsac@apsac.org).