

Illicit Intercountry Adoption Practices

WHO IT

IMPACTS

AND WHAT THEY

RECOMMEND

Project Outline

Prepared for: Intercountry Adoptees, Adoptive Families, Families of Loss

Prepared by: Lynelle Long, Founder of ICAV

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INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTEE VOICES (ICAV)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Objective

In the past, ICAV Perspective Papers have brought together a range of views on a specific topic from intercountry adoptees all over the world. The goal of these papers have been to raise greater understanding of the complexities we intercountry adoptees live. This project will be the first to attempt to bring together the voices and experiences of **all** impacted members of the triad in intercountry adoption who have lived experience with some form of illicit intercountry adoption.

We use the term “illicit” because sometimes adoption practices are technically legal under the law of the relevant country but are fundamentally unethical under international or other standards. What we plan to highlight in this project, is that the remedy needs to deal with the wrong. One category is instances where the child never should have been removed from (or should have been returned to) their family. A second group deals with subsidiarity in the sense that while it may have been necessary for the child not to be with their family, in-country solutions should have been used. Then there are wrongs that go to matching--- such as falsified child study forms — in instances where "an" adoption could have been appropriate, but the wrongdoing led to creating a placement that was problematic.

An objective of this paper is to break down the perception that illicit intercountry adoptions affect just a few and to help governments realise that options for solutions (responses) can be broad.

Another objective is to attempt to learn from the past and provide solutions for the future, as well as ensure those from historical intercountry adoptions, are provided for in terms of services and support.

This paper will be presented to government and non government organisations to demonstrate the impacts felt during the lived experience, including suggestions on what the response has been so far, what is needed, and how responses might be improved. Each organisation who participates will be able to use this paper to serve their purpose in advocacy. This paper can also be provided as source material for journalists to promote our advocacy and lived experience. Examples of where this paper might be presented are: Central Authorities, Government Ministers & Departments, Adoption Agencies, NGOs, The Hague Permanent Bureau, ISS International, UNICEF, etc.

Solution & Framework

This project will be in support of and underpinned by reference to the international standards of the CRC, the Optional Protocol (Sale of Children), and the Palermo Protocol.

To present individual experiences in story form in their local language, translated into either French, English, or Spanish and consolidate into one repository.

- Each story can include name(s) (pseudonym, original, adopted), country of birth, adoptive country, process of adoption and/or illegality, source that confirms illegality, impact statement including needs/rights, what
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has been the response so far from various stakeholders (agencies, governments, peer network, allied health professionals, triad members), recommendations on how various organisations (government and non government) could better respond, and what services are recommended.

To engage via locally led groups, whether that be adoptees, adoptive families or families of loss.

- Each locally led group is welcome to list organisation/group name/logo in this Collaborative and the material will be freely and fully available to all who participate.

PROJECT OUTLINE

Stage One

ICAV to discuss project outline and objectives with triad representatives. Include definition of “illicit” intercountry adoption so that people understand what is in scope and what is not.

Timeframe: ICAV is aiming for completion at end 2019, allowing 6 months to edit, finalise, and ready for mid 2020, The Hague meeting of Central Authorities.

Each Group to Discuss & Agree on distribution channels / project leaders via:

- adoptee led groups
- adoptive families
- families of loss

Each Group to Discuss & Agree on Resources who can assist where needed.

For those who speak english, Smolin research students are available to do interviews in english only

Each Group to Discuss & Agree on what supports can be made avail for those needing support system.

Each Group Discuss ideas of where and how this material will be used once project completed.

Stage Two

ICAV and Collaborative Groups to Distribute Project Information

Stage Three

Project leaders to gather profile information and send to central contacts (eg ICAV Lynelle for English, Abby for Colombian, Aude for French, others for Spanish) for edit and compilation.

Stage Four

Compile, edit, layout

Marketing / Media sources to be discussed and agreed, ready for completion and publication.

Stage Five

Project Completion Launch

Coordinated approach for Distribution of Completed Publication through countries/contacts.

Upload to ICAV and websites of collaborative organisations.

Organise who to present and speak about this paper at conferences, forums, & meetings.
