

Illicit Intercountry Adoptions

WHO IT

IMPACTS

AND WHAT THEY

RECOMMEND

Example Questions

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

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INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTEE VOICES (ICAV)

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR ADOPTEES

Adoptees are able to write their own story or if they need guidance, here is a list of questions as a starting place:

Your story can be in English, French or Spanish with an unlimited word length.

For purpose of this project, we will use the term **illicit** adoption procedures because it includes illegal adoptions but its meaning can also extend to unethical practices. Sometimes adoption practices are technically legal under the law of the relevant country but are fundamentally unethical under international or other standards. We will use as a baseline these: CRC, the Optional Protocol (Sale of Children), and the Palermo Protocol.

What are your name(s)? (adopted & birth) Do you wish for your story to be anonymous and with a pseudonym? please provide it.

What was the country of your birth? What is your adopted country?

What was the process your adoption followed, that you knew about (initially, and later on, if it changed)?

Who were the organisations and people involved who facilitated your adoption? Please advise if you wish to keep any of them anonymous. How long did the process take?

Who is your adoptive family(s) and what is their structure (single mother, nuclear family, gay family), did they remain this way over time? what religion if any?

How old were you at adoption? What age were you when you were lost to your first family?

What sources do you have to demonstrate the illicit practices within your adoption? (memories as an older aged child, documents found, family of loss who told me after reunion, etc). How did you go about finding those sources?

When you learnt your adoption was less than ethical, how did you feel? what did you do? over what timeframe? who did you seek support and help from? how was that?

What impact has your illicit adoption had on you? others close to you? (partner, children, relatives)

Do you feel supported and upheld by international or other standards? How could this be improved upon?

What support could be improved upon that does exist? What support would you have liked that doesn't exist?

What lessons can be learnt from your experience?

What do you recommend for Governments and non-Governments as a better response and support? (financial, legal, emotional, translational, logistics with visas/passports, etc)

Please send your response along with any images you wish to include to contact@intercountryadopteevoices.com or lynellelong on FaceBook.

Note: Images do not need to be identifying, they could be artistic or some object that has specific meaning to you in your experience that you shared about. Images need to be clear, not fuzzy.

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTEE VOICES (ICAV)

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES OF LOSS

Families of loss are able to write their own story or if they need guidance, here is a list of questions as a starting place:

Your story can be in English, French or Spanish with an unlimited word length.

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What is your name? Do you wish to be anonymous? please provide

What country were you born in? what country do you currently reside in?

What country did you give birth to your child in?

When was your child born? and where?

When did your child become lost to you via adoption? how? was there a significant event or trauma that led to this? what did you do? who did you go to for help? what was their response? over time has this changed?

What impact has it had on you to have lost your child this way? (emotional, social, legal, cultural) on those close to you (partner, other children, extended family)

What supports have you been able to turn to during this experience of loss? How could these be improved upon?

Have you found your child? How did this happen? How did you feel? Where you (are you still) supported during reunion?

Have you found other families in a similar situations to you? Has it helped?

If you haven't found your child, what are your hopes? Would you like help to find your child? Is anyone or any organisation (government or non government) helping you with this? How would you like help? What could be improved upon to provide this help to you?

What would you like governments to know from your experience?

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SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

Adoptive families are able to write their own story or if they need guidance, here is a list of questions as a starting place:

Your story can be in English, French or Spanish with an unlimited word length.

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What is your name? Do you wish to have a pseudonym? please provide.

What motivated you to adopt?

What country have you adopted your child from? Why did you choose this country program?

What country do you have citizenship in? What country were you living in when you initiated your adoption?

What agency or contact did you conduct your adoption through?

What was the process and timeframe over which the adoption was conducted?

When did you discover the adoption was less than ideal? What impact did this have on you? and on those close to you (family, partner, other children)?

Some questions you may have grappled with include worrying about losing your child, how your child might interpret things once they grow up, does this mean intercountry adoption is wrong, will other adoptive families view us differently, and where do I fit now in the adoption community? Do you relate to these and how do you cope?

Did you feel adequately educated about adoption processes to be aware of any signs of questionable practices? How do you think this could be improved upon?

Did you see any signs of illicit practices? At what timeframes? How did you feel? What, if anything, did you do? What were the responses? from whom?

What sources of information demonstrate illicit practices occurred? How did you go about finding these?

Was money a part of the illicit practice? At what timeframes was money exchanged? Did you feel this was appropriate? Why? Why not?

What services and support exist that provided you some help? (legal, emotional, financial, translational, cultural) How was that experience? How could it be improved upon?

What services and support need to be provided that don't exist?

Do you feel international standards have been upheld during the adoption of your child? How could this be improved upon?

What lessons can be learnt from your experience?

What recommendations would you make to governments and non governments about how to better support families like yours living through this experience?

What could be done to better prevent illicit adoptions from occurring?

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