Sincere Mrs Kiran Rao, sincere Mr Aamir Khan,

By coincidence I came to know of the new season of Satyamev Jayate, the renowned talk show hosted by you, Mr Khan. I do admire you a lot for your films as well as your courage to discuss such sensitive social issues in a TV show.
Although I haven't been able to follow the show (I live in The Netherlands), I have heard about the show's impact in Indian society.

On behalf of many Indian adoptees worldwide I take the opportunity to write to you, because of an issue which is very important to them, as it is to me personally.

My name is Anand Kaper, 37 years old. In 1976 I was born in Mumbai. In 1977 I have been adopted by a Dutch couple. Besides my day job (teacher) I'm secretary general of United Adoptees International (UAI).
UAI is an independent foundation based in the Netherlands. We focus on representing the needs and rights of adult adoptees worldwide. In the past few years we have initiated many projects involving the interests and rights of adoptees and presented issues about the complexity and consequences of "international adoption" in the long term for this group.
We have direct links with the Dutch Ministry of Security & Justice, the National Council of Child Welfare and several other Dutch authorities and organizations involved in the adoption process as such.

In the past few years I have tried to work on the needs and rights of Indian adoptees worldwide. Many of them feel the need to search for their India relatives, but they were turned down by their adoption agencies with the message that they'd better forget about the past and look forward. But I think past and present are interlinked.

Unfortunately, Indian authorities, such as CARA (Central Adoption Resource Authority) and the Ministry of Women and Child Development are not cooperating in this matter.

There are a lot of Indian adoptees worldwide who want to search for their relatives. Unfortunately, they don't succeed in this matter, because of the non-cooperative attitude of adoption agencies. They claim that they have promised to not disclose the identity of the birth parents to the adoptee. But to my opinion birth parents might change their mind when the adoptee (their child) may show up. Maybe birth parents do want to see/meet

their lost daughter/son. Unfortunately adoption agencies refuse to track the birth parents and ask them wether they are able to meet their child.

I think it's time for a change!

In the past years I have been talking to a lot of Indian adoptees who want to meet their biological parents. The lack in information and the gap in their life (which they want to fill in) is a big issue for this group of Indian adoptees worldwide.

Although the Indian government (Ministry of Women and Child Development and CARA) are not cooperative, Indian adoptees desperately seeking for their roots.

On a personal level, I also face the difficulties in my BFS proces. For this matter I have been traveling to India many times, without getting any results yet.

Indian is changing, developing in many ways. It is also time to achieve some media attention for this issue. I hope Satyamev Jayate can bring this issue to the attention of the agencies concerned and the Ministry.

There are some cases in which Indian adoptees have found their biological parents. This results in a new bonding, a new family and happiness for both sides (adoptee and biological family). It is my wish that BFS – birth family search – will become a normal and structural consequence of the adoption proces.

On behalf of all indian adoptees worldwide it would be necesarry to dedicate one episode of Satyamev Jayate to Birth Family Search of Indian adoptees and the problems they are facing while searching in India. To adoptees this is a very important issue.

If necessary, I will be able to fly to India to attain the show.
Looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Anand Kaper
Indian adoptee
Former chairman of Kiran, Dutch association of Indian adoptees
Secretary-general of United Adoptees International

Ph: 0031 (0)6 20760705