

International Alliance for Adoption Abolition (IAAA)

PIVOT CAMPAIGN

Abuse, Alienation and Innocence versus Coincidence, Connection and Strength

Draft Objectives:

1. Raise international profile of adoptee voices
2. Combat adoption lobby groups including International Social Services
(and their influence in the Hague Permanent Bureau based in The Netherlands and all the old child rights organisations now pushing permanency)
3. Liaise with local national government against acquiescing to US adoption policy and model (noting the US has not ratified the UNCRC)
4. Recognise that permanency is not in and of itself necessarily in a child's best interests when it leaves open the possibility of permanent placement with abusers; recognising that adoption, by its characteristics of ownership, fosters a sense of entitlement to a child akin to a sense of ownership and that a permanent system without welfare checks invites abusers and paedophiles to adopt
5. All child rights efforts to move away from child trade to the eradication of poverty, family support, and state-based care as expressly provided for in the UNCRC Article 20(1) and, to this end, the State should provide children with alternative care giving due regard shall be paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing and to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background (Article 20(3))

Article 20(1). A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State.

6. Eliminate inter-country and local adoption as systems of child ownership that treat children as both commodity and currency and therefore is legalised child trafficking with shared characteristics of slavery

(trafficking being defined as being sold for exploitation, the sale price varying across outright purchase prices, adoption fees and/or donations to charities and religious organisation; defining the fate of adopted children as servitude or *work* in the very real of all adoptees having to work to fit into the adoptive family and to comply to the transactional relationship established by adoption; specifying adoption is not a child welfare measure in any sense of the term and is more akin

to a witness protection programme and a system of slavery whereby a child suffers the erasure of identity and substitution of a state-imposed identity including name change and false birth certificate;

currency being defined as the use of the adoptee for income for religious organisations and other NGOs and virtue signalling by celebrity adopters;

commodity being the child as altruistic, philanthropic object with many uses)

7. Recognising that the development of DNA and genealogical data making all pretense to needing to retain personal information from adopted people about who they are obsolete and therefore deliberate attempts to hinder the empowerment of adopted persons to know themselves and their families and history and acquire equal rights to non-adopted persons
8. Recognising that maternal- neonatal separation is a form of child abuse and mother abuse and should only ever be done in the direst of circumstances when the danger of remaining in family outweighs the long-term and intergerneation damage done by maternal-neonatal separation
9. Recognising that blood kin – ie, natural family and ancestry - is of profound significance an dimportance to huma beings and vital to their identity and wellbeing, and that taking this away from a person is akin to taking away their reason for living
9. Recognising that historically child removal has been used as a racist weapon in genocide against Indigenous peoples, a mysoginistic attack on women as mothers and upon female sexuality, an attack on babies and children born outside patriarchal structures, and a racist expression of t he phenomenon of “white saviourism” and that these purposes of adoption continue today in some countries
10. Demanding that all children’s identity document reflect their true and natural origin and identity as far as is possible.
11. Recognising that if a country does not have an adequate State based child welfare system then these systems must be improved and if they cannot be improved as they are then that new forms of State child welfare systems can be designed to care for children who cannot remain with t heir families without the erasure of identity and permanent legal severance from kin that is intrinsic to adoption
12. Recognising that the disinheritance of adopted people from the civil provisions of succession of property through their natural families is a violation of their civil rights and where a child is taken into another family then it is in their best interests to retain their inheritance rights within their natural family as well as acquire inheritance rights in the families who care for them thereby ensuring that the child does not “fall through the cracks’ between two families as happens today and instead is given

the best effort to their adequate provision for their proper maintenance, education and advancement in life.¹

13. Recognising that the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption is illegitimate because it violates international human rights standards as outlined in the UNCRC and various other conventions and international instruments.

14. Recognising that the legitimate domestic and global trade in children that is adoption invites acceptance of child trade in community and the public sphere thereby enabling and encouraging and increasing black-market child trafficking

15. Demanding the system of erasing, falsifying and replacing birth certificates of children be abolished, the removal of inheritance rights be abolished and mandated regular welfare checks be done on all children in State care and that, considering the way these three characteristics interact with adoption that all adoption systems must be abolished as violations of child rights and against the best interests of children.

16. Demanding that adopted people abused in institutions or within adoptive families be given national apologies and full financial compensation and reparation by their State, free DNA testing and genealogical record searching, the establishment of memorials in each State, the establishment of a Find and Connect website service and financial grants be made available for the building of capacity of adopted persons.

Catherine Lynch,

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A Collaboration of Founding Members of AIII

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¹ See for example New South Wales, Australia, *Succession Act 2006* – Sect 59(1)(c).