

ATTWIN Position Paper:

Adoption Truth and Transparency Worldwide Information Network (ATTWIN) consists of local and global individuals and families separated by adoption. This social media group was initiated in November of 2011.

The mission of Adoption Truth & Transparency Worldwide Network is to protect local and global families from the crisis of *trafficking for the purpose of adoption*ⁱ through education and services that assist victims and survivors and prevent further exploitation.

The group consists now of 7780 members; the great majority (at more than 5100 members are from the United States). The other nations represented are as follows: Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, Ethiopia, Netherlands, Ireland, India, Sweden, South Africa. The top ten cities represented by members are the following: 1) New York, New York; 2) Los Angeles, California; 3) Addis Adaba, Ethiopia; 4) Seattle, Washington; 5) Seoul, South Korea; 6) Minneapolis, Minnesota; 7) London, United Kingdom; 8) Portland, Oregon; 9) Phoenix, Arizona; 10) Toronto, ON Canada

A small pool of participants took part in an "Only in Adoption" preliminary survey for adopted people who are now adults. At this point, according to the results, as of 11/18/21:

- 100% of the respondents believe that adopted people should have the right to search for their biological families if they so wish.
- 100% of the respondents believe the person to be adopted should be given the opportunity to be informed and also sign the adoption contract based on their interest in the matter.
- 100% of the respondents believe adopted people should be given access to their adoption documents and original birth certificate when they request them from adoption agencies.
- 100% of the respondents surveyed believe that information on their biological family's existence would have prompted them to wonder about them or look for them.
- 98.5% believe that adopted people have more burdens than non-adoptees.
- 97% believe "adoptee concerns" have not been addressed by industry authorities.
- At 96.9% of the preliminary survey, the great majority no longer believe adoption to be God's plan (as claimed by adoption facilitators and adoptive parents in generations past), but a plan initiated by humans.
- On whether the adopted person felt safe to tell an adult or authority figure outside of the adoptive parents if unfair treatment occurred, not one adopted person was given resources or contact phone number despite 68% believed that they were mentally abused, such as accused of wrongdoing, scolded, verbal abuse, and tended to be blamed for parental dysfunction.
- 50% did not feel safe to tell an adult or an authority figure outside of their adoptive parents if unfair treatment occurred due to feeling too much fear, blame, shame, and/or guilt.

- More than 90% felt feelings of deep or prolonged sadness or depression or overwhelming stress, anxiety, or excessive worry and 50% stated for "most of their life."
- 72.7% admit that their feelings led to suicidal thoughts.

Therefore, it is the position of the people most impacted by adoption that “adoptees” should have the right to inquire about their origin and seek reunion if they so desire.

The purpose of ATTWIN is to prevent unnecessary separations and protect communities and families, and nation-states from being targeted and further exploited to fill the insatiable and lucrative global market demand.

Many adopted individuals have been processed under the false premise that they were orphaned or unwanted under deceptive advertising campaigns by profiteers. The great majority of children adopted come from living families. These children might have been relinquished while parents were under duress, threatened, or under the influence of the wrong type of counseling and guidance.

After participating in organizations consisting of parents (of adoption loss/separation), it has come to our attention that many parents in the United States and overseas did not understand the contract they signed at the time of their children’s birth and some were forced to sign paperwork while under duress. Some parents and communities were targeted and advised to relinquish without given information on the long-term ramifications of adoption.

Even one adopted person seeking for their family warrants attention. Even one parent searching for their child warrants attention. For these reasons and above, it is necessary to form an organization by those of us most impacted by adoption to state our case in the effort to protect local and global families from the crisis of adoption trafficking.

Whereas The Hague Adoption Convention (HAC) is founded upon the “right to adopt,” the original United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is founded upon innate rights, including the right to identity, family, and culture. Therefore, we encourage the United States to ratify the UNCRC.

We believe in the separation of church and state and the freedom *from* religion. We do not tolerate religious proselytizing.

We advocate for the investigational work of Against Child Trafficking registered in the Netherlands.

VANCE TWINS
ATTWIN COFOUNDERS

NOTES:

- Yes, there are some parents of loss and adopted people who have little to no desire for reunion, but this should not hinder the innate rights of others, which are enshrined in the Constitution of the United States and in numerous international treaties, yet ignored in adoption law.
- The adoption market was manufactured by the demand side of adoption.
- The use of the word “adoptee” within the industry has perpetually infantilized adults (into their elder years) from retrieving information that is rightfully theirs for potential reunification.
- The use of the word “birthmother” and “birthfather” was promoted by adoption facilitators. Such words limited the parents from perceiving themselves as "real" and "capable" parents and beliefs in their parenting abilities, as well as stigmatized and shamed these individuals from believing that they had a right to retrieve back their children.

ⁱ*The definition of *adoption trafficking* is as follows:

After having listened to those most impacted, adoption trafficking consists of the obtainment and removal of the child’s true identity by such methods as kidnapping, abuse of power, coercion, deception, fraud, violence, or threat of violence for the purpose of exploitation against women and children, particularly those in positions of vulnerability.

Because, unlike other forms of trafficking which focus on adults or at least individuals who are self-aware and able to communicate, adoption traffickers focus on individuals unable to comprehend and articulate (ie., unborn, infants, and young children) that the exploitation occurred.

The contract made on the individual ignores the rights enshrined in the Constitution of the United States and other international treaties that recognize human rights. Therefore, the following can also be considered exploitation:

Removing the individual from their family and permanently preventing the individual from awareness of, the right to know, and having access to their true identity, which prevents the development of normal family relationships with biological relatives, including but not limited to parents, maternal and paternal grandparents, uncles, aunts, siblings, and next-of-kin (ie., immediate and extended family).

The adoption practice prohibits the individual from accessing the contracts that pertain to the individual, including documents on birth identity and family.

Note: Unlike other forms of human trafficking, adoption trafficking victims and survivors are discouraged and prevented from reunions with any and all family members after the trafficking occurred. Such prohibition adds to the trauma.