



BROWN BAG LUNCH WEBINAR

Respecting the child's right to identity in intercountry adoption

18 FEBRUARY 2022

Whilst securing a suitable family for a child is vital – trends have shown that an equally important need is to safeguard the child's identity in family relations throughout their life.

Even though adoptees have generally been raised in loving and stable families (regrettably some have not), an increasing number **are seeking their family origins** as part of their identity. Every child has a right to identity including to be registered at birth, name, a nationality and family relations (Articles 7 – 8 Convention on the Rights of the Child). At the heart of any intercountry adoption (ICA) is the modification of a child's identity given at birth.

Given the importance of one's identity (legal, medical and psychosocial perspectives etc.), international standards require that it only be changed when it is in the best interests of the child, and that all elements related to his or her identity be preserved. Whenever a child is deprived of one of these elements, States have **an obligation to restore the child's identity speedily** (Articles 8(2) Convention on the Rights of the Child).

Using the framework of international standards and views of experts, including those with lived experiences, this webinar explores:

- the preservation of the child's original identity;
- the conditions that may justify a modification in the child's original identity;
- what mechanisms must be in place to record any modification, including the reasons behind the change, to ensure that the adoptee can access information about their origins;
- prevention of falsification and possible sale of children, including their identity; and
- how different States have taken up their responsibility to re-establish the child's identity when it is incomplete and/or sold and options for those seeking redress when States abdicate etc.

This webinar provides opportunities for discussion that will continue in different fora including the 2022 Special Commission and elsewhere, contributing to reforms to adequately uphold this right to identity.

Moderator :

Mia Dambach (Child Identity Protection, Executive Director)

SESSION ONE: 21H30-22H45 AEST | 11H30-12H45 CET | 5H30-7H45 EST

Preservation of the child's right to identity in ICA

Benyam Dawit Mezmur - Committee on the Rights of the Child, member & University of Western Cape, Vice-Dean Law Faculty
will speak about the work of the Committee and its key observations

Dainius Puras - UN SR on right to physical and mental health (2014-2020)
will speak about the importance of identity from a "psychosocial perspective" and transparency about origins

Capucine Page - HCCH, Legal officer
will speak about HCCH's working group on illicit practices

Cécile Jeannin & Christina Baglietto - Child Identity Protection, Deputy Director & Regional Advisor
will explore the conditions that must be met before modifying the child's identity in ICAs

Ina Dygaard - Danish adoptee from Sri Lanka, Adoption & Society, Vice Chairman of the board
will explain how identity issues are covered in pre- and post-adoption training in Denmark

SESSION TWO: 23H00-00H15 AEST | 13H00-14H15 CET | 8H00-09H15 EST

Restoration of the child's right to identity in ICA

Mariela SR - Coline Fanon, Racines Perdues, Founder and author
will speak about her efforts at the UN to restore identities

Maud de Boer Buquicchio - Child Identity Protection, President and UN SR on sale and sexual exploitation 2014-2020
will speak about sale of children in adoptions

Olivier de Frouville - Committee on Enforced Disappearances, member
will discuss how the Convention provides a framework to restore identities in the context of enforced disappearances in intercountry adoptions, including potential acts of crimes against humanity.

Joelle Schickel-Küng - Swiss Central Adoption Authority, Head
will speak about their work in responding to illicit practices

Colombian Central Adoption Authority
will present their work on search for origins and restoration of identity

SESSION THREE: 00H30-01H45 AEST | 14H30-15H45 CET | 9H30-10H45 EST

Future of ICA – when should a child's identify be modified through an ICA?

Lynelle Long - Intercountry Adoptee Voices, Director
will speak about the future from the perspective of an adoptee

Laura Martínez-Mora - HCCH, Secretary (Lawyer)
will speak about the role of the 1993 Hague Convention in the future

Tim Crosier - Australian Central Adoption Authority, Branch Manager of Children's Policy Branch
will present on redefining intercountry adoption service delivery and incorporating the voice of those with lived experience

David Smolin - Samford University, Law Professor
will speak about what needs to be done during a moratorium

Nigel Cantwell - Independent Child Protection consultant
will discuss what framework is needed for ICA to continue in a way that respects international standards

REGISTRATION:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bj67GM7UT3Sd-gi78G0xYw

FURTHER INFORMATION:

www.child-identity.org
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