



The Human Right to Identity and Intercountry Adoption

False Birth Registration Practices

Right to Identity = Access to Origins



A word cloud featuring various terms related to adoption and identity. The words are arranged in a non-uniform, overlapping manner. The colors used are green, blue, and purple. The words include: family, right, practices, country, identity, registration, curiosity, past-present-future, birth, adoption, origins, certificate, illicit, UNCRC, and human. The word 'birth' is the largest and most prominent, colored purple. Other large words include 'practices' (blue), 'country' (blue), 'identity' (green), 'registration' (purple), 'curiosity' (purple), 'past-present-future' (green), 'adoption' (green), 'origins' (green), 'certificate' (green), 'illicit' (green), 'UNCRC' (green), and 'human' (green).

Intercountry Adoption

Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Recommendation 1443

International adoption: respecting children's rights

"It wishes to alert European public opinion to the fact that, sadly, international adoption can lead to disregard of children's rights and it does not necessarily serve their best interests. In many cases, receiving countries perpetuate misleading notions about children's circumstances in their countries of origin and a stubbornly prejudiced belief in the advantages for a foreign child of being adopted and living in a rich country."

Double Subsidiarity Principle

- Hague Convention on Protection of Children And Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption 1993 (HC-1993)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (UNCRC)
- Position Paper: Double Subsidiarity Principle and the Right to Identity

(See: <http://www.brazilbabyaffair.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/PositionPaper-Double-Subsidiarity-Principle-and-the-Right-to-Identity.pdf>)

Intercountry Adoption as a Last Resort

"As a 5-year old I asked my adoptive parents how they got me. And they answered that my biological mother was too poor to keep me. So they took me.

Then I asked why they had not just given my mother some money, so I could have stayed with her."

Louisa Schlepper

(<http://www.brazilbabyaffair.org/cases/current-cases/louisa/>)

The Brazil Baby Affair

- False Birth Registrations
- Criminal Investigations
- Consequences
 - Original Families
 - Adoptees
 - 2014 Parliamentary Commission

Problems & Solutions

- ICA legislation is inadequate in its accountability in preventing and resolving the consequences of false birth registration
- Amending the Right to Identity with the Right to a Birth Certificate, preventing false birth registration practices
- Responsibility of State Parties, providing support to Adoptees' rights to discover their original families

Right to Identity = Access to Origins

- Researching
- Informing
- Tracing
- Advocating

Joining Forces

Lebanon's disappeared children: The darker side of international adoption

#Children

Nearly 10,000 adoptees have been given to foreign parents since the 1960s but many face huge obstacles discovering their origins



Lebanese-Swiss singer Dida Guigan spent 10 years researching how she was taken from her birth mother during the civil war and adopted by Swiss parents (YouTube/MEE screengrab)

False Birth Registration Practices can be made impossible, preventing False Identities and Illegal Intercountry Adoptions

- Safeguarding
 - The Human Right to Identity
- Preserving
 - Access to the Human Right to Origins



Thank you

Research Paper: Raising Awareness about False Birth Registration Practices, known as the Brazil Baby Affair

www.brazilbabyaffair.org