

Learning from intercountry adoption breakdowns



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Euradopt, Milan, May 2018

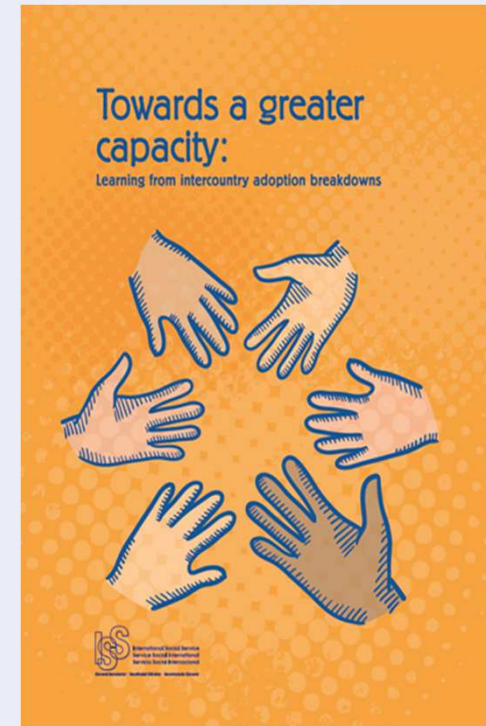


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Introduction

- Intercountry adoption breakdowns have been and still are a **taboo**
- **The time has come** to deal with this issue at international level
- **Needs** should be identified as well as ways to **satisfy** them



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WE NEED :

- **A common definition and statistics**
- **A legal framework and strong cooperation**
- **To improve methodologies and strengthen all stages of the adoption procedure**
- **More professional quality support for adoptees and adoptive families**



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- **An intercountry adoption crisis or breakdown occurs when the adoptive family is faced with temporary, even irremediable, problems, either before or after the adoption decision, and can result in an early or later severance of bonds.**
- **Apart from the visible breakdowns leading to the placement of the child, usually through an administrative or legal decision, certain breakdowns remain invisible because the competent authorities are not notified of the separation, or when, despite coexistence within the adoptive family, no solid, reassuring bond has been created.**



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First need: common definition and statistics

- Definition reflecting a vast range of situations covering crisis and breakdowns
- A definition based on several **indicators**

↳ **Attachement bond** ↳ **Timeframe** ↳ **Visibility...**

- Collection of data that can be compared and analysed



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Second need: legal framework and strong cooperation

- **What legal framework applies ?**
 - ↳ **The Hague Conventions...**
- **Do national legislations cover this issue?**
 - ↳ **Vietnam Circular 2016 on post adoption...**
- **Key role of internal and external cooperation**



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Third need:

strengthen all stages of the adoption procedure

Secure environment, assessment, counselling and preparation, matching, probationary period, post adoption support, etc.



- Child's assessment: the value of the child's uniqueness
- Prospective adoptive parents' assessment: motivations, stability, capacity and readiness

Universal standards



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Fourth need: more quality professional support for adoptees and adoptive families

- **Tragedy for everyone involved, particularly for the child**
- **Considerable support needed to begin a new life project**
- **Availability of professional support provided by qualified, creative, caring supported professionals**



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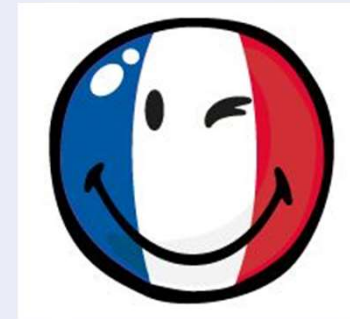
“ We cannot recover from being abandoned. Even if a person is adopted, it will influence every aspect of his or her life. So what happens when the adoption fails? It remains a human drama and it is paramount for professionals who follow these painful situations to be caring and not designate any culprit. ”



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION
AND FOR PUTTING OFF WITH MY FRENCH
ACCENT !**



**For more information, please contact :
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