

Committee: UNICEF

Topic: Prevention and response to illegal intercountry adoption.

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Introduction

Every child matters. UNICEF and partner NGOs over the past 20 years have been committed to supporting Member States with data collection and analysis for children in the (Sustainable Development Goals) SDG era. UNICEF provides research, statistics, journalists and investigations to countries. This way we may come up with practical solutions and progress within countries to create a balance between research and actions taken. UNICEF is funded entirely by voluntary contributions, the committee is the world's leading voice for children. In every objective, action or research the youth is at the center.

In recent years the committee has been focused on improving child survival and health, releasing early childhood development programmes, ending violence against children and supporting young migrants and refugees. In 2018 UNICEF provided support for access to safe drinking water for 43 million children in emergencies, life-saving treatment for 4 million children with severe acute malnutrition. Worldwide, many key aspects of child conditions continue to improve. More children survive beyond their first five years of life and fewer are stunted by malnutrition.

In defiance of the progress accomplished, effort is needed to reach the 2030 SDG. Many of the world's children are still hoping for a chance to thrive. As the number of scrawny children who suffer from stunting falls, the number of overweight children rises. Nearly 60% of primary children fail to meet minimum learning standards. 262 million young people were out of school. In 2017, an estimated 6.3

million children died, mostly from preventable causes. More than 100 countries lack of fully functioning birth registration systems, the main tool for protecting children's rights and safety. To ensure every child survives and thrives, UNICEF supports an integrated and comprehensive approach to child survival, growth and development.

According to the article 21° in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, any member state that permits or recognize the system of adoption shall ensure the best interest for the child. Adoption is a welfare and protection measure which seeks to grant a familiar and healthy environment for the child. Intercountry adoption (ICA) involves a change in the kid's habitual country of residence, whatever the nationality of the adopting parents. During the adoption process, violations of the most basic rights of the child can occur.

Imagine you have adopted with forthright motives a child, only to find out later that he was actually kidnapped and sold into an adoption scheme. Though this isn't every intercountry adoption story conclusion, it is the disenchanting outcome of many. There are unflagging variety of threats to the adoption process, such as criminal networks, intermediaries of all kinds, and couples prepared to carry out, be accomplice, or simply ignore abuses in order to secure an adoption. These wide range of actors that may play a role, demonstrate the vastness of the task it involves to protect the rights of the child in intercountry adoption.

Body

Intercountry adoption first started widely after World War II in response to the situation of children orphaned by war. Families mainly from the US and Australia adopted children from Germany, Italy and Greece. It has been seen ICA increased in times of armed conflicts and post-conflict arrangements. As an example, El Salvador saw children being sold into illegal adoption networks during their civil war ending in 1992. Also after the Vietnam war children were taken mostly into the U.S.

where several suffer cultural discrimination.

Throughout history generally, the primary sending countries of orphans or abandoned children have been impoverished countries (Guatemala, areas of China, Venezuela, Sierra Leone), meanwhile the countries of destination are commonly wealthier (US, Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, etc). So it becomes evident that poverty implies a main factor for ICA. Understanding the fact that when child adoption is able to bring from \$25,000-50,000 to the local economy, fraudulent adoption can become a very profitable industry, particularly for those in low-income countries.

Furthermore ICA has a tremendous prevalence in areas where corruption is rampant and regulation schemes are either non-existing or unenforced. From the ten top sending countries for ICA between 2003 and 2010, the majority found to be highly rated on corruption indexes.

Conclusion

Not all intercountry adoptions are the product of an unethical practice from those looking for profits. However if we are to ensure that the rights of the children are protected and we are looking for the best interest of the child, extensive effort must be made to approach the threat a kid faces. The abundance of international laws, conventions, and treaties that regulates international adoption has proven to not be enough to stop illegal adoptions.

A child's eligibility for ICA should be managed by competent authorities, provided by either the receiving or sending country. It is vital that both the country of origin of the child and the receiving State recognise and address effectively the systemic problems involved. It is the responsibility of the receiving country to keep a trace on each child that arrives to a new family, it is also its responsibility to have high and strictly applied standards for the accreditation of agencies and for the

home study of prospective adoptive parents. Both must always ensure the well being of each child.

Viabale Solutions

Establishment of mechanisms for overseeing adoption processes and an effective oversight mechanisms in place to prevent, detect and report corruption.

Modernize the actual regulation on procedures and safeguards in relation to intercountry adoptions, keeping in mind that over regulation would increase the expense of international adoptions limiting the potential families that could offer an orphan a home, leading to a bigger number of kids vulnerable to those making profit out of illicit procedures.

References

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