Inter-country Adoption, the Changed Landscape

AAI Overview, November 2010 to date

Dr. Geoffrey Shannon
Chairman, AAI
Adoption Act 2010

Section 19

In any matter, application or proceedings before (a) the Authority, or (b) any court, relating to the question of the arrangements for the adoption of a child, for the making of an adoption order or for the recognition of an intercountry adoption outside the State, the Authority or the court, in deciding that question, shall regard the welfare of the child as the first and paramount consideration.
Inter-country Adoption, the Changed Landscape

- Promote “best interests” of the child to the status of “paramount consideration”
Inter-country Adoption, the Changed Landscape

- Intercountry adoption
- Regulate
- A framework
- The interests of children
- Adoption Authority – supervise the processing of adoption applications
- Increased assistance for adoptive parents
- Accredited Bodies
Inter-country Adoption, the Changed Landscape

* Assessment Report

* Child Referral

* Placement Approval Notice

* Immigration Clearance Letter

* Certificate of Compliance
Inter-country Adoption, the Changed Landscape

- Matching process
The single biggest issue facing applicants and families concerns the level of uncertainty that they endure. Uncertainty about:
1. Will I receive a referral?
2. Will I bond with the child?
3. Will he/she be healthy?
4. Will he/she bond with me/us?
5. Will the adoption be recognised?
6. How long will it take?
7. What is happening to him/her now when I am here and am not allowed travel yet?
## Inter-country Adoption, the Changed Landscape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICA Declarations Granted</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entries in the RICA</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>727</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entries in the RICA (IRL)</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>377</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Inter-country Adoption, the Changed Landscape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Adoptions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2004</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>4,592,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>42,547,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>8,994,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>5,405,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>4,045,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>7,415,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>16,282,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>293,046,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>60,735,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>32,048,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>58,175,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>19,895,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>82,517,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2008</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>4,422,000</td>
</tr>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>9,220,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<td>USA</td>
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<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>16,446,000</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>33,506,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>21,015,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>82,110,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expressions of interest sent to South Africa, Bulgaria, Thailand, Philippines, Brazil
Adoption Act commenced

Ireland ratifies the HC93

November 2010
February 2011

- AAI Delegation visits Washington
- Arc Adoption Ltd accredited for Bulgaria and China
- PACT accredited (for assessments)
March 2011

* AAI Delegation visits Bulgaria

* Arrangement commenced
AAI Delegation visits VN
June 2011

* ‘Families for Children’ accredited (for assessments)
‘Pathways to Adoption’ accredited (for assessments)
October 2011

* Visit from Filipino officials
November 2011

- Delegation visits Washington
- Draft Administrative Arrangement prepared
AAI Delegation visits Mexico

December 2011
December 2011

* AAI Delegation visits Moscow

* Followed by substantive submission to DCYA
January 2012

- AAI Delegation visits VN
- Administrative Arrangement prepared
February 2012

* Expression of interest sent to Kenya
AAI Delegation visits Ethiopia
June 2012

- AAI Delegation visits India
- Arc Adoption Ltd accredited for USA
- HHAMA accredited for VN and Philippines
VN Delegation visits Dublin

Administrative Arrangement signed
October 2012

* AAI Delegation visits London, UK
AAI Delegation visits The Hague, The Netherlands
Expression of interest sent to Panama
December 2012

* Family Bridge Adoptions accredited for India, Kazakhstan (Denied in KZ) and Kenya
April 2013

Informal Meeting of European Hague Countries, DUBLIN
* Administrative Arrangement between Ireland and USA commences
AAI Delegation visits Washington
Visit from Russian officials
December 2013

* Visit from St. David’s Adoption Society (Wales)
Visit from Chinese officials (CCWA and BLAS)
December 2013

* Adoption (Amendment) Act 2013 commenced
HHAMA accredited for India
March 2014

- Principal Social Worker visits VN
Vietnam, case study

* March 2014
Vietnam and Hague

- 91,000,000, 21% poverty
- Since 2011, Law, Hague, child protection, family support, fostering, SW profession, AD/UNICEF training
- 7000 domestic adoptions, 600 international
- 28 agencies: Italy, France, Spain, Canada, Denmark, Switzerland, Ireland
Use of Agency

- Two lists. First VN, ica 1 a year
- 14,000 State care, disabilities
- AD List of 400, 75 waiting, no quota
- Referred to agency, initial enquiry, 10
- Boys and girls, 10 – 38 months,
- Medical/treatable – high end SN, ongoing
SN, agency initiative, know the child’s needs, Paps capacities

Preparation, for care of child, feasibility of provision of services, ongoing care into adulthood

Familiarisation with child

Article 15, Preparation

Article 16, Information on Child, 3-10 months

Article 17, Minimum delay
Delegation visits Haiti
Thank you for listening