Adoption does not mean finding a child for a family - it means finding a family for a child.
CHILDREN
AND THEIR RIGHT
TO A FAMILY

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Children have many rights and responsibilities. Just like everyone!

A good adoption is one that is approached from the child’s - not the adult’s - best interest.
ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE A FAMILY, AND TO LIVE IN THAT FAMILY...

...AND IF POSSIBLE... TO HELP BUILD A FAMILY WITH THEIR NEW PARENTS.
CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT - WHEN POSSIBLE - TO LIVE WITH THOSE WHO BROUGHT THEM INTO THE WORLD...

...AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPECT THOSE WHO PROVIDE THEM WITH PROTECTION IN THE ABSENCE OF THEIR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS.

I wish we could adopt a child!

You can!
CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT
NOT TO REMAIN IN INSTITUTIONS...

...AND TO LOVE AND BE LOVED
BY THOSE PROVIDING THEM
WITH PROTECTION.
CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT FOR A MOTHER AND FATHER TO FOUND FOR THEM WHEN THEIR OWN PARENTS CANNOT RAISE THEM...

...AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP BRING HAPPINESS TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE WELCOMED THEM AS THEIR OWN CHILDREN.
Differently-abled children have the right to live in a family and receive an education along with everyone else...

...and the responsibility to offer the community the very best of themselves.
CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT FOR SOMEONE TO BE FOUND TO GIVE THEM AFFECTION... IN ORDER TO GROW...

AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO LET THEMSELVES BE GUIDED BY THOSE WHO HAVE WELCOMED THEM AS THEIR CHILDREN.
CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHY THEY DO NOT LIVE WITH THE PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT THEM INTO THE WORLD...

...AND TO BE THANKFUL THAT THEY HAVE PEOPLE TO PROTECT THEM.
Many nations recognize children's right to live in another country if a family cannot be found for them in their country of birth...

...And it is the responsibility of everyone to make the most of this opportunity, which is what many children would want.
CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHERE THEY COME FROM, AND TO LEARN ABOUT THE CUSTOMS OF THE PLACE WHERE THEY WERE BORN...

...AND TO RESPECT THE HABITS AND TRADITIONS OF THEIR ADOPTIVE COMMUNITY.
CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR AGE AND ABILITIES

IN ALL MATTERS

A FAMILY

A NAME

A NATIONALITY

AFFECTING THEM
Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 21

“States Parties that recognize and/or permit the system of adoption shall ensure that the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration and they shall:

(a) Ensure that the adoption of a child is authorized only by competent authorities who determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures and on the basis of all pertinent and reliable information, that the adoption is permissible in view of the child’s status concerning parents, relatives and legal guardians and that, if required, the persons concerned have given their informed consent to the adoption on the basis of such counselling as may be necessary;

(b) Recognize that inter-country adoption may be considered as an alternative means of child's care, if the child cannot be placed in a foster or an adoptive family or cannot in any suitable manner be cared for in the child's country of origin;

(c) Ensure that the child concerned by inter-country adoption enjoys safeguards and standards equivalent to those existing in the case of national adoption;

(d) Take all appropriate measures to ensure that, in inter-country adoption, the placement does not result in improper financial gain for those involved in it;

(e) Promote, where appropriate, the objectives of the present article by concluding bilateral or multilateral arrangements or agreements, and endeavour, within this framework, to ensure that the placement of the child in another country is carried out by competent authorities or organs.”
Adoption

This book, the third volume in our Illustrated Series on Children's Rights, addresses a controversial topic: adoption. However, we have chosen this theme not because it is polemical, but because of the concern shown by the countries in a region where the destitution in which so many families live has led to distortions that threaten to debase the adoption itself as a legitimate process. Our objective in this book is to clarify concepts and define criteria on adoption, in a way that is simple but convincing - for children as well as adults.

Why is a child adopted? In our professional practice, we have been able to contemplate this question first-hand. In addition to the healthy, legitimate desire to adopt a child, there are also many hidden motivations, which range from the most sublime of human love to the most degrading of deviations. Not all adoptions are the same. Some adoptions are an expression of our ability, as human beings, to love another as we love ourselves. And some adoptions (be they national or inter-country) result from a combination of corruption and the distressing necessity that can obligate a disadvantaged mother to give up her child. There are some who, faced with the pain of not being able to have biological children, take a balanced and legitimate approach, seeking to include a child in their home to provide with love and protection. However, there are others who will stop at nothing to fill a void they feel due to their inability to be biological parents. In such cases, the interests of the adult are given precedence over the best interests of the child - and in the process they trample on laws, regulations, technical recommendations, and common sense.

In this book, we use images and a few brief words to present the criteria that should govern all adoptions, to ensure that they have the potential to be successful – for the adopted child as well as for the adoptive parents. Of course, there is no formula; but there is no formula for being a good biological parent, either. However, one thing is certain: if an adoption does not put the best interests of the child first, then its prospects are not good.

Transparency before the law. Humility in evaluations. Truth as a daily practice in the coexistence between adopted children and their adoptive parents. All adoptions must be based on these three central elements, to ensure full respect for children's rights.

Alejandro Bonasso