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# Monthly Review

## EDITORIAL

### @doption: New technologies ... and new challenges for all

*In a worldwide context in which new technologies have become part of our daily personal and professional life, this month's Editorial reflects on how these have affected adoption.*

New technologies – and these include a whole range of developments and related social communication networks (Internet, e-mails, Facebook, Skype, scientific developments, etc) – have undoubtedly had an impact on all those affected by adoption. Indeed, the adoptee, the biological and adoptive families, the professionals, the authorities and agencies, all make use of these technologies. They must therefore be made aware of the positive aspects related to their use prior to, during and after the adoption, as well as of the potential responses available and necessary to limit any potential risks (see p. 8).

#### Easy access prior to adoption

Access to information on adoption has become increasingly easy, although not necessary increasingly reliable or ethical. Indeed, any prospective adoptive parent can easily write a few keywords into a search engine and find pages and pages of information that is not necessarily genuine, updated and useful. Equally, websites and social networks have become a means of accessing (non-professional) support provided by persons experiencing or having experienced similar situations to that of the prospective adoptive parents. This information may, however, often be based on their personal and specific experience and not be of a general nature, thus raising the uncertainty of this information as applicable to others. Although it becomes difficult to restrict the information that may be shared through these means, this situation reiterates the importance of adoptions being framed in a professional mechanism. Indeed, the undertaking of independent or private adoptions, including also direct contacts by e-mail or social networks with child care institutions, may increase the risks of partial, misleading or unreliable information being offered to prospective adopters as well as that of falling into irregular practices (see, for example, the story in *Finding Fernanda*, Monthly Review N° 01/2013)

#### Additional and more detailed support during the adoption procedure

Whilst prior to adoption, the information shared thanks to new technologies may raise particular challenges, new technologies provide a means for prospective adopters to remain involved throughout the process and even to prepare themselves and the child for the adoption. Indeed, modern means of

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32 Quai du Seujet ■ 1201 Geneva ■ Switzerland  
irc-cir@iss-ssi.org ■ www.iss-ssi.org

communication have, for example, enabled prospective adoptive parents to see the child in his country of origin through visual support. Equally, e-mails and other communication technologies may provide the opportunity for closer follow-up of adoption proceedings in both countries involved – i.e. between the prospective adopters and their accredited body, between the accredited body and the Central Authorities and/or local contacts, etc. Thus, information – whether positive developments or potential obstacles – will be shared promptly and may then be given appropriate follow-up. In addition, some documents that once used to take long periods to reach the addressee can now be sent quasi immediately, thus reducing some unnecessary delays.

Other new technologies that are rather scientific developments may also be mentioned at this stage of the adoption proceeding. Indeed, it must also be questioned how DNA testing, for example, may be a means of ensuring the mother's consent to her child's adoption or of searching for biological parents, as has been respectively the case in Guatemala and Spain. In fact, some of these developments are still not failproof, thus questioning the certainty of their results. This reflection cannot limit itself to the present Editorial given its multiple implications, but such new scientific developments have certainly also had an impact on the adoption process in many countries.

### Technologies and search for origins

There is no doubt that the most common stories heard – and publicised – on searches for origins now involve new information technologies, such as the Internet and social networks. Have we not heard about an adult adoptee looking for his parents thanks to Facebook or a biological parent looking for his biological child through fora for adoptees? Although the ISS/IRC understands the needs and recognises the right of adoptees to know their origins, it also wishes to raise awareness as to importance of offering adequate support in this process provided by trained and competent professionals (see, for example, pp. 7 and 8 as well as Monthly Review N° 01/2012).

### Issues for reflection

Although it remains a challenge to fully respond to the impact of new technologies, some initiatives may be reflected upon to move towards a better use of these technologies in adoption proceedings. For example, authorities should consider the development of legal instruments, policies, guidelines, including sanctions in cases of abuse. Authorities, agencies and the professionals involved must offer support in cases of search for information on public websites. In addition, the development of training enabling professionals to better respond to these situations should also be considered (see p. 8) in order to be able to fully include these issues in programmes of preparation of prospective adopters as well as in post-adoption services (see p. 7). Practical tools for prospective adopters have become available (see Monthly Review N° 01/2012 and p. 8)<sup>1</sup>.

Finally, and focusing on the potential positive contributions of new technologies, such as the issue of photo-listing of children with special needs, reflection should also be furthered on how to promote the rights at those at the heart of the process in order to meet the intended positive use of these technologies. In relation to the use of internet listing, the *Guide to Good Practice N°2* of the Hague Conference on Private International Law states that '[g]ood practice and the use of the Internet is possible. One approach to ethical use of photos is through a *very restricted* [emphasis added] web page, which may contain the details of adoptable children, who are hard to place (usually because of their special needs)<sup>3</sup>.

**In the presence of these challenges, the focus must remain on the protection of the rights of those at the heart of the adoption process and on the consideration of solutions enabling the prevention of risks and the fight against those abuses that may result from the resort to new technologies. In this sense, the ISS/IRC is about to launch a Circular among its network, aimed at gathering information on existing practices relating to this issue and at undertaking a brief analysis.**

The ISS/IRC team  
June 2013

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#### Sources:

<sup>1</sup> *Proceed with Caution: Asking the Right Questions about Adoption on the Internet*, by Jeanne Howard and Adam Pertman, Donaldson Adoption Institute, [http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/advocacy/Proceed\\_With\\_Caution.pdf](http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/advocacy/Proceed_With_Caution.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> The Hague Conference on Private International Law, *Guide to Good Practice N° 2 – Accreditation and Adoption Accredited Bodies*, 2012, Chapter 3.8, para. 136, <http://www.hcch.net/upload/adoguide2en.pdf>.



## BRIEF NEWS

### Colombia: First Summit of Central Authorities for Intercountry Adoption and new resolution on the development of the adoption programme

The First Summit of Central Authorities for Intercountry Adoption organised by the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) took place on 29 and 30 May, and was aimed at analysing the development of the adoption programme and at identifying Colombia's challenges in intercountry adoption. In the context of this event, the ICBF decided, via its Resolution N° 4274 of 6 June 2013, to: (1) temporarily suspend for a period of two years the reception in Colombia of new adoption applications submitted by families with habitual residence abroad, who wish to adopt healthy children between the ages of 0 and six years without any special characteristics or needs; (2) ban the funding of humanitarian aid projects by accredited adoption bodies with resources from adoptive families or families in an adoption process; (3) request, from accredited adoption bodies, the registration of the costs pertaining to the adoption in the form established by the ICBF; (4) strengthen, jointly with the Competent Authorities and accredited adoption bodies, the processes of preparation, assessment, selection of families and submission of psychosocial reports in accordance with the Colombian technical guidelines, in order to avoid an increase in costs for the families and ensure a better integration among the children and their adoptive families; (5) reiterate the legal ban on the reception of donations prior to the adoption and in compensation for the placement of a child or adolescent in adoption.

The ISS/IRC welcomes ICBF's provisions, which respect the needs of Colombian children in adoption matters and strengthen the mechanisms aimed at protecting their rights and those of the affected families.

**Source:** Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar, Resolution N° 4274 of 6 June 2013, <http://www.icbf.gov.co/portal/page/portal/PortalICBF/Bienestar/Programas%20y%20Estrat%C3%A9gias/ProgramaAdopciones/RESOLUCI%C3%93N%204274%20DE%2006-06-2013%20DECISIONES%20ADOPTADAS%20PARA%20EL%20DESARROLLO%20DEL%20PROGRAMA%20DE%20ADOPCIONES%20EN%20EL%20ICBF%20E%20IAPAS.pdf>.

### Hague Conference on Private International Law: Farewell of Secretary-General Hans van Loon

After 17 years as head of the organisation, Mr van Loon officially left the Conference during an emotional ceremony held at the Peace Palace in The Hague on 14 June. During his mandate, Mr van Loon contributed, among others, to the development of 10 'Hague Conventions', including the one relating to intercountry adoption, launched upon his initiative. As an expert negotiator, this multilingual humanist will have characterised his time at the Conference with his open spirit, his deference and commitment towards the most vulnerable. The ISS would like to express him its deepest recognition for having consolidated the cooperation between both our organisations in the fields linked to the protection of children and their families. We wish Mr van Loon a happy retirement and we look forward to pursuing our collaboration with his successor, Mr Christophe Bernasconi.

### International Social Service: ISS is looking for funds for its project for children with disabilities in institutions

ISS/IRC's project 'Finding Families for Children with Disabilities in Institutions' aims to promote and further the family care of children with a disability living in institutions. ISS is convinced that numerous children with disabilities could easily reintegrate their family or grow up in a foster or adoptive family thanks to an adapted training and support of the professionals at various levels. In order to respond to the requests from several countries of origin that wish to be supported in this field and to disseminate a methodology and practical tools for these professionals worldwide, ISS is looking for funds and calls upon the interest of those, who could be fund-providers for this project, taking into account the current profile of children available for intercountry adoption.



### Malta: The country joins the group of funders of the ISS/IRC

Since May 2013, Malta is officially a member of the group of countries, which financially support the ISS/IRC programme. There are now 22 countries (including some federal States), which enable us to undertake our information and expertise services in the best possible way for professionals working in adoption and alternative care measures. We express our deepest gratitude to the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity and its Central Authority for Intercountry Adoption for their support, and we look forward to working with them.

## ACTORS

- **Germany:** This country has updated the list of its accredited adoption bodies.
- **Iceland:** This country has appointed its Competent Authority for adoption matters.
- **Romania:** This country has named those foreign accredited adoption bodies for intercountry adoption, which are authorised to act on its territory.

*Source:* Hague Conference on Private International Law,  
[http://www.hcch.net/index\\_en.php?act=conventions.publications&dtid=43&cid=69](http://www.hcch.net/index_en.php?act=conventions.publications&dtid=43&cid=69).

## LEGISLATION

### Democratic Republic of Congo: International child protection under Congolese Law

*Mr Aimé Wata, a former Congolese Judge, hereafter offers us a brief presentation of his thesis, in which he analyses the design of the family environment in the Democratic Republic of Congo as well as the judicial and administrative practice in this country in intercountry child adoption and abduction matters.*

**Aimé Wata's** thesis explores the grounds of the implementation of International Child Law in the context of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where the child belongs to his family and his clan. It identifies obstacles in the establishment of an efficient child protection system in adoption and abduction matters.

#### Starting point: The concept of the child in the DRC

The thesis is based on the opinion that the African concept of the child is very particular, given that it considers the child to be part of a clannish whole and that it is not a complete, autonomous and independent entity. This concept assumes that the child is taken care of by his clan community and that, even in the absence of his biological parents, he will enjoy the protection and care that he needs, in

accordance with the essential rule of clannish solidarity. In this context, the State has been relying fully on the community and on the certainty that the child will be taken care of by the latter. It did not foresee the change in mentalities and the decline of the feeling of clannish solidarity, in particular in urban areas.

The thesis also shares the idea that this belonging of the child to his family and to his clan is an ambiguous notion, as much as the nature of the African marriage contract. The latter, subjected to the payment of a dowry, translates into the imposition of obligations in relation to the child (like in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and in the 2009 Child Protection Code).



### An embryonic and outdated legal arsenal

This research work also shows that the DRC's legal arsenal is embryonic and outdated, given that it has not followed the developments that have occurred in International and Comparative Law. Furthermore, when the legislator works on reforming existing legislation, one of his mistakes has been to start all over again and to ignore the traditional procedures of legal creation. He contents himself with copying foreign rules and therefore loses all credibility towards the beneficiaries of these rules. He therefore feeds the legal dualism and weakens the impact of the Law on the life of individuals, families and communities. Such a context is not suitable for the application of the UNCRC and for the enjoyment of the rights and privileges recognised in relation to the child in modern Law.

### Abuses linked to adoption

In particular in relation to adoption, the risks of abuse are linked to the following factors: the ascertainment of the child's adoptability, the absence of local alternatives, the consent to the adoption of those affected, the professionalism of adoption intermediaries, etc. In order to remedy the above-mentioned situation, and in order to prevent the risks

of abuse, there are long-term solutions and immediate measures. Long-term measures relate to the in-depth work to be undertaken on the protection of children in the DRC. Immediate measures are aimed at raising the awareness of those actors working with children on those protection measures and safeguards that already exist in modern Child Law, as well as at the research of means to ensure the functioning of the childhood sector.

**This type of research – which remains too hardly accessible in the countries at stake – is designed to be disseminated among a wide audience. The ISS/IRC strongly recommends the reading of this thesis, which enables, on the one hand, to realise the cultural diversities linked to the concept of family and, on the other, the difficulties that may arise when confronting the latter to the rules of modern Law.**

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#### Source:

Wata, A., *La protection internationale de l'enfance en droit congolais* [International Child Protection under Congolese Law], University of Fribourg, Switzerland, Ed. Schulthess, 2013. The thesis may be requested via the publisher's website at the following address: <http://www.schulthess.com/verlag/detail/ISBN-9783725567188/Wata-Aim%C3%A9/La-protection-internationale-de-lenfant-en-droit-congolais?bpmarid=&bplang=fr>.

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## PRACTICE

### Democratic Republic of Congo: ISS assessment mission and very alarming observations

*At the beginning of May 2013, the Director of the ISS/IRC, Hervé Boéchat, jointly with Mr Aimé Wata, a former Congolese Judge and author of a thesis on the international protection of children under Congolese law, undertook an assessment mission of child protection and adoption issues in the Democratic Republic of Congo<sup>1</sup>. This article provides an overview of their observations.*

The intercountry adoption of Congolese children has experienced a strong increase in the past five years, having gone from 42 in 2008 to 437 in 2012. These numbers, as such, are a concern, given that the experience has always shown that an increase that is too fast in the number of intercountry adoptions in a

country of origin, which is not prepared for it, always leads to a situation of abuses and subsequent blockage. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will not be able to avoid this rule if Kinshasa does not regain control over the adoption of Congolese



children and through a coordinated approach among receiving States.

### **An inappropriate legal framework**

As highlighted by Aimé Wata in his PhD thesis (see under *Legislation* above), Congolese law suffers from considerable gaps in relation to the general protection of children and to intercountry adoption. Whether with regards to the nature of the adoption decision, which has the characteristics of a simple and full adoption, to the procedure leading to the decision on the adoptability of the child and that relating to the obtaining of the biological parents' consent, or in relation to the absence of a framework for the costs, those issues that require a legal reform are many.

The issue relating to the sharing of competences between the various Ministries (Ministry of Women, Family and Children and Ministry of Social Affairs) also raises questions, given that this results in a competition between services that is very detrimental for the good development of procedures.

### **Insufficient alternative care measures**

Already in 2009, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) stated that few actions had been undertaken to protect or strengthen the family environment. It also mentioned with concern that the DRC did not offer sufficient socio-economic support to families, in particular at local level. Furthermore, the CRC deplored the lack of minimum standards or regulations for institutions, orphanages and other child care bodies.

The situation has not changed much since then, in relation to the grounds that lead to the alternative care of a child by an orphanage as much as with regards to the monitoring and supervision measures of these institutions, which, besides, tend to multiply themselves.

### **A strong demand**

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#### **Source:**

<sup>1</sup> The report of the mission will soon be available on ISS's website.

The current context of intercountry adoption worldwide obviously plays an important role in the DRC, often presented by foreign adoption agencies as a country of origin bursting with (very) young children, who are adoptable and whose adoption procedure is easy and fast. This type of message can only arouse the hopes of potential adopters, but it also completely conceals the risks linked to the lack of procedural guarantees as well as the issue of the children's adoptability. In relation to the latter, the intense neglect that most of these children are kept in should lead the professionals in charge of the procedures to undertake an in-depth assessment of their real capacity of attachment, and to prepare the prospective adopters accordingly.

### **The need to act in a concerted fashion**

On 19 April 2013, the General Directorate of Migrations decided to suspend the issuance of authorisations to leave the Congolese territory for adopted children, as a reaction to the rapid increase in the number of adoptions. This decision remains in force at the time of publication of this Monthly Review. Even though it is unfortunate that this decision did not come with transitory measures for pending files, at least it puts adoption on the Congolese political agenda. Indeed, it is more than desirable for the DRC to address this issue and to take the necessary measures to better frame the procedures and to protect the rights of children.

**Receiving States and their accredited adoption bodies are also invited to undertake an in-depth review of their position in relation to adoption in the DRC, and to make all possible efforts to avoid a rush of applicants towards this country. They should also, in coordination with international organisations (primarily The Hague Conference and UNICEF), initiate advocacy activities to raise the awareness of Congolese authorities in relation to issues linked to adoption, and to support them in the preparation for a prospective accession to the Convention.**



## Finland: Post-adoption opportunities and challenges

*In a context in which intercountry adoption is constantly changing, Päivi Partanen shares with us the experience of Save the Children in Finland as it tries to respond to the needs for post-adoption support.*

Early childhood separation, losses, the effects of prolonged institutional or foster care, changing care givers, the inadequate treatment of the child's health or other problems, and eventually the overall cultural change with new separation and attachment challenges in intercountry adoption, may all result in various long-term risks for a child's physical, psychological, cognitive and social development. As a consequence, adoptive children do usually not develop one specific type of outcome or symptom, but rather show a wide range of potential challenges and issues in relation to which support may be needed, all very individual and specific in nature and urgent at different times of the adoption life-long process. The wide range of life situations in which these issues may be urgent is a challenge in the provision of post-adoption services. In Finland, post-adoption issues initially became a focus in domestic adoption, whilst concern related to post-adoption issues in intercountry adoption became an issue of interest later, at the turn of the century, with peak numbers of intercountry adoptions in 2004-2005, with the simultaneous coming of age of the first generation of intercountry adoptees.

### Specific support needed for adoptees

As in most receiving countries, post-adoption support is considered to be included in general child and family health and social services, as part of the help available to any child in Finland. The generally high standards of these services are providing high quality care and support to all children, including adopted children. However, raising awareness in relation to the adopted children's special needs should be included in the curriculum of teachers, health care professionals, social workers, etc. Adoptive parents as well as adult adoptees often mention that more adoption-specific support is needed, at least at certain critical times. It is therefore an important task for adoption service providers, adoptive parents' and adoptees' organisations and private adoption professionals to keep discussing and advocating governments to support the development of more specialised post-adoption work.

### Save the Children Finland and the Life Story Project

Save the Children Finland is an organization with domestic adoption and foster placement experience

since the 1920s. On the other hand, Finland used to be a country of origin for intercountry adoptions until the 1970s. Its post-adoption work model has, to a large extent, been based on the experience in domestic post-adoption. Support for domestic adoptive families was long understood as the support provided in accessing information on adoption records and support in searching issues.

In 2006-2009, Save the Children Finland led *The Life Story Project*, a post-adoption project specifically related to intercountry adoption, which was funded by the Finnish Money Slots Association. Different life phases of the adopted child were viewed and different work methods were developed and applied to provide the adoptive child and the family with possibilities to share and work through adoption-related issues. The work methods applied ranged from peer support, interactive support and video intervention counseling, art therapy methods, material provision, documentation, etc.

### Encounters – A project on openness in adoption

There is a now new development project, called *Encounters* (2010-2013), aimed at studying and promoting openness in adoptions and open adoptions as an alternative in domestic adoptions and child protection. Within this project activating the different members of the adoption triangle, providing forms of support for them and supporting them to share their experiences have been used to learn more about the experience of different members of the adoption triangle. The attention put into post-adoption work and its development is once again giving us new insight into what issues are relevant and important for those involved in adoption and what should be taken into account in pre- and post-adoption counseling.

However, post-adoption work does not so much lack appropriate methods of work, but rather the funding. This is causing access problems in Finland where adoptive families are few in numbers and widely spread across a large country.

### New legislation with provisions on post-adoption

In July 2012, Finland approved a new adoption law with new provisions for post-adoption work. Among the positive provisions, it is worth mentioning that adoptive families are now entitled by law to have a professional review of the child's and the family's need for support, as part of the adoption counseling



provided by the municipality; it is therefore free of charge for the family. A professional social worker will meet and discuss the family's problems and need for support, prepare a report on the issues needing special attention and then suggest and instruct in practice how the family may find the specific type of help needed.

However, an important aspect of the new Finnish law has received negative reactions. Indeed, the law establishes that access to adoption records is the duty of municipal social welfare services and intercountry adoption service providers when the adoptee is adopted from another country. The latter refers to assisting the adoptees' access to background information in communications with the country of origin or when interpreting adoption files requires the understanding of the specific intercountry adoption process, and also to counseling and assisting in

planning birth country tours. Unfortunately, the latter is, according to the new law, to be funded by adoption service fees applied to new adoption applicants – ensuring that the service is free for the adoptee or family seeking post-adoption support. However, the diminishing numbers of adoptive applicants and the growing numbers of post-adoption service beneficiaries is causing an impossible equation for the financing of adoption service providers.

**In this context, the experience and debates raised by Save the Children Finland are key inputs to the development and strengthening of post-adoption services, that provide high quality services and that adapt to the changing context of adoption worldwide.**

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**Source:**

For further information on *Encounters*, please contact: Päivi Partanen, Project Coordinator, paivi.partanen@savethechildren.fi.

*Diversifying Post-Adoption Services in Finland*, Collection of Articles, The Life Story Project (2006-2009). For a free copy, please contact: Irene Pärssinen-Hentula, irene.parssinen-hentula@savethechildren.fi.

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## INTERDISCIPLINARY RESOURCES

### An innovative report on the impact of the Internet on adoption

*The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute has recently published an innovative report, which highlights the positive and negative implications of the Internet on adoption practices and on the rights of all the parties involved.*

Nowadays, when anyone looks for information, the Internet seems to be providing responses, albeit of a variety made up of reliable and less professional information, with varying implications and uses. The same happens when adoptees or other interested parties search for general or personal information relating to adoption on the Internet. The report published by the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, entitled *Untangling the web – The Internet's transformative impact on adoption*<sup>1</sup>, intends to highlight these main implications and findings and to suggest recommendations to ensure that the rights of those at the heart of the adoption remain protected and that the procedures remain ethical.

#### Overview and key findings

The report initiates an interesting debate on the role and impact of the Internet on adoption. Through some commonly-found examples of articles and stories, the report emphasises the easy access to all kinds of information – and misinformation – that may

be pursued and the resulting existence of unregulated websites that respond to 'competition' in the adoption field, thereby raising a number of ethical and legal issues.

Based on these articles and stories, the report reflects on the growing opportunities for adoptees, biological and adoptive families of getting in touch, independently of who initiates such a search, whether the adoptee himself, the biological parents or even siblings. According to the report, this may represent the end of the era of 'closed' adoptions and would rather reflect a growth in relationships between these various interested parties.

As for positive developments linked to the Internet in this field, it may be worth mentioning the wider opportunities for access to support, information and networking with professionals and other families that may support adoptees and adoptive families, including those with special needs, given that the Internet is immediate, efficient and private.





However, it remains essential to ensure that guidelines are in place to ensure that the relevant websites and other types of electronic information remain at the service of the affected children and families, by promoting and contributing to ethical adoptions and by protecting the rights of those affected.

### Technology at the service of children and families in adoption

Aimed at ensuring the latter, the report also issues a series of recommendations for practice, legislation and policy. In particular, it suggests:

- devising a series of best-practice standards and identifying guidance materials, whilst further research and other guidelines are undertaken;
- developing training for adoption professionals on the positive and negative impact of the Internet on adoption;
- strengthening the adoption professionals' training in order for the latter to be able to respond adequately to issues arising from information sought or found on the Internet and from the services offered via the web and to prepare the parties for this;
- reflecting on potential legal and policy amendments in order to respond to the change of

- profile of searches for origins, reunions, information sought and found via the web, etc;
- establishing the responsibility of relevant professionals and organisations in reviewing available information and identifying potential risks, including the responsibility of social media in reexamining their policies and practices;
- reviewing legislation and policies that currently impede access to personal information that may, however, ultimately be found through the Internet.

**Through these findings and recommendations, many actors are called upon to reflect on the positive and negative implications of the Internet for adoption practices and situations, and on how to respond to the latter whilst ensuring ethical and rights-based adoptions. In particular, the precautions for Internet-users (Part V) are useful to all. The ISS/IRC welcomes this publication as a comprehensive research and report on this current issue.**

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#### Source:

<sup>1</sup> Howard, J. A., *Untangling the web – The Internet's transformative impact on adoption, Policy and Practice Perspective*, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, December 2012, [http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/publications/2012\\_12\\_UntanglingtheWeb.pdf](http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/publications/2012_12_UntanglingtheWeb.pdf).

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## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS

- **Canada:** *Thinking Differently: New Hope for Our Children, 2013 North American Council on Adoptable Children Conference*, Toronto, 7-10 August 2013. For further information, see: <http://www.nacac.org/conference/conference.html>.
- **France:** **a)** *Le jeune enfant orphelin de l'un de ses parents* [The young child orphaned of one parent], Association Pikler Lóczy, Paris, 26-27 September 2013. For further information, see: [www.pikler.fr](http://www.pikler.fr); **b)** *Les liens parents-enfants en famille d'accueil* [The parent-child bonds in foster care], COPES, Paris, 23 September 2013 (beginning of the training). For further information, see: <http://www.copes.fr/Annexes/Formations>.
- **Ireland:** *13th ISPCAN European Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Protecting Children in a Changing World*, Dublin, 15 September 2013. For further information, see: <http://www.ispcan.org/event/Dublin2013>.
- **Switzerland:** *Des voies vers l'inclusion, Un défi pour nous tous!* [Ways towards inclusion – A challenge for all of us!], IFEC Conference 2013, Bern, 8-12 October 2013. For further information, see: [www.fice-congress2013.ch](http://www.fice-congress2013.ch) or [info@fice-congress2013.ch](mailto:info@fice-congress2013.ch).

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