

INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Procedures for Inter-country Adoption Applications

Local authorities are required by law to provide an inter-country adoption service to their residents who wish to adopt from overseas. This service includes advice, counselling, preparing and assessing prospective inter-country adopters.

Inter-country adoptions take place in the best interests of the child and may be considered an alternative means of providing a family for a child who cannot be cared for, for a range of reasons, in their own country. Safeguards and standards, equivalent to those which apply in domestic adoption, are applied in inter-country adoption to protect the welfare of the child concerned.

Guidance published by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) asks adoption agencies to counsel, prepare and assess prospective adopters before specific children are identified. The Local Authority also has a duty to prepare and assess relatives wishing to adopt children overseas.

As an adoption agency we are asked to:

- ensure that the staff carrying out the assessment have specific skills and regular experience in adoption work and preferably inter-country adoption work;
- aim to provide to provide home study reports within six months of taking up the formal application.

We may also recover the costs of preparation and assessment from you in line with the DfES guidance.

To qualify for an assessment you must:

- Plan to work through an approved adoption agency or accredited and recognised charitable organisation in your country of choice which operates proper safeguards and controls, exchanges reports at agency or government level, and only places children when requirements of both countries are met.
- Live within the local authority's boundaries.
- Satisfy the requirements and procedures of both the child's country of origin and the eligibility criteria of the local authority.

Preliminary enquiries

When you make an enquiry about a home study we will:

- Check that you live within Croydon Council's boundaries
- Consider whether you meet the eligibility criteria to proceed further, based on the information you provide

- Forward to you the Croydon Inter-country Adoption Information Pack, this includes information about eligibility criteria, procedures, information regarding fees and useful addresses for further information. If on the information you provide it appears that you fail to meet the criteria we will advise you of this and how you might pursue other options available to you.

If you wish to proceed further having read the Inter-country Adoption Information Pack, please inform the Operational Manager, Adoption Team. If you do so we then follow a specific procedure with you.

1. Counselling Interview

The interview will be used to:

- Explore why you want to adopt and whether you have considered adoption from within Britain.
- Confirm that you are aware of, and can satisfy, the eligibility requirements and procedures of both your country of choice and the U.K.
- If you are undecided about the country of choice, provide brief information and advice about specific countries and guidance about where further information can be obtained to aid your decision. Both the DfES and Inter-country Advice Centre have written information about individual countries. The DfES also have information sheets available on their web site.
- Discuss and advise on any factors which might have an adverse effect on your application, and identify any tasks you will need to complete before proceeding to a formal application.
- Ensure that you fully understand the issues and challenges involved in adopting from overseas.
- Outline our practice for preparing and assessing prospective inter-country adopters

After the counselling interview we will decide whether you are eligible to proceed to a formal application. If you are eligible we will ask you to attend a preliminary information day (Consultation Day) run on behalf of Local Authorities by Inter-country Advice Centre. These take place monthly and cost £50 approx. per person, plus VAT.

Following this we will ask you to notify us that you wish to proceed to a formal assessment. We will then confirm that we agree to take up your application in accordance with normal agency procedures and practice.

An application pack will be forwarded you to containing

- An application form
- An form confirming that you agree to meet the cost of providing the preparation and assessment service

Please note that both you and we each have the right to withdraw from the agreement at any stage. Written notice must be given which includes the reasons why.

2. Formal Application

When you return the completed application form with the requested enclosures, we will take up all your statutory, personal and medical references. This is required by Regulation.

Two things will then happen:

- I. Arrangements will be made for you to attend the preparation courses which commence each month.
- II. An adoption worker will be allocated to undertake the assessment once you have attended the course and they have received confirmation and feedback in writing from the group. This feedback will eventually accompany your home study assessment to the relevant country.

3. Group Preparation

You will be invited to a preparation group. If you are a couple both will be required to attend.

Croydon Council is an adoption agency with long experience of preparing prospective adopters in a group setting. The groups will enable you to work and learn with others at a similar stage in the process and provide you with an opportunity for sharing knowledge, experience and ideas.

a. Purpose

Our objectives for the preparation programme are to:

- Raise awareness and understanding of the key issues which need to be considered by people proposing to adopt a child.
- Highlight the relevance of issues and offer useful frameworks for addressing them before and after the child is placed.
- Offer the opportunity to meet with other adopters at a similar stage of the adoption process and to an opportunity to hear from experienced adopters or adoptees.

Because inter-country adoption is a specialist area Croydon Council, along with other Local Authorities, delegates the course preparation to Inter-country Advice Centre. It is Croydon's policy that all applicants attend these courses. They run monthly and are held over three full day sessions, one day per fortnight (i.e. the course will take five weeks to complete).

b. Content

The Inter-country Adoption Preparation Group has the following core topics:

- *Policies, procedures and the law* - information on the changing nature of adoption; and the laws, procedures and process of adopting from overseas within a national and international framework
- *Adoption as parenting* plus the basics of adoptive parenting and how it differs from parenting birth children
- *The impact of institutional care upon children* - how lack of attachment can impact upon children and ways in which parents can promote secure attachment and manage the introductory period
- *The birth parent perspective* - an exploration of how and why birth parents in overseas countries relinquish their children
- *Health issues* - the known and unknowns of health in adopting a child from overseas
- *Adoption from the child's perspective* – exploring adoption with children; the impact of separation and loss; tracing and returning to the birth country; culture, race and identity in adopted children

- *The adoption experience* - an adoptive parent and/or an inter-country adoptee's account of their adoption journey.

c. Process

- Work is undertaken in both large and small group settings
- The content is delivered through trainer input, case studies, group exercises, video and audio input and input from guest speakers including those with experience of adoption and a medical advisor with experience of health issues associated with children adopted from overseas
- The days are designed to be relaxed, stimulating and non threatening

d. Evaluation

The groups are offered for the purpose of preparation and education and do not form part of the assessment process. The emphasis throughout the three days is on participants' own self learning and at the end of each day you will be asked to complete a self evaluation sheet. These are a vital part of your assessment and will be used by the assessing social worker to support your application. Without them your assessment cannot be completed

4. Home Study Assessment & Report

- Your allocated social worker will contact you to arrange your assessment. The format for this is the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) Form F3 and you will be given a copy prior to the assessment commencing.
- S/he will carry out a series of interviews with you, using various assessment tools, to assess your suitability to be an adopter. S/he will also interview your children (if applicable) and any other adults living in your home.
- In addition, s/he will interview your personal referees and, possibly, other significant figures in your extended family and wider network.
- The social worker will encourage you to undertake a variety of tasks and activities, such as written contributions or further reading, throughout the assessment period
- You will be required to undertake a medical examination with your GP on a prescribed Form at your own cost.
- When the assessment process is complete, your social worker will prepare the final draft of your home study report. We will send you a copy, and ask you to sign it. You will be able to correct factual errors and if necessary write your own observations about the report for the adoption panel's attention.

5. Recommendation and approval by the adoption agency

Your social worker will present the home study report, along with any observations submitted by you to the adoption Panel.

- You will have the opportunity to attend part of the Panel meeting if you wish. However it is important to note that the panel recommendation is dependent on the home study assessment and the information within that report and *not* on your attendance at the Panel. The panel will discuss your application and make a recommendation to the Director of Social Services (the 'Agency decision maker'), who will decide whether to approve your application or not.

- You will be informed in writing of the agency decision and, if your application is approved, we will forward your home study report and references, together with the adoption panel minute and agency decision, to the DfES by recorded delivery.
- The DfES will check that all the documentation is in order and that the prescribed procedures have been complied with and notify you and us of their decision. They will issue a Certificate of Eligibility and Suitability.
- If the decision maker proposes not to approve your application, s/he will write to you explaining the reasons. You will have the right to make representations within 28 days, which the decision maker will take into account when making the agency decision. Since April 2004 you also have the right to seek an independent review of the decision through the Independent Review Mechanism.
- We will continue to liaise with you and the DfES until your papers and certificate of eligibility are dispatched to the overseas country.

Please note that your approval will be for a named country and a category of child specified by age and gender. Any change to the terms of approval will require reconsideration by the adoption panel and by the DfES.

6. Post Approval

The social worker who conducted the home assessment will remain in contact with you to offer information, advice and assistance.

However, please note that the approval process in the UK described above does not guarantee acceptance by the overseas country concerned. It is for the child's country of origin to decide whether to accept an application and grant an adoption order, interim adoption order or entrustment in respect of individual children.

Equally it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that s/he fulfils the criteria of the country of their choice. Croydon Council cannot accept liability if an adopter later fails to satisfy the requirements of their overseas country of choice, or if the requirements of that country change.

7. Once you are matched with a child:

- The overseas country will forward details of the child to the DfES who will forward these to Croydon Council.
- Your social worker will contact you to arrange to discuss the information with you. Some times information is sent direct to applicants and we would encourage you in those situations to contact us to talk through the details if this occurs in your case.
- If there are queries concerning information in connection with the child's health then arrangements can be made for you to consult with Croydon Council's adoption medical advisor.
- You will be asked to make arrangements to visit the child in their country. After meeting the child you will need to notify Croydon Council that you wish to proceed with the adoption application. This notification must be in writing but can be a fax or email. Croydon Council will then notify the DfES. This applies to Convention, Designated and all other country adoptions (see Appendix 1).

- If you are adopting from a Convention country Croydon Council will also have to confirm to the DfES that they are content for the match to proceed once you have met the child. Without this confirmation the adoption overseas cannot proceed.
- In Convention adoption arrangements we will also forward details about the child's health status to your GP and notify the education authority if the child is of school age or has special needs.
- Your child's country of origin will make arrangements for the adoption process in the country. You may decide to remain in the country while this occurs or choose to return to the UK until the application is due to be heard.

You will need to obtain entry clearance for your child.

The granting of entry clearance for a child adopted from overseas is a matter for the local Entry Clearance Officers in the child's country. They in turn will be guided by the Home Office and will consult with the DfES to ensure that the correct procedures have been followed in respect of the adoption application.

It is important to obtain up-to-date information about entry clearance from the Embassy or Consulate of the country concerned. You can also obtain information about entry clearance from the Home Office web site.

8. Post placement

- If you have adopted from a Convention country with a full convention adoption order, or a Designated country with a full adoption order then, unless you requested advice, assistance with post adoption reports or an assessment of adoption support (see below), we will not be involved further
- If you return to the UK with a child who is not the subject of a full adoption order and has been entrusted to your care, you must notify us in writing that the child is with you and that you wish to adopt the child under UK law. This must be done within 14 days of your return. Not to do so is a criminal offence punishable by a fine or imprisonment or both.
- If you return to the UK with a child who is subject of an interim adoption order you must also notify us that the child is in your care.
- In both cases we will be involved in monitoring the welfare of any child placed on either an interim adoption order or entrusted to you for the purpose of adoption.
- In addition, where children are entrusted and a UK adoption is sought the UK Court would ask us to prepare Court reports (Schedule 2 reports). These are not subject to a financial charge.

9. Post Adoption

Some countries require post adoption reports to be sent to them at regular intervals. Although it is for the adoptive family to decide how these reports should be prepared, they can only be undertaken by a Local Authority or Voluntary Adoption Agency and cannot be commissioned from private individuals. These reports would need to be discussed with us at the appropriate time. It is often possible for the social worker who undertook the assessment to undertake these reports but any arrangement must be made through us. There is a charge for this service.

All inter-country adoption applicants are eligible for an assessment for adoption support once a child has been placed. In addition we offer post adoption advice and support through our post adoption service.

Factors Relevant to Adoption Applications

Croydon Council Adoption Agency will only take up enquiries from people who: are living within the boundaries of the local borough.

We will only carry out assessments of people where there is a reasonable prospect of approval, and where the overseas country is currently placing children with U.K. adopters.

1. Eligibility

We are committed to the safeguard of children placed for adoption. Therefore we seek to ensure that a child placed for adoption will grow up in a suitable, safe and healthy home environment with adoptive parents who have a reasonable prospect of good health and who are able, emotionally, to commit themselves fully to the adoption process.

Factors which may lead us to conclude, at the enquiry/counselling stage, that it would not be appropriate to proceed with your application include:

- *Age* - where there is reasonable cause for concern that you may not survive, or retain sufficient energy and vigour to meet a child's needs through all the years of the child's dependence.
- *Health* - where your medical or psychiatric history or current state of health (including weight) give reasonable cause for concern about your future health prospects.
- *Lifestyle* - where your consumption of alcohol/tobacco/other substances or your work responsibilities or leisure interests constitute a serious risk to your life or health.
- *Character* - where you have a criminal record (either current or "spent") of offences which call into question your suitability to parent through adoption.
- *Housing* - where your current accommodation is temporary or insufficient or unsuitable for the placement of a child, or contains domestic animals, which may endanger the health or safety of the child.
- *Finance* - where there is reasonable cause for concern that you will not have sufficient income to parent a child throughout the years of dependence without recourse to public funds.
- *Relationship* - where you and your partner are not married to each other, or have lived together for less than two or three years.
- *Parenting* - where your child has been the subject of care proceedings or child protection procedures.
- *Infertility* - where you are still undergoing fertility treatment or are still coming to terms with your childlessness or failure to conceive.
- *Bereavement* - where you are still in the process of recovering from a major loss or bereavement.

We would not look to proceed, or continue, with your application where factors come to light which are likely to prevent your ultimate approval to adopt. This would be particularly relevant if such factors were not disclosed at the outset.

In addition you would need to fulfil the particular eligibility criteria of the country you wish to adopt from. Individual countries have their own requirements and it is your responsibility to ensure that you do fulfil them.

2. Suitability

Parenting a child to independence is a complex task which calls for commitment and resilience over time. Adoptive parenting involves challenges and responsibilities over and above those faced by birth parents.

We at Croydon Council adoption agency base our assessments of prospective adopters on the rights and needs of children and take into account what has been learnt from the outcomes of adoption placements in the past, both in the UK and internationally.

Prospective adopters have different strengths and areas of vulnerability in relation to parenting a child from overseas. We have no “blue print” of a suitable inter-country adopter but by the end of the assessment we will expect you to have demonstrated, with evidence, that

- You have sufficient time and space in your life to devote to the parenting role.
- You have the emotional capacity to bond with, care for and nurture a child unconditionally.
- You can understand, adapt to and meet a child's changing needs, throughout their childhood and beyond.
- You are realistic about the possible problems and special needs which a child may present and be committed to seeking out and accepting help from appropriate individuals, networks and/or professionals.
- You view openness with and connections to a child's roots in a positive way and will value, the child's birth origins and background.
- You will be appropriately equipped to nurture a child's ethnic, cultural and linguistic heritage and to meet the child's identity needs in a proactive way (either through yourselves or through identified others).
- We will take into account, through the preparation and assessment process the extent to which you have been able to commit to the process and consider seriously the potential stresses and setbacks alongside the rewards and joys of adoptive parenting.

3. Confidentiality and security of information

Adoption Agencies are required by Regulation to adhere to strict rules concerning confidentiality and security of information received from and about users of their services.

The information received in connection with an application will be treated in the strictest confidence and stored securely in your individual case file.

Croydon Council adoption agency will not disclose any identifying information about you to third parties without your permission, unless such disclosure is required by Regulation.

Please also note that the home study will remain the property of Croydon Council.

4. Representations and Complaints

Whether an applicant is content or dissatisfied with the service they receive from us, we are interested in your views and welcome hearing from you.

You are welcome to write to the Resource Manager for Fostering and Adoption directly to forward your views about the service offered.

You can make requests, recommendations or express dissatisfaction about the service with any of the agency's workers who will make a record of your representation and pass this to the Adoption Operational Manager for consideration

Appendix 1

General Inter-country Adoption Issues

Types of Overseas Adoptions

On June 1st 2003 the United Kingdom implemented the Hague Convention on protection of children and co-operation in respect of inter-country adoption. This means that there are now three types of adoptions from overseas. They are

1. **Convention** country adoptions,
2. **Designated** country adoptions
3. **Non Convention** and **Non Designated** country adoptions

a. Conventional Adoptions

Conventional Adoptions are made between those countries that have contracted into the Hague Convention and hence a Convention Adoption made in a Hague Convention country would be recognized in the UK. British Citizenship is also granted to the child at the time the order is made provided that one of the applicants is a British Citizen and both are habitually resident in the UK. In some circumstances an interim convention adoption order might be made in the country of origin, with a final order granted after the child has lived with the applicants for a probationary period in the UK. Alternatively some children from Convention countries might be placed for the purpose of adoption with applicants who would then have to apply to the UK Courts for a Convention Adoption Order to be granted in the UK.

b. Designated

Designated countries are those whose adoption orders are recognised in UK law under the Adoption (Designation of Overseas Adoptions) Order 1973. This recognition does not extend to granting UK citizenship, or to dealing with matters of inheritance, and UK applicants will have to apply for UK nationality on the child's behalf once they return to the UK. Occasionally interim adoption orders can be granted with a full order being granted in the country of origin after a satisfactory probationary period or, as with Convention countries, a child could be placed for the purpose of adoption and applicants would then have to apply to the UK Courts for an adoption order.

c. Non Convention and Non Designated

Adoption made in Non Convention and Non Designated countries are not recognised under UK law, and children adopted in these countries have to be adopted again, through application to a UK Court, once they have lived in the UK for 6 months. Although a legal process may occur in the country of origin the child is viewed under UK legislation as being placed for the purpose of adoption.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible under UK law you must:

- Have reached the age of 21
- Have been habitually resident in the UK for at least one year if you wish to adopt from a Convention country, or domiciled in the UK if you wish to adopt from a non convention, non designated country where you would need to adopt the child in the UK.

Both domicile and habitual residence are complex legal definitions and if there are any doubts about your status then we would recommend that you contact a lawyer who can assist in establishing your status. Before any assessment commenced your social worker would wish to ensure that you were eligible both under UK law and under the law of the country who wished to adopt from.

Applicants must check the eligibility for their country of choice.

For example, some countries will not consider single applicants, those with any criminal conviction, or those over a particular age. Both the DfES and the Inter-country Advice Centre produce fact sheets on individual country requirements.

The documents required in **support** of an application will vary according to the country concerned. However, these will usually include:

- Written application from adopters (sometimes this requires completion of an application form but it may also be in the form of a letter)
- Homestudy assessment report with the DfES Certificate of Eligibility
- Copies of passports
- Medical reports verifying good physical and mental health, and infertility if this is the case
- Criminal Record Bureau Checks
- Birth certificates
- Marriage certificate
- Personal references
- Employer references
- Bank references
- Financial statement (giving details of income and assets etc.)
- Photographs of each applicant.

It is important to note that where applicants are married, both applicants are expected to travel to the country of choice to meet the child prior to the adoption, and to either remain in the country for the period of adoption, or to return home and travel again to complete procedures.

Some countries require applicants to have particular health checks, such as testing for HIV status and all applicants adopting from overseas are recommended to obtain the relevant health immunizations for travel to the country of their choice and to be immunized against Hepatitis B as prospective adoptive carers.

The Role of the DfES and the Home Office

The Inter-country Adoption Unit in the DfES in London will review all of the necessary paperwork, check that the prescribed procedures have been followed and that the information required both for the UK and for the country applied for have been provided. They will then issue a Certificate of Eligibility and advise applicants of translation and notarization requirements before sending the papers to the country of origin. In Convention Adoptions the Department will also play a role in the matching of applicants with a child and in making a legal agreement (a 17(c) agreement) with the country of origin. In Designated adoptions or Non Convention or Non Designated adoptions the Department may be involved with the matching or papers may be sent directly to applicants

The Home Office also plays a role in all overseas adoptions.

With a Convention Adoption, provided a full convention adoption will be granted in the country of origin and provided one of the applicants is a British Citizen and both have been habitually resident for one year in the UK, no entry clearance is required for the child. The DfES will automatically check with the Home Office prior to making a 17 (c) agreement to ensure eligibility.

However the following Applicants will need to apply for entry clearance; those who are are:

- Adopting from a designated country
- Adopting from a non designated, non convention country
- Adopting from a convention country **but**
 - where they are not British Citizens
 - where the child will be placed on a interim order
 - where the child will be entrusted and adoption in the UK sought

It is advisable to apply for entry clearance for the child as soon as their details are known - further details about entry clearance procedures are set out in the Home Office leaflet 'Inter-country Adoption' and on their web site

Relatives Seeking to Adopt

From June 1st 2003 all relatives wishing to adopt a child overseas must follow the same procedures as apply to non relatives and undertake a home study assessment. However it is extremely important to check with the Immigration Authorities in the UK that you would fulfil the criteria for entry clearance, and to seek their decision in writing before embarking upon a Home Study Assessment.

Costs

The costs involved in inter-country adoption are likely to be high. Applicants will be responsible for meeting the costs of their home study assessment, any legal fees, translation fees, agency fees in the country of their choice, which can include medical statements fees, visa and passport fees for the child as well as the cost of travelling abroad and living before an order is made. Where there are joint applicants, both must travel to meet the child before procedures can be completed Applicants are advised to cost this out before embarking on the process. Groups such as *Oasis* and *AFAA* (see resource list) who have members who have adopted from abroad can often give advice on these issues.

Countries of origin usually expect some form of evidence of financial security and status from adopters. In addition, adopters are not eligible for entry clearance for an adopted child if they are dependent on public funds.

A breakdown of the Croydon Council charges is attached at Appendix 2 but please note this only includes preparation, assessment and matching work undertaken directly by the agency.

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Appendix 2

Costs of Assessment

Local authorities are able to recover the costs for this service from applicants, in line with DfES guidance.

- The current charge for the assessment of a couple is £3646. single applicants are £3323
- An update report (for second or subsequent adoption) is £2500
- This covers all aspects of the Social Service home study assessment. The fees are required to be paid on commencement of the home study, prior to the presentation at the adoption panel, and the papers being forwarded to the DfES. Applicants will be invoiced.
- The fee is a charge for the home study, and is non-returnable even if applicants are turned down for approval as inter-country adopters.
- Approval does not guarantee that applicants will be matched with a child overseas.
- Should the assessment be terminated at either the applicants or the Agency instigation then applicant/s will be charged for the work undertaken until the point of withdrawal.

The costs we will recover from you are the actual costs we will incur in our work with you. These costs are:

- Our social workers' fees, which are based on the prevailing rates of remuneration for Children Guardians in Outer London, and the cost of the preparation course. (Please note that the cost of the information day (Consultation Day at OAH) is not included and applicants should book and pay the Helpline directly and staff costs(e.g. Panel costs and administration costs)
- There is no profit element included in the quoted costs of our service

Appendix 3

Resource List of Agencies

DfES

Inter-country Adoption Team
Level 4
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London SW1 9NA
020 7273 5024(phone)
www.doh.gov.uk/adoption

Home Office (Immigration Directorate)

Apollo House
Block C, Whitgift Centre
36, Wellesley Road
Croydon, CR9 3RR
0870 606 7766 (phone)
www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk

Inter-country Advice Centre

64-66 High Street
Barnet, Herts
EN5 5SJ
0870 516 8742 (phone)
020 8348 1522(fax)
email: info@oah.org
website: www.oah.org.uk

Information and advice service

British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF)

Skyline House
200 Union Street
London, SE1 0LX
020 7593 2000 (phone)
020 7593 0200
email: mail@baaf.org.uk
website: www.baaf.org.uk

General adoption information and useful leaflet on Inter-country adoption.

Parent support groups

OASIS (Overseas Adoption Support and Information Service)

14 Ashdowne Avenue
Saltdean
East Sussex
BN2 8AH

Tel (Helpline): 0870 241 7069
Web: www.adoptionoverseas.org

Self-help group offering support from people's own practical and personal experience of adopting overseas.

AFAA (The Association for Families who have Adopted from Abroad)

30 Broadgate
Cuffley, Herts
01707878793 (phone)
email:information.afaa@cwcom.net
website:www.afaa.mcmail.com

Practical and personal experience and support from people who have adopted overseas.

Adoption UK

The Laurels
Lower Boddington
Daventry, Northants
NN1 6YB
0870 7700450 (phone)
www.adoptionuk.org

General adoption advice and support for all adoptive applicants

PNPIC (Parent Network for the post institutionalized child)

31, Court Lane,
Wolstanton
Newcastle
Staffs
Tel: 01782 858915
Email:pnpic@cwcom.net
Website:www.pnpic.org

ARC (Adopted Romanian Children society)

Pam Day (Membership secretary)
Woodlands
Hanoverian Way
Whitley
Sareham
Hants PO17 7JP
Tel: 01489 557 353
Email:woodlands4@supernet.com

Born in Romania (BIR)

Address as for PNPIC
Email:bir@wcom.net

Children Adopted from China

10, Woodcote
St Catherine's Drive
Guildford
Surrey
GU2 5HQ
Tel: 01483 440370
Email:Davidanne.Brice@internet.com

India adoption support group

Contact via Inter-country Advice Centre

Appendix 4

Adoption Status of Overseas Countries

Please note that these lists will change over time therefore it is recommended that you make enquiries of the DfES for the latest updated lists.

The Following Countries Have Either Ratified or Acceded to the Hague Convention

Countries which have ratified the Hague Convention

Albania, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, India, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Venezuela.

Countries which have acceded to the Hague Convention

Andorra, Burundi, Estonia, Georgia, Guatemala, Iceland, Lithuania, Mauritius, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, New Zealand, Paraguay

The Following Countries are Specified in The Adoption (Designation of Overseas Adoptions) Order 1973

a. Foreign Countries

Austria
Belgium
China
Denmark (inc. Greenland and the Faroes)
Finland
France (inc. Reunion, Martinique, Guadeloupe, French Guyana)
Germany
Greece
Iceland
The Republic of Ireland
Israel
Italy
Luxembourg
The Netherlands (including the Antilles)
Norway
Portugal (inc. the Azores and Madeira)
South Africa (inc. South West Africa now known as Namibia)
Spain (inc. the Balearic and Canary Isles)
Surinam
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
The United States of America
Yugoslavia (but not any of the states of the former Yugoslavia)

b. Commonwealth Countries

Anguilla
Australia
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bermuda
Botswana
British Virgin Isles
Canada
Cayman Islands
Cyprus
Dominica
Fiji
Ghana
Gibraltar
Guyana
Hong Kong
Jamaica
Kenya
Lesotho

Malawi
Malaysia
Malta
Mauritius
Montserrat
New Zealand
Nigeria
Pitcairn Isles
Zimbabwe
St Christopher and Nevis
St Vincent
Seychelles
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Swaziland
Tanzania
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Zambia