

IOWA HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
IOWA YOUTH SYMPOSIUM
Final Position Paper (2013)
Adopted on: Tuesday, October 22, 2013
Position Paper created by the Social Committee
Regarding: International Adoption

Background:

International adoption or inter-country adoption is the adoption of children typically from developing nations by developed nations. International adoption was popularized after children were left orphaned in countries abroad during WWII. Adoption between countries is governed by the laws of the place in which the child lives and where the adoptive family lives. The number of international adoptions by the United States has steadily risen since the 1990s, peaking in 2004. Since then, the number has declined, signaling widespread concern over this practice because of recent controversies that have involved child trafficking and kidnapping. The Hague Convention of 1993, established to resolve international adoption conflicts, read: “to establish safeguards to ensure that intercountry adoptions take place in the best interests of the child and with respect to his or her fundamental rights as recognized in international law by creating a system of co-operation amongst contracting states to ensure that those safeguards are respected and thereby prevent the abduction, the sale of, or traffic in children.” According to UNGlobalcompact.org, “approximately 1.2 million children are trafficked each year.” Many countries are tentative about allowing international adoptions because of cultural differences, such as religious beliefs and marriage ideologies. In 2000 the Child Citizenship Act was passed giving adopted children automatic citizenship rights. International adoptions cost on average \$28,000-\$64,000 per child and this large price limits the amount of families able to adopt internationally.

U.S. Position:

Possible solutions for lowering the number of children up for adoption include educating the public about family planning and providing women with services that would help them not have to abandon their children. According to the UN declaration relating to the welfare of children, international adoption should only be used as a last resort if the child is unable to be placed with other family members, or with a foster or adoptive family within the country of origin. The United States should advance adoption programs in developing nations in order to be able to obtain more thorough medical records concerning the child. The United States should encourage international adoption when it is the best option for the child. International adoption should not be used as a political bargaining tool in international negotiations. The United States believes that legal international adoption is nearly always a better option than leaving a child in an institution or orphanage. The United States encourages all international adoption agencies to get the Hague Accreditation and Approval. Adoption agencies should have robust programs for following-up on completed adoptions to ensure their continuing success. The United States should respect all cultural-regulations on adoptions. The United States

encourages the work of non-governmental organizations like Transparency International in providing transparency in cases of international adoption to prevent corruption and ensure the safety of minors. The United States only supports legal avenues of international adoptions. The United States wishes to help nations, including the United States itself, increase the efficiency of their adoption programs. The United States encourages countries it works with on international adoptions to prosecute people or groups that break international laws and treaties regarding international adoptions in a court of law. Domestic adoptions aren't better than international adoptions. "Rehoming" of the act of finding a new home for an adoptive child without notifying or consulting the proper authorities, while technically legal, should be restricted by a set of laws and should be monitored closely and also applies to domestic and international adoptions alike. If adopted immigrant children have to be rehomed for any reason, the U.S. still has to ensure that the child comes into a stable family which properly cares for the child. This should be checked on a yearly basis. The United States will not overlook any illegal actions of United States' citizens in regards to internationally adopted children. The United States recommends nations and agencies to pursue fair adoption processes that could help reduce the length and cost of adoptions.

Justification and Summary:

Although controversy does exist surrounding international adoption, when pursued legally it is a good way to give children a chance for safer and happier lives. The advancement of medical records for orphaned children in underdeveloped countries would help the parents of the adopted child provide better medical care. International adoptions should be encouraged because they form and strengthen inter country relationships as well as give children better homes. Children need a stable home so they can experience the whole family lifestyle versus being in an orphanage their whole lives. If the United States had a positive public opinion on international adoption, this could lead to more children in stable homes and less children likely to depend on the government, be unemployed, be homeless, or have their lives exhibit characteristics common to those who grew up without a stable home. An alternative solution would be educating the public about family planning when compliant with cultural normal because it would lower the number of children up for adoption. The United States wants to increase adoption efficiency because slower adoptions can take years which are critical in childhood. The United States wants international adoption to be an international priority because an adoption can be extremely beneficial for both families and children, who are the future of our world.