



A missed opportunity?

The interministerial inspection mission into illicit practices in the intercountry adoption in France

On Tuesday, the 23rd of January 2024, associations and groups of adopted people were invited by the President of the Conseil National de l'Adoption (CNA), Monique Limon, to the presentation of the report by the interministerial inspection mission into illicit intercountry adoption practices in France.

When we arrived, we could only deplore the absence of the report and its authors, although their presence had been announced in advance. The meeting was limited to a reading of the 28 recommendations by the President of the CNA. However, these recommendations only partially fulfill the purpose of the inspection, which was "to identify illicit practices that have taken place in the past in order to prevent their recurrence and, secondly, to respond to requests from adoptees and civil society". Only one third of these recommendations concern past adoptions, involving tens of thousands of people, while two thirds concern the future of adoption. In 2023, France recorded 176 intercountry adoptions, a figure that has been falling steadily since 2005. So is it really reasonable and relevant to focus on solutions solely on the future?

We also believe that these recommendations are not commensurate with the issues at stake and the harm suffered by the victims and their families. These shortcomings show a lack of consideration on the part of the French government given the seriousness of the issue. As a result, this meeting has triggered the indignation and incomprehension of the adoptees, who are the first to be affected.

We, collective of (13) organisations of adopted persons and public figures, expressly request the report be fully published without delay and all collectives and associations be received by the three ministries involved in intercountry adoption: the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry responsible for Children, so that a concrete discussion can begin immediately on the issues linked to illegal practices in intercountry adoption.