

## **First anniversary of the Joint Statement on Illegal Intercountry Adoptions**

**20 September 2023 – 3pm-5pm**

### **CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA**

On the 28 September 2022, a joint statement on illegal intercountry adoptions was issued by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Guarantees of Non-recurrence, the Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children including child prostitution, child pornography, and other child sexual abuse material, the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

Illegal adoptions occur through a wide variety of illegal acts or illicit practices, such as the abduction and sale of and trafficking in children, enforced disappearance and wrongful removal of children in the context of enforced disappearance, as well as adoptions involving fraud in the declaration of adoptability, falsification of official documents or coercion, lack of proper consent by biological parents, improper financial gain by intermediaries and related corruption.

When illegal intercountry adoptions occur, various human rights are violated, including the right of every child to have access, without any discrimination, to the measures of protection that are required by their status as a child, on the part of their family, society and the State and the right of family to protection. Illegal intercountry adoptions infringe the right of the child to preserve their identity, such as their name, their nationality, and their family relations. They may also violate the prohibition of the abduction, the sale of, or the traffic of children, and, under specific circumstances, the prohibition of enforced disappearances. In certain conditions as provided for in international law, illegal intercountry adoptions may constitute serious crimes such as genocide or crimes against humanity.

Through the joint statement, the involved human rights mechanisms recall member States about their obligation to prevent, punish and repair illegal intercountry adoptions.

One year after the adoption of their joint statement, the involved mechanisms organize an event to further disseminate and promote its content and foster its implementation, to remind all stakeholders of the importance of its content, bringing together victims and other civil society actors, States, UN human rights mechanisms, National Human Rights Institutions and other stakeholders to recall and highlight the content of the statement and to think about future steps to be taken to promote the implementation of its recommendations.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

The objectives of the event include:

1. To present and discuss the content and objectives of the Joint Statement.
2. To highlight the importance of the Joint Statement for victims.
3. To identify future actions to promote the implementation of the Joint Statement.

#### **PROGRAMME:**

- Date: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023
- Time: **3pm-4.50pm CET**
- Location: Room XXI, Palais des Nations