

SPOTLIGHT ON ADOPTION FOR HARD TO PLACE CHILDREN

VIDEO SUMMARY

This video highlights the story of Cheryl, a child living with HIV who was placed in an adoptive family after several years in residential care. Child's i Foundation believes all children belong in families. We will hear from Evelyn, Cheryl's social worker, and listen to what she learned in regards recruiting families for special needs adoption and placing children in loving, safe families.

We suggest you watch the film with other practitioners or colleagues so you may discuss these questions as a group.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Evelyn speaks to the importance of tracing immediately for family when a child is abandoned. Do residential care facilities in your country have policies and structure to support immediate tracing? What can be improved upon?
- We learn about the Alternative Care Panel that is functioning in Uganda as a safeguard for placing children in alternative care.

Do you have a mechanism that carries out the same role or functions in your country? If yes, how does it work and how different or similar is it to the Uganda one? What are the benefits to having an independent panel assess child welfare cases?

- Evelyn explains how after three years in residential care, by using a strategic Facebook campaign, a family came forward and expressed interest in adopting Cheryl.

This proves that there are families that are willing to adopt and care for children living with special needs. What are other ways to identify and support potential adoptive families?

FURTHER READING

You can find resources and tools to explore global practice and learning on the BCN website.

On Adoption: <https://goo.gl/xuwiRi>

On Uganda: <https://goo.gl/qj3e9N>



TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Adoption

The legal transfer of parental rights and responsibilities for a child which is permanent..