

The Eugene Declaration

Recognizing, as stated in the Preamble of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, “that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding;”

Recognizing that children face tremendous challenges and obstacles in achieving their potential as human beings when faced with institutionalization, homelessness, abuse and other factors where children are not in safe and supportive family environments;

Recognizing there is a tragic crisis involving millions of children around the world who are outside of family care, or are at extreme risk in vulnerable family situations;

Recognizing that cost effective supports and preventative services can be provided to parents and communities to better enable them to deal with family crises and support for children to remain in families; and

Recognizing there are a variety of family options around the world of benefit to children separated from birth parents including adoption; kafala; and variations of foster, kinship and other family-based care;

We hereby, commit ourselves to the recognition and principle, and its implications for improving the lives of children into the future, that

Every child has the need and a right to grow up in a family

Promulgated at the International Conference:
Looking Forward, A Global Response for Homeless Children
Sponsored by Holt International Children’s Services, Inc.
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