



## Becoming 'good enough' adoptive parents

From the assessment of  
the couple to intercultural  
differences

Focusing on **'best interest of the child'** is no easy task. However, this is key to building a better world. Creating hosting environments where to protect the best interest of the child in **intercountry adoptions** means devoting special attention to the paths the couple of parents has to follow: from the moment they feel the desire to become parents, to their applying for adoption, to the creation of a new adoptive family.

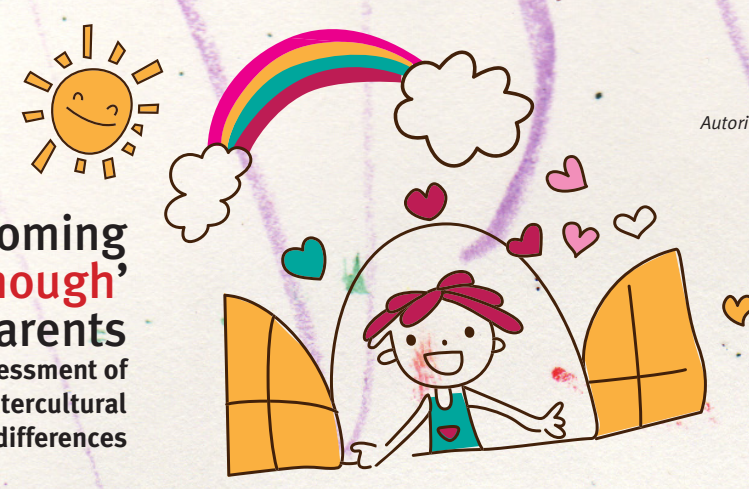
English psychoanalyst John Bowlby said: if you want to help a child, you have to support the family first.

The couple of prospective parents is therefore accompanied in this path by a number of people and organisations: local social service workers, judges from juvenile courts, accredited bodies and their staff, and Central Authorities. They all work to implement the child's right to welcomed at best.

The goal is not to look for or prepare 'ideal' parents and entrust them with an 'impossible task' (as Sigmund Freud defined child upbringing). Everyone is instead committed to looking for viable paths, to allow adoptive parents to be **'good enough'** – to use a fortunate expression by pediatrician and psychoanalyst D.W. Winnicott.

How can we work along these lines? This conference is intended to provide an overview of one year's training activities carried out nationally on couple-related issues and intercultural specificities. Moreover, it will be an opportunity to listen to in-depth discussions and analyses on these themes, compare the experiences of some key players and broaden the scope of analysis to include the most significant research studies and practices at European and international levels, with the contribution of two top experts in the sector.





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INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS • Florence, Istituto degli Innocenti 13/14 June 2011

## MONDAY, June 13, 2011

Chair: Italian Undersecretary of State,  
Senator Carlo Giovanardi

### 10.45 am

Welcome address and opening of  
proceedings  
CARLO GIOVANARDI, Italian Undersecretary  
of State to the Presidency of the Council  
of Ministers and President of the Italian  
Commission for Intercountry Adoptions  
ALESSANDRA MAGGI, President of Istituto  
degli Innocenti, Florence

### 11.00 am

Introduction  
GIORGIO MACARIO, Scientific Coordinator  
of Italian Commission for Intercountry  
Adoptions training activities,  
Istituto degli Innocenti  
*National training for intercountry adoptions  
as interplay of virtuous paths contributing to  
self-training*

### 11.20 am

Presentations and contributions from  
international delegations. Attend for:  
- BURKINA FASO  
CLÉMENCE TRAORE SOME, Ministre de  
l'Action Sociale et de la Solidarité Nationale  
- REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA  
ELVIRA FORERO HERNÁNDEZ, General  
Director of the Instituto Colombiano de  
Bienestar Familiar (ICBF)  
- RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
ALINA AFAKOEVNA LEVITSKAYA, Head of  
Department of Children Education and Social  
Integration of the Education and Sciences  
Ministry of the Russian Federation  
- SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
NGUYEN VAN BINH, Director of Adoption  
Department

### 12.00 am

Lecture  
JESÚS PALACIOS, Professor of Developmental  
and Education Psychology, Seville University,  
Spain  
*Suitability for adoption on the basis of the  
need/skills model. Research and practice*

### 1.15 pm Lunch

### 2.30 pm

ONDINA GRECO, Psychologist and  
psychotherapist, Scientific coordinator of the  
workshop "Enhancing the assessment of the  
couple"

*What's at stake in the assessment of the  
couple? From the 'Relation dance' to clinical  
experience*

### 3.10 pm

ROSA ROSNATI, Professor of Social  
Psychology, Catholic University of Milan  
*The tie between a couple in adoptions*

### 3.40

STÉPHANIE ROMANENS-PYTHOUD,  
International Social Service  
*Special needs adoptions: role and  
perspectives in the Countries of origin and  
receiving Countries*

### 4.00 pm

Round table  
*The assessment of the couple in Italy and  
Countries of origin*  
ILVIA RUTH CÁRDENAS, Adoption Department  
Deputy Director, Republic of Colombia  
NGUYEN VAN BINH, Director of Adoption  
Department, Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
PHAM THI KIM ANH, International Adoption  
Head of Department, Socialist Republic of  
Vietnam  
LAURA MARTINEZ MORA, Adoption Program  
Coordinator, Hague Conference  
CINZIA FABROCINI, for the Accredited Bodies  
MARINA FARRI, Psychologist and  
psychotherapist, for the Local Services  
BERNARDETTA SANTANIELLO, Judge, for the  
Juvenile Courts  
Chair: ONDINA GRECO

### 5.30 pm

Debate

### 6.00 pm

End

### 6.15 pm

Side EVENT:  
Presentation of the Italian edition of the  
volume by David Brodzinsky e Jesús Palacios

## TUESDAY, June 14, 2011

Chair: Vice-President of the Italian  
Commission for Intercountry Adoptions,  
DANIELA BACCHETTA

### 9.00 am

Return to the working sessions  
MARIA TERESA VINCI, General Director  
of the Technical Secretariat of the Italian  
Commission for Intercountry Adoptions

### 9.15 am

Lecture  
DAVID BRODZINSKY, Professor emeritus  
of Developmental and clinical psychology,  
Rutgers University (New Jersey, USA)  
and research & project Director, Evan B.  
Donaldson Adoption Institute, New York  
*Ethnic issues in intercountry adoptions:  
preparing and supporting adoptive families*

### 10.30 am

GRAZIELLA FAVARO, Pedagogist and expert in  
intercultural education. Scientific Coordinator  
of the National workshop on interculturalism  
*Adoption and interculturalism: from  
awareness to skills*

### 11.15 am Coffee break

### 11.30 am

MARCO CHISTOLINI, Psychologist and  
psychotherapist, intercountry adoption's  
expert  
*Ethnic roots and going back to the Country of  
origin in the process of building one's identity*

### 12.00 am

Round table  
*Intercultural specificities from pre to post-  
adoption*  
ALINA AFAKOEVNA LEVITSKAYA Adoption  
Department Director, Russian Federation  
VLADIMIR LVOVIC KABANOV, Education and  
Science Ministry, Russian Federation  
ALPHONSINE SAWADOGO, Foster care and  
adoption Department Director, Burkina Faso  
ILARIA FOLLI, Provincial adoption  
coordination, for the Local Services  
MILENA SANTERINI, for the Accredited  
Bodies  
MARIO ZEVOLA, Judge, for the Juvenile Courts  
Chair: GRAZIELLA FAVARO

### 1.45 pm

DANIELA BACCHETTA, Vice-President of  
the Italian Commission for Intercountry  
Adoptions  
*Wrap up (of proposal)*

### 2.00 pm

End

