TOPIC: ORPHANAGES & RELATED IA ISSUES

MY WORK:
Last 25 years: Kids

CAP & CAP Premises

- Kids important & Underserved
- Kids particularly Powerless
- Representing them a Challenge for related reasons

Today topic characteristic: Kids in Orphanages bc
Underrepresented/Powerless; IA limited bc Kids Undervalued,
Pawns used for Adult Agendas

Role CRC plays in area also characteristic:

- Ultimate Child Rights Charter
- Anti-IA provisions that have nothing to do with Kids’ Rights,
  Everything to do with Nation State Sovereignty Rights

ORPHANAGES:

Starting point should be:
What do Kids need? To grow up in nurturing parenting family

Leads to Human Rights position: Kids have Fund Right to Family (Parents) Day 1 on – Permanency also key; Core Human Right bc leads to ability to enjoy other Human Rights

Kids Rights Priority: Bc are the future; Bc are ultimate powerless group so have to try to give Priority if want even Equality

Orphanages don’t serve Kids’ Needs & thus violate Fundamental Human Rights

True whether “bad” or “good”
Sometimes can be better than alternatives – but still bad option
Lots of Agreement on this:
  o Way Forward Initiative
  o UNICEF even agrees

Orphanages Definition: Institutions for Kids not in Parental Care

Unparented Kids shld be focus
Policy Issue: 90% may have technical “parents” & of those many surrendered for Poverty reasons
  o So?? For many, hold them for Parents’ sake; But if believe Kids have Rights??

IA PLACE IN LARGER ORPHANAGE/UNPARENTERED KID PICTURE

Small: at maximum 40,000 out of multi millions
Not ideal solution: Ideal is solve Poverty, War, Disease, Chaos, and enable Birth Parents to Raise Kids (almost always)

But we should promote IA:

- For most Unparented Kids in Orphanages: By far best solution of available alternatives
- Could easily expand tenfold or hundredfold
- Not simply a useless “bandaid”: Magic transformation of lives & life potential for thousands/hundreds of thousands at no cost

Does IA interfere with reaching Ideal, helping larger group?

- Don’t know for sure but seems to me No, more likely helps
- If don’t know, how justify Trade-Off?

POLICY & PRACTICE DEVELOPMENTS

Chart

Why? The forces at work:

- Countries of Origin
- Adoptive Parent Countries
- UNICEF et al

Key Policy Issues for Future: our IA Policy Statement

- IA as Good Option on the Table, not Last Resort
- No Holding Periods in honor of in-country Preference
- IA as better than Paid Foster Care
- Address Adoption Abuses through Punishing Law Violators
ROLE OF LAW?

Law written by Adults

CRC: see my Pros & Cons article

Hague Convention:

- Changed mid-negotiations by Romania “scandal” and anti-IA lobbyists so facilitation became dirty word
- Interpreted dishonestly by Hague Permanent Bureau & UNICEF to mean No Private Intermediaries so locked down Central & South America
- Not necessarily an obstacle but no great help – exists and have to deal with
- Could even help by helping structure to eliminate Abuses and providing Political Cover for Countries of Origin