

REPLACE

REPLACE CHILDREN BACK INTO FAMILIES

REPLACE THE NEED FOR ORPHANAGES

International
Child
Campaign

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Everyday children around the world are separated from their parents because

death or illness
neglect or abuse
conflict or disaster
but

the main reason is
the parents are
**too poor to care for their
children**



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Many people want to help ...



The question is ... how?

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Before 1989 people did what they thought was best, with some good results and some bad results.



Adoption

Fostering

Donations

Emigration

Orphanages

Providing jobs

Family support

Paying for education

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After many years of study and after much discussion between the 196 countries in the world – the United Nations published **The Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

This Convention is a rulebook dealing with the needs and rights of children.

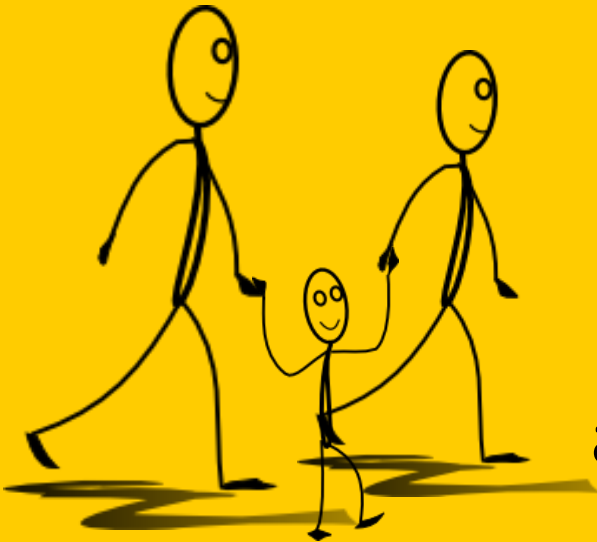


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The Convention on the Rights of the Child says

“a 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”

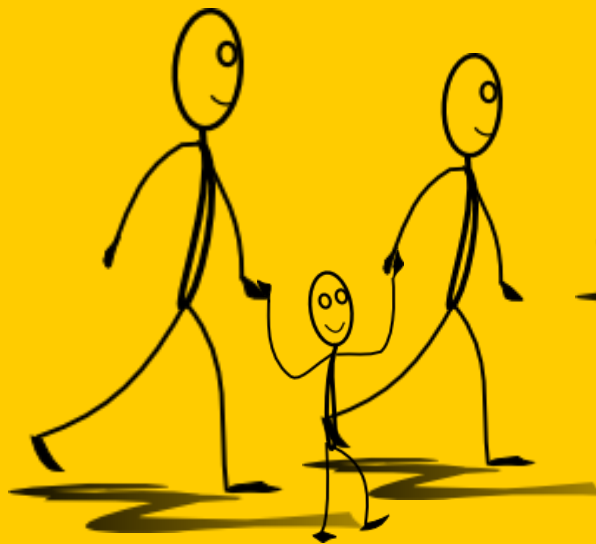
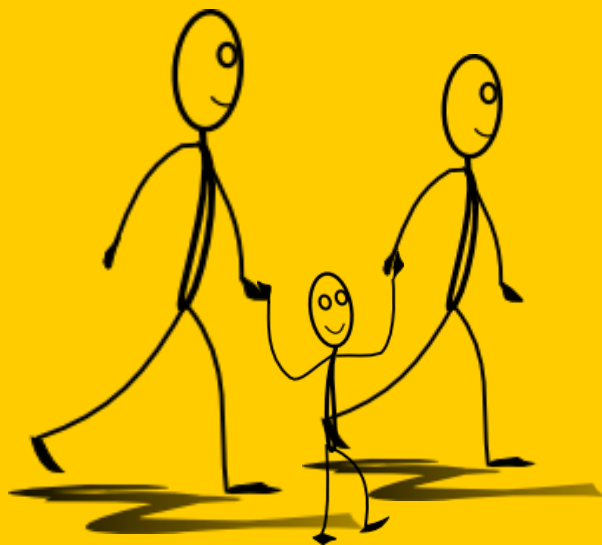


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The Convention gives us the answer to
'how do we help?'

A child should grow up in a family environment

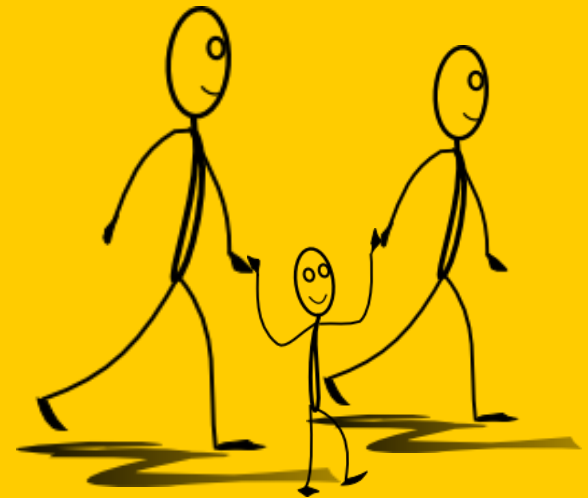


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All our efforts should be directed to preventing separation and reuniting children who have been separated with their family (or arrange for them to live with other families).



Turning families in difficulty into happy families.



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And yet, today, millions of children are living in orphanages.

Why?



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We know that placing children in orphanages harms their development, physically and mentally.

It puts them at much greater risk of abuse and other crimes.

Later in life those children are more likely to dropout, be homeless, have depression, take drugs, turn to crime or commit suicide.



We know family life is better than orphanage life.

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But we have to do something. We can't just leave children homeless, hungry and without an education.



Correct. We have to do something. It's important to do the right thing, not the wrong thing.

The right thing is to help their parents provide a home, food and an education. If that's not going to work, help find another family.



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But how can they live with family if they are orphans?



Most children in orphanages have a living family.

Even if their mother and father have died, they could live with uncles and aunties or grandparents. If that is not possible, they could live with foster parents or even be adopted.



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Surely an orphanage is better than a bad family?



Children need to be protected from parents that abuse and neglect them.

Children need help if their parents are too poor to provide for them.



BUT a child needs a family. Either help make their own one better, or help find another.

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Surely there are good orphanages that care properly for children?



All orphanages, good or bad, do the same thing. They separate children from family life.

Remember, the Convention says it is a child's right to live in a family.



This is based on lots of evidence showing that a family is important for proper development.

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Helping parents to support their children seems complicated. Orphanages seem easier.



Many people think that way, but if they knew the harm done by the orphanages, they would not support them. They would help the right way.

Many countries don't use orphanages because of the damage done to children and because it is a child's right to live in a family.



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Is it cheaper to look after poor children in an orphanage?



No. It is much cheaper to support a poor family than to place their children in an orphanage.



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Is it because countries haven't had time to change since the Convention was agreed?



It is over 20 years since the Convention. A whole extra generation of children have grown up in orphanages since the Convention. We mustn't allow that to happen to another generation.

It may seem strange, but governments are not the main problem



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Most governments have stopped supporting orphanages since they signed the Convention.

Yet many new orphanages have been set up in the last 20 years.



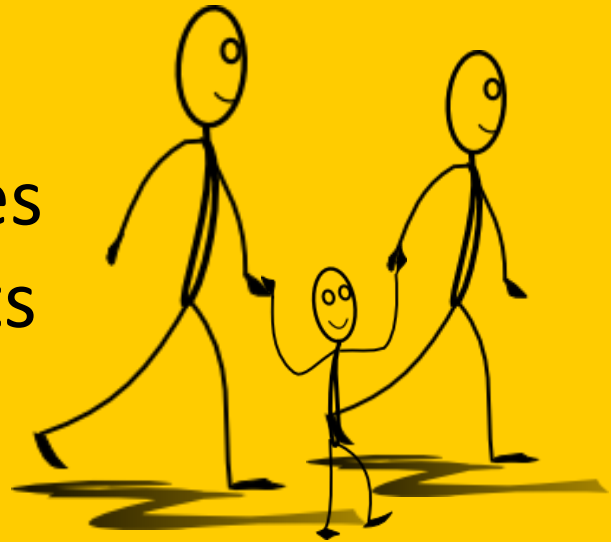
The vast majority of orphanages are supported and kept going by well-meaning individuals, churches, charities and schools.

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Today, everyone who wants to help homeless and hungry children should remember that family life is a child's right.

We need to get children out of orphanages and back into families.

We need to support families so that children and parents are not separated.



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What can you do?

You can educate yourself and others about child rights and the right to a family.

You can raise funds for organisations that get children out of orphanages and that support families.

You can join a campaign to help these children.



**Keep the Family Together
& Prevent Separation**

Emergency Response

Reunification / Kinship Care

Alternative Care

Foster Care

Domestic Adoption

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Orphanages

Intercountry Adoption

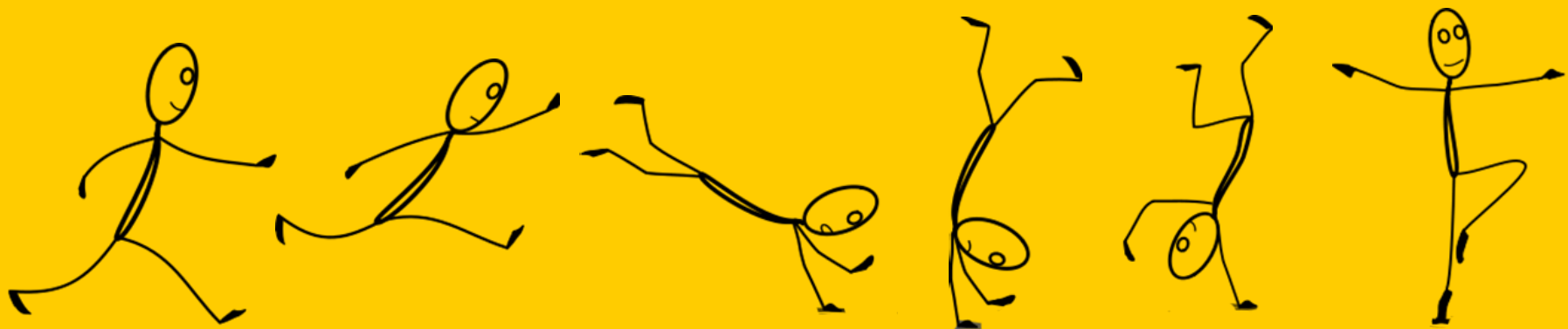
Specialised Residential Care

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