

CHIP

Global Webinar Series :
Preventing and responding to Illicit Intercountry Adoptions

28 May 2026



HCCH Toolkit for Preventing and Addressing Illicit Practices in Intercountry Adoption

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HCCH

- Intergovernmental organisation
- Legislative mandate
- Develops international treaties
- Monitors their practical operation
- Practical impact and benefits for persons, families, and companies



**Convention of 29 May 1993 on
Protection of Children and
Cooperation in respect of
Intercountry Adoption**

Reasons for a Convention

Late 1960'

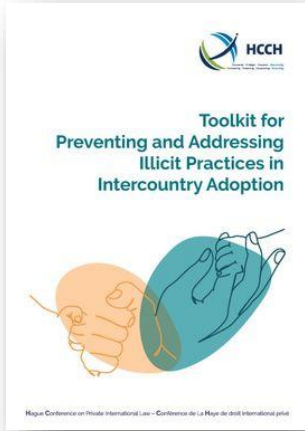
- Increasing number of intercountry adoptions (ICA)
- Many abuses
- Absence of guarantees, procedures and monitoring

Objectives of the Convention

- Strengthening and expanding the principles of the CRC (Art. 21)
- **Minimum safeguards** for the protection of children who are the subject of ICA
- **Legal framework for cooperation** between States
- **Preventing abuses** associated with ICA
- **Automatic recognition** of ICA carried out in accordance with the Convention in all Contracting States

HCCH Publications

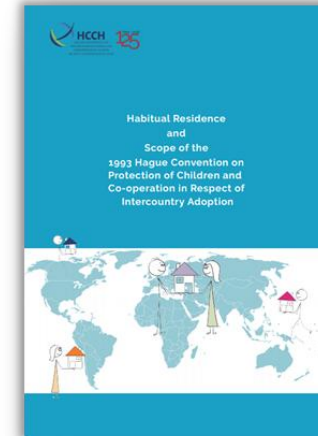
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Toolkit Illicit Practices



Forms under the Convention



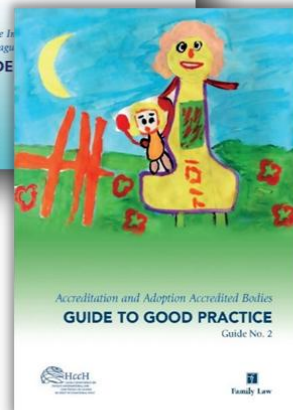
Note on habitual residence



Explanatory Report



Guides to Good Practice



Information Brochure



Table on the costs



Note on the financial aspects

Toolkit for Preventing and Addressing Illicit Practices in Intercountry Adoption



[Toolkit – link](#)

HCCH Working Group on Preventing / Addressing Illicit Practices on ICA



2016 - 2022

Part I



Fact Sheets on
Illicit Practices

Part II



Checklist to Assist
Decision Making by
Central Authorities

Part III



Model Procedure
to Respond to
Illicit Practices

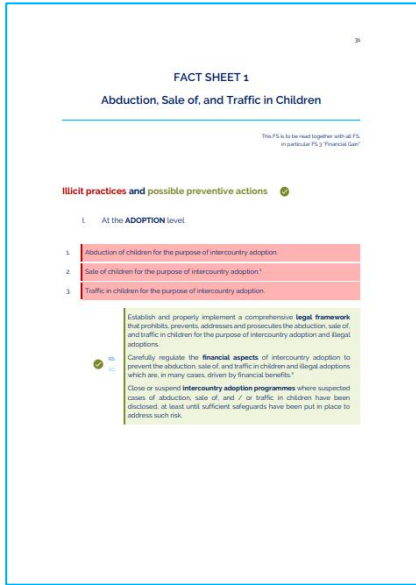
Part IV



Guidelines on
Enhancing Cooperation
and Coordination to
Prevent and Address
Illicit Practices,
including Patterns

Scope of application of the Toolkit

- Intercountry Adoptions (ICA) under the 1993 Adoption Convention
- Contracting States are encouraged also to apply it, as far as possible, to ICA between a Contracting State and a non-Contracting State
- Contracting States might consider referring to the Toolkit in dealing with suspected illicit practices arising from adoptions that occurred prior to the coming into force of the Convention in their State



- FS 1 - Abduction, **Sale** of, and Traffic in Children
- FS 2 - **Circumventing** the **Application** of the Convention
- FA 3 - Improper **Financial** and other Gain
- FS 4 - Misrepresentation of **Identity**
- FS 5 - Forgery and Falsification of **Documents**

- FS 6 - Failure to give due Consideration to **Subsidiarity**
- FS 7 - Adoptability: Lack of, or Deficient, **Consent**
- FS 8 - Misrepresentation of Adoptability of Children of **Unknown Parents**
- FS 9 - Circumventing the Procedure to Apply for Adoption, the Preparation and Assessment of **PAPs**, as well as the Socialisation Period
- FS 10 - Circumventing **Matching**
- FS 11 - No Preservation of, or Unlawful Denial of Access to, Information regarding **Origins**

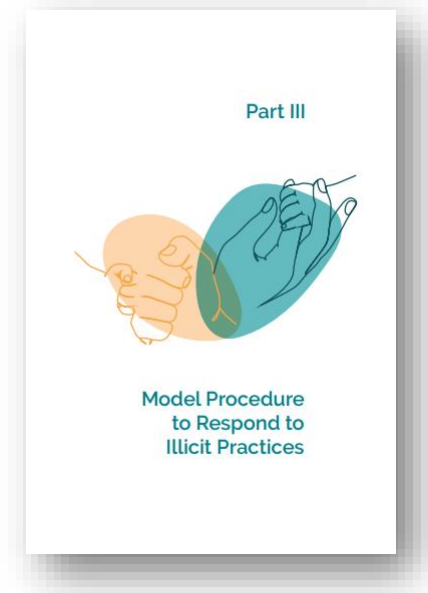
Part II



Checklist to Assist
Decision Making by
Central Authorities

Where, at any step in the intercountry adoption process, reasonable doubts of illicit activity arise, Central Authorities should immediately suspend any further decision regarding the child's life plan and refer to Part III "*Model Procedure*" and Part IV "Guidelines", for guidance on possible actions to be taken in light of the particular circumstances. Central Authorities should also refer to these tools where reasonable doubts of illicit activity arise after the adoption order and the certificate of conformity have been issued.

- Step 1: Disclosure and recording of suspected cases of illicit practices
- If appropriate: considerations of temporary **child protection measures**
- Ongoing step: **services** to impacted persons
- Step 2: Investigation
- At the appropriate time: **informing** authorities, bodies and persons concerned
- Step 3: Possible actions following the investigation



Part IV



**Guidelines on
Enhancing Cooperation
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Thank you very much
for your attention



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