

**Statement from the cooperating Dutch License Holders concerning the presented advice from the Dutch Council for the Administration of Criminal Justice and Protection of Juveniles (RSJ) on Wednesday, November 2, 2016**

*Prenote: This statement – with the exception of the footnote – may only and exclusively be used and quoted integrally.*

The intercountry adoption license holders received the 100 page advice from the RSJ to the Dutch Minister of Security and Justice on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 08:18 a.m. This advice is public and has the purpose of giving input to the policy development of the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice. The license holders will respond, but first we need time to read the advice carefully, to assess the advice and to present our response to the Minister.

Central to the license holders is that the interests of the child are being served with adoption and that in a careful and justified manner the application of the international and national legislation concerning adoption can take place.

Worldwide there are still many children growing up without parents. According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Adoption Convention it is a fundamental right of children to be given the opportunity to grow up in a family with whom they have a permanent legal bond. The Netherlands is party to these Conventions which primary considerations are the best interests of the child<sup>1</sup>.

The number of parents that are open or can be open to the adoption of a child is still decreasing, while the number of children who have to grow up in a family-replacing situation are still increasing. The placement of children who are available for adoption in a permanent family-replacing situation, while there are possibilities for intercountry adoption, violates the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Adoption Convention.

On behalf of the cooperating license holders (Foundation Wereldkinderen, Foundation Child and Future, Dutch Adoption Agency, Meiling, and Adoption Foundation A New Way),

Mrs. Sanne Buursink-de Graaf

Chairwoman 2015-2016

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<sup>1</sup> In the Guide to Good Practice of the Convention the subsidiarity of children is described in Chapter 2.1.1. This includes a hierarchy of protective measures, including the duration prior to a measure being taken for the child. This Chapter has been added as an attachment to this statement.