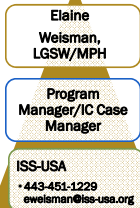


**THE BIG PICTURE: TOOLS TO SERVE
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND
TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES**



INTRODUCTIONS



ISS-USA: WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Mission

ISS-USA's mission is to mobilize a domestic and international network of legal and social work professionals to efficiently connect vulnerable children, adults and families separated by international borders to the services and support they need.



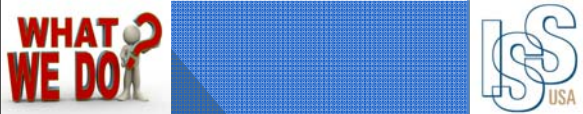
ISS-USA : WHAT WE DO

Intercountry case management: Connecting children and families across international borders.

Repatriation of U.S. Citizens: Giving temporary care and assistance to U.S. citizens living abroad who return to the United States due to a variety of extreme circumstances.

Reintegration services for returning immigrants: Connecting returning immigrants to services in their home country through our network

Research, Training and Technical Assistance: Providing support to social workers, lawyers, judges, federal agencies and other stakeholders on best practices when working with children in the U.S. whose cases have an international dimension.





WHY CHILDREN ARE SEPARATED FROM THEIR FAMILIES

- Parent(s) are incarcerated
- Parent(s) are deceased
- Parent(s)' rights are terminated due to abuse and/or neglect
- Parent(s) abandon the child
- Family Relocation
- Divorce

DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL SITUATIONS

- Parent abducts the child and moves her to another country
- Child is trafficked
- Parent(s) are sent to their home country through immigration enforcement
- Migration of some family members to another country

INTERNATIONAL SITUATIONS



THE REALITY OF OUR POPULATION

- 1 in 4 American children have at least 1 parent who was born outside the United States;
 - 1 in 3 Undocumented Parents have at least one US-born child
- Over 5000 children in Foster Care due to a deported parent
- Over 5 million Americans live overseas (excluding military and government employees).



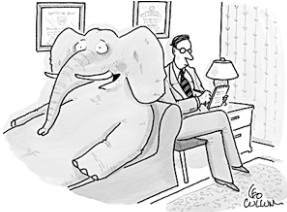
ISS-USA'S PREMISE IN ALL CROSS BORDER CHILD PROTECTION CASES

ISS-USA holds the belief that states and the federal government must follow the same principles and guidelines set forth in the ICPC and other domestic child protection laws when the potential kinship connection is in a foreign country.






THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM



"I'm right there in the room, and no one even acknowledges me."




THE REALITY FOR MANY UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

Table 1. UAC Initial Case Completion by Outcome and Legal Representation
(July 18, 2014, through June 28, 2016)

Outcome	Total		With Legal Representation		Without Legal Representation	
	Cases	% of Total	Cases	% of Total	Cases	% of Total
Removal	12,977	41.7%	2,583	13.4%	10,394	88.2%
Termination	7,799	25.1%	7,317	37.9%	482	4.1%
Voluntary Departure	906	2.9%	619	3.2%	287	2.4%
Administrative Closure	8,846	28.5%	8,277	42.9%	569	4.8%
Other Administrative Outcome	477	1.5%	431	2.2%	46	0.4%
Immigration Relief	86	0.3%	83	0.4%	3	0.0%
Total	31,091	100.0%	19,310	100.0%	11,781	100.0%

Source: Executive Office for Immigration Review, Unaccompanied Children Priority Code Adjudication, July 18, 2014-June 28, 2016, unpublished data provided to CRS, August 31, 2016.
Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals presented because of rounding.



OTHER TROUBLING TRENDS

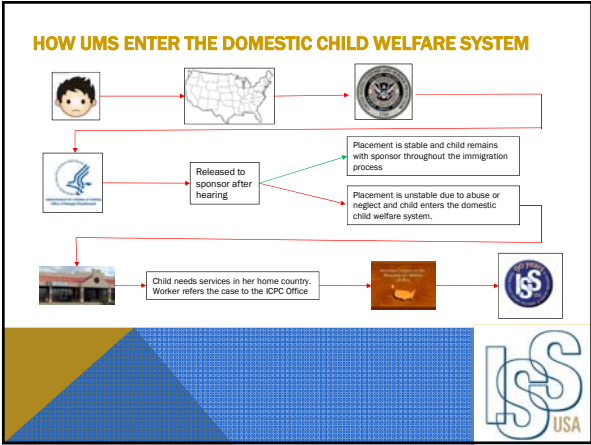
- Cuts to Family Programs
- Funding Cuts to Sanctuary Cities
- Status of Parental Interest Directive
- Undocumented US children




WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR STATES




At least 5100 children who are presently in foster care whose parents have been detained or deported
COLORLINES.org





PERMANENCY PLANNING IN THE BEST INTEREST OF UNACCOMPANIED MINORS
AVAILABLE SERVICES AND RESOURCES



CONCURRENT PLANNING

Conduct search for family resources throughout US and internationally

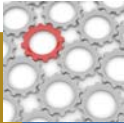

Communicate with family interested in participating

Consider parents or family members who have been deported

Evaluate all permanency options by prioritizing best interest*

We have to be prepared for the possibility that a child will return to his or her home country, even if we don't think it's in their best interest

**This Includes abandoning value Judgements that a child will always be better off in the U.S.*

REPATRIATION SERVICE PLANNING: SOME QUESTIONS

Who are the supportive networks or resources in country? – Have I engaged them in this process?

If the child were to return to his/her home country,

- What resources are available to meet specific needs?
- Will they be safe?
- What will he/she need?
- How do we know integration is happening?




SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL PERMANENCY PLANNING

Family Finding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person Tracing • Document Tracing (birth certificate, death certificate, etc.)
Family Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of child in care, or serving othe legal documents • International home studies • Background Checks • Community Surveys
Family Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve international family members in Family Team Meetings and other permanency planning activities
Track Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Welfare Checks • Post Placement Follow up Checks
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for legal and social work professionals working on cases with international aspect • Technical Assistance on wide variety of issues related to international child welfare.



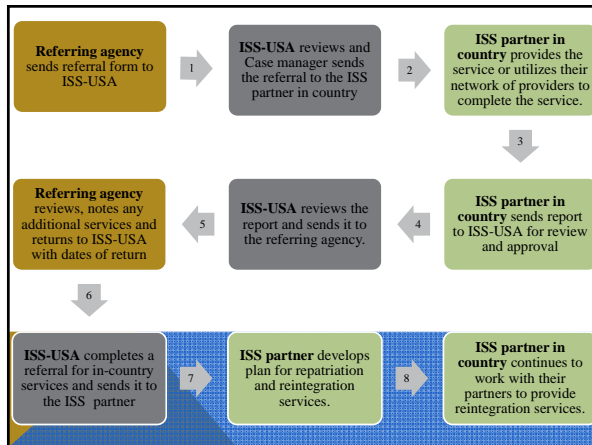

REGIONAL CAPACITY

Increase in requests for services and
Technical Assistance

Changes in Immigration Enforcement

Social Work Service Planning – the
Community Survey Tool





OVERCOMING BARRIERS

1) Communication

2) Lack of Knowledge about:

- A) Social Work Case Practice overseas
- B) Laws in foreign countries that govern child protection, custody issues, etc.
- C) Domestic Immigration Law and Procedures
- D) Resources available to assist with these cases

3) Mistrust or frustration with foreign social service or legal entities (particularly in terms of the time it takes to get a service completed)



THE ROLE OF STATE ICPC OFFICES

- Remind staff that they must ask EVERY family if there are resources for a child outside of your jurisdiction, including outside of the United States.
- Act as a conduit of information for local office staff ;
- Refer case workers with questions about locating and evaluating potential permanency options outside the U.S. to ISS-USA;
- Refer requests for services outside the U.S. to ISS-USA or other appropriate entities (embassies, etc.);
- Call or e-mail ISS-USA when you have a question or need assistance on a potential international case;



OTHER RESOURCES

1. **ISS-USA:** question@iss-usa.org
2. **The U.S. Embassy in the country where the family is.** <http://www.usembassy.gov/>
3. **The consulate in the United States of the country where the family is located.** <http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/ris/fco/>
4. **Local and national law enforcement agencies in the foreign country** <http://www.interpol.int/>



QUESTIONS