



ABAY (Blue Nile)

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Dear Mrs. Yayesh,

Abay, as an association for the development of Ethiopia, created a work group for adoption and acts as well as a representative of many associates and adoptive parents in Ethiopia. Many of those parents have their adoption file still in process in Ethiopia. We would like to submit to the Ethiopian Authorities' attention our proposal to consider the Adoption Process of Children with Special Needs as a different, but parallel process to that one of healthy children.

In the course of the last years we had direct contact with orphanages and could observe that many adoptable children were not considered for international adoption due to some illness or disability. For several reasons, these children are forced to live without a family in orphanages, whilst most of them are curable with an appropriate treatment and with the support of their parents.

We know that there are two Spanish Adoption Agencies who carry a parallel line for this kind of adoptions, namely Cielo-133 (Cielo abierto a la diversidad) and Mundiadopta (Tesfa). Both Adoption Agencies are doing a great job in this regard by encouraging the adoption of these children. Unfortunately, these Adoption Agencies do not work in all the autonomous communities and consequently are not operating in all the Spanish territory, but only in those communities where they are authorized to do so. Therefore we want to propose to extrapolate these programs to all other Spanish Adoption Agencies, so that each Adoption Agency can control all the adoptable children with special needs in the orphanage and that parents with a request for children with special needs are registered on a separate list.

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On the other hand we would recommend as well that the list of children with special needs is common to all Adoption Agencies so that these children can have more opportunities for adoption, considering that the number of parents that propose themselves for these children is only a reduced number.

Another important consideration is that once a child with special needs has been assigned, it follows up a different process when finalizing the adoption process. Priority should be given to those files as we understand that the requests for adoption of children with special needs are limited and in many cases waiting time in an orphanage can worsen any possible treatment to be applied to these children once they are adopted or even result that a long wait originates undesirable evolutions.

We believe that all the Adoption Agencies should promote the adoption of these children. There are parents that do not consider the possibility to adopt a child with special needs because no one has explained them what it consists of and what the reality in orphanages is. We believe that all Adoption Agencies should have a separate program for the adoption of these children and they should inform all those who are interested in adoption from Ethiopia.

We are conscious about the Ethiopian Authorities' concern especially for these children. Abay's work group for adoption remains at your entire disposal to collaborate with you on this subject as well as others.

Yours sincerely,

Abay - Work Group for Adoption

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