Mon 10/11/2008 10:46 AM

Hi Everyone,

once again we are being inundated with a campaign run specifically to provide for the needs of the infertile. After receiving Meg's email, (ARMS SA), I thought I would enlighten everyone about the supposed "vindictive' campaign run by adult adoptees. You can make up your minds about who is or isn't vindictive. The whole discussion is still on the net at the following URL:
http://intercountryadopteesupportnetwork.blog.com/3104782/

At the bottom of this email Meg has included the address to send your complaints to. Enough is enough.

The following is a short extract from the last chapter of my thesis:

Lynelle Beveridge, the Founder and Director, of an intercountry adoptee support network, opened up her website to discuss the terminology used by Furness and the pro-adoption lobby, after being inundated by distressed adoptees. Lynelle politely addressed the issue by pointing out that many adoptees found the use of language on the orphan angel website and in their media campaign to be insensitive:

> the name of the website – am I the orphan and my adoptive parents the angels? Or, "save the child" concept – what about the adoptive family who mutually benefit from adopting and the natural extended family who have lost their child legally forever? Also, the launch of Adoption Awareness week on Mother's Day – as one adoptee pointed out, the insensitivity of this when it is the one day adoptees keenly feel the loss of their mother….the campaign seems to promote change that benefits only the prospective adoptive parents and it appears to uphold the USA model of adoption as the end goal…1[1][1]

Rather than take on board the adoptees' concerns, Furness went on the ICASN website and attempted to intimidate Lynelle and silence the discussion. How ironic, when Lynelle and the adoptees she supports, are the very persons for whom Furness's organisation, orphanangels, supposedly exists. The following is her response in toto.

RESPONSE FROM DEBORRA-LEE

LYNELLE
Here we go again.

I have read your recent attack on my efforts to initiate reform within a government system that has been severely lacking for decades.

1[1] Lynelle Beveridge Founder/Director Intercountry Adoptee Support Network (ICASN) http://intercountryadopteesupportnetwork.blog.com/3104782

Again I will address your ill informed statements of what ORPHAN ANGELS is about.

Firstly as I stated previously ,my priority and of those also involved with the group is about providing a family who will nurture and care for a child that has been abandoned by either war, disease, poverty or unforseen circumstances. WEBSTERS DICTIONARY ... ORPHAN ... A person who is deprived of parents by either death or desertion.

As an adoptee you no longer fit that category, obviously. Also the word orphan does not describe the child it describes their journey.

And the angels part of the name is up for interpretation, you can pick what works for you. I have heard there has been exception to the terminology of SAVE THE CHILDREN, can you explain to me what part of that is offensive when you can see an infant who is left by a roadside or a 2 year old that is roaming the streets with no possible way of fending for themselves and that if there is someone that can come to their rescue, why is that a problem saying that they are saving a child from the alternative ... Which could be left to die. A soldier that is lying bleeding in a field of battle and a comrade drags them to safety, would that not be considered saving that soldier. Arent we all in society trying to save each other in some way or other, by stepping up to the plate and assisting those who need help.

That brings me to the other word that seems to cause friction which is HUMANITARIAN. I do see facilitating bringing a child to safety as humanitarian. The act of being humane should be something to be revered by us all, and to be practiced daily in everyday life towards our fellow man.

You have continually harped on that we are only about the adoptive parents rights, which is categorically not where we are coming from. When I began this journey, what motivated me was to be able to assist the kids who needed to be helped and I saw addressing the system as a way to make this happen. Along the way I discovered the injustice and the lack of care and energy put into INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION and how badly people were being treated within the system. This was not a priority for our government and meanwhile children were being left behind, either to die or to be institutionalised for their entire childhood. I want you to be clear on this point once and for all, as you keep regurgitating this misinformed statement.

ORPHAN ANGELS is by no means neglecting the larger picture of inter-country adoption and I have addressed a lot of the points you mention, I am fully aware of the big picture but one needs to get in the door before hitting them with requests. Journalists are not interested in the minutae of details when telling their story. My intention was to bring awareness to the issue and make politicians and the general public sit up and take notice, then having their full attention hit them with what is needed.

We are not just upholding the USA MODEl of ICA, I have just stated in my interviews that their system is far more eficient in processing than ours. Why are prospective adoptive couples in australia waiting up to 8 years for a child when I know there are millions of abandoned children wanting a home.

We would never support unethical adoptions and expect due dilligence to be in place and that would be part of the governments job to ensure that this would be taken care of.

I agree that both adoptive parents and the adopted child both benefit, so it is a win/win situation. One could see that as both parties being saved. I couldn't agree more that post-adoptive services be in place, I have

already stated that.

In regard to our AWARENESS WEEK being close to mothers day, it is not being launched on mothers day it is shortly after and we were given that date by the powers that be due to other campaigns throughout the year already having other available dates.

Finally, I would just like to state that by you initiating this attack on the work we are doing you are creating a civil war within the community, this will only hold up momentum to move forward in a positive way. It creates more negativity and beurocracy that everyone has been dealing with for years on the other side.

If you stood back and looked at the big picture I think you would see that We all want the same thing. Orphan Angels is not the bad guy, everyone involved has good intention and wants what is best for "the child".

I am shocked that you can come to me for help in connecting with my very dear friend jane aronson, whose organisation is called ORPHAN RANGERS and invite me to your event and then you turn around and stab me in the back. By the way I did send your request to jane as even though we had disagreed in the past I looked at the big picture and not my personal agenda in the hope of achieving a good outcome for the issue.

I ask you to reconsider your campaign of trying to enlist people to deter our efforts for the benefit of a greater outcome for the kids.

Sincerely

DEBORRA-LEE

From: Meg Lewis [mailto:megumi_1956@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 08, 2008 5:25 PM
Subject: Article in Weekend Australian Magazine

There is an article in todays Weekend Australian Magazine Nov 8-9 2008 on page 12 in the Double Talk column re Debora Lee-Furness and "her fellow adoption campaigner Janine Weir".

It would be good if they got a few letters to the editors about Furness's claims about the "anti adoption culture out there" and the"103 million orphaned children in the world...how can we have two-year-olds walking the streets, fending for themselves, looking through rubbish for food?", "people kept asking me why is it so difficult to adopt here..hang on I'm trying to get care for these kids in Africa".

Weir says "" a while ago there were a couple of blogs by some adult adoptees who had their own issues. It was so vindictive.."

Lets inundate the editor with responses! email: magazine@theaustralian.com.au

It says Adoption Awareness week is from Nov 17 to 23.

Meg