

INTERCOUNTRY
adoption centre



A get together for adopted adults is being organised by **Intercountry Adoption Centre (IAC)** and the **Transnational and Transracial Adoption Group (TTAG)** for **Saturday 20 March 2010**. This focus will be **Intercountry Adoptees on a Journey of Discovery and Searching**. The presenter is Judith Craig, a Haitian born adoptee and a qualified Social Worker. Her bio data is attached.

The programme will be as follows:

10.30 a.m: Registration and coffee

11.00 a.m: Introductions and getting to know a little about each other

11.30 a.m: Presentation by Judith Craig:

Questions to ask prior to searching:

- What are you searching for
- Methods of Searching
- Searching with Information
- Searching as a foundling
- Considerations before you travel to your country of birth

The day will provide an opportunity to share information on various search methods. A resource list will also be provided of suggested reading material.

1.00 p.m: Lunch

2.00 p.m: Discussion/feedback of points arising from the morning session and sharing of experiences

3.50 p.m: Evaluation of the day

4.00 p.m: Close

The event is open to:

- transnational adoptees (i.e. those born in another country and adopted into another country in the UK or elsewhere) who may or may not be considering searching or have already searched for information relating to their adoption and/or birth family in their country of birth
- adoptees who were born in the UK and are searching, considering searching or not, or have already searched for a relative/s who may live in another country (e.g. USA, India, Trinidad or France)
- adults who have been long-term fostered (and never legally adopted) and who are searching, considering searching or have already searched for information and/or birth family in another country.

It is not open for family members and/or partners as per the decision of the group at the previous meetings.

Date: Saturday 20 March 2010

Time: 10:30a.m – 4p.m

Cost: Free

Venue: Intercountry Adoption Centre Training Venue, 2nd Floor 71-73 High Street, Barnet, Hertfordshire EN5 5UR.

Nearest tube: High Barnet (on the Northern Line, Zone 5)

Please bring a packed lunch with you. Alternatively, you can buy something from a nearby bakery or shop. Light refreshments/drinks will be provided.

For those of you who will be traveling to London the night before, details of local B and Bs are available from the Intercountry Adoption Centre.

To book a place at the workshop please phone Grace Rogers on 020 8447 4751 or email her at info@icacentre.org.uk by 8 March 2010.

Information on Presenter Judith Craig

Judith Craig is a Haitian-Canadian who was born near Cap Haitien, Haiti in 1979. She was discovered was found abandoned roadside with no identifying information. She was taken to the local hospital where she received care for a few weeks before moving to an Orphanage in downtown Port-au-Prince where she resided until her adoption at almost 4 months of age.

Judith has always been curious about her roots and discovering her culture. Adopted into a very loving white Canadian family, Judith had a happy childhood and has a good relationship with her family. However as a child she always had to explain to people why her mother, father and 3 of 4 siblings were white, (Judith's younger brother is also adopted from Haiti although they do not share a biological connection). Explaining her story repeatedly over the years always stirred in Judith the desire to know more about where she came from and she doesn't recall a time when she hasn't been curious to know who her birth family was.

Going to Haiti in October 2007 was an enriching experience which allowed Judith to appreciate what life in Haiti could have been like for her. She travelled through several Haitian cities and towns and was able to experience the beauty of the island, from its glorious mountains and stunning beaches, bustling cities and charming villages. Judith is proud to be Haitian and is continuing to learn about Haiti's rich culture and history. Being surrounded by the music, language and foods has increased Judith's desire to practice in all these areas.

Judith moved to London, United Kingdom in 2005 to pursue her career in Social Work. She works in a London Borough in the Children and Families department, working with children in the care system planning for their permanency. She is also involved in two UK based charities; Thank U (www.thanku-uk.org) that promotes Adoption and Fostering in the UK with an emphasis on the African-Caribbean communities and supports the welfare of vulnerable children and older people in the UK, Africa and the Caribbean. United Haitians in the UK (www.uhuk.org) is an organisation of Haitians living in the UK supporting children's education in Haiti. Judith also attends a social networking group Trans-racial and Trans-national Adoptees (TTAG) where she has built long lasting and meaningful relationships.