ADOPTION ICEBERG

WHAT WE CAN SEE Altruistic Adoptees should be What we see on the surface motivations grateful to adopt is a small part of a larger, complex story. Life begins Couples with Adoptees 'Happily ever after' fairytale infertility gain a new at adoption adopt family narrative Saving Our family is Growing Adoptees Rescued a child complete are lucky orphans a family Parent Adoptive parents Нарру Finding Love fixes benevolence reunions are perfect parents families everything Adoption is Adopted Not looking Opportunities for Religious Expensive & better than children are like your the adoptee motivations long journey to adoption institutional care shielded from family (education, to adopt health, safety) racism Not wanting to hurt Adoption is Confronting Lifelong education Secrecy & Learning a lifelong withholding & learning about the adoptee - not about racial motivations journey information from talking about identity & bias for adopting adoption adoptee difficult topics Familial and/or Closed Adoption legal Illicit adoption Identity Silent Belonging institutional abuse reform & records practices struggles dilemmas (sexual, physical, advocacy emotional, neglect) Loss of family Adoption Pre-adoption Lost Connecting Disenfranchised Mental health trauma trauma privilege connections with birth grief challenges culture Government oversight Complex birth Not sharing Building of forming a family -Citizenship Returning to family reunions language with relationships with regulated + monitored processes + legal birth country that go on and on birth family birth families adoption process identity documents Healing that Adoptee community Navigating Child centered Multiple care Impacts of malnutrition on is lifelong belonging & complex family adoption placements development connection relationships practices Educating family Attachment & Not having In-utero impacts Developmental Different Psychological bonding access to family & friends on from alcohol, impacts from parenting impacts of difficulties with health history adoption realities drug use, poor pre-adoption journey adoption adoptee care experiences pre-natal care Loss of name Public Racial identity Intergenerational Forced adoption Secondary Not belonging trauma/visible struggles trauma practices rejection family Financial burden for Difficulty regulating Pressure to be **Amplifying** Loneliness & adoptees to travel back Unseen overactive grateful adoptee voice & isolation to birth country responses experiences disenfranchised grief Loss of Long parent Adult Stats & risks for Adverse language infertility journeys adoptees around childhood relationship prior to adoption suicide & self-harm challenges experiences Need for therapy Parenting & counselling challenges support

WHAT LIES BENEATH

The Adoption Iceberg shows us the deep-seated effects of adoption on adoptees and their families. It encourages collective thinking about the impacts of adoption related experiences that sit outside of the dominant adoption narrative. It shows how only a small part of the journey is visible whilst the largest part, beneath the surface, remains invisible.

