

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 26 September 2009**.

The programme for the day is 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: Guest for the morning Lemn Sissay

Highly acclaimed poet and playwright, Lemn, will be sharing his experience of searching for and reconnecting with his Ethiopian birth family and his Ethiopian heritage. Lemn was transracially long term fostered in Lancashire in 1967 and then went into residential care at the age of 11 years. At the age of 14, he first met a black person and at 17 years, he discovered that his name was Lemn Sissay and not Norman Greenwood. As an adult, he searched for his Ethiopian birth family, meeting his birth mother at the age of 21 years in Gambia and at the age of 27 years finding out that his birth father had passed away. Lemn is an inspiring and skilled poet and playwright who speaks openly and frankly about his life. He is Southbank Artist in Residence. Lemn is also a radio and TV presenter. His recent plays include 'Something Dark' and 'Why I don't hate white people', both of which focus on his life story. His books of poetry include: Tender Fingers in a Clenched Fist; Rebel Without Applause; Morning Breaks in the Elevator, and Listener.

Further information about Lemn is available at www.lemnssissay.com. Visit the Recordings page and scroll down. On the right hand side, you will find a documentary on The World Service programme African Perspectives in which Lemn talks about his search for his lost family.

1.00 p.m: Lunch

2.00 p.m: Discussion of points arising from the morning session with Lemn Sissay

3.00 p.m: Sharing experiences and strategies for searching for information and birth family

3.50 p.m: Evaluation of the day

4.00 p.m: Close

It 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 26 September 2009

Time: 10:30a.m – 4p.m

Cost: Free

Venue: Intercountry Adoption Centre Training Venue, 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 15 September 2009.