

Black German Heritage & Research Association



Adoption & Childhood Studies Resources

ENGLISH

Resources for adoptees and families, comparative researchers and scholars. ASAC and ICAV are starting points alongside Black, Ethiopian and Asian adoptee voices, childhood studies, oversight resources, presses and journals.

Begin with adoptee perspectives. Peer groups, research associations, clinical or legal services, court advocacy and provider oversight have different functions. Families can use these resources to listen across the lifespan; researchers should protect privacy, obtain consent and respect community knowledge. The Special Collection at Rutgers is in development, with its public celebration planned for February 2027.

Search and filter online: <https://bghra.org/adoption-childhood-studies-resources/>

All 54 entries and official source links are included. Program availability, access conditions, fees and funding cycles may change. Check the provider before applying or making arrangements.

SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH

ASAC: Alliance for the Study of Adoption & Culture



Begin here for interdisciplinary adoption and kinship studies, conferences, publications and creative work. ASAC brings cultural analysis into conversation with adoption experiences and links directly to Adoption & Culture and the Formations book series.

Researchers · Students · Adoptees · Families | International

Source: <https://www.adoptionandculture.org/>

ADOPTEE-LED NETWORKS

ICAV: InterCountry Adoptee Voices



An intercountry adoptee-led network centering lived experience through perspective papers, webinars, research, advocacy and a post-adoption support directory. Especially useful for comparing search, identity, racism, return and citizenship across countries.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | International

Source: <https://intercountryadopteevoices.com/>

BLACK ADOPTEE COMMUNITIES

BGHRA: Black German Adoption & Diaspora

Connect Black German adoptee histories with community testimony, postwar adoption research and the digital archive. Begin with the postwar adoption overview and follow country-specific pages for the United States, Denmark and Austria.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | Germany · US · Europe

Source: <https://bghra.org/postwar-adoptions/>

BLACK ADOPTEE COMMUNITIES

Black Adoption Project



A collective of Black adopted adults, including scholars, artists, historians, archivists and practitioners. Its projects place Black adoptees' interpretations of kinship, history and community at the center.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · International

Source: <https://blackadoptionproject.com/>

BLACK ADOPTEE COMMUNITIES

BADAN: Black African Diaspora Adoptee Network

A network focused on Black African diaspora adoptee community, connection and learning. Use its own public information to explore current participation and activities; this is distinct from an adoption-placement service.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers | Europe · International

Source: <https://badancommunity.org/>

BLACK ADOPTEE COMMUNITIES

Black to the Beginning

Black adult adoptee and family perspectives through storytelling, podcasts, coaching and consultation. A useful listening resource for families seeking to understand the Black adoption experience beyond childhood.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers | US · Online

Source: <https://www.blacktothebeginning.com/>

ETHIOPIA & AFRICAN DIASPORA

Ethiopian Adoptees Foundation

A community for Ethiopian adoptees to connect, explore heritage and support one another. Its stated approach includes spiritual, emotional and professional growth; review the organization's current activities and values.

Adoptees · Families | Ethiopia · US · International

Source: <https://www.eaf-usa.org/about-1>

ETHIOPIA & AFRICAN DIASPORA

Ethiopian Adoptees of the Diaspora & Lions Roaring Far From Home



Explore the Ethiopian adoptee anthology and the work of co-editors Aselefech Evans and Kassaye Berhanu-MacDonald, co-founders of Ethiopian Adoptees of the Diaspora. The book's own site offers writing and community context.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | Ethiopia · International

Source: <https://www.lionsroaringbook.com/editors-writers>

SEARCH & REUNION

Beteseb Felega: Ethiopian Adoption Connection

Supports family connections disrupted by Ethiopian adoption, including searches and support for Ethiopian families. Its Ethiopia-based social workers act for original families; ask directly about scope, consent, fees and current search procedures.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers | Ethiopia · International

Source: <https://ethiopianadoptionconnection.org/>

BLACK ASIAN & KOREAN CONNECTIONS

325KAMRA: Mixed-Race Korean Adoptee Connections



325KAMRA

한국 해외입양인 연합

Korean Adoptee Search Angels

Founded through mixed-race Korean adoptee connections, 325KAMRA supports family reconnection through DNA and family-history work. Particularly relevant to mixed-race and Black Korean family histories; review DNA consent, privacy and database terms before participating.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers | Korea · US · International

Source: <https://www.325kamra.org/about>

BLACK ASIAN & KOREAN CONNECTIONS

Me & Korea: Mosaic & Hapa Tours

A nonprofit serving Korean adoptees and families through heritage, education and return programs. The Mosaic Hapa Tour specifically addresses mixed-race Korean adoptees; ask about future dates, cost, accessibility and preparation.

Adoptees · Families | Korea · US

Source: <https://meandkorea.org/information-for-applicants>

ASIAN ADOPTEE NETWORKS

IKAA: International Korean Adoptee Associations

A worldwide network connecting Korean adoptee associations, local communities and gatherings. Use its network directory to find regional peer organizations, including groups in Europe and North America.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | Korea · US · Europe · International

Source: <https://www.ikaa.org/our-network/>

ADOPTEE-LED NETWORKS

VOICES: A BIPOC Adoptee Community

An adoptee-led community connecting Black, Indigenous and other adoptees of color. Explore current gatherings and programming, and check whether a particular event is for adoptees only or also welcomes families.

Adoptees · Families | US · Online

Source: <https://www.bipocadoptees.org/collab-consult/>

RIGHTS & CITIZENSHIP

Adoptees for Justice

Intercountry adoptee-led education and advocacy addressing adoption, immigration and restorative justice. Use its current materials to follow citizenship advocacy and the experiences of adoptees affected by exclusion or deportation.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers | US · International

Source: <https://www.adopteesforjustice.org/>

SUPPORT & FAMILY LEARNING

IAMAdoptee: Mental Health & Wellness

Created by adoptees for adoptees, with a roadmap of intercountry adoptee wellness resources. Its Seeking Counsel materials help readers consider adoption competence and ask informed questions when choosing support.

Adoptees · Families | US · Online · International

Source: <https://www.iamadoptee.org/>

SUPPORT & FAMILY LEARNING

Pact: An Adoption Alliance

Education, community and support centered on adopted children of color and the people who love them. Pact also facilitates spaces for adult adoptees and former foster youth of color; it additionally provides placement services.

Adoptees · Families · Teachers | US · Online

Source: <https://pactadopt.org/adoption-support-groups/>

SUPPORT & FAMILY LEARNING

Adoption Mosaic

Adoptee-led courses, conversations and facilitated groups for adoptees and the people supporting them. Explore current programming for nuanced discussion across the lifespan rather than a single model of adoption experience.

Adoptees · Families · Teachers | US · Online

Source: <https://adoptionmosaic.com/>

SEARCH & REUNION

International Social Service USA: Search for Origins

Cross-border services for adult adoptees and biological relatives seeking family. Ask about country coverage, records access, privacy, consent and costs; pair professional services with adoptee-led preparation and support.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers | US · International

Source: <https://www.iss-usa.org/our-services/services-for-adults/>

RIGHTS & CITIZENSHIP

Adoptee Rights Law Center

An adoptee-founded legal practice and public information resource on original birth records, citizenship and adoptee rights. Its jurisdiction-specific materials help identify questions to take to qualified counsel.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers | US · Online

Source: <https://adopteerightslaw.com/>

COMPARATIVE ADOPTION

Adoptionspolitisk Forum: Denmark

A critical adoptee perspective on Danish transnational adoption policy and public debate. Danish-language material and selected English texts complement BGHRA's research on Black German children adopted to Denmark.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | Denmark · Europe

Source: <https://www.adoptionspolitiskforum.org/>

PRESSES & JOURNALS

Ohio State University Press: Formations

The specialist series Formations: Adoption, Kinship, and Culture brings interdisciplinary adoption scholarship together. Browse critical work on race, nationality, kinship and archives, and consult current proposal guidance if considering publication.

Researchers · Students · Adoptees · Families | US · International

Source: <https://ohiostatepress.org/books/series/formations.html>

PRESSES & JOURNALS

Adoption & Culture: ASAC Journal

ASAC's scholarly journal publishes work on adoption's intersection with culture, including history, ethics, literature, film and lived experience. Abstracts, access arrangements and submission instructions are available from the publisher.

Researchers · Students · Adoptees | International

Source: <https://ohiostatepress.org/AdoptionCulture.html>

PRESSES & JOURNALS

Rutgers University Press: Families in Focus

Explore comparative scholarship on families, social structures and global change, including The End of International Adoption? This is a broader family-studies series with relevant adoption titles.

Researchers · Students · Families | US · International

Source: <https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/series/families-in-focus>

PRESSES & JOURNALS

NYU Press: Black Korean Adoption Histories

Kori A. Graves's A War Born Family examines African American adoption after the Korean War. A key comparative starting point for connecting Black Korean and Black German postwar histories without treating them as identical.

Researchers · Students · Adoptees · Families | Korea · US

Source: <https://nyupress.org/9781479872329/a-war-born-family/>

PRESSES & JOURNALS

University of Minnesota Press: Adoptee Writing

Outsiders Within: Writing on Transracial Adoption brings adoptee perspectives into critical dialogue about race, power and belonging. Use its contributors and references to extend reading across Black, Asian and Indigenous experiences.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | International

Source: <https://www.upress.umn.edu/9781517910532/outside-within/>

PRESSES & JOURNALS

Duke University Press: Transnational Adoption

Explore Cultures of Transnational Adoption and related work on kinship, migration and political power. The collection includes perspectives from countries of origin, helping researchers move beyond receiving-country narratives.

Researchers · Students · Adoptees | International

Source: <https://www.dukeupress.edu/cultures-of-transnational-adoption>

PRESSES & JOURNALS

Adoption Quarterly: Research across the Lifespan

A multidisciplinary journal addressing adoption, identity, family contact and lifelong development. Use article abstracts and methods to judge the relevance of each study to a particular country, generation or adoptee community.

Researchers · Students · Families | International

Source: <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wado20>

PRESSES & JOURNALS

Jessica Kingsley Publishers: Adoption & Fostering

A practical collection for families and practitioners, including adoption, life-story work and support. Read individual titles critically alongside adoptee-authored work and consider the population and evidence behind each approach.

Families · Teachers · Adoptees · Researchers | International

Source: <https://us.jkp.com/collections/adoption-fostering>

CHILD ADVOCACY & CHILDHOOD STUDIES

CASA/GAL for Children

The national network supports court-appointed volunteer advocacy for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Find a local program to understand the court-based role; CASA is separate from an adult adoptee peer-support group.

Families · Teachers · Researchers · Students | US

Source: <https://nationalcasagal.org/our-work/the-casa-gal-model/>

CHILD ADVOCACY & CHILDHOOD STUDIES

Rutgers-Camden: Childhood Studies

Explore multidisciplinary undergraduate and graduate study, faculty research and events. The department connects historical and cultural analysis with children's lives and representations, providing an academic home for comparative work on adoption and childhood.

Researchers · Students · Families · Teachers | US · International

Source: <https://childhood.camden.rutgers.edu/>

CHILD ADVOCACY & CHILDHOOD STUDIES

SHCY: Society for the History of Children and Youth

A scholarly network for the history of children and youth, with conferences, announcements, awards and grant calls. Explore its publications and Digital Childhoods for accessible historical perspectives relevant to adoption and family separation.

Researchers · Students · Teachers | International

Source: <https://www.shcy.org/>

PRESSES & JOURNALS

Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth

SHCY's official peer-reviewed journal, published by Johns Hopkins University Press. It welcomes historical work across periods and regions that foregrounds childhood, youth and age as categories of analysis.

Researchers · Students · Teachers | International

Source: <https://www.shcy.org/journal/>

PRESSES & JOURNALS

Childhood: A Journal of Global Child Research

An international SAGE journal connecting childhood research across disciplines and regions. Rutgers-Camden lists faculty member Sarada Balagopalan as a co-editor; this is an editorial connection, rather than a Rutgers-owned journal.

Researchers · Students · Teachers | International

Source: <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/CHD>

PRESSES & JOURNALS

Rutgers University Press: Childhood Studies Series

The Rutgers Series in Childhood Studies examines children and childhoods around the world with attention to cultural experience. Browse it alongside adoption studies to compare institutions, representation, rights and children's perspectives.

Researchers · Students · Families · Teachers | International

Source: <https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/series/rutgers-series-in-childhood-studies/>

CHILD ADVOCACY & CHILDHOOD STUDIES

Digital Childhoods: Public History & Teaching

SHCY's accessible public-history platform and journal companion. Short essays connect childhood histories with contemporary questions, offering teaching and discussion material beyond subscription journals.

Teachers · Families · Researchers · Students | Online · International

Source: <https://shcydigitalchildhoods.org/>

SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH

BGHRA Special Collection at Rutgers-Camden

A Special Collection on Black German and Adoption Studies is being developed at the Paul Robeson Library, Rutgers-Camden, with books, journals and films. Its public celebration is planned for the February 18-20, 2027 BGHRA conference; consult BGHRA and the library for access and cataloguing updates.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students · Teachers | US

Source: <https://bghra.org/bghra2027/>

OVERSIGHT & CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

U.S. Department of State: Intercountry Adoption Oversight

The Office of Children's Issues supports the U.S. Central Authority's intercountry adoption work. Use official reports and oversight information to research provider regulation and distinguish government responsibilities from community advocacy.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · International

Source: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/adopt_ref/complaint-activities-and-outcomes.html

OVERSIGHT & CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

CEAS: Accreditation, Monitoring & Oversight

The Center for Excellence in Adoption Services monitors accredited and approved intercountry adoption providers. It assumed all U.S. accrediting-entity responsibilities on September 30, 2025, following IAAME's withdrawal. Use CEAS for current provider-compliance information.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · International

Source: <https://www.ceadoption.org/oversight>

OVERSIGHT & CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

State Department: Adoption Complaint Registry

The official registry accepts concerns about accredited or approved U.S. intercountry adoption service providers and supervised providers. Read the scope and filing guidance before using the process; this directory links to information and submits no complaint.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · Online

Source: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/about-adoption-service-providers/hague-complaint-registry.html>

OVERSIGHT & CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Child Rights Connect

A civil-society network helping children's rights defenders engage with United Nations mechanisms. Explore its resources on participation and accountability alongside adoptee-led advocacy; it is distinct from the U.S. adoption-provider regulator.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | International

Source: <https://childrightsconnect.org/who-we-are/>

U.S. ARCHIVES & ADOPTION RECORDS

University of Minnesota: Social Welfare History Archives

The Social Welfare History Archives documents social work and human services, with major adoption-related organizational collections. Ask archivists about finding aids, restrictions, research appointments and whether an enquiry concerns institutional history or a personal case file.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · Online

Source: <https://www.lib.umn.edu/collections/special/swaha>

U.S. ARCHIVES & ADOPTION RECORDS

ISS-USA Records at Minnesota: Adoption Case Records

ISS-USA identifies historical adoption case records at Minnesota from the late 1940s to early 1970s. Use its archive-request route to ask about an individual case or research access; the existence of a collection does not guarantee that a particular file survives or can be released.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · Online

Source: <https://www.iss-usa.org/university-of-minnesotas-social-welfare-history-archives/>

U.S. ARCHIVES & ADOPTION RECORDS

Library of Congress: History, Genealogy & Reference

Explore books, newspapers, manuscripts, maps and genealogy guidance for adoption's historical context and family research. Use reference services to identify relevant collections; the Library is not a central registry of sealed adoption or court files.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · Online

Source: <https://www.loc.gov/free-to-use/genealogy>

U.S. ARCHIVES & ADOPTION RECORDS

National Archives: Immigration & Naturalization Records

NARA's immigrant-records guide helps locate federal immigration, naturalization, visa and transferred A-Files. The correct custodian depends on record type and date; for your own current immigration file, also consult USCIS.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · Online

Source: <https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration>

U.S. ARCHIVES & ADOPTION RECORDS

National Archives: U.S. Children's Bureau Records

Record Group 102 is a starting point for researching federal child-welfare policy, administration and adoption history. Organizational and policy records differ from an adoptee's personal placement, court or immigration file.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · Online

Source: <https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/102.html>

U.S. ARCHIVES & ADOPTION RECORDS

USCIS: Request Your Immigration Records

Use USCIS's official records and FOIA guidance to request your own immigration record. Adoptees may find immigration or naturalization documentation relevant to their history. The genealogy program is a different route for historical records of deceased immigrants.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · Online

Source: <https://www.uscis.gov/records/records>

U.S. ARCHIVES & ADOPTION RECORDS

U.S. State Records: Access, Courts & Agencies

The Child Welfare Information Gateway explains adoption-record access and links to state-law resources. Identify the state, court and placing agency involved, then check current rules with the record holder. Birth records, court files and agency files follow different processes.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · Online

Source: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/resources/access-adoption-records/>

U.S. ARCHIVES & ADOPTION RECORDS

Adoption History Project: Archival Research Map

A scholarly guide to U.S. adoption history, people, organizations and archival sources, including collections at Minnesota and the Library of Congress. Use its citations as leads and confirm current repository details; the project is a historical research resource.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · Online

Source: <https://pages.uoregon.edu/adoption/archivalsources.htm>

U.S. ARCHIVES & ADOPTION RECORDS

New Jersey: Original Birth Records & Adoption Registry

New Jersey's official portal explains original birth-record access and application routes. Eligibility and available records depend on the case, particularly for a birth outside the United States; consult the state directly rather than assuming a foreign original birth record is held in New Jersey.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · Online

Source: <https://nj.gov/health/vital/adoption/>

MILITARY RECORDS & FAMILY RESEARCH

U.S. Military Service Records: NARA / NPPC

Request a service member's Official Military Personnel File or separation record through the National Archives' official route. Access depends on record age, consent and requester status; use the current guidance on veterans, next of kin and public access.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US

Source: <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

MILITARY RECORDS & FAMILY RESEARCH

Standard Form 180: Written Military Records Requests

Use the National Archives' current SF-180 and instructions when a written military-record request is appropriate. Provide the known service name, branch, birth details, service dates and identifiers; follow the form's routing guidance and keep original documents.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · Online

Source: <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180>

MILITARY RECORDS & FAMILY RESEARCH

U.S. Unit Rosters & Morning Reports

Unit-level records can help establish where and when a known service member served. Identify the unit and dates as closely as possible; coverage and access vary. These records do not by themselves establish biological parentage.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · Germany

Source: <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel/morning-reports-and-unit-rosters>

MILITARY RECORDS & FAMILY RESEARCH

Your Military-Dependent Medical Records

For your own childhood care at a U.S. military facility, consult NPPC's dependent medical-record guidance. Identify the patient, sponsor, treatment facility and dates; dependent folders and inpatient clinical records may follow different routes and retention schedules.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | US · Germany

Source: <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/other-medical-records>

MILITARY RECORDS & FAMILY RESEARCH**German Military Personnel Records: Bundesarchiv**

Use the Bundesarchiv's official military-personnel guide to identify the responsible division by service and period. It explains historical German military holdings and enquiry routes; these are separate from U.S. armed-forces files.

Adoptees · Families · Researchers · Students | Germany

Source: <https://www.bundesarchiv.de/im-archiv-recherchieren/archivgut-recherchieren/personen-und-familienforschung/personenbezogene-unterlagen-militaerischer-herkunft/>

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