## **ADOPTION CAN BE A LIFE CHANGING DECISION**

### WE ARE HERE TO HELP

- Ongoing post-adoption placement visits depending on your family and your child's
- Peer meetings for adoptive parents and prospective adoptive parents.
- Drop-in sessions with specialist post-adoption support workers to address challenges, such

Age appropriate discussions about adoption with your adopted child.

Talking to relatives and friends about your

Specialist support such as counselling or

A compassionate ear to adoptive parents, particularly those experincing isolation or have a limited support network.





Please get in touch with us

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**More Information** 

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In partnership with



Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development



If you can provide a safe, stable, loving home for a child, chances are you can adopt.







## **ABOUT UGANDANS ADOPT**

"Ugandans Adopt" is a government initiative in collaboration with organisations that advocate for family-based care. Its aim is to promote domestic adoption in Uganda.

Ugandans Adopt is supported through a partnership with Child's i Foundation, which aims to offer friendly, dedicated, and experienced support to guide individuals through the adoption journey. The adoption process strictly follows Ugandan regulations, and an experienced social worker will provide assistance and guidance at every step of the adoption process.

# Rukhshana's story



#### What does Adoption mean to you?

Adoption to me simply means giving to a little child of no blood relation a chance at the life I had, with a decent home, loving family, an identity. A chance to belong. A chance to grow into his or her destiny. A chance to truly live.

# What advice would you give to other people who are thinking of adopting a child?

I think many people get stuck at the adoption-desirous stage and never move to the adoption readiness stage. If it's something you are thinking about, regardless of your reasons, you need to get information on the how, why, where, what, so you can be comfortable that you are ready to open your heart and home to a new member of the family. It can be challenging so it's important that you are prepared because once you take the plunge there is no turning back. It is, in my considered opinion, one of the greatest acts of sacrifice but also the most rewarding.

# What are your last words to every Ugandan individual or family reading this brochure?

Some children come from mummy's womb and others come from mummy's heart. You don't need to be wealthy to adopt a child all you need is the heart for even one child. If you are reading this then my guess is there is a desire to make a difference. You can't keep all the children out of institutions but you can keep one out, and this makes a huge difference to that child.

# 9 STEPS TO ADOPTION



## EVERY CHILD IN UGANDA DESERVES TO GROW UP IN A LOVING FAMILY.

- 1. Fill out of an expression of interest form.
- 2. An initial meeting with the Probation Officer/Social worker.
- 3. An adoption assessment is carried out by the Probation Officer/Social Worker. The assessment includes interviews with you and your family separately and together, and with any children or adults living in your household. Interviews with referees are also carried out.
- 4. You'll attend trainings and a preparation course and also engage with other adoptive parents.
- 5. A Probation Officer/Social Worker will visit you for an independent opinion and report.
- 6. Your assesment will be presented to the independent district Alternative Care Panel. The Panel will interview you and make a decision. Once approved, a match will be made with an approved child.
- 7. A bonding period will commence, which lasts for a few weeks. After this period, the child is placed in your care.
- A Probation Officer/Social Worker will continue visiting, assessing and working with you during the one-year foster period.
- 9. Upon completion of a successful one -year foster period, a court order is issued finalising the adoption process.