

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 19 November 2011**.

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

11.30a.m: The guest speaker at the workshop will be the writer, **Hannah Pool**. Hannah will speak about her search for her birth family and this will be followed by a question and answer session with Hannah.

Hannah Pool was adopted from an orphanage in Eritrea in 1974 and came to England, via Sudan and Norway, with her white adoptive father six years later. Then a brother she never suspected she had wrote to her from Eritrea. But Hannah hid the letter away, and it was only ten years after receiving it that she decided to track down her surviving Eritrean family. Hannah Pool's first book tells the story of her search for her birth family. **MY FATHERS' DAUGHTER** was published in 2005. Hannah is best known for her 'New Black' column in Guardian Weekend, as a writer and commissioning editor for the Guardian.

1.00 p.m: Lunch

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

3.00 p.m: Sharing experiences

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 19 November 2011

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 8 November 2011.

Finding IAC

If you are coming from the tube simply walk up towards Barnet Church from the station for 7-10 minutes, follow the road round the corner and cross at the first set traffic lights. The glass door entrance to the Training Venue is located on the High Street, above **Santander** between **Andrews Estate Agents** and **Taylor's Dry Cleaners**, opposite **Robert Dyers/McDonalds**. If you have parked in, or behind the Spires shopping centre, walk through the shopping centre, onto the High Street, turn right and head towards the church.

Extract from a review of My Fathers' Daughter by Akin Ojumu published in The Observer on 14 August 2005

"[Hannah Pool] grew up in Manchester thinking both her parents were dead until a letter from her brother arrived on her doorstep revealing that her father was alive. Her mother had died in childbirth, but she had three brothers, a sister and one parent that she never knew she had...In fact, her story is as much about an

adopted child facing up to the challenge of tracing her biological family as it is about her search for African roots.

She describes how she feels both anger and guilt as she contemplates meeting her father. Angry because she was given up for adoption, thus deprived of a 'normal' childhood, but pangs of guilt as she acknowledges how different her life would have been if she had stayed in her homeland. As a woman living in liberal, secular Britain, life in Eritrea takes getting used to. Eritrea is a patriarchal society where women are expected to get married in their teens, produce children and, often, forgo career opportunities.

At 29, Pool isn't even considered a match for the oldest man in the village. What she also captures is the embarrassment of being welcomed into a culture she knows little about. She can't speak the language, understand the customs or even stomach the food. Gradually, however, her family's warmth during a series of charged reunions makes her feel at home.

Pool's candour is striking. When she meets her family for the first time, she feels numb rather than rapturous. She needs a stiff drink but female drinking is frowned upon. As a black woman with Western values, Pool doesn't wholly embrace African ways, although she feels that she has been deprived of something important.

At a time when the notion of Britishness is being keenly debated, Pool seems to admit that identifying as being a black Briton isn't quite enough. There is more to her than she previously thought and at the end of the book she has a happy dilemma, wondering how she will accommodate both sides of her heritage."