



This website has the potential to support and grow a real social network, one that can provide information, challenge myths and stereotypes, and help adopted and fostered children right through to adulthood, because being a child is only the beginning of their story."

Harvey Gallagher, *Chief Executive. Nationwide Association of Fostering Providers*



Campaigns



In September 2020 I was honoured to be commissioned to write the campaign poem and feature in the media campaign along with Sinitta and David and Carrie Grant.

The campaign centre's around busting myths and stereotypes surrounding adoption in the UK. Interest in adopting rose nationally by up to 60% in some areas in the first few months.

In April 2021 I hosted a podcast episode for them called 'Growing Up as an Adoptee', and continue to advocate for them.

If you are interested at working with Adoption Arena on campaigns or for consultancy please get in touch

[Hello@adoptionarena.com](mailto>Hello@adoptionarena.com)



#YouCanAdopt



Media Work

Highlights

BBC News24 overseas adoption interview

With Jane Hill and Dr John Simmonds CoramBAAF. Discussion on overseas adoption

BBC Breakfast

Discussion on adoption and race UK changes in 2012 with Ian Holmes, BAAF. Watch from 1.43 mins.

ITV News. interview with Nina Nannar

We discuss the celebrity 'Cherry picking' of children debate, ethical & cultural implications. Nina is also from my home town of Scunthorpe in Lincolnshire, off camera we chat chips and gravy!

Channel 4 News with Jon Snow

Discussion on the 2012 changes to adoption legislation in the UK

BBC World Service Radio 'Outsource'

Interview with Kira Fomenko discussing a moving Canadian adoption story that went viral and my own experiences.

BBC World News 'Focus on Africa' with Komla Dumor

I discuss overseas adoption, Africa and my advocacy work.

Times Radio, Mariella Frostrop

We discuss the new You Can Adopt Campaign and why it's important to bust myths and encourage adoption diversity.

Adoption Today magazine

For the October 2020 issue write an article about transracial adoption and BAME families.

BBC Africa's Podcast 'The Comb'

I joined Kim Chakanetsa to discuss overseas adoption, complexity and the loss of cultural identity.

Newsnight

I joined a panel to discuss UK race issues and pre-BLM incident with Jade Goody from the 1st Celebrity Big Brother. *I advocate race & adoption

BBC London 94.4 'The Gabby Roslin Show

I often joined the news review slot, but in November I was asked to talk about my comedy and adoption work

Guilford Fringe – Featured show

'Spot the Difference' Comedy Adoption show was featured at the Guilford Fringe in 2015. During my UK Tour 2015-2017

BBC Radio Surrey interview

With Mark Carter about my Guilford Fringe Festival show debut with comedy adoption show 'Spot the Difference'

BBC5 Live interview with Sam Walker

We discuss the personal cost of adoption regarding parents and young people.

The Camden Fringe 2016: Top Picks, Spot the Difference is featured.

'Spot the Difference' Comedy Adoption show was featured at the Camden Fringe to as a 'must see' show.

BBC 5Live

We discuss pop icon Madonna's first overseas adoption and the controversy surrounding the report

SKY NEWS overseas adoption

We discuss pop icon Madonna's first overseas adoption and the controversy surrounding her choice

BBC5 Live

Interview about Sikh adoption case, that later they went onto win.

'She mines a rich seam of Gold'

Lemn Sissay, Poet, Playright, broadcaster, speaker



Corporate Work Highlights

Social Work England National Advisory Forum

I was honoured to join firstly the 'Experts by Experience' group 2018-2019 and National Advisory Forum in 2020 to help reform social work and best practice issues.

Westminster Celebration of Achievement

Westminster City Council, Tate Modern. Attended by the Lord Mayor of Westminster. I hosted & performed a special 30-minute Comedy adoption show for 150 adults, young people and children (as young as 5) to celebrate the young peoples achievements of fostered and looked after children.

Nottingham Trent University

I present a 30-minute version of my 1hr comedy adoption show and talk to social science students, faculty and general public about adoption advocacy in the UK and and social reforms

Autumn Staff Conference, One Adoption West Yorkshire

Theme: 'Black Lives Matter'. It was great to draw on my BLM seminar and talk about racism in the market place and adoption.

Public Policy Exchange Adoption Symposium

Adoption Arena's team spoke on the future of adoption in the UK. Attended by 200 delegates at the Park Plaza Hotel, Westminster.

Tri Borough Virtual School Conference, 2nd year. SW1

I was honoured to talk on education and adoption and perform a 30-min version of my comedy adoption show.

You Can Adopt Campaign

I was asked to write the campaign poem and feature in this highly successful National Campaign with Sinitta and David and Carrie Grant MBE.

National Children's and Adults services Conference, Bournemouth

Speaker with Social Work England 2019

Chosen

Edited by Dr Perlita Harris I write an essay along with 50 other transracial adoptees about our life journey.

You Can Adopt Podcast

"Growing up as an adoptee' I interview 2 young adult adoptees about their adoption challenges, goals and advice.

Comics 4 Adoption

Started in 2013 saw us bring together top UK comedians who have all been either adopted/fostered, this year we explore the NAW theme of 'The Adopter' and communicate our individual stories through some seriously funny comedy

Adopt Berkshire Celebration at the Woodley Theatre

I am asked to perform my comedy adoption 1 hour show and give a talk about my experiences

Aspects of Joy

This was my comedy adoption debut show that I took to the Edinburgh Fringe in 2015. It led to a National Tour and development of the production to the current show 'Spot the Difference'

Chosen ? by Aspire Creativity

An Anthology of writing by adopted young people published 2021, I write a preface about their amazing work.

Goldsmiths University Celebration for Dr Perlita Harris

The event recognised the exceptional life changing work and contribution to Social Work over her many years of service.

Camden Fringe comedy Adoption show 'Spot the Difference'

I debut the show to sell-out performances and much media interest

The Cornerstone Partnership, Adoption AGM.

I perform a 45 minute comedy adoption show and give a 15 minute talk with questions about my adoption experience

“an outstanding public speaker who was able to bring a unique combination of warmth, wisdom, personal experience and edgy observational humour to the complex subject of transracial adoption”

Joan Fletcher Head of Social Work, Department of Social, Therapeutic and Community Studies, Goldsmiths University



Become your Best AdoptionArena.com

With us

Facebook
Instagram
Twitter

@Adoptionarena

Support us

Patreon

Adoption Arena

Enquires

Hello@adoptionarena.com



Purposeful passion

To support, educate and empower those in the adoption field

Train, learn and grow

Using our partnerships, online platforms, communities and media relationships we reach and engage into new areas of culture & society

Build Future

Pioneers are built. We are committed to working with individuals & organisations to pioneer change