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In Relation to Adoption Day

SEOUL, May 4 – Three overseas adoptee-related organizations will host a variety of events over Adoption Day weekend, which kicks off May 8. The organizations bring a critical voice to Korea’s national Adoption Day, saying unwed mothers should be supported so they can raise their own babies -- not send them for adoption. In addition, the organizations claim international adoption is a hidden part of modern Korean history, and that both the history and the adoptees must be acknowledged by Korean society.

ASK (Adoptee Solidarity Korea) 국외 입양인 연대 www.adopteesolidarity.org

“Alternatives to Adoption: Building a Movement for Change”

“입양, 그 대안의 모색과 변화를 위한 실천”

Beginning with a press conference at 1:30 on Friday, May 8 ASK is sponsoring an afternoon symposium at the National Human Rights Commission about alternatives to intercountry (ICA) adoption with representatives from five NGOs speaking on how their work is related to ICA. Among the thought-provoking panelists are reps from the Korean Foster Care Association, the Korean Unwed Mothers Support Network, A-Ha! Sexuality Education Counseling Center, TacTeen, and the Korea Sexual Violence Relief Center. The symposium is open to the public.

Date: Friday, May 8

Time: 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Location: National Human Rights Commission of Korea 11F

Euljiro Ip-gu Subway Station, Line 2, Exit 1 or City Hall Subway Station Line 1, Exit 5

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“Dispersed and Returned”

제 4회 입양의 날 기념 전시회: 이산과 귀환의 틈새

“Dispersed and Returned” is an art exhibition in relation to Adoption Day with photographers Kim Sperling (Germany) and Sean Rho (Korea) and film/videomakers Tammy Chu (USA-Korea) and Maya Weimer (USA). With this exhibition, KoRoot will try to deliver the message that Korean society should support the development of a social welfare system for families facing separation, especially unwed mothers and their children, rather than promote domestic and international adoption.

Opening: Saturday, May 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Duration: May 7-18

Location: Seoul Metro Art Center 1 & 2

Gyeongbokgung Subway Station, Line 3, B1

TRACK (Truth and Reconciliation for the Adoption Community of Korea)

<http://www.adoptionjustice.com/>

If you’ve never seen puppets in downtown Seoul before, now’s your chance! The puppet show’s main character will be a giant, 10-meter long puppet representing Korean unwed mothers created by artist Eom Jung-ae of the magical Chuncheon Puppet Theater. It will surely be a photo-worthy event, with modern art showcased in front of the traditional-style Bosingak bell tower. Mingle freely and casually outdoors with the adoptees and their supporters. Our message is “Protect the human rights of unwed mothers and adoptees.” Free and open to the public.

Date: Sunday, May 10

Time: 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Location: Bosingak near Jongno-1-ga, right outside Jonggak Subway Station Exit 4 (Line 1)