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Dysfunctional and damaging adoption system must be reformed – says CSJ

Gavin Poole, Executive Director, of the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) has issued the below statement following an advance viewing of *The Truth About Adoption*, to be aired on BBC One, Wednesday 14th December 2011:

“This powerful documentary underscores the realities of our failing adoption culture and the heartbreaking impact it has on young children. Following the desperate plight of several children caught up in the care system, it charts their journeys to a ‘forever home’.

“The CSJ champion interventions with chaotic families; family fostering and family drug and alcohol courts can give birth parents an intensively supported second chance. But these can only work when there is a deep commitment on both sides.

“Key organisations, like the charity Save the Family, take the whole family into care. They provide a nurturing environment for children, whilst giving hands-on guidance to parents so they learn how best to meet the day-to-day needs of their children.

“We need a stream-lined adoption system that is not unduly risk-averse or overly-bureaucratized, and follows the changes called for by Professor Eileen Munro in regards to the wider child protection system. Faster and more concurrent fostering and adoption would shift the balance of risk away from vulnerable children and to where it should belong – onto the adults. Far too often children are held in limbo, ferried from one set of parents to another, harbouring deep-seated anxieties about rejection and loss. A reformed adoption process would act with speed, sensitivity of support and put the welfare of children at its heart.

“We welcome recent announcements from the Prime Minister to simplify and speed up the adoption process, an inability to get a grip on this problem will transfer a social and economic failure from one generation to another. ”

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Centre for Social Justice is an independent think tank established, by Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP in 2004, to seek effective solutions to the poverty that blights parts of Britain.

In July 2007 the group published *Breakthrough Britain. Ending the Costs of Social Breakdown*. The paper presented over 190 policy proposals aimed at ending the growing social divide in Britain.

Subsequent reports have put forward proposals for reform of the police, prisons, social housing, the asylum system and family law. Other reports have dealt with street gangs and early intervention to help families with young children.