

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, I stand before you with a heart brimming with emotion, as we gather to celebrate the beautiful journey of international adoption. This journey is one of love, resilience, and the boundless capacity of the human heart to connect beyond borders.

Adoption, in its essence, is a testament to the profound belief that families are not solely defined by blood, but by love. It's about finding that missing piece of your heart in a child who may be miles away, and yet somehow, feels just a heartbeat apart.

Each adoption story is unique, but they all begin with a shared dream--to offer a child a home, filled with warmth, security, and unconditional love. It's about navigating through countless forms, interviews, and sometimes heart-wrenching waiting periods. Yet, through all these moments of uncertainty, what remains constant is the unwavering hope that soon, one more child will call you 'family.'

I have heard countless stories of parents meeting their little ones for the first time--a moment that erases the distance, negates the wait, and makes every single struggle worthwhile. The first embrace, marked by tears of joy and relief, is the beginning of a lifelong adventure together.

To all parents and families here today, your courage and determination illuminate the path for many others. You remind us of the promise that love knows no boundaries. And to the children, whose bright futures and innocent smiles inspire us all, know that you are cherished beyond measure.

This journey, although challenging, crafts a narrative of hope and love that echoes across the world. Let us continue to support and uplift each other, ensuring that no child goes without a family to call their own. Thank you.