

**HHAMA Conference 2015 Cork International Airport Hotel
Focus on Attachment in Adoption—Understanding, Support and Solutions**

9.15am	Registration Opens	Tea & Coffee Served
10.00am	Welcome Address	Derkek Cregan HHAMA Board Chairman
10.10am	Opening Address	Geoffrey Shannon Adoption Authority of Ireland
10.30am	Understanding the development of Attachment and the Impact of Institutional care on early child development .	Mairead NíÉidhin Senior Clinical Psychologist The Bessborough Centre
11.00am	Donor Country Information Sessions. Representatives from our Country Programs will give us an overview of various care models .	Vietnam, Bulgaria, China and India [To be confirmed]
11.45am	Great Behaviour Breakdown. An understanding of how Attachment challenges manifest and some parenting tools to help address these issues.	Denise Golding & Zach Gomm
12.30pm	Lunch [included]	Hotel Restaurant
2.00pm	Presentation by Perlita Harris followed by Panel discussion with a number of Adult Adoptees sharing experiences and lessons to learn.	Perlita Harris and a panel of adult adoptees [names to be announced].
2.40pm	Attachment Parenting Solution focused to develop an understanding of some of the effective tools parents can use in parenting children with challenges.	Joanna Fortune of Solamh
3.20pm	Post Adoption Supports—Panel Discussion Understand the types of post adoption child/parenting care currently available and models of post adoption support internationally.	CIFA Italy, TUSLA (To be confirmed), Nicola O’Sullivan HHAMA
4.00pm	Launch of HHAMA Post Adoption Services.	Sharon O’Driscoll CEO HHAMA
4.10pm	Attachment A Lifelong Journey : Rapporteur, what have we learned and what are some of the ways forward.	Ruth Kelly, Senior Practitioner Social Work, TUSLA Wexford
4.30 End		

DETACH AS BOOKING FORM

Name(s) : _____ **Address** _____

Organisation : _____

Email : _____ **Tel :** _____

Conference Cost €50 [includes lunch, tea/coffee] Please indicate amount enclosed : _____

Payment required in advance, please send completed booking form and payment, cheques payable to HHAMA, to Helping Hands Adoption Mediation Agency, Forge Lodge, Forge Hill, Co. Cork

**CPD POINTS WILL BE ALLOCATED
ATTENDACE CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED**

Speaker Biographies

Geoffrey Shannon BComm., LLB., LLM., LLD., Chairperson of the Adoption Authority of Ireland.

Dr. Mairead Ní Éidhin holds a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, Diploma in Family Therapy, Diploma in Criminal Psychology and a BA in Applied Psychology. She has 10 years post graduate experience in child and adolescence mental health and for the past 5 years has been working in a private practice in Cork where she has extensive experience in working with children who have been fostered and adopted.

Denise Golding is a senior social worker who has specialised for the past 18 years in the field of adoption. Denise is also an integrative counsellor offering counselling to adults and young people. She specialises in working with childhood trauma, including abuse, separation and loss. Denise also offers parent-child work and parent support for parents with children with challenging behaviour. Denise has a postgraduate diploma in psychosynthesis as well as a postgraduate diploma in the therapeutic application of the arts. Denise has a MSc in applied social studies and a CQSW. Denise is a certified instructor in the Great Behaviour Breakdown, a parenting approach for parents of children with challenging behaviour. She is trained in Theraplay level 1 and Dyadic Developmental Therapy (parent-child attachment work) levels 1 & 2 and has a foundation level certificate in Systemic Family Therapy. She is the birth mother of two teenage children, Denise has found, both personally and professionally, that the 'love-based' parenting approach is the most successful approach for parenting children with challenging behaviour albeit, environmental or genetic.

Zach Gomm is a foster carer and has fostered many children over the past years. Zach is an adoptive father his 17 year old son, who he has parented using a similar approach to Beyond Consequences/The Great Behaviour Breakdown with amazing results for approximately the last 10 years. Zach is also mentored by Family Futures, a specialist adoption support agency in the UK. Becoming a certified instructor of GBB, also trained in Theraplay Level 1, Dan Hughes Levels 1 & 2, he offers this training alongside his colleague Denise Golding. Experiences include parenting children with significant trauma and attachment difficulties, children who display aggression and sexualised behaviour, lack of social skills and learning difficulties and so much more....His own journey with numerous foster children has been his most profound teaching and feels this brings a unique aspect to his work and in becoming an instructor, as he has experienced first-hand many of the challenges other adoptive and foster parents and any parent with challenging behaviours face. His mission is to support families in healing behavior breakdowns using a love based approach. Zach is particularly interested in the concept of the paradigm shift, and 'blocked' parenting and how our own stresses as parents, both past and present, impact on our ability to provide care.

Joanna Fortune (MIPC; MIFPP; Reg Pract APPI; Ap Sup PTIrl) is a Clinical Psychotherapist specialising in child and adolescent Psychotherapy with over 12 years experience working with children and families. She is a Supervisor with Play Therapy Ireland/UK for over 4 years. Joanna has worked in the NGO sector (with charities including ISPCC/CARI/Bray Women's Refuge/To Russia With Love) at frontline and senior management levels specialising in a range of challenging issues. Joanna spent over 3 years working in orphanages in Russia with children of all ages who are growing up in institutions and developed a variety of programs of de-institutionalisation, life skills and psychological resilience building while there. She has completed an 18 month infant observation and has completed additional trainings in all areas of Attachment disorder including Story Stem Assessment Profiling and Child Attachment Interview (with the Anna Freud Centre London), Play Therapy (APAC/PTIrl/University of Chichester) and Theraplay Level 1 & 2 (with the World Theraplay Organisation) and was trained in a clinical supervision group with members of Espace Analytique from Paris. Joanna sits on the Board of Directors for Women's Aid having previously served on the Board of The Women's Therapy Centre and Detum S'Lobovia (To Children With Love) in Moscow. As a mentor, and well established training consultant and guest speaker in her field, Joanna is also a regular contributor in the media on issues of child development and parenting and founded Solamh Parent Child Relationship Clinic in Dublin in October 2010.

Dr. Perlita Harris is a registered social worker with a background in the provision of adoption and post-adoption services. She has published several articles on adoption support and has a particular interest in service user perspectives. Her edited books include: *In Search of Belonging: Reflections by transracially adopted people* (BAAF 2006), *The Colours in Me: Writing and poetry by adopted children and young people* (BAAF 2008), *Something That Never Went Away: Reflections on adoption, being in care and searching for family members* (Adults Affected by Adoption - NORCAP 2009), and *Chosen: Living with adoption* (BAAF 2012). She also co-authored the research-based *Pathways to Permanence for black, Asian and mixed ethnicity children* (BAAF 2010) and contributed to the DVD, *Readings from The Colours in Me* (BAAF 2009). In a voluntary capacity, Dr. Harris co-facilitates workshops for adopted adults with an international dimension to their search for information and/or birth family, on behalf of the Transnational and Transracial Adoption Group (TTAG), a social network run by and for transnationally and transracially adopted adults, and the Intercountry Adoption Centre. Dr. Harris is a Senior Lecturer in Social Work at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Nicola O'Sullivan works with the Bessborough Centre in Cork. She is clinical manager of the Parent and Baby Assessment and Treatment Unit and aftercare parent infant team. Nicola has a Degree in Youth & Community Work from University College Cork, and a Masters in Child Protection and Welfare from Trinity College Dublin. Nicola is completing training in infant mental health with the Anna Freud Centre and Tavistock in London (ITSIEY). Nicola is attending the Tavistock and Portman NHS clinic in London where she is undertaking a Professional Doctorate in Social Care and Mental Health. Nicola's interests include infancy and early childhood neglect, infant mental health and attachment.

Ruth Kelly has practised as a social worker in the area of adoption for many years. She is currently working in Wexford with the Tusla National Adoption Service as a Senior Practitioner, Social Work. She was one of the researchers and authors of the major piece of research undertaken by The Children's Research Centre, Trinity College, Dublin on intercountry adoption in Ireland. (*A Study of Intercountry Adoption Outcomes in Ireland* (2007, Greene et al.) : Other publications include : *Motherhood Silenced, Reflections of Natural Mothers on Adoption Reunion*, (2005) (Liffey Press); *Emerging Voices, The Birth Mother's Perspective in Adoption*, (2008) in *International Advances for Adoption Research and Practice* (2008 in print) Wrobel, G., Neil, E., Haworth Press). Previous experience in various areas of social work include fostering, child protection and disability both in Ireland and in Canada.