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## Loving family environment is what matters

While not denying the heartache and prejudice experienced by Hong Kong orphans adopted by British families in the 1960s ("HK orphans subjected to racism in Britain, 4 Feb), the reality is that perfect racial matches between a child and his/her adoptive parents is not always possible.

Does that mean that a child should remain in institutional care even though he/she can find a loving family home with parents of a different race? At PathFinders, a charity that helps pregnant migrant women in Hong Kong who are primarily foreign domestic helpers, the children born are often of mixed race.

For a mother who makes the difficult decision to place her mixed race child up for adoption, her hope is that her baby will be adopted by a loving family who would be able to offer her child opportunities that she could never give, regardless of the race of the adoptive parents.

Yes, race is important to identity and prejudice may be encountered by these children growing up if they are adopted by parents of a different race.

However, our aim as a society should be to protect children of all races by placing them in a loving family environment where they can blossom rather than languish in institutional care.

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Original SCMP article:

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1142790/hong-kong-orphans-subjected-racism-britain-report>

Mother's choice response to SCMP article:

<http://www.scmp.com/comment/letters/article/1144002/delays-adoption-cause-permanent-damage-children>

Original Guardian articles:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/feb/03/hong-kong-orphans-uk?INTCMP=ILCNETTXT3487>  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/feb/03/tory-plans-for-interracial-adoption-challenged>



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