

Glossary

Adoption – a legal process by which a minor becomes the child of adoptive parents and ceases to be the child of their birth parents. Until the 20th century, many jurisdictions had no process for making adoptions legal (although the Adoption of Children Act was passed in 1851 in Massachusetts, USA) and they were, therefore, informal, ie, not a legal arrangement. Adoption was legally recognized in the UK with the introduction of the **Adoption of Children Act 1926**, which came into effect in **1927**. This marked the first formal regulation of adoption in England and Wales, establishing a legal framework to ensure the process was binding and safeguarded the welfare of children.

Alternative Care - provisions made for children not living with their family of origin whether that was in foster care, kinship care or residential care. A term once widely used in Australia, it is still used in some Australian states and by Unicef.

Borstal - was a type of prison for young offenders used in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. In India, there are Borstal Schools which focus on the reformation of young offenders.

Care Experienced – is a term primarily used in the United Kingdom for those who are living, or have lived, in the state care system at some stage during their childhood. The term is inclusive of those who spent time in care before being adopted, have been in foster care, kinship care and residential care.

Care Leavers – is often used by those who have left the formal state care system.

Care System - In the UK children's social care and services are funded through national grants to local authorities. Most of this funding is not ring-fenced for children however, and local authorities (LA) can decide how they divide their spending between children and adults. In the UK, 85% of children's homes are run privately and for profit. In Australia the care system is government sponsored. Both systems support children who cannot remain at home due to circumstances such as abuse, neglect, family breakdown, or the illness or death of a parent. These children are often placed in foster care, are living with extended family (kinship care), or they may reside in a children's home.

Children's Home - is a residential facility provided for the care of children who are orphaned or for other reasons cannot be cared for within their family of origin. They tend to be smaller houses unlike the older larger institutional orphanages.

Children in Care (CIC) is a contemporary term used in the UK and means children being cared for by local authorities. The child might be living in foster care, kinship care or in a children's or group home.

Children Looked After (CLA) is a contemporary term used in the UK and means children being cared for by local authorities. The child might be living in foster care, kinship care or in a children's or group home.

Child trafficking – is the practice of procuring and relocating children for the purposes of forced labour and/or sexual exploitation. Some people regard contemporary forms of child trafficking as a modern form of slavery.

Crown Ward - a term used in Canada to describe a child who has been made the legal responsibility of the government.

Displaced children – is a term we use to recognise that not all children who live outside their birth families do so because they have been taken into the formal state care system. Instead, some children may have been displaced during war (eg the Kindertransport during WWII in England), they may have been abducted, or they may have been abandoned or are away from their families for other reasons.

Enslaved children - Slavery is the ownership of a person as if they are property. Stories of enslaved children displaced from their family of origin date back to at least the 13th century BCE (Equivalent to BC but used to acknowledge that not everyone is a Christian) when, according to Biblical accounts, the Israelites were an enslaved minority in Egypt. **Moses was born to Hebrew slaves in Egypt. His mother and sister hid him in a basket and floated him down the Nile to save his life after Pharaoh ordered the execution of all Hebrew male babies. Pharaoh's daughter discovered Moses and raised him as her own; he grew up as a privileged Egyptian prince**

For some contemporary Americans, the taking of children by the state - even if with supposed good intentions - can be likened to the seizing of children during the period of chattel slavery, from 1619 to 1865.

Forgotten Australians - Survivors of the approximately 500,000 Australians who were in institutional & other forms of out of home care during the 20th century. On 16 November 2009 Prime Minister Kevin Rudd made a formal apology to Forgotten Australians (and former child migrants) who had been subjected to appalling treatment.

Former Child Migrants - During the 20th century approximately 7,000 children were sent from Britain and Malta to Australia. The children were aged between 7 and 14, were unaccompanied by parents and had no family ties in Australia. On 16 November 2009, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologised to (Forgotten Australians) and former child migrants on behalf of the nation.

There were also children sent from Britain to Canada, New Zealand and Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia). Although there are no precise figures, it is estimated over 130,000 children were dispatched from the UK to Commonwealth countries. In 2009, UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown delivered a formal Apology for the UK's role in deporting thousands of children; he also announced the Family Restoration Fund.

Foster care – is the placement of a child within a non-kinship family. The arrangement can be both short term and long term and can be made both by the state (formal foster care) and by families (informal foster care). In the USA, foster care is also the umbrella term for the system of placing children outside their family of origin, whether that be in foster care, residential care, or kinship care.

Foster Care Alumni – is used in the USA by those who were in the formal foster care system (which includes foster care, residential care, or kinship care).

Foundling - an infant who has been abandoned or given up by their parent/s - often coerced into doing so by a society that stigmatized and punished unwed girls and women - and is discovered and cared for by others.

Foundling Hospital - an institution for the care of abandoned children. Foundling Hospitals were established in 1704 in Dublin, Ireland and in 1735 in Cork, Ireland, both by Acts of Parliament. The Foundling Hospital in England was founded in 1739 by the philanthropic Thomas Coram.

Group Homes - are often ordinary suburban homes that are used to house children and young people in state care. Paid staff are employed to provide around-the-clock care.

Kinship care – is an arrangement by which children who cannot live with their parents live with members of their extended family, eg, older siblings, aunts and uncles, grandparents. The arrangement can be formal (made through the state) or informal (made by family members without state involvement).

Looked after child (LAC) - a term used in the UK after it was introduced by the Children Act 1989 to refer to a child or young person who is in the care of their local authority. The child might be living in foster care or in a children's or group home. However, because of the way LAC has so often been used to denigrate children in care, many in the UK prefer instead to say Children Looked After or Children In Care (CIC).

Orphan - child whose parents have died. In some times and places, an orphan could also mean a child who has lost one parent. Unicef, for example, uses the term 'single orphan' to mean the loss of one parent and a 'double orphan' to mean the loss of both parents. Some scholars, for example Dennis Leoutsakas in the USA, prefer to use the term 'orphan' to mean all children who are living away from their birth families. Others prefer the use of 'social orphan' to mean those children who have parents but are not living with them.

Orphanage - is a residential facility provided for the care of children who are orphaned or for other reasons cannot be cared for within their family of origin. Orphanages date back to at least 400 CE (Common Era. Equivalent to 400 AD - (Anno Domino), but used to acknowledge that not everyone is a Christian) and have been run by churches and other charitable institutions as well as by the state.

Orphan Schools - were institutions housing orphaned or destitute children during the 19th century. In Australia, Orphan Schools were established in Tasmania and New South Wales and most of the children came from convict backgrounds.

Out of Home Care (OOHC) - is a term used in Australia and Canada for children and young people who are not living with their family of origin and are under the care and protection of the various state child welfare/protection authorities.

Prison ships - also known as a prison hulk or floating prison, prison ships are a ship or vessel that has been modified to provide detention for convicts, even refugees (eg in 2023 the Bibby Stockholm barge was compared to the historical prison ships - it was used in the UK to house asylum seekers). Children as young as 9 years of age were transported on prison ships from England to Australia between 1788 to 1868.

Reform School - Also called reformatories, reform schools arose in the mid-19th century as alternatives to adult prisons for young offenders, usually teenagers.

Residential boarding schools – residential schools were established in both the United States and Canada for the purpose of assimilating Native American and Indigenous Canadian children into the mainstream Anglo culture. In the USA, these schools were set up

from the mid-17th century and ran until the early 20th century; President Joe Biden offered a formal apology in October 2024 on behalf of the federal government for the abuse suffered at these schools. In Canada, the system of schools was legislated for in 1876 and by the 1930s, about 30% of Indigenous children were attending residential boarding schools. The last federally-funded residential school closed in the 1990s and on 11 June 2008 then Prime Minister of Canada, Stephen Harper, made an apology on behalf of the Canadian Government.

Residential care – is a temporary or long-term care arrangement made for children in state care. Usually, the children and young people live with other children and young people and care is provided by paid staff.

Stolen Generations - Since 1788, numerous government laws, policies and practices resulted in the forced removal of thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families and communities across Australia. On 13 February 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd offered a formal apology to members of the Stolen Generations on behalf of the Australian Parliament.

State care is when a government or local authority takes responsibility for a child who needs care because their parents have died, are unable to care for them, or have been deemed unfit. The government becomes the child's legal guardian and is responsible for their well-being, including housing, education, and healthcare.

Different countries have specific laws governing state care:

- In the **UK**, children are placed *in care* under laws such as Section 11 of the *Children Act 1948* and later legislation.
- In the **United States**, this is known as the *foster care system*, managed at the state level.
- In **Canada**, child welfare services vary by province but follow similar principles.
- In **Australia** and **New Zealand**, children in need of protection are placed in *out-of-home care*, which includes foster care and residential care. In Australia, each state and territory manages their own child protection system.
- In **Germany**, child protection laws under the *Jugendamt* (Youth Welfare Office) allow the state to assume guardianship.
- In **Sweden** and other Nordic countries, social services can place children in *state care* under laws focused on child welfare and protection.

While the names and specific laws differ, the core principle remains the same: the state steps in when parents cannot properly care for a child.

Ward of the Court - a minor under the care of a guardian (as appointed by a court) or a minor for whom the court has guardianship responsibilities. Used in England and Wales.

Ward of the State – a legal term to describe a child under the guardianship of a state or territory. The term has been used in Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand and the United States.

Youth Detention Centre - A Youth Detention Centre is a type of prison for young people who commit crimes. It is for those who are old enough to be held responsible for their actions (often starting at age 10) but not yet adults (usually under 18). Different countries have different names for these facilities. For example, they are called *Youth Detention*

Centres in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, while in the UK, they are known as *Young Offender Institutions*.