

The Global Anonymous Adoptee Survey Aug/Sept 2022 – Some Summary Bar Chart And Other Results at 304 Respondents : A First Tranche Of Information.

The 2022 survey was a: “bottom up” anonymous Global Citizen-survey. It evolved from pro bono work two of us as Adoptees in the UK did in 2021 to test whether or not (95) UK Adoptees were happy with Adoption experience or the opposite. We were already aware though of child abuses inside Adoption experienced by Adoptees. We heard about them on Groups on Facebook. We heard this voice was being socially repressed in often socially expressed terms like: *“forget the past”*, or Adoptees felt they were just socially invisible.

The question became for us : Is Adoption a good social design of alternative child care for Adoptees, or is it creating in many, forms of long lasting hurt, even a divided-self neuroses, which is socially constructed?

You have to hear the voice of Adoptees for that to be tested. That is a bottom-up exercise of democracy because we have to engage the systems politically for changes and argument.

The two of us were also aware of a lack of therapy help in the UK and the need for some Adoptees to “leave” Adoption. It is a **legal, not natural arrangement**, but no eased means exists for adult Adoptees to revoke it without large amounts of money for lawyers to take cases for “exceptional cause”. That keeps Adoptees dis-entitled to their own natural identity being returned legally. It is as if they remain property, not people at 18+ with freed up rights to return to the selves they may need to fully reclaim and naturally identify with, as their birth identity

We looked at all those matters in the 2021 UK Survey but also later wanted to know how prevalent child abuses inside Adoption were elsewhere in the world. Why did we see such a high rate of Adoptee child abuse of 42% in the UK? Was this just chance ? 50% of the UK adult Adoptees also wanted Revocation Rights to end Adoption. 71% wanted a choice of therapy for their needs. 86% said there was no therapy in the UK specific for them. There were high rates of negative Adoptions recorded. From the **“somewhat-negative”** to **“very negative”** we recorded a 56% figure. The ratio of “pain to gain” seemed high, and higher that it should be for the socially remedial measure called : “Adoption” .

Could a new 2022 survey engage other “Global” Adoptees and might they want by free choice to engage in a much more extensive Citizen survey looking too at issues of mental ill health distresses many were claiming? Could we see in greater depth with other Adoptees what was causing problems of some misery like suicidality, abuses, and capture un-remedied unmet needs/damages? Would there be any similarities to the UK survey ?

A 2022 survey was slowly drawn up with advisory input from mixed-race others in the Adoptee community to ask 47 questions. A **survey foreword** was drawn up to warn people it would likely be painful and a trigger warning preceded the sensitive sections.

People finally have to be trusted to engage in a survey if they wish to. Comment boxes

were provided for extra qualifying details but many warnings were given that no personal identifiers were to be included on sensitive matters. The survey was run by EasyQuest a Norwegian Company under EU GDPR rules. No-one's email or name could be known on the survey - it was anonymous.

All were promised to have report-backs made available in PDF later to make sure they could use the information they had also generated. PDF's have a "snapshot" function which make for easy copying of a table or section of text. ***That becomes useful for showing images for argument and/or activisms for reforms if Adoptees wish to go that way. (See last page)***

This was a survey for **them designated "Creative Commons"** : a **Citizen-Survey** solely for Adoptees. Those Adoptees who often speak in corners of the web and now the survey is placing them in one big room of company and numbers. This document is the first **Summary Trenché** of some of those numbers. More report-backs will be coming in time but we must ensure accidental identifiers are screened out from comment boxes where respondents became over-keen with information. See below the 2022 Survey Foreword.



Adoptees have designed this 2022 ANONYMOUS globally inclusive survey - purely for Adoptees only. Last year we did a 2021 Pilot for 95 UK Adoptees .. Everything we do becomes a "Creative Commons" property. We do not own it - you all do - we all do. It is there for common use and references to build more work on.

It's our pro bono job to set that into motion and set Adoptee-voices free . This survey will be painful we think. We cannot alter any policies though/increase awareness without evidence of unmet needs/pain. That is sad but also true. Some of you will be happy Adoptees, some will not ..We wish you all the best in doing the survey and we care for you in our hearts.

This survey is being done too so it is shown that many in the Adoptee community can rely on each other as Adoptees to create a culture of Adoptee-owned and numerically measured voices.i.e ."stats" .

It enables an Adoptee culture of DIY captured vision, and it spreads the capacity that has been lacking in the wider Adoptee community - namely - a store of information we all support and take to media in various ways.

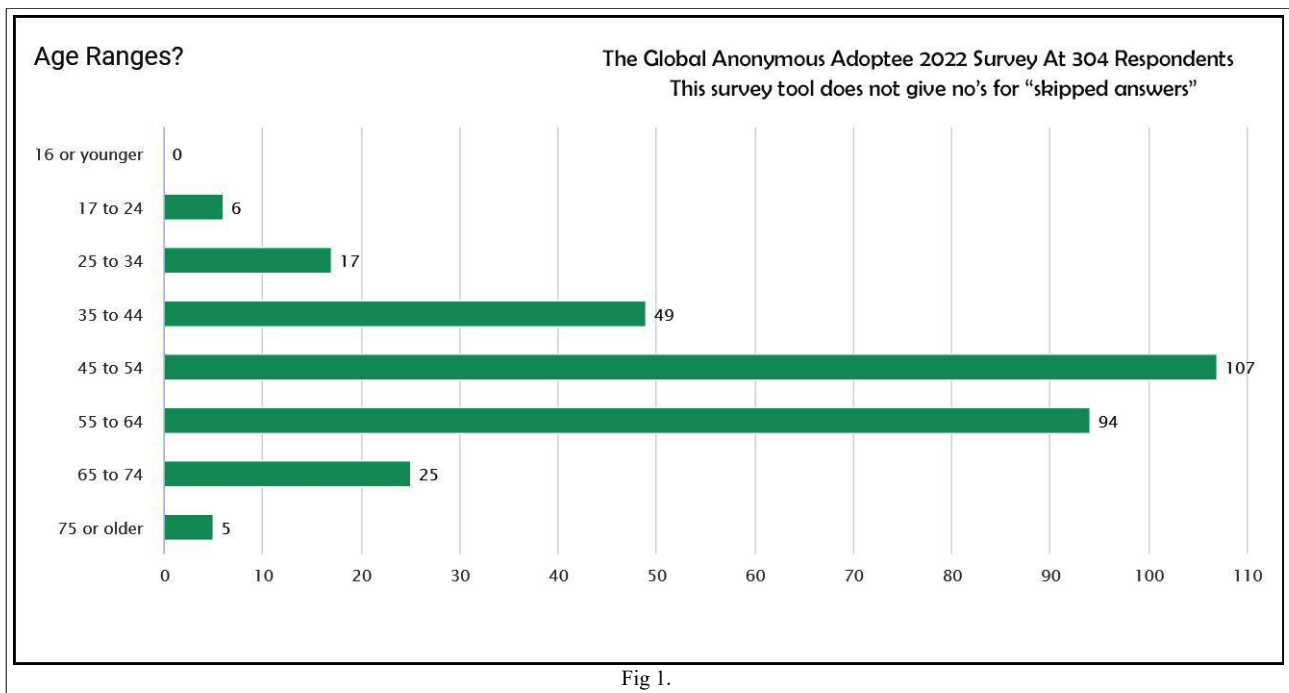
We know we all have some differences by race, creed, gender, sexuality, and experiences. The survey bridges us all, and shows us all who we are .. That is our hope, also bound up in trying to create trust , real inclusion.

It's still a PILOT Survey though and will need repeating and improving . We are looking to inspire YOU to aid that in various groups across the world too. Creating co-operation . Do your own surveys. Increase Adoptees voices.

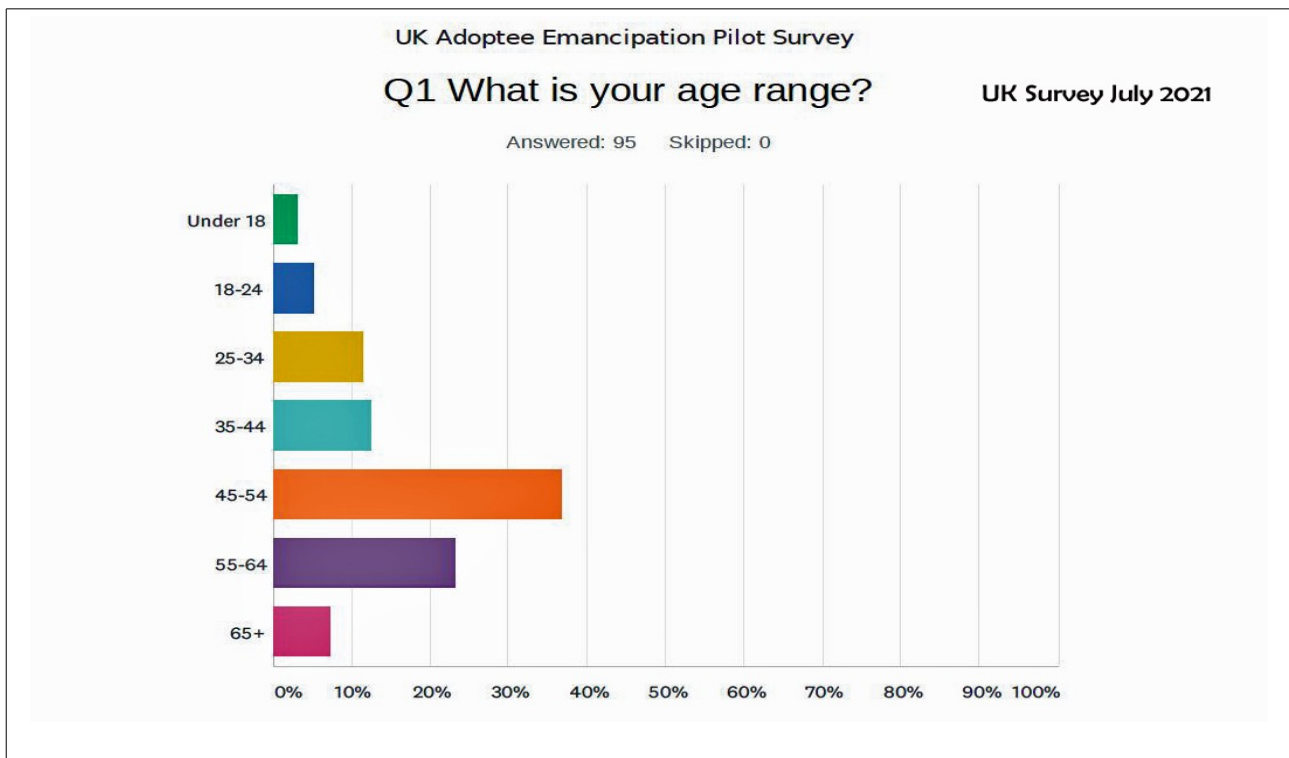
We want to help those processes so others in the Adoptee community can realise, AGGREGATED ADOPTEE VOICES across the world, MATTER - whilst also preserving our valuable differences... Please continue if you wish to the survey underneath.

PLEASE DO NOT PUT DOWN ANY PERSONALLY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION i.e NAMES OR EMAILS.

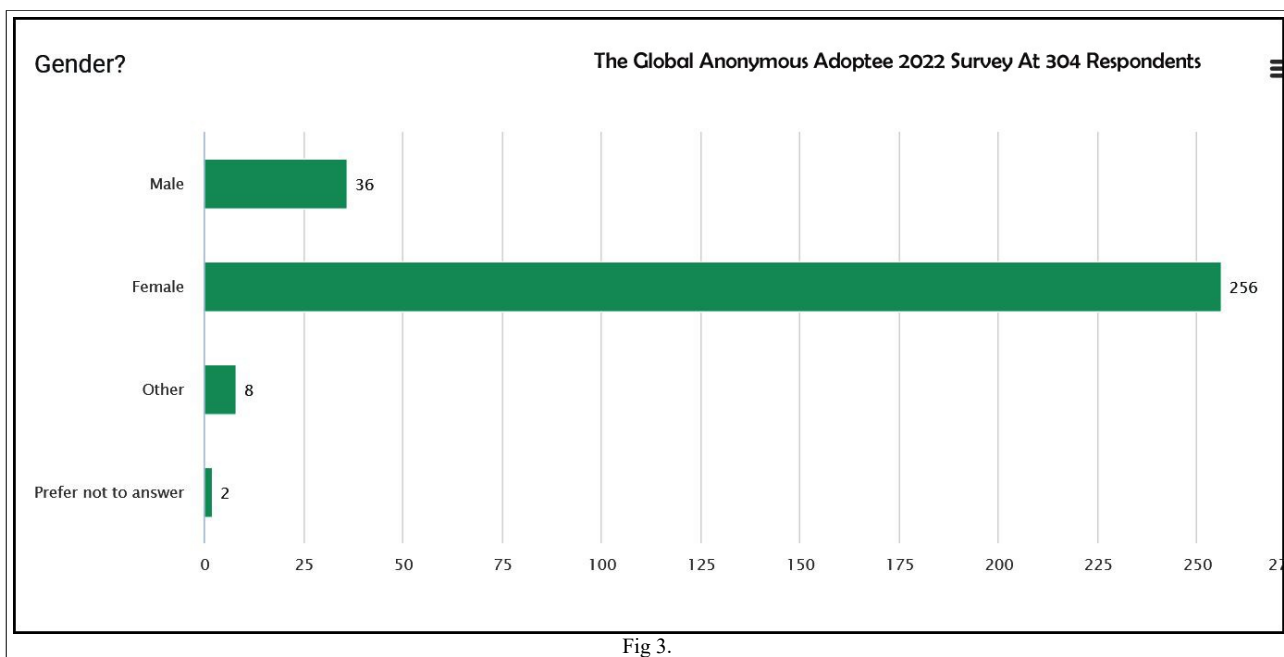
The Survey Foreword



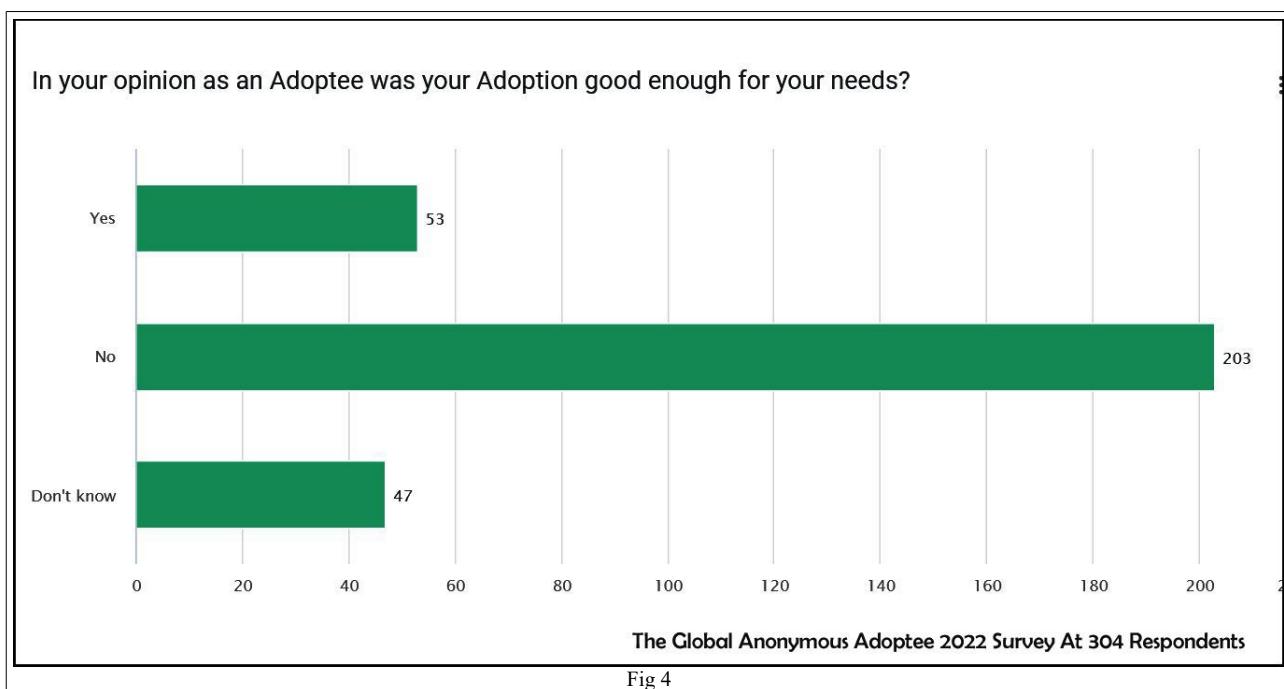
Note : the UK 2021 survey below as a comparator: the age distribution bar chart is perhaps useful to the above Fig 1. 2022 figures. Both are showing a skewing towards older groups online. Are these the later ages when Adoption is fully digested and perhaps appraised in ways that create a much stronger reflective experience of Adoptee life ? Let us continue. Keep the question in mind .



The 2021 UK Adoptee Pilot Survey. Fig 2.

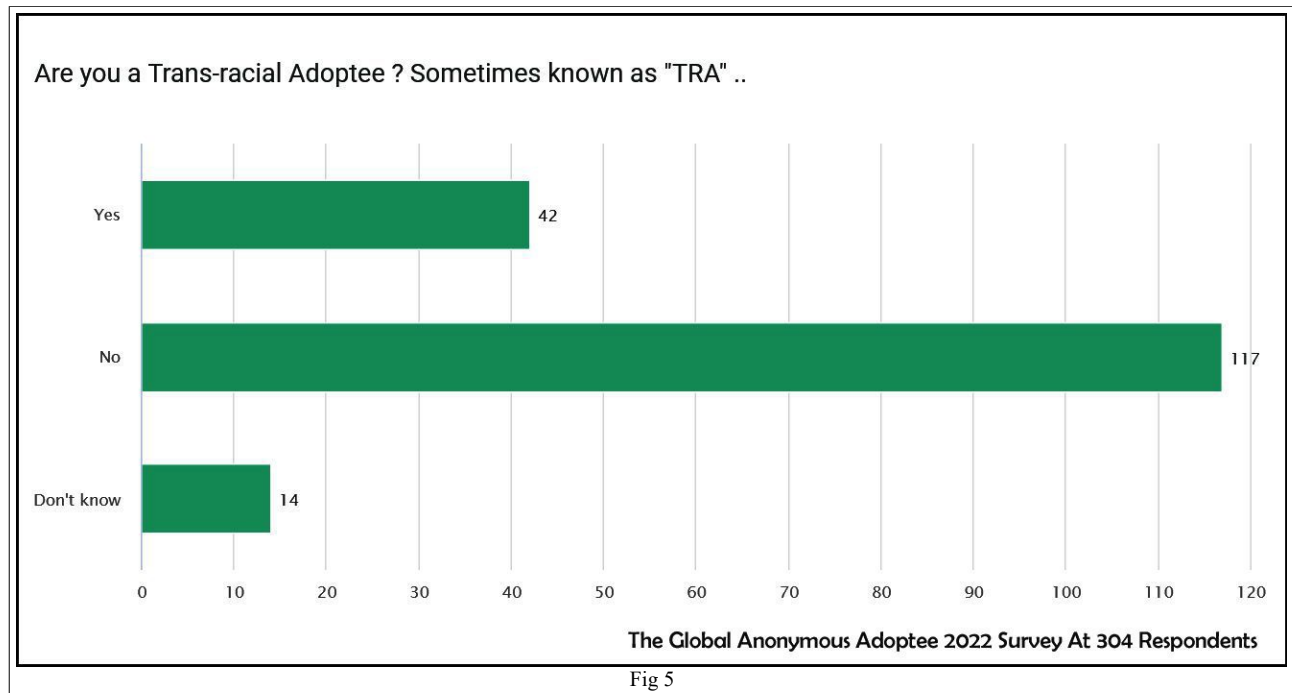


A vast majority 256 (84%) respondents were female which begs the question about reach into the male Adoptee population of only 36! (12%). There were other types of self described genders, all told , 12 in fact: “Female/non-binary “ , “Non-binary, transmasculine”, “Non binary” , “Transgender Woman”, “Poly” , “No” (sic), “Agender” , “2Spirit” , “Non-binary”, “Female”, “AFAB nonbinary” “ trans nonbinary”. Everyone was asked about their experiences of Adoption. One critical point here is there may well be a need for special survey of “Transfolk”/ self described genders, other than “female/male to be done, so they can say more about how gender co-factors into their Adoptee experiences.



In this first tranche of information its fairly obvious that many : 203 did not experience Adoption as good enough for their needs . On total numbers here = 303 (with one missing) 203 represents 66% of respondents ..17.5 % said “Yes” and 15.5% were “Don't Knows”

Please note : Citizenship Questions/concerns that came from comment boxes shortly after the above question in the survey, not included here **will be done in a separated tranche** with qualifying comments done by respondents who are the best people to explain matters. Their comments matter about race and citizen-ship problems. The confusions for them surrounding being an Adoptee impact far more when they are seen in a separate report back. Like-wise the next bar chart section which had qualifying comments from “TRA's”



It is very important to realise the Transracial Adoptees made their own qualifying comments afterwards in yet another comment box question which (to repeat) will form it's own report-back because their voices are powerful and should come out as quoted as their own.

That TRA report-back **combined in fact** with citizen-ship matters is already planned as second tranche report-back. This first report-back here is a fast feedback and important to obtain some degree of confidence from the Adoptees that did the survey .

The next question starts to really show what's been happening in Adoptee experiences for the 304 bar charted respondents of the survey.

See Next Bar Chart For Amount Of Emotional Abuses Recorded

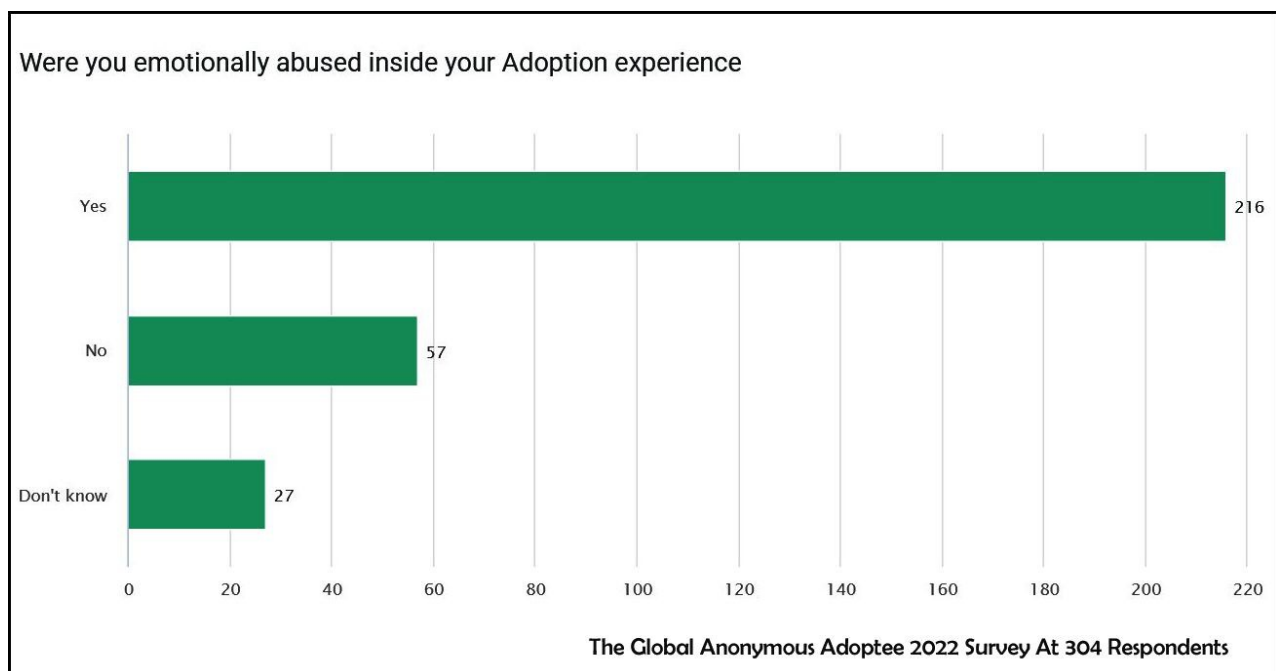


Fig 6 .

216 (71%) are showing a shocking rate of emotional abuse. The comment boxes after this question were full of comments and will necessitate doing yet another report-back on the damages shown by others after accidental identifiers are screened out. The comment boxes qualifying this one question, gave : 233 comments. The sheer bulk of them means screening them and giving samples once fully anonymised .

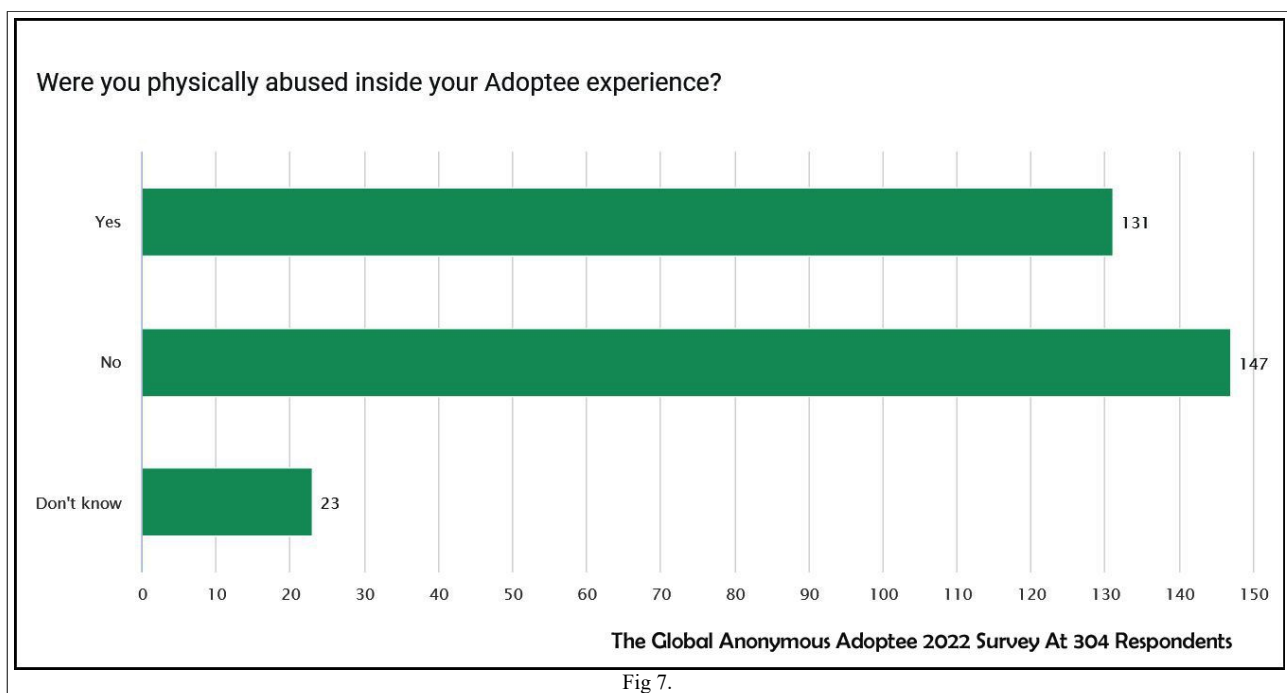
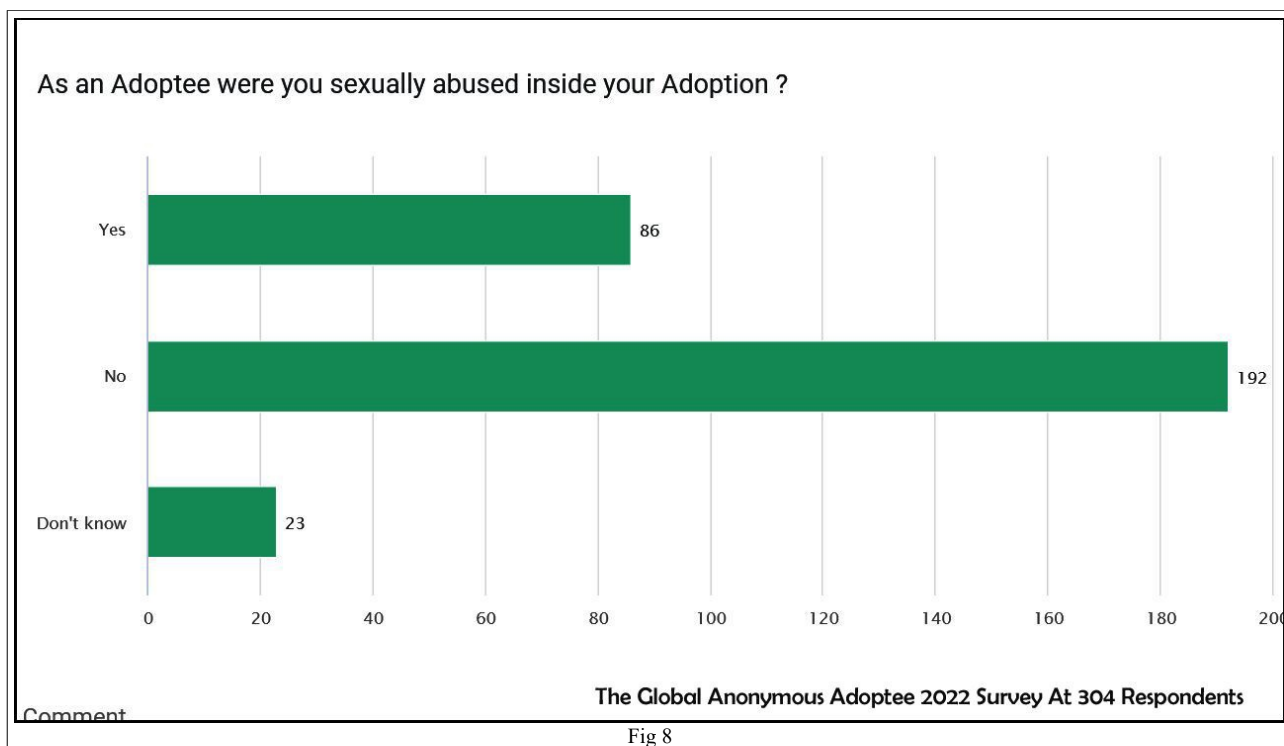


Fig 7.

131 (43%) Were physically abused. 48% were not. 143 comments were made in the comment boxes and once again those need to be screened for accidental identifiers and then sampled to be combined into a report-back of all abuses. There was a lot beatings on children in the past and cruelty done as “discipline “ of the time. Some comments were more extreme. So far here we have the two questions of child abuses dis-aggregating “abuses”. The survey has a third question next :



28% (86 Adoptees) were sexually abused inside Adoption. 63% (192) were not. There were 101 comments made on this question afterwards. The bar charts were taken at 304 respondents. A handful of people who were not sexually abused made some comments and some mixed up other types of sexual/emotional abuses like being undermined about their body/sexual growth and one person had a good adoption and felt the needs to say so. Most of the comments (90%) confirmed actual sexual abuses and/or intrusions/grooming and adoptive relatives were involved.

What will happen with these dis-aggregated abuses, as comments, is another report-back containing more details will be separately done erasing any identifiers and combining these abuse-stressors with others to show up implications for the mental stability and remedies for Adoptees implied by their own answers. So far in this survey, Adoption as a design for good care of a large per cent of answering Adoptees, seems not to have been adequate for them considering it is supposed to have been a social remedy for other previous “unstable care.”. The question remains: is Adoption risky ? By pain to gain ratio ?

As if to highlight, that Adoption seems at least contestable as a stabilising design of care for some of the respondents in this survey, the next bar chart adds more weight to concerns.

See Next Bar Chart On Self Attributed Mental Ill Health Distresses Recorded

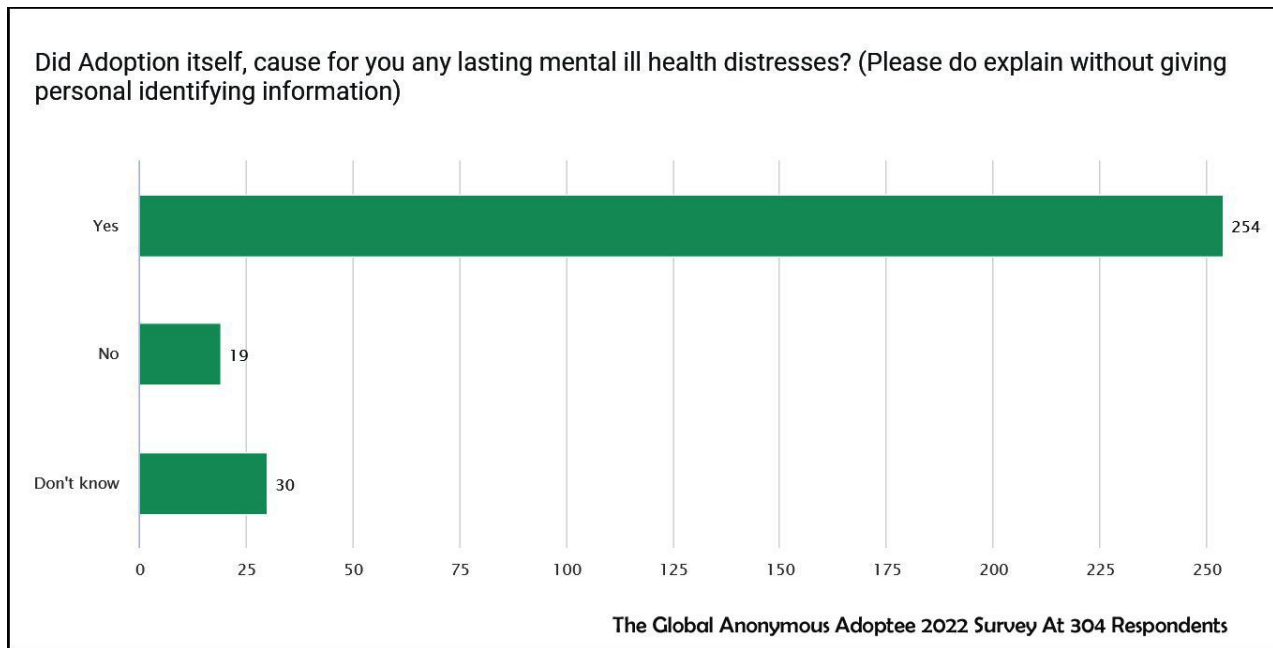


Fig. 9

We had started off in fig. 4, seeing 66% (203) of respondents in this survey (mainly female) who said Adoption was not good enough for their needs. Only 17.5% (53) of respondents said it was. If we are testing whether or not Adoption is a good enough design for them, then this fig 9, chart of 84% (254) causing mental ill health distresses is quite an underlining that it is not. The next question expanded further into these matters :

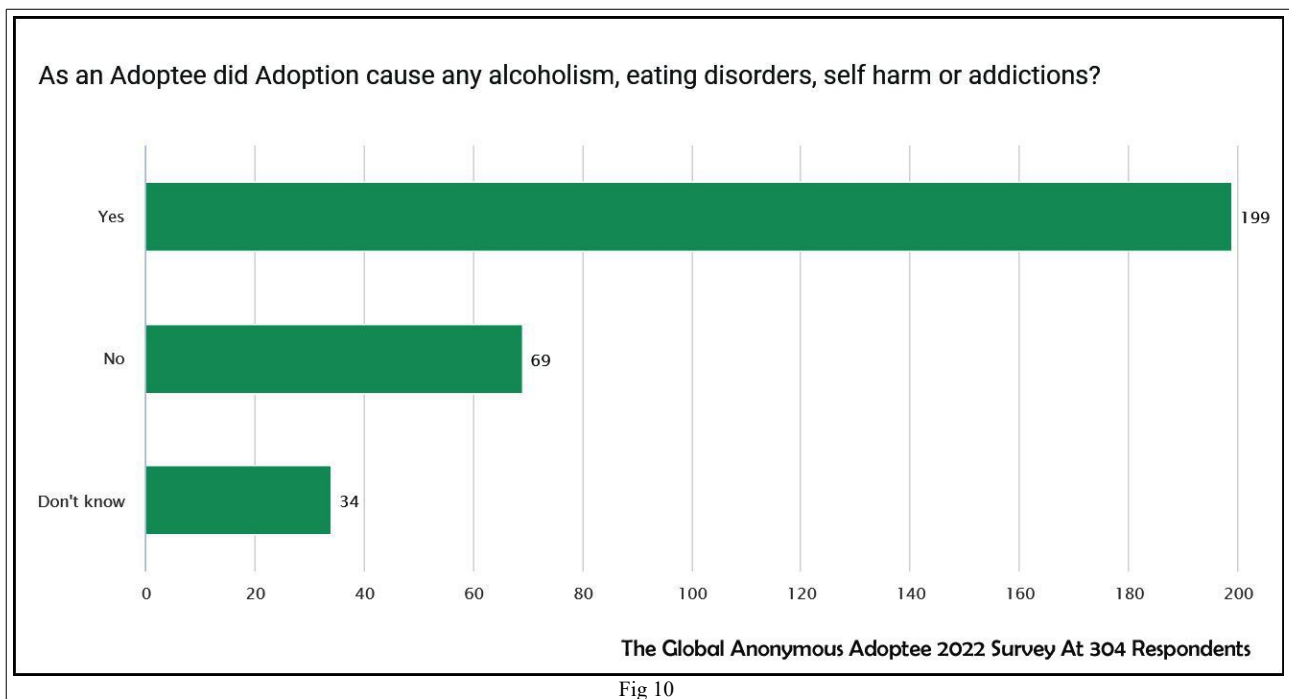
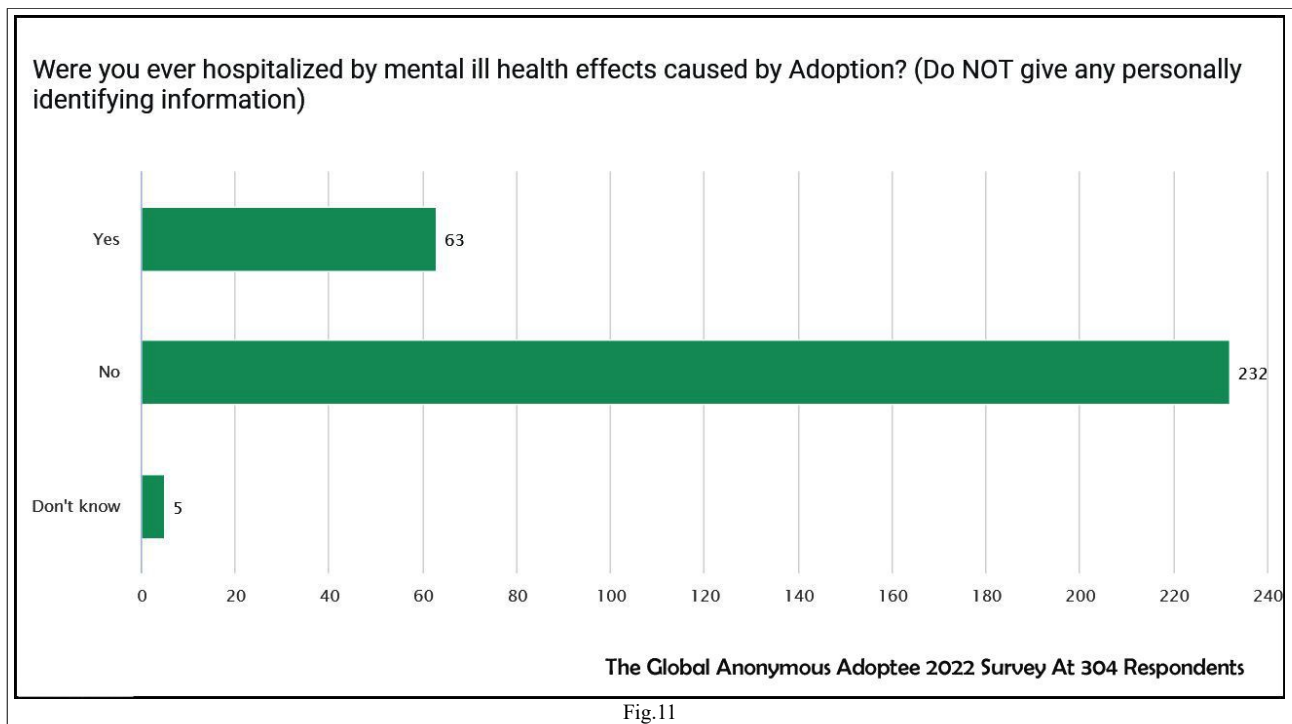
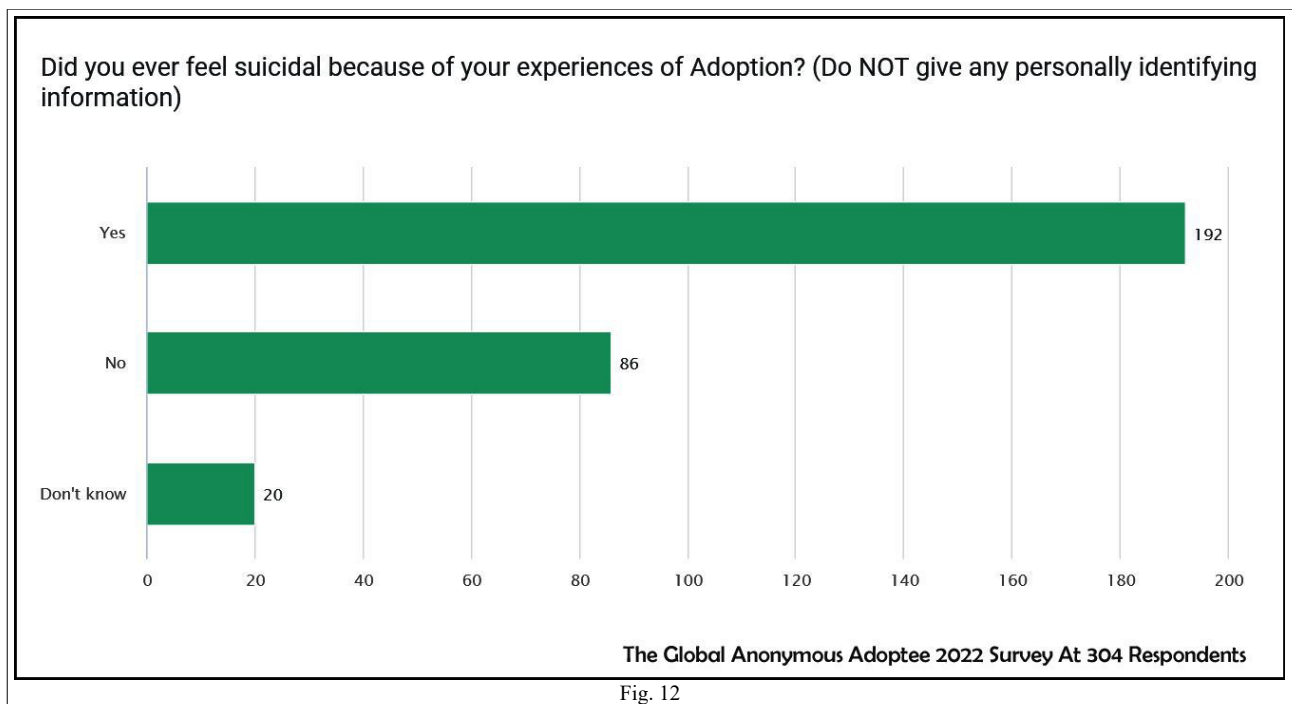


Fig 10

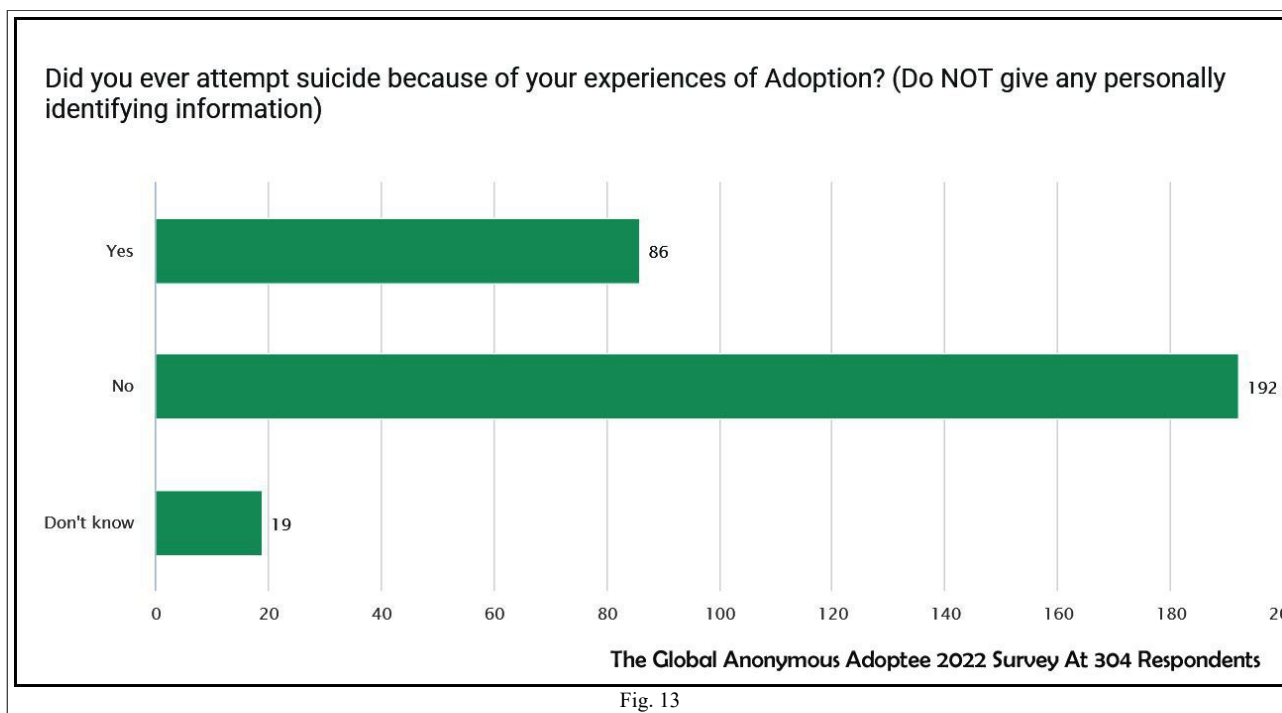
We have 199 Adoptees, nearly 66% who self attributed that Adoption caused them either alcoholism, eating disorders , self harms , addictions.. 23% (69) had none. Were any treated in Hospitals for problems with mental ill health effects ?



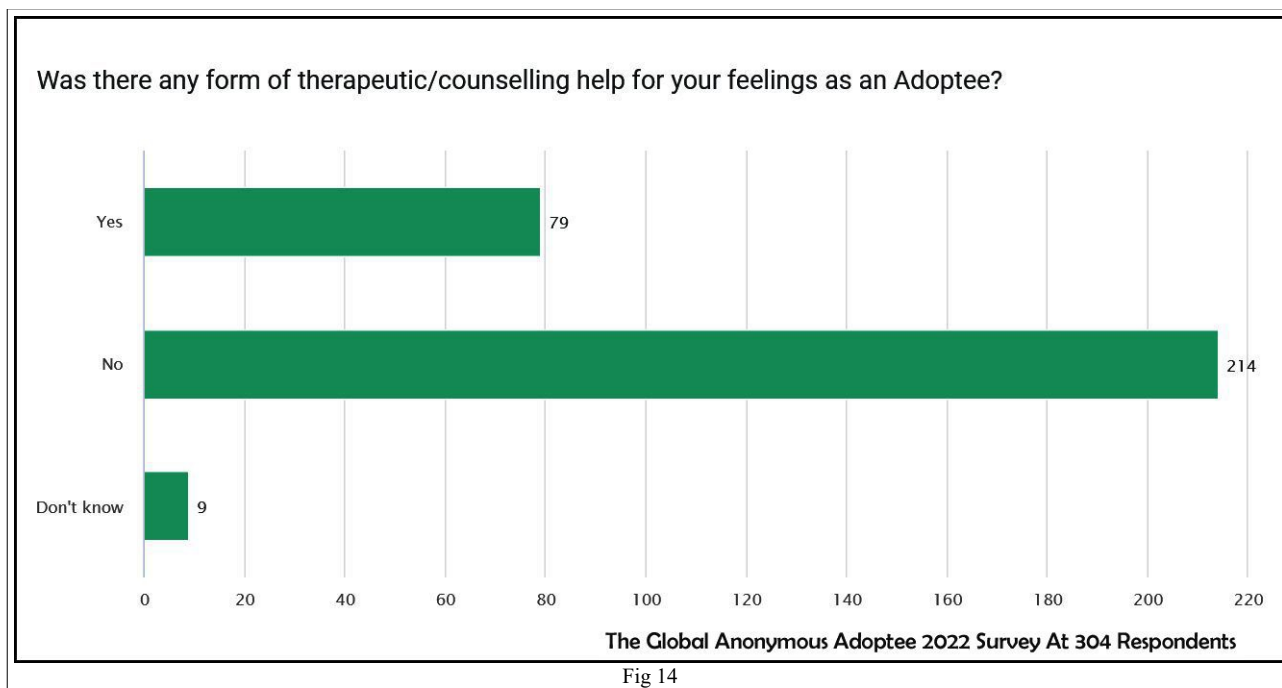
The percent of Adoptees hospitalised by mental ill health effects in this Citizen survey was 20% (63) which might seem a low figure considering the abuses experienced. It seems many are partly resilient to the lives they have endured? 76.5% (232) did not go to hospital. Many though live with a degree of pain that is very high.

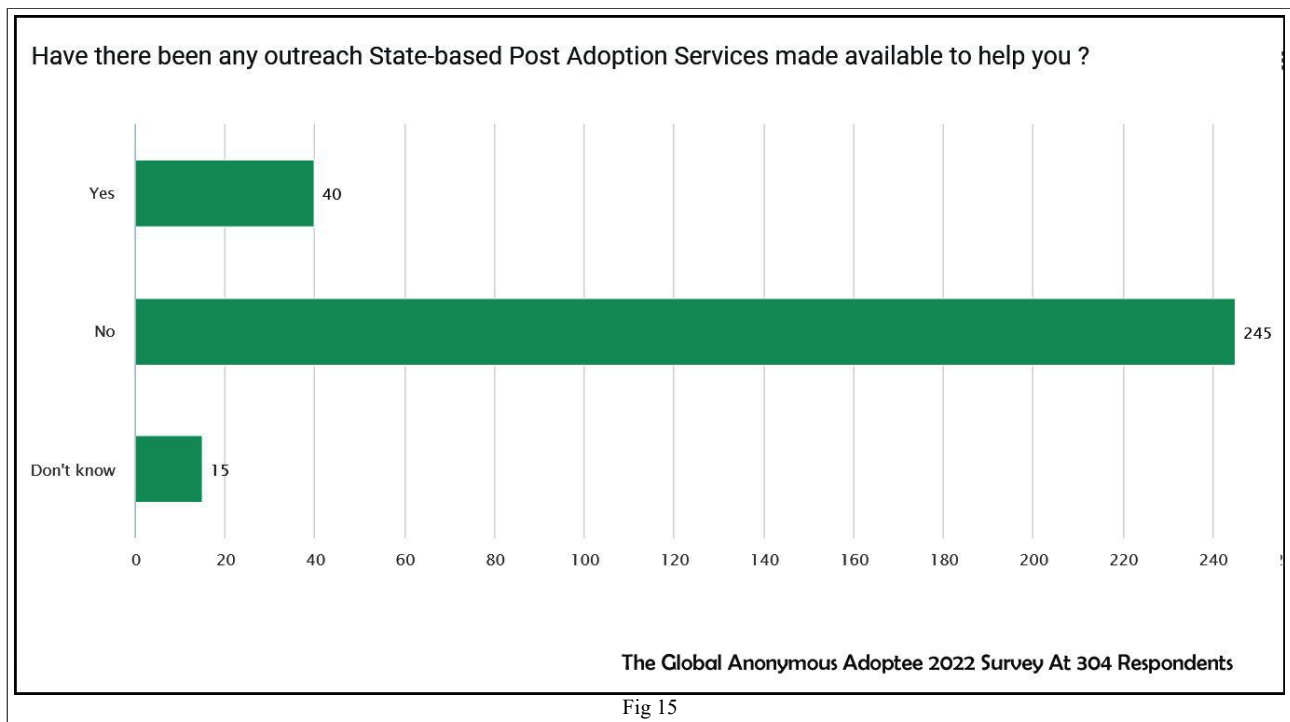


These figures are high for feelings of suicidality at 63% (192) set against 28% (86) that had no such feelings.

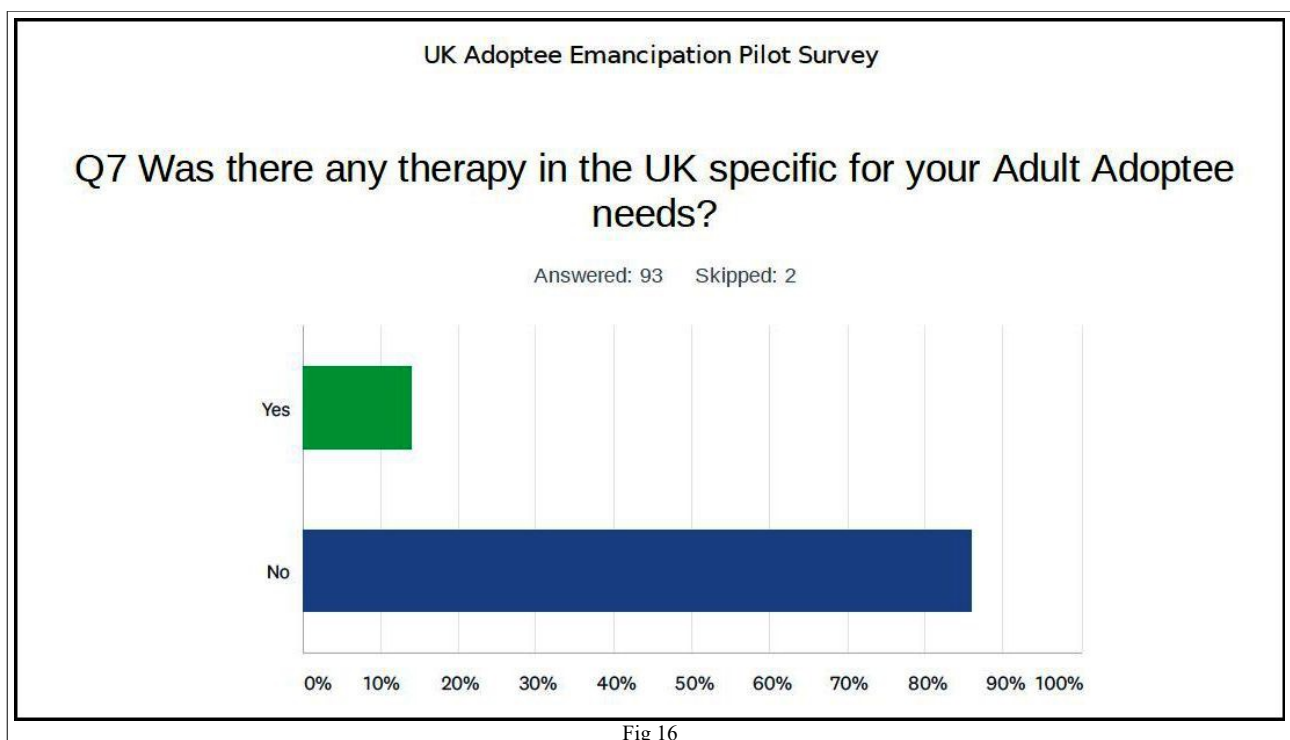


Actual attempts resolved out at 28% (86) . In the 152 comment boxes there were Adoptees that said they had tried more than once. Multiple times in fact. Is there a link between the nature of all the abuses and suicides? The comment box additional details show quite appalling stories and it's not therefore surprising that some Adoptees have not wished to have been inside life. One respondent typically stated: ***“The thought of suicide was my shadow, it was my plan b when things got tough.”*** Were any helped though, to remain stabilised? In fig.14. below some 26 % (79) did receive some help, but that is likely to have been private or “Agency” or charity provisions. 71% (214) received no help. Did the State though in any way help? See fig. 15 after this one below.





It seems clear that within the nature of some of the accompanying condition of being a “Global” Adoptee, which Governments *at many levels approve of legally*, there are poor levels of provisions for State help. 245 (81%) Adoptees in this 2022 survey responded there was *no State outreaching helpful post adoption services*. See the comparator fig. 16 below: the 2021 UK survey of 95 respondents where though we we found in another chart 72% wanted help, supply was poor. Post Adoption Services in the UK partly embrace therapies for some children, Adults do not get any provisions. It seems therapy, counselling help/ “post adoptive” help, does not favour adults with their needs mostly anywhere. Risk, seems high for instability.



Within the matrix of cross weaving experiences inside Global Adoptee's lives, the 2022 survey asked about “identity” losses ..It is yet another painful prism Adoptees feel. Those losses are certainly evidenced online on many Groups like the Twitter : “hashtagged ones” in which the hashtag functions to gather together Adoptee commenters on *#Adopteetwitter* and *#Adopteevoices* . On Facebook there are Adoptee groups which express similar identity loss concerns. Within the Transracial Adoptees and Intercountry Adoptees too, with their extra difficulties of losing “cultural heritage” lack of “genetic kin mirroring” and having different skin colours than their (often) white Adopters. The next bar chart makes particular sense for them and all too . What did the survey find ?

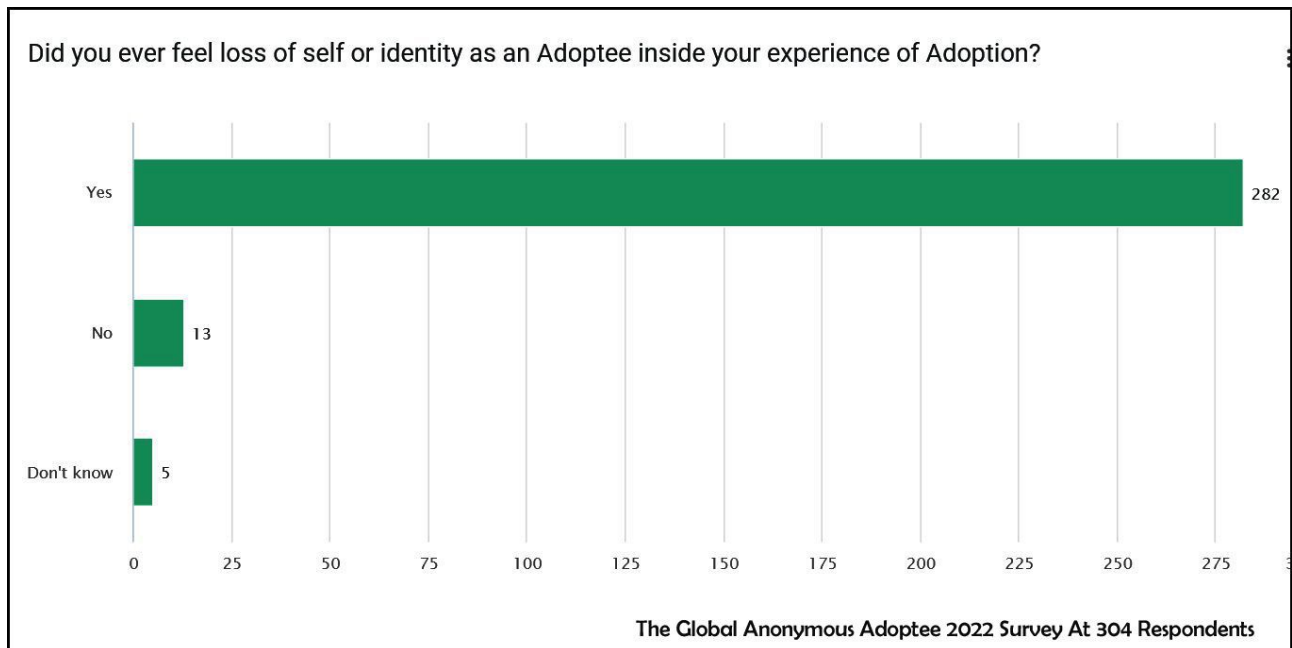


Fig. 17

282 (93%) answered they felt loss of identity . The comment box that came after this bar charted question to ask Adoptees about how they experienced this loss of identity was 14 pages long. **256 comments** . That was huge for one answer. A survey in itself in fact; like so many questions qualified by Adoptees in comments in this survey. It shows even in a selection of comments here, the common thread that goes through so many Adoptees answers of : A lack of “mirroring”. A deficit in them being confirmed for their deeper selves of losses. The socially voided inner-conditions as part of the “*care design*” of Adoption. Is Adoption creating **an identity neurosis-by-design** for many?

Comments On Loss Of Identity First Tranche Report-back Summary

“I grew up feeling isolated and not quite real. It was as though I had appeared out of nowhere. I still look in the mirror and don't know who I am looking at”

“I feel like there are two versions of me, hard to explain...”

“Knowledge that there are a large number of things I may never find out about myself is

tough to manage sometimes.”

“I’ve lost both my Irish and Scottish traveller culture. I’ve lost eleven brothers and sisters. I’ve lost cousins and extent extended family. I’ve lost everything.”

“I was controlled. I could never live up to the expectations of a 'natural born' child. Anything my adopter did not like, was tacitly blamed on my being “adopted”, not “from her”. Nature was seen as being at the root of any problems as my adopter absolved herself of any abuse of me, or any effects of adoption itself.”

“I explain it as feeling like a cuckoo growing up in another bird's nest.”

“It's an empty feeling with lots of melancholy.”

“Alone, lonely, never belong, no genetic mirroring, not fit in, no confidence, trust, poor relationship.”

“I can sometimes become detached from the moment and it feels like I’m not really there. I can hear but can’t take in information when this happens, and things get partly blurry I get tunnel vision. There are also times I don’t feel like I’m real. I have expressed this to my GP but he has made no comment on this and has not offered any help.”

“Crazy question - of course. the fictive family is a false life.”

“I lost my identity and have fought my whole life to build a real identity.”

“No clue who I am, and trust issues run deep after being lied to. Lack of confidence in myself or my family”

Just within this selection of comments above (on which there will be more Report-backs) there are senses of Adoptees living as partial “disembodied watchers” and “de-realised” away from senses of their own being. Senses of “double life”. There are senses of identity “robbery” caused by legal sanctions created by global laws of altering legal identity of the Adoptee, whilst simultaneously sanctioning Adopters to raise the child **“as if born of their marriages/unions”**. Adoptees appear as if inside an existential equation which invalidates their origins and primal belonging, whilst simultaneously making many feel as though they are living inside a legally sanctioned and sanctified social-dream. This first report back is to aid everyone's focus too on whether or not **activism** is now overdue creating remedies reforms by political/media action. Adoptees do not need to be over-playing with social “science” here. Their voices are apparent, Reforms appear to be needed by weight of collective experience expressed online, and that is needed in other political ways too.

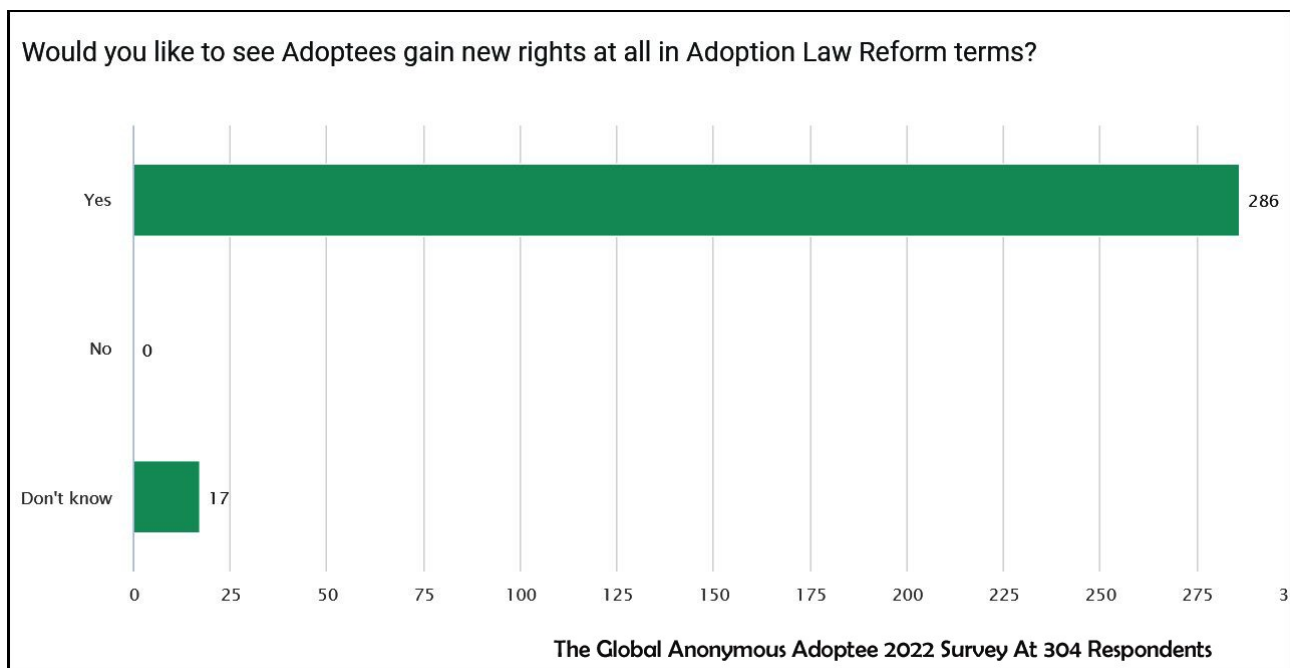


Fig. 18

A summary below of the associated comments in Fig. 18 from respondents showed the directions of “reform-travel”. Another larger report-back will be done on this question as indeed with other bar-charts that enabled comments afterwards and respondents to give their experience and/or views. The survey comment box question related here was: “Please explain as an Adoptee what you would like to see as an Adoption Law Reform?”... :

“Ability to obtain original birth certificate no later than 18 regardless of adoptive family permissions (domestic); citizenship for international adoptees”

“Outlaw adoption, permanent guardianship only after all options exhausted. Money given to family preservation instead if adoption. Access to birth certificate, medical records, family health histories, citizenship. All guardianships/ adoptions open with accountability for actually keeping it open.”

“Ban adoption.”

“I don't think an adoption order should be nullified. It undermines the legal basis for all parties - there could be a recognition certificate which allows for the birth identify to be assumed for legal purposes. I want free access, in the UK as a Subject Access Request to my adoption records as anyone else who has received a service from the state. I don't want access to my story to be mediated or edited by the organisation that handled my adoption - so an overhaul of access to records law and practice. I want to receive any post adoption services from an adult specialist service and have access in the UK to the adoption support fund to pay for therapy. I want to see the requirement to be Ofsted registered removed from therapists for adults living with the impact of adoption. I want to be able to claim any citizenship rights from my birth parents countries of origin whilst retaining those of my adoptive parents.”

“We should have equal rights to access all our information on our majority and

intercountry adoptees should have automatic citizenship."

"A right to all information. A right to funded support, therapy, counselling etc "

"I think 'adoption' should be abolished. No human being belongs to another. Long term fostering or legal 'partnership' type if agreement between adult 'adoptee' and 'adoptive' family if wished. Total honesty. Not - this is our son/daughter but 'this is 'X' who is growing up in our family.'"

"The right to annul the adoption order placed on me. Compensation for what I was put through."

"Access to origin family and health history."

"Open access to all adoption information from time of birth. No one should have to wait until they are an adult to know the names of their parents. Ideally, abolish adoption and replace with guardianship. No changes to child's identity."

"Abolition of adoption"

"Annulment option for adults. Automatic citizenship for inter-county child adoptions. Mandatory support services made available and advertised to adoptees and first parents. Block birth certificate changes and give adoptees rights to know the identity of first parents at adulthood."

"The right to annul adoption without any given reason. The end of Plenary adoption full stop. The promotion of legal guardianship rather than adoption."

"I would like to all adoptees to have a right to their origins enforced, meaning agencies can no longer withhold and hide our paperwork information. I would like all adoptees to have a right to dual citizenship when we have been intercountry adoptee. It should be automatic and lifelong to belong to both countries and be treated like native citizens of both. I would like all adoptees to have the right to discharge their adoption without any cost. We never had a choice in our adoption as children, allow us the right as an adult to discharge if we chose because that then allows us to be legally related back to our birth kin."

I would like to see plenary adoption completely obliterated and replaced with more adoptee rights focus ... so that we utilise other alternatives such as guardianship, kinship care, permanent care, or simple adoption. But I recognise when moving children across borders the issue of citizenship becomes difficult to protect under these other alternatives which is why so few countries offer anything other than domestic or intercountry adoption. Remove intercountry adoption in all its forms. Children should not be removed

from their country, culture and race. That only adds to our losses and does not help the country or the family long term. Give adopted peoples offspring (the children of adoptees) the right to the records of their parent (us adoptees) ie multigenerational access to records.

Give victims of illegal adoptions the right to an inquiry into their dodgy adoption with the powers to prosecute those perpetrators who trafficked us. Currently there are no laws to ensure this in intercountry adoption, nor is there any international or national body that is independent to undertake this. The most the perpetrators can be prosecuted for is falsification of paperwork and their fines and outcomes are ridiculous compared to the lifetime of separation they've caused.

Give all adoptees and birth families free DNA kits and genealogy services to allow for reunification."

Looking at just a few of the 241 comments above from Adoptees; they were ahead of the next question Fig. 19.. That is where the survey asked about legal easement of Annulment of Adoption for Adoptees. Annulment or Revocation, or "Discharge" is more talked about now that Australia has more than 15 cases allegedly. Those "Discharges" have followed on much later from the 2012 "Forced Adoption" apology by Julia Gillard Prime Minister of Australia. Easement for Adoptees to legally leave: "Adoptee identity" though lags behind.

Some Adoptees online from many countries have been aware that Annulment is a **Human Rights Adoptee** possibility that is made very onerous and it represents an overdue reform to end the status of "Adoptee" for those who wish it as adults. Adoption alters the legal identity of the person Adopted, to that of: "child of the Adopters" . Some Adoptees are cautious though, because through no fault of their own, their citizenship rights (they fear) may be affected.

The "Global" community though of more active Adoptees online are in ad hoc corners of the internet now partly spearheading the notion of far greater rights in what they experience as a sluggish limbo of reforms often with a long lag time of anything achieved.

See Next Bar Chart Fig. 19 on next page

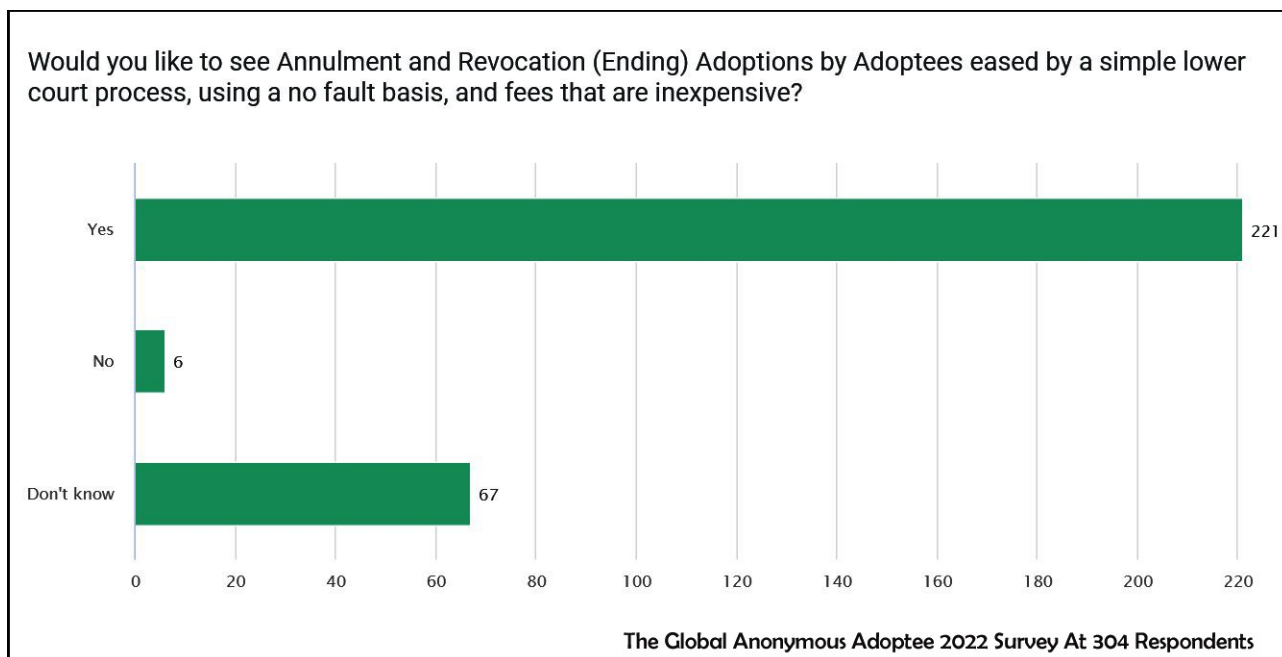


Fig. 19

We knew in the UK there had been talk of Annulment/ Revocation in the online varieties of Adoptee communities but the Global survey figures here do aid where the direction of travel is going in wanted reform terms. 221 respondents (73%) are giving a clear indication.

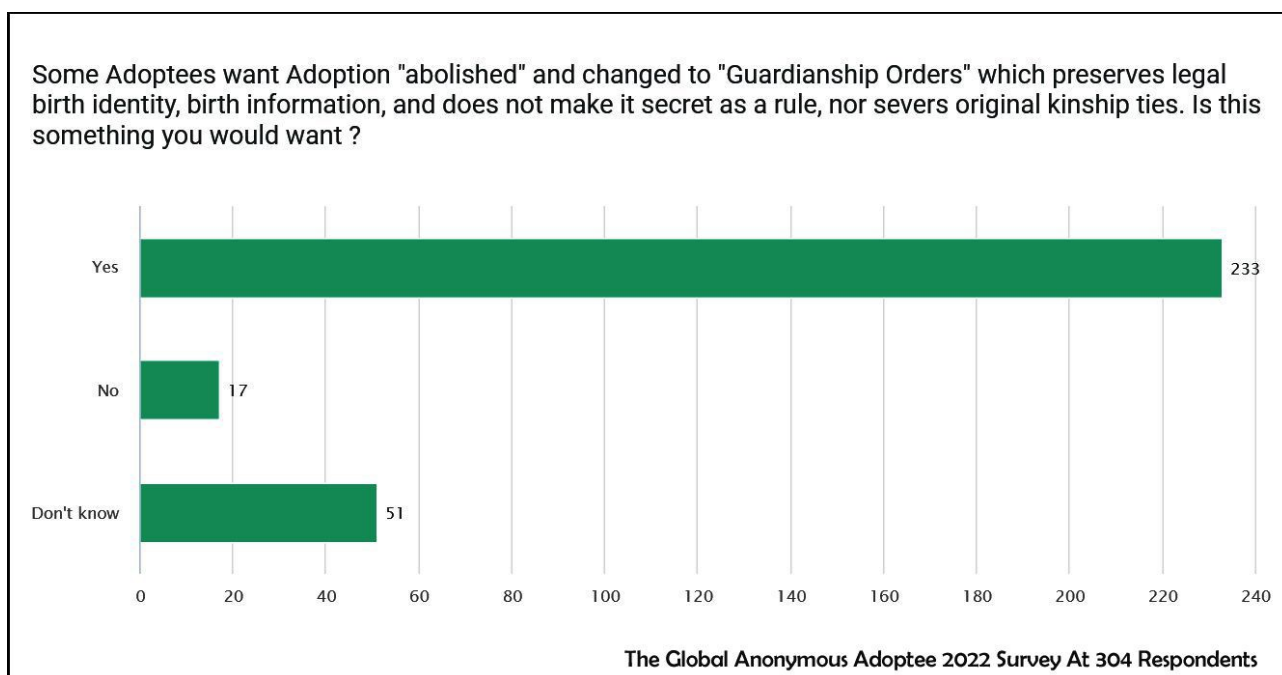


Fig. 20

Finally we can observe in the "Law Reform" survey sections an alternative to Adoption which does not sever kin-ship ties, birth identity, nor birth-family information. Some Adoptees are discussing these matters online because they want the future to be better for children than the past was for them. **That's the simple truth.** 77% (223) of Adoptee respondents wanted a better way than Adoption with all it's regalia of lost identity , mental ill health distresses – potential suicidality – various child abuse risks. Is it any wonder they answered mostly this way ?

Notes To All Global Adoptees Completing the Anonymous Survey :

Who were you Globally? You were Korean, Chinese, mixed race, Afro-American, Scottish, New Zealanders , Australians, Dutch , UK, US, white people. That will all be explained in another report-back. There will quite a few of those as you can now imagine.

The comment sections have given rise to large reaction-comments to the survey and a lot of information. Most of it is okay to reproduce but accidental identifiers must be checked thoroughly for future report-backs so that **anonymity is assured and no-one but a respondent could recognise their own content. Even so, some comments will not be shown at the discretion of protecting the anonymous person who made them.**

Abuses in Adoption where commented on, must be erased if they are prone to identifying anyone at all. However summaries are fine to show in later report-backs (as the months tick by for compiling and showing more results) .

Universities might like to realise there is an appetite for Adoptee surveys and deeper work to be done which reaches into the Adoptee experiences far deeper and even inside what are painful areas which nonetheless must be recorded for any law reform and therapy remedies to more speedily come ..

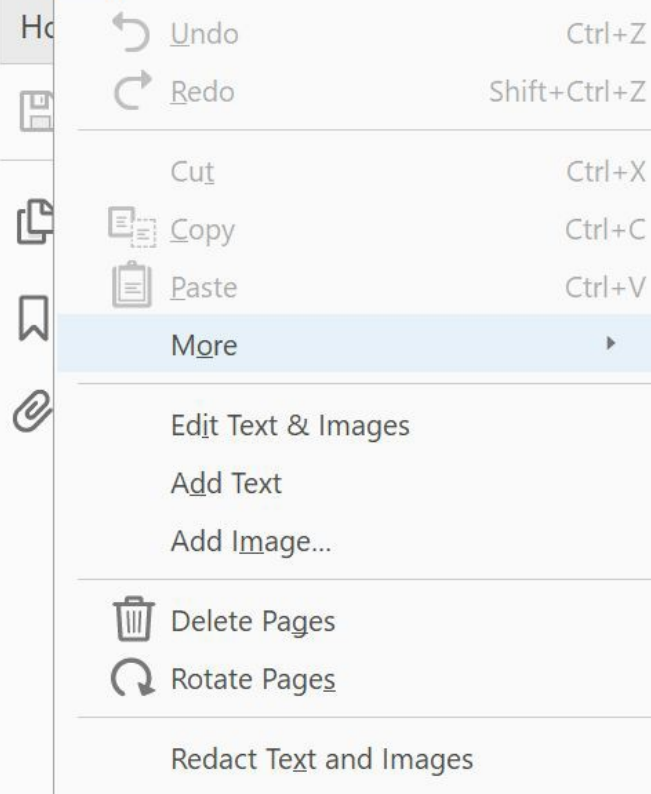
In fact the less we hear, from the Global Adoptee Voices the more suffering there is likely to be caused, since wiser voices in this survey, are collectively indicating strongly, all is not well **enough** with Adoption as an alternative “design” of child care. Adoption appears partly for many of who responded to the survey, to be a socially caused: “Neurosis by design”. As for future child Adoptees? Are they largely subject to being an experiment in social engineering which may go very wrong for many ? That is a question remaining. Haunting.

Paul Brian Tovey (Retired) : Adoptee
Ex Monitor Of Mental Health Service Design/Delivery (pro-bono)
Curator Of The Survey. Date : 30th Sept 2022

MANY Thanks to all Adoptees who aided the design of this 2022 Citizen survey and helped this exercise in “bottom-up” Adoptee-democracy to exist. Particular credit goes to all of you who showed the real pain your lives endure. Without that collectively shown, it is more likely Adoption as an institution will remain unchallenged for serious reform. It is thus likely to harm others in the future.

To see how to locate snapshot functions in PDFs to snapshot and copy text or figures/bar charts for further use in debate / activism
SEE BELOW FOR HELP

File Edit View Sign Window Help



To take Snapshots to place online as copies and to use for debate or Activism : GO TO: "EDIT"

Then GO TO: "MORE"

Then GO TO :

"Take a snapshot"

Use your mouse then to size a snapshot till you get it right as a desired copy.