

Anti-racist framework for decision-making and transitioning children from minoritised racial and ethnic groups into transracial adoptive families (AFDiT)

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The Anti-Racist Framework for Decision-Making and Transitioning Children from Minoritised Racial and Ethnic Groups into Transracial Adoptive Families (AFDiT) is an initiative developed to address the complex identity needs of racialised and minoritised ethnic children in transracial adoption settings.

Often referred to as 'supporting children's identity in permanence,' AFDiT was founded by Dr. Tam Cane and her research team at the University of Sussex. This framework is the product of extensive collaboration with social work practitioners, individuals with lived experiences of transracial adoption, and key partners such as Adoption South East and CoramBAAF. The project received funding from the British Academy and Adoption England.

AFDiT aims to guide social workers in understanding, protecting, and addressing the identity needs of minoritised ethnic children transitioning into transracial adoptive families. While the framework is specifically designed for adoption processes, its relevance extends to anyone working with children living away from their birth parents.

By embedding AFDiT into practice, social workers, teams, adoption panels, and families can navigate issues of identity and cultural preservation with greater sensitivity and expertise.

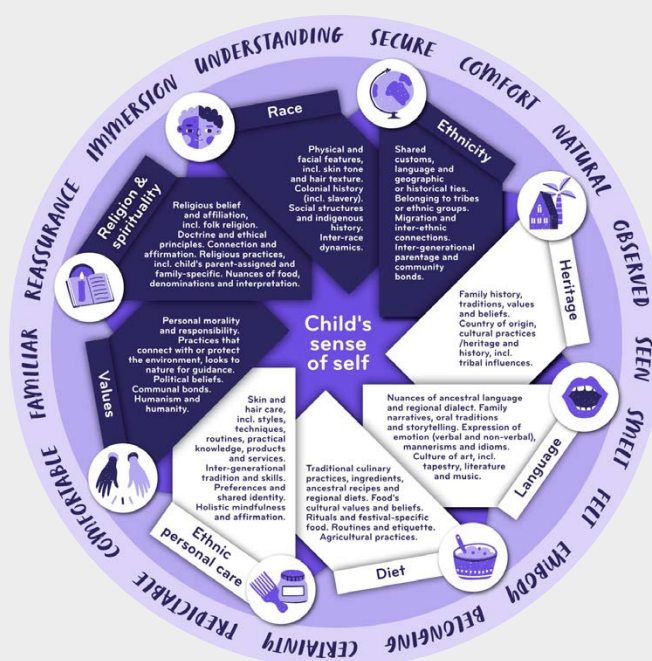
AFDiT's utility spans every stage of the adoption journey, from early permanence planning to the assessment and support of adopters and families.

The framework provides a structured approach to:

- Permanency planning.
- Writing Child Permanence Reports.
- Assessing cultural and ethnic needs.
- Supporting families through the adoption process.

By tailoring decision-making to the unique needs of minoritised children, AFDiT ensures that their cultural and racial identities are acknowledged, respected, and celebrated. The framework's overarching goal is to mitigate trauma, particularly epistemic trauma, often associated with transracial adoption, and to foster environments where children's identities can thrive.

The adoption of AFDiT across England highlights its growing significance as a national framework. To date, approximately 53 champions, comprising Regional Adoption Services and members of the Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies, have been trained to implement and advocate for AFDiT. These champions include 43 trained during the framework's launch and 12 co-creators who contributed directly to its development, alongside experts by experience.



AFDiT has proven to be a vital tool for:

- Improving assessments and decision-making around identity and cultural needs.
- Guiding support requirements for minoritised children and their adoptive families.
- Encouraging practices that celebrate, rather than overlook, children's racial and cultural identities.

The vision for AFDiT's future is one of widespread cultural and racial justice within the adoption system. The framework aspires to create a landscape where transracial adoption no longer results in trauma but instead becomes a nurturing process that honours every child's identity and humanity. By equipping professionals with the tools and knowledge to address cultural and racial needs effectively, AFDiT sets the stage for meaningful change.

With ongoing commitment and energy, the AFDiT framework stands as a national standard for transracial adoption practices. Its champions and supporters are paving the way for a future where every adopted child feels valued, understood, and celebrated for who they are.

See more: [The Framework](#)