

## *A Transracially Adopted Child's Bill of Rights*

*By Liza Steinberg Triggs (Pact Press, Fall 1996)*

*Every child is entitled to love and full membership in his/her family.*

*Every child is entitled to have his/her culture embraced.*

*Every child is entitled to parents who know that this is a race-conscious society.*

*Every child is entitled to parents who know that he/she will experience life differently than they do.*

*Every child is entitled to parents who are not looking to "save" him/her or to improve the world.*

*Every child is entitled to parents who know that being in a family doesn't depend on "matching".*

*Every child is entitled to parents who know that transracial adoption changes a family forever.*

*Every child is entitled to be accepted by extended family members.*

*Every child is entitled to parents who know that, if they are white, they benefit from racism.*

*Every child is entitled to parents who know that they can't transmit the child's birth culture if it is not their own.*

*Every child is entitled to have items at home that are made for and by people of his/her race.*

*Every child is entitled to opportunities to make friends with people of his/her race or ethnicity.*

*Every child is entitled to daily opportunities of positive experiences with his/her birth culture.*

*Every child is entitled to build racial pride within his/her home, school and neighborhood.*

*Every child is entitled to have many opportunities to connect with adults of the child's race.*

*Every child is entitled to parents who accept, understand and empathize with his/her culture.*

*Every child is entitled to learn survival, problem-solving, and coping skills in a context of racial pride.*

*Every child is entitled to take pride in the development of dual identity and a multicultural/multiracial perspective on life.*

*Every child is entitled to find his/her multiculturalism to be an asset and to conclude, "I've got the best of both worlds".*