



## Caring for our Community: Mental Health, Self-Care, and Advocacy

#KAAN2018 Conference

Minneapolis, MN

June 29 – July 1, 2018

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS (CFP)

KAAN is accepting proposals through November 1, 2017 for its 20th annual conference, which will take place in Minneapolis, MN from June 29-July 1, 2018.

\*\*\* Please read this document in full *before* completing our proposal forms. \*\*\*

Links for Online CFP Submission at [www.KAANet.org](http://www.KAANet.org) (both parts required by 11/1/17 deadline):

- Part I—Session Proposal Form: <http://tinyurl.com/KAAN2018part1>
- Part II—Individual Speaker Application (*one per speaker*): <http://tinyurl.com/KAAN2018part2>

In our theme, *Caring for our Community: Mental Health, Self-Care, and Advocacy*, we seek proposals exploring holistic well-being of adoptees and adoptive families. What does it mean when we create a space to delve deeper into moments of struggle? How do we grow as individuals and communities as a result of healthy dialogue? Tell us about advances in academic research, mental health services, activism in South Korea and the US, and in the day-to-day interactions within families and peer groups. Of particular interest are proposals that address:

- **MENTAL HEALTH:** What happens when we overlook mental health needs in adoptive families? Why is it important to address mental health and well-being? What unique mental health services are needed to support members of the adoption community? What tools or best practices exist to improve cultural competency and address the existence of racial microaggressions in school and the workplace?
- **SELF-CARE:** Why is important to address self-care? What happens when self-care is overlooked in adoptive families? How do we negotiate self-care with our professional and personal lives? What tools or best practices exist that are specific to adoption-related issues?
- **ADVOCACY:** Adoption-related activism is nothing new to the Korean adoption community. Whether it's advocating for birth mothers' or adoptees' rights in Korea or seeking retroactive citizenship for adoptees without citizenship in the US, activism is a central component to thinking about adoption from Korea. What can adoptees and allies do to support various calls to action? Why is advocacy and activism important?
- **MEMBERS OF THE ADOPTION CONSTELLATION:** Many of our sessions directly meet the needs of adoptees and adoptive parents, especially those with children who are young or young adult adoptees. As we expand the conversation, we seek proposals that specifically address the perspective and needs of the following groups:
  - **PARTNERS & SPOUSES OF ADOPTEES:** How does adoption impact adoptees' and their partners/spouses? What questions arise concerning parenting and negotiating racism within extended and blended families? We're interested in proposals across the spectrum

of KAAAN attendees from those partners/spouses who are new to KAAAN to individuals interested in deeper conversations about what it means to be an effective ally to their transracially, adopted partners/spouse.

- PARENTS OF ADULT ADOPTEES: Often conversations concerning adoption focus on adoptive parents and their relationship with their minor children — those under the age of 18. But, how do adoptive parents' relationships with their adopted adults shift as these individuals enter new phases in their lives? What are adoptive parents' roles (do they have one?) when adoptees search and/or reunite with their birth parents? We're interested in proposals exploring what it means to be a grandparent in a transracial, adoptive family and conversations concerning how to support adult adoptees as allies.

We seek sessions that are entry points for those just beginning to be involved in formalized conversations around adoption as well as sessions with fresh material for those who have been actively engaged in public transracial adoption discourse over many conferences and structured settings. Applicants should clearly identify if their session is aimed at newcomers, returning attendees, and/or those with advanced understanding of issues concerning adoption and race. Please select the correct box on Part 1 of the application.

Successful proposals create an environment where eyes are opened to new ways of thinking and provide tools that attendees can use to make changes and improvements in their communities.

Adoptee only sessions will be offered in each block. We will group accepted general session proposals into suggested educational tracks, including those recommended for partners/spouses of adoptees, adoptive parents, social justice advocates, and those pursuing better health and wellness.

**Session Length/Type (60-75 minutes, geared for adults 18 and up):** Most presentations fall into seven major time slots on Friday afternoon, Saturday morning/afternoon, and Sunday morning of the conference. We cannot guarantee the time/date of your session in the conference program. Each of these blocks includes at least one adoptee-only session. Sessions range from personal stories to broader documented research, from grassroots activities to established efforts and organizations.

**Other Special Programs:** You are also welcome to submit proposals for the following special programs. Please note: We seek out presenters and performers for these slots independently as well and may make selections in advance of the November 1 deadline:

- Film screenings, performances, and youth or other activities (*varying lengths*);
- Keynotes (*20-25 minutes each*, Saturday breakfast and Saturday lunch);
- Gala dinner entertainers and performers (*varying lengths*, Saturday evening).

Please visit our website ([www.KAANet.org](http://www.KAANet.org)) for a taste of what was included in last year's conference.

**Presenter Limit/Maximum:** We accept sessions with up to four presenters. Panels exceeding this amount of presenters will not be reviewed.

**Two Proposal Limit/Maximum:** We encourage people to submit multiple proposals and expect that some will be involved with multiple sessions at the conference. For diversity of voices and flexibility of scheduling, we do require that individuals are not involved with more than two separate proposals.

**Handouts:** If you want to provide handouts, we suggest either bringing pre-printed ones or collecting email addresses to send out copies later. (We are also happy to post materials or provide links post-conference.) KAAAN will not have access to a printer onsite and hotel business center costs are often prohibitive. Attendance normally ranges from 10-40 people.

**Conference Bookstore:** As a service to our speakers and attendees, we offer a small onsite bookstore selling books, DVDs, and other materials created by our presenters. This is organized by our staff free of charge. If you would like to take advantage of this, please check the appropriate box on the individual form and our sales coordinator will be in touch closer to the conference. Shipping costs and return of unsold items are your responsibility.

## How to Apply:

1. Determine your topic and any other presenters involved with the proposal.
2. Select a proposal coordinator, who will submit the final proposal form (link at KAAANet.org) by the November 1 deadline. We will communicate directly with that coordinator about any questions and send a letter of acceptance/decline to that person by December 15.
3. Choose a title (six words or less), three goals, and a session description (100 words or less).
4. Identify any needed audio-visual items. Please be accurate but not excessive. We base our AV contract and schedule on coordinating these needs. (*Hotels charge per session room per day for all items, from flip charts to Internet to projectors.*) You are welcome to bring your own laptop; a familiar laptop is often reassuring for presenters and helps us manage costs. Additional AV requests made after acceptance of your proposal will be considered but are not guaranteed.
5. Each person involved with the proposal must complete the individual speaker application (link at KAAANet.org) by the November 1 deadline. If chosen as a speaker, you will join a team of 75+ volunteers who work together to create the conference. Our community is built on the premise that everyone has something to give to and gain from the conference. We are also committed to keeping attendance affordable for all participants, including speakers. We reserve funds to cover registration (including four conference meals), a shared hotel room, and up to \$200/person for travel reimbursement—airfare, railfare, mileage reimbursement. Baggage/cab fees, shuttle, tolls, parking, and other expenses are not eligible. If you need financial assistance, please communicate this on your individual form. If you can afford to cover some or all of your conference fees, please indicate that. Thank you! Budgeted monies are divided among sessions at time of acceptance. Changes made to requests after acceptance may not be able to be granted. Panelists who withdraw from a session may be replaced by someone appropriate from the existing speaker pool or their slot may be left empty.

---

Questions? Contact [info@KAAANet.org](mailto:info@KAAANet.org) or 717.574.3629.

All proposals and individual speaker applications are due by **November 1, 2017**.  
Proposal coordinators will receive a letter of acceptance/decline by December 15, 2017.