

December 9, 2018

To: Children's Wellbeing Initiative
<https://childrenswellbeing.com>

Dearest Children's Wellbeing Initiative,

The Cold War and Vietnam War, Soviet colonization and French occupation of Southeast Asia, food lines and orphanage, wardship and foster care, refugee camp and immigration, between two of us, we know first-hand how critical children's wellbeing is to every child.

However, this is not a story about two individuals, who managed to overcome obstacles and build a life for themselves. Our story will not be complete without addressing the power structures, that created the separation from our families, languages and cultures, communities, and countries. The power structures that continue to prevent many children and adults of color from achieving wellbeing.

Our story will also not be complete without recognizing generations of leaders of color, who, despite massive barriers in their own lives, created a safe and nurturing environment for us. We are so very grateful to our foster, adoptive, and extended families. But there are also many unknown and unrecognized BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) leaders, who came before us and worked tirelessly to raise the quality of life in their communities and for all of us.

Our story is a sum of systems of oppression and generational excellency of people of color. The excellence, which needs to continue as there are still children, who are farthest from experiencing wellbeing due to racism and colonialism. We endorse and fully support Children's Wellbeing Initiative (CWI) as it will work with BIPOC leaders to shift norms and practices to ensure wellbeing for all children, not just exceptional few.

As the first individual backers of CWI, we ask everyone to join us in support of this initiative – to change the narrative about BIPOC leaders and our work, to recognize us as experts and leaders in our own lives, and to continue the movement, created by us and for us.

It is our honor to support you,



Lieny and Gauhar Nguyen