

Association for internationally adopted Sri Lankans in Switzerland

Annual report 2025



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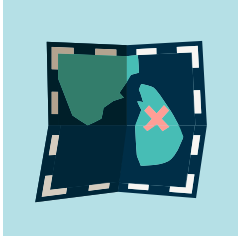
THE ROOTS LAID
WITH BACK TO TO
ROOTS CONTIN-
UE TO GROW -
ACROSS NATIONAL
BORDERS.



Back to the Roots

Association Back to the Roots

FIND MORE
INFORMATION ON
OUR WEBSITE:
BACKTOTHEROOTS.NET



Editorial

Dear members and friends of Back to the Roots

For us as an association, the year 2025 is marked by change. After several intense and enriching years spent supporting people adopted from Sri Lanka here in Switzerland, our pilot project is slowly drawing to a close. This phase invites us to look back, feel gratitude, and consciously shape the transition into a new era of continuity.

During this time, we have been privileged to experience many moving encounters: people who have set out in search of their history, who have found answers or learnt to live with unanswered questions. These stories move us time and time again. They highlight how important it is to create space for truth, belonging and healing. When such processes are accompanied with care, they unleash tremendous power.

With the establishment of My Roots Consulting, the conclusion of the pilot project marks a new beginning. It is particularly important to us that the end of the project does not mean a break in the support provided. All ongoing cases will be seamlessly taken over by My Roots Consulting, so that those affected can continue to count on continuity, trust and professional support.

Back to the Roots remains the voice for those affected and society at large on all matters relating to adoption. The Mother and Child Reunion Project in Sri Lanka will continue and remains at the heart of the association. This year's exchange with Federal Councillor Beat Jans highlights that the concerns of adopted people are being heard and that crucial groundwork has been laid for future work in the field of adoption.

It is with great gratitude that I look back on the past years. My thanks go to everyone who has made Back to the Roots possible – the adopted individuals and their families, our partners in Sri Lanka and Switzerland, and of course my dedicated team, who have carried out this work with passion and empathy.

What remains is a sense of connection – and the confidence that our roots will continue to grow within new structures.

Sarah Ineichen
President Back to the Roots



The quotes in the speech bubbles are statements from those affected in exchange with Back to the Roots

Association Back to the Roots



Support for adoptees from Sri Lanka (mentoring and support services)

The year 2025 was a busy yet conclusive one for our association. After several years of dedicated support, we were able to successfully conclude our pilot project to assist adopted people from Sri Lanka living in Switzerland.

Over the course of the year, we were able to successfully complete three searches for biological origins. In one case, we were able to identify the family listed on the birth certificate, whilst the DNA results are still pending. We also facilitated four emotional reunions between adopted individuals and their biological families.

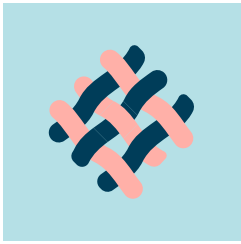
IT WAS AN INDESCRIBABLE DAY FOR ME AND MY MOTHER. TO SEE HOW SHE HAD BEEN WAITING EVERY DAY TO SEE ME AGAIN—I CAN'T FIND THE WORDS TO DESCRIBE IT.

In two further cases, initial virtual contact took place via video conference. The face-to-face meeting is scheduled for 2026 and will be organised by My Roots Consulting.

My Roots Consulting will continue to manage the ongoing cases from the pilot project until their conclusion. However, our collaboration with the cantons has presented us with significant challenges during this transitional year: from 2026, no further cantonal funding is planned for new cases. This means that many of those affected will lose the support they have received to date and will have to bear the costs of the often complex and emotionally taxing process of tracing their origins themselves in future.

This development highlights the importance of sustainable structures that take the specific needs of adopted people seriously and ensure professionally sound, culturally sensitive support in the long term.

Association Back to the Roots



Network for adopted persons

In 2025, too, the exchange between adopted people remained a central part of our work. Under Aude's sensitive leadership, the network was not only maintained but also further strengthened.

A particular highlight was the networking event in French-speaking Switzerland in December, where numerous adopted people met in person. This gathering created a valuable space for exchange, understanding and mutual support. The atmosphere was characterised by openness, empathy and the comforting feeling of not being alone.

The lively discussions focused on topics such as identity, belonging and the challenges of tracing one's origins. The open dialogue demonstrated once again how valuable it is to share experiences and exchange views in a safe space. Every contribution, every story enriched our community and helped to build bridges.

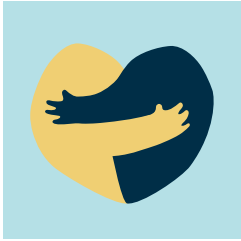
Our network offers many people vital emotional support – a place where questions can be asked, experiences understood and genuine connections formed.

This networking event will remain an important part of our association's work in the future. Back to the Roots will continue to provide the framework and platform for adopted people to exchange ideas and support one another.

*IN A GROUP
FULL OF LIKE-MINDED
PEOPLE, I FEEL ACCEPTED
AND UNDERSTOOD.*

*WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
I DON'T WANT TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION
FOR EVERY STRANGER. THROUGH OUR CONVER-
SATIONS, I'VE REALIZED THAT MANY OF US
ADOPTED PEOPLE FEEL THE SAME WAY.*

Association Back to the Roots



Mother and Child Reunion project in Sri Lanka

The Mother and Child Reunion project continued to play a central role in our work in Sri Lanka in 2025 – it is and remains our core project.

In cases involving forged adoption documents, missing families from Sri Lanka can often only be traced through intensive awareness-raising work and DNA testing. The Back to the Roots team in Sri Lanka has gained valuable experience in recent years and enjoys a high level of trust amongst the local population. With great dedication and deep compassion, they listen to the affected families and, in particular, give the mothers space to tell their moving stories.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our local team, we were able to locate several families in 2025 and prepare them to see their children again after decades of waiting. The focus was on education, psychological support and cultural mediation.

Particular attention was paid to preparing the families for the reunion. Many mothers have lived with deep-seated pain for decades, as their children were taken from them against their will under pressure or coercion. Through empathetic conversations, targeted information and ongoing support, they were able to prepare themselves emotionally for this intense moment.

Even after the reunions, the project provides comprehensive follow-up care and support for the families on the ground.

The Mother and Child Reunion project is funded by voluntary donations. We continue to rely on these donations to be able to sustain this valuable work in the years to come. Our heartfelt thanks go to all supporters, members and foundations whose contributions make it possible for families to be reunited.

The Mother and Child Reunion project embodies the values of Back to the Roots: authenticity, empathy and the conviction that every story deserves to be heard.

*I THINK ABOUT MY CHILD
EVERY DAY, THE ONE WHO
WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM ME.*

For more information or to make a donation:
<https://backtotheroots.net/verein#mother-and-child>

International adoptions:

HOW FAR BACK CAN YOU TRACE YOUR FAMILY TREE?



Participation and collaboration in committees and research projects

In 2025, Sarah Ineichen continued her involvement in national and international bodies and research projects focusing on international adoptions. Alongside her day-to-day duties, she pursued a key objective: to highlight the perspectives of those affected, expose abuses and promote lasting improvements in the way adoptions are handled.

Public relations work is a central component of this effort. Through presentations, insightful interviews and specialist articles, she succeeded in bringing the sensitive issue of illegal and unlawful adoptions to the attention of a wider public. These initiatives make an important contribution to raising awareness – both in Switzerland and internationally – and foster social dialogue on responsibility, coming to terms with the past and supporting those affected.

Regular dialogue with experts, authorities and organisations from various countries also provides valuable impetus for research, practice and policy.

This vital work will remain a key part of Back to the Roots' activities in the future and will be continued with the same dedication and commitment as before.

→ [Link to the report in german](#)



Exchange on the topic of international adoptions with Federal Councilor Beat Jans

The groundwork has been laid. In November, Federal Councillor Beat Jans hosted a meeting at the Federal Palace and listened carefully to the concerns of all those involved.

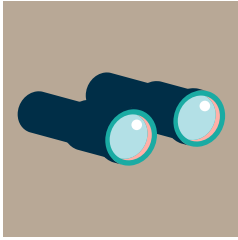
In January 2025, the Federal Council launched a wide-ranging public debate on the subject of international adoption. The focus was on the forthcoming revision of international adoption law, the necessity of which is undisputed. There was intense discussion as to whether the aim of the revision should be to continue with international adoptions or to phase them out.

The aim of this discussion was to create an open space for exchange, dialogue and mutual understanding. Adopted people from across Switzerland had the opportunity to share their views and personal concerns. It became clear that the time has come to no longer tolerate any further failings in the adoption process. Beat Jans was very approachable and gave assurances that he would initiate the next steps.

It is now up to the authorities to take steps to prevent such incidents from occurring in future. Furthermore, the need to provide support in tracing origins for all adopted persons was emphasised.

Prospects

*FINDE UNS AUF:
MYROOTSCONSULTING.COM*



Back to the Roots: Prospects for the future

The completion of the pilot project marks the end of a significant phase, but the journey continues. During an inspiring board workshop, the foundations were laid for a smooth conclusion and a clear transition.

From 2026, the Back to the Roots association will undertake a deliberate reorientation of its activities. In future, it will focus on its core tasks: education, raising awareness, networking and political engagement. In this way, the association will remain a significant voice in the public discourse on international adoption, coming to terms with the past and justice. The operational work within the Mother and Child Reunion Project will continue. Here, the team in Sri Lanka, as described in the previous section, will continue to work with passion on the reunions.

Another area of operational work – the guidance and support of adopted individuals in their search for their origins – will be continued by My Roots Consulting from 2026 onwards. The knowledge, experience and values of Back to the Roots will be carried forward in this work. This ensures that those affected can continue to count on professionally competent, culturally sensitive and ongoing support.

What remains is the shared desire to build bridges between the past and the present and to continue to accompany people with care on their journey to their roots.



Presentation of My Roots Consulting

My Roots Consulting GmbH – A new beginning built from proven roots

The successful 'Back to the Roots' pilot project will give rise to the new organisation, My Roots Consulting GmbH, in early 2026. Founded by Sarah Ineichen and Sonja Grass, the company and its dedicated team will continue the valuable work established over recent years as part of the pilot project – always with the same approach, the same commitment and a sensitivity to the needs of adopted people from Sri Lanka living in Switzerland.

All ongoing support will be seamlessly transferred to My Roots Consulting. This ensures that support for those affected remains continuous and based on trust – with the same contact persons and the same high standards of quality.

From 2026, My Roots Consulting will offer professional support, advice and mediation services for adopted individuals and their families – particularly in relation to tracing origins, identity issues and intercultural understanding. In addition, valuable expertise will be provided in the form of training courses, awareness-raising initiatives and specialist consultancy for public authorities, professionals and institutions.

It is particularly important to note that My Roots Consulting's services are available to all adopted individuals worldwide, regardless of their current place of residence. This enables access to professional, empathetic and culturally sensitive support across borders. The establishment of My Roots Consulting represents both continuity and further development.

It safeguards the valuable expertise and relationships that have been built up over recent years, whilst simultaneously laying the foundations for sustainable, long-term support.

Finances

WHEN WILL YOU TAKE THE
FIRST STEP?

Operating statement 2025

Operating income in CHF	2025	2024
Total donations	102'445	10'711
Voluntary membership fees	2'270	2'791
Public contribution - Confederation	156'000	156'000
Public contribution - Canton incl. lottery fund	234'000	258'364
Total contributions	392'270	417'155
Total service and product sales	395	4'966
Total other income (membership of committees, etc.)	85	2'441
Total operating income	495'195	435'273
Operating expenses in CHF		
Total expenses for materials, products, services	-2'814	-2'543
Total personnel expenses incl. social benefits	-348'440	-324'073
Other operating expenses		
Space requirements	-13'873	-13'957
Maintenance, repairs and replacements	-396	-383
Property insurance and taxes	-2'491	-2'667
Administrative and IT expenses	-18'936	-11'232
Advertising expenses, agencies & travel expenses	-23'550	-36'380
Other operating expenses	-1'300	-22'000
Total other operating expenses	-60'546	-86'619
Total operating expenses	-411'801	-413'235
Operating result	83'394	22'038
Total financial expenses and financial income	-241	-183
Total extraordinary income	150	0
Result before change in fund and organizational capital	83'303	21'855
Allocation to fund capital	-77'500	0
Allocation to organizational capital	-5'803	-21'855
Annual result	0	0

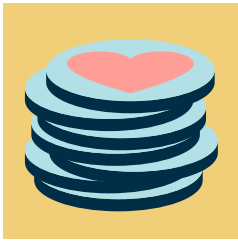
Finances

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2025

Assets in CHF	2025	2024
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	204'564	107'985
Office rental deposit	2'885	2'882
Trade receivables	0	745
Inventories	3'123	3'667
Accrued income and prepaid expenses	1'025	1'025
Total current assets	211'597	116'303
Fixed assets		
Total fixed assets	0	0
Total assets	211'597	116'303
Liabilities in CHF		
Debt capital		
Trade payables	7'652	1'580
Accrued expenses and deferred income	35'863	31'245
Provision for termination of service contract	23'300	22'000
Total liabilities	66'815	54'825
Fund capital		
Fund Mother & Child	77'500	0
Total	77'500	
Organizational capital		
Total organizational capital	67'282	61'479
Total liabilities	211'597	116'303

200 BENEVOL
HOURS WERE
PERFORMED

Finances



Finance report

The 2025 financial year was an important and pivotal one for Back to the Roots. Whilst we continued to fulfil our existing responsibilities to a high standard, the strategic focus in 2025 was clearly on fundraising. The aim was to secure the association's long-term financial foundation and ensure the continuation of our important work into 2026.

As usual, we were able to fulfil our existing service mandate reliably. Back to the Roots was once again able to ensure a high standard of quality, particularly in the support and counselling of those affected. Working directly with those affected remains at the heart of our activities and shapes our daily commitment.

A key focus in 2025 was on expanding and intensifying our fundraising activities. Thanks to targeted measures, personal contacts and the great trust of our supporters, a total of around CHF 100,000 in donations was raised during the reporting year. Just under CHF 80,000 of that amount was raised for the Mother and Child Reunion Project. This encouraging result represents an important milestone for the financial stability of the association and creates a solid foundation for the coming financial year.

In 2025, Back to the Roots continued to benefit from a lean organisational structure and the responsible, targeted use of financial resources. This ensured that a large proportion of the available funds went directly into our projects and towards supporting those affected. Operating expenses were deliberately kept low.

A particular highlight of our project work has been the Mother and Child Reunion Project. For many of those affected, the opportunity to reunite mothers and children through DNA testing is often the only chance of certainty and reunion. These emotional and moving successes encourage us in our work and clearly demonstrate just how important this project is. This project, too, remains entirely funded by donations and relies on long-term financial support.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our donors for their support in 2025. Your trust, solidarity and contributions have played a decisive role in enabling Back to the Roots to continue and further develop its work.

Looking ahead to 2026, thanks to our successful fundraising efforts and the ongoing support of our donors, we are confident that Back to the Roots will continue to make a significant contribution to those affected. We warmly invite new supporters to join our mission and work with us to create hope and new opportunities.

With great gratitude and confidence,
The Executive Committee of Back to the Roots

Thanks to

Thank you - Danke - Merci

Many thanks to:

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has accompanied, supported and helped to sustain Back to the Roots throughout 2025.

We would like to extend our special thanks to:

The staff at Back to the Roots, the adopted individuals and their families, our association members, the community group, the board members, the Irene Foundation, the Hohmad Foundation in Thun, and other donors.

We would also like to thank the Swiss authorities, politicians, researchers, scientists and media professionals who have supported our work with interest, commitment and trust.

We would also like to thank our team of trustees, our political advisor and our fundraiser. And last but not least, a huge thank you goes to our families and friends – for their patience, understanding and invaluable support behind the scenes.

Your collective commitment has helped ensure that our work can continue to grow and be carried forward within new structures. A big thank you!

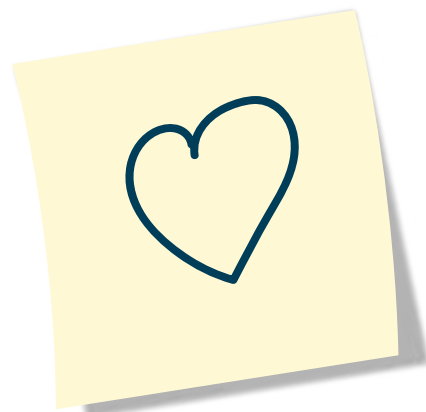
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