



DNA Bridge consortium is an interdisciplinary group of physicians, scientists, and human rights advocates developing a science, ethics-based approach to DNA technology and DNA data management to support family reunification of migrant children separated from their families. The consortium is comprised of expert volunteers; it is not profit-oriented. We have tools, expertise, connections, and structures ready to assist.

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Given the significant harms of family separation, it is critical to ensure timely and proper use of DNA technology as a powerful tool to link genetic families. No technology—including DNA analysis—can reunite all families; however, this limitation should not serve as rationale to avoid applying DNA tools to support prompt reunification of families.

A DNA-led approach can provide a **secure, ethical, and humane** means of connecting separated family members.

- We strongly support the use of DNA for purposes of family reunification **outside of government control**.
- DNA kinship tests through **accredited** forensic laboratories have demonstrable **rigor** for acceptance of results.
- A DNA-led family reunification framework must be based on a clear understanding of the strengths and **limitations of DNA technologies**. The process requires cooperation with organizations tracking non-DNA evidence of relationships.
- We define **family reunification** as a comprehensive approach where separated family members are identified, reconnected, and provided legal counsel and psychosocial support. Families should decide whether to provide a DNA sample and whether or not to re-connect. Families' **trust** in the process should be **reciprocated** by approaching families with **respect**, promoting their **agency** throughout the reunification process, and applying principles of cultural and linguistic competency and fluency.
- **DNA-based strategies** have assisted disaster victim and missing persons identifications and war crime investigations. Our approach builds on prior successes, for example:
 - [International Commission on Missing Persons](#)
 - [Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo](#) in Argentina
 - [Pro-Búsqueda](#) in El Salvador
 - [Fundación de Antropología Forense](#) in Guatemala

Guidelines can be applied from **prior uses** to delineate a scientifically sound, ethical, family-centered approach.

