



Navigating International Transitions And Raising Third Culture Kids (TCKs)

Daniela Draugelis
March - April 2025





I Am One Of You...

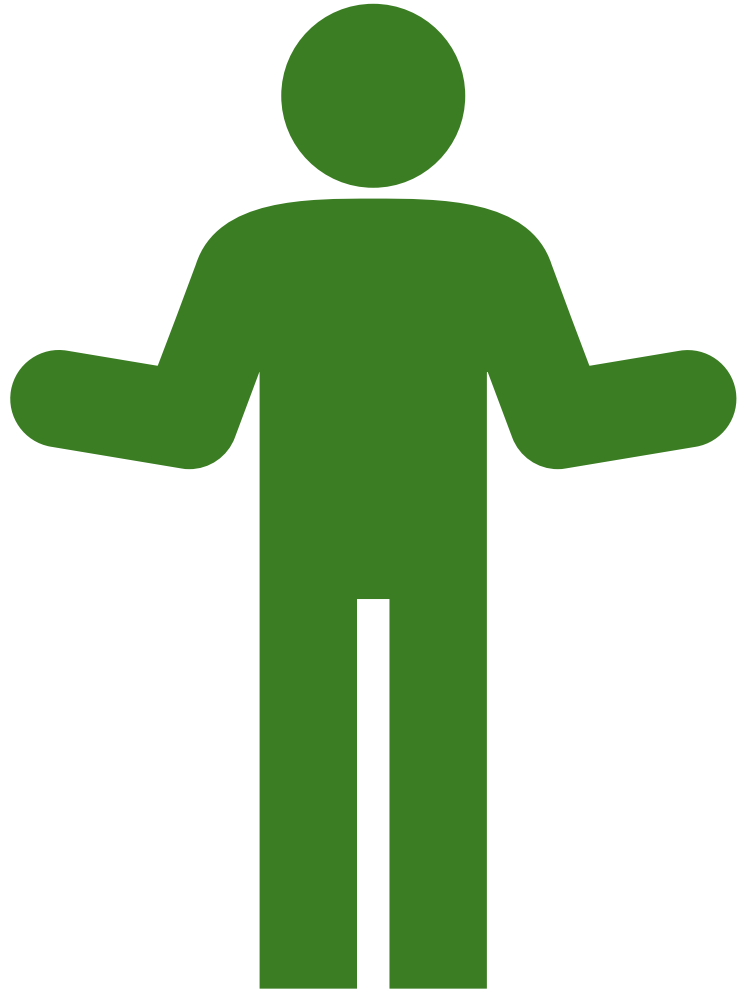
World Bank spouse for 30 years

Mother of 2 TCKs

Lived in 6 countries

Grew up cross-culturally

Pivoted career



What Brought
You Here?

Navigating International Transitions and Raising Third Culture Kids (TCKs)

SESSION 1 (March 19)

- Understanding the TCK Experience

SESSION 2 (April 2)

- Identity and Belonging in a Multicultural World

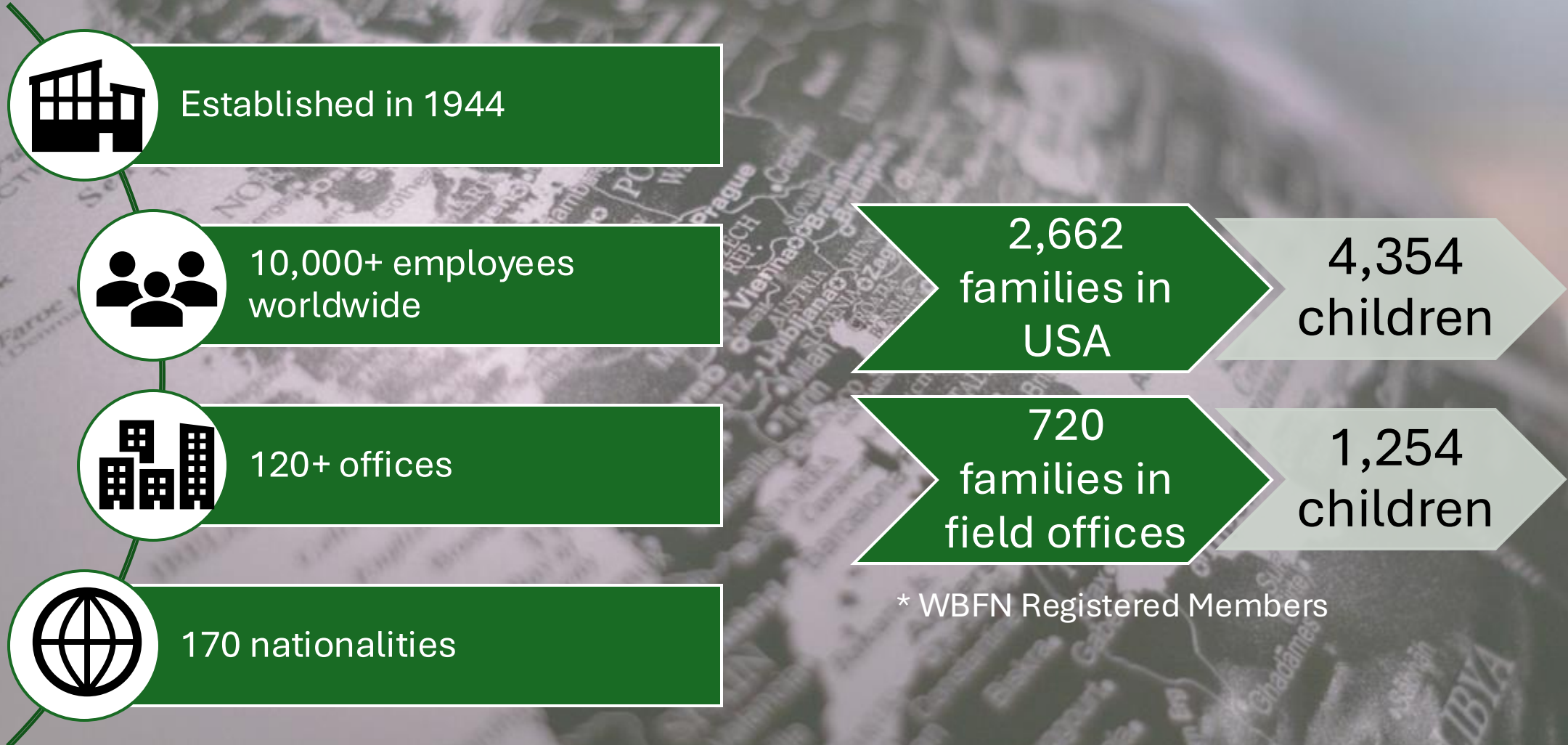
SESSION 3 (April 16)

- Building Resilience in Globally Mobile Families

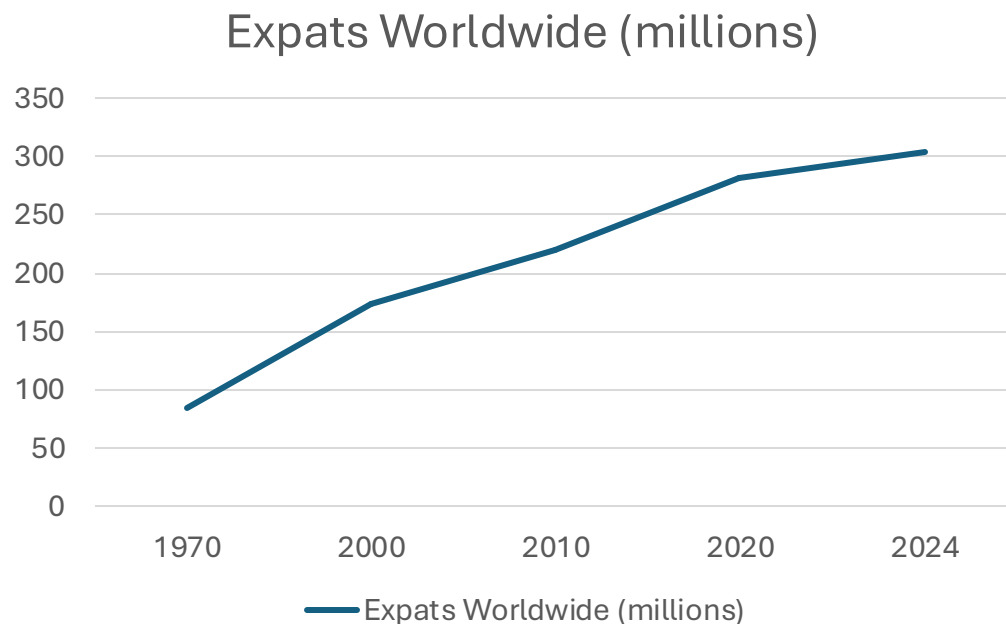
SESSION 4 (April 30)

- Relocation – Leaving Well, Arriving Ready

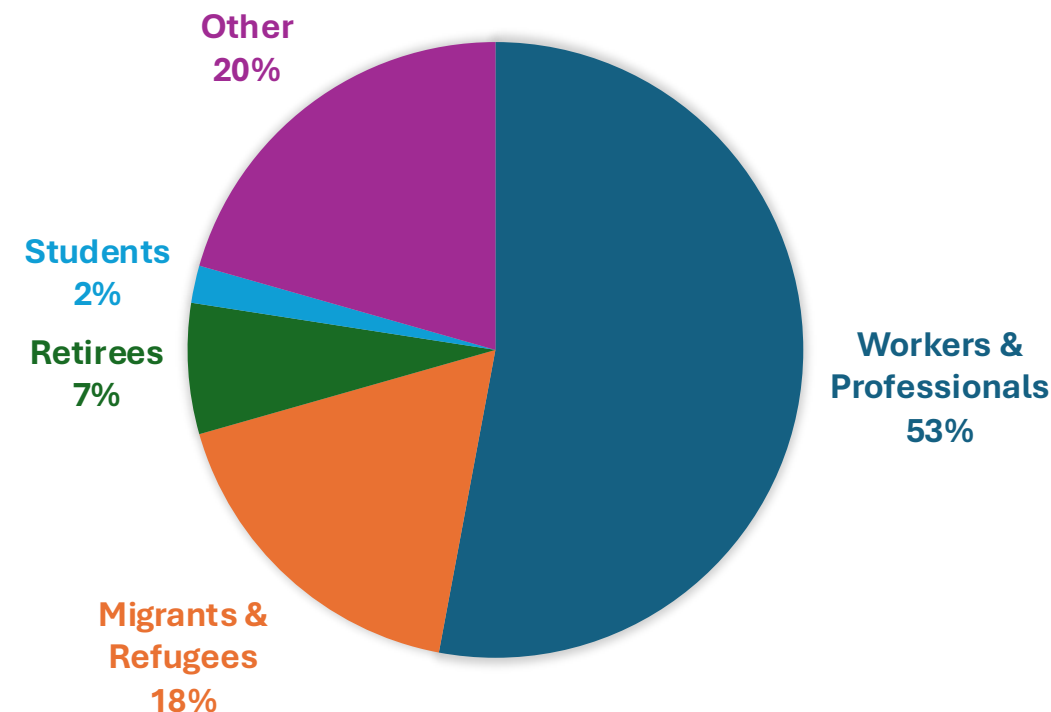
Global Mobility and The World Bank Group



The Global Landscape of Mobility



WHO ARE THEY?



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

14,000 English-medium International Schools

7 million Students (3-18 years old)

600,000+ Teachers

Source: ISC Research, January 2024

Source: SavvyNomad, February 2025

The Global Landscape of Mobility

40% Expat assignments fail

USD 1.25 million per failed assignment



Partner or Spouse Dissatisfaction

Poor Candidate Selection

Lack of Cultural Awareness

Inadequate Support Systems

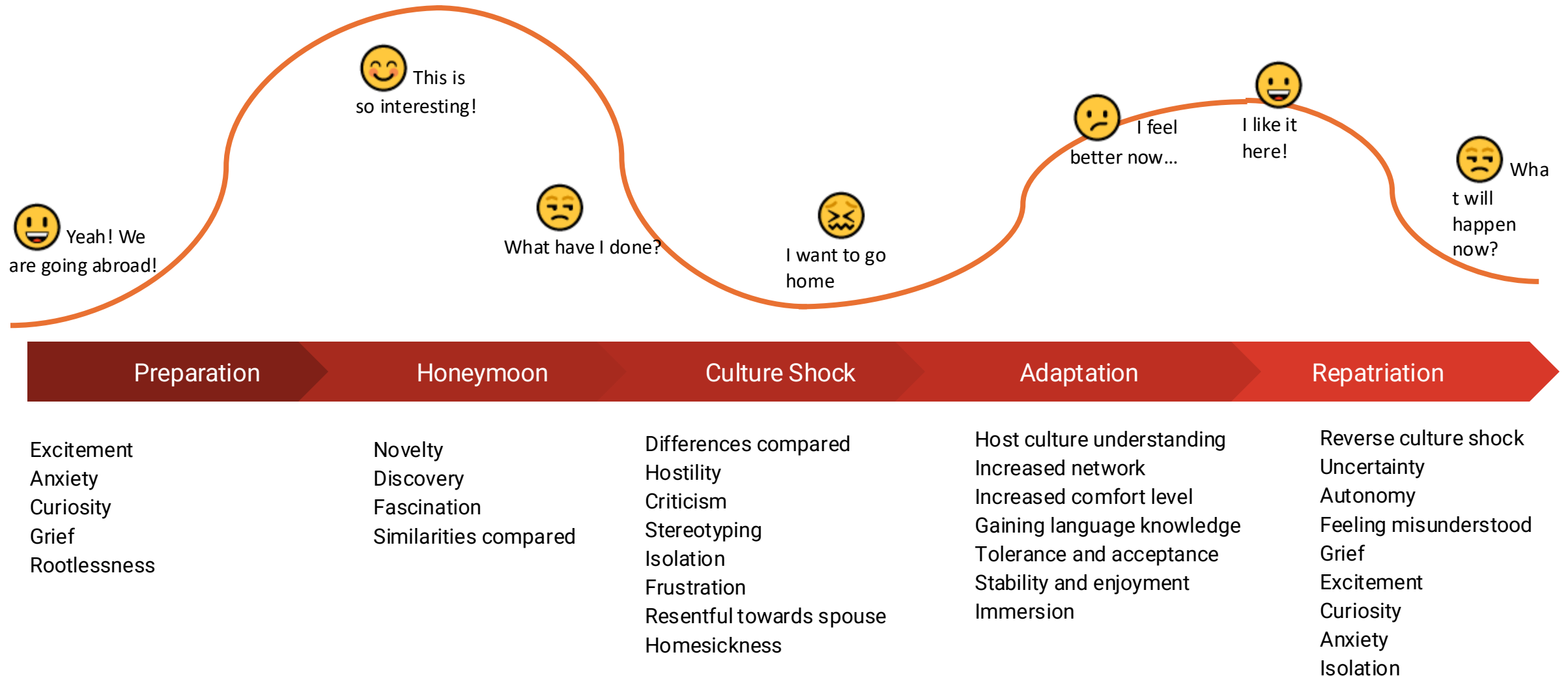
Insufficient Preparation and Training

Failure to Plan



The Global Landscape of Mobility

Stages Of Globally Mobile Life





Where Is “Home”?

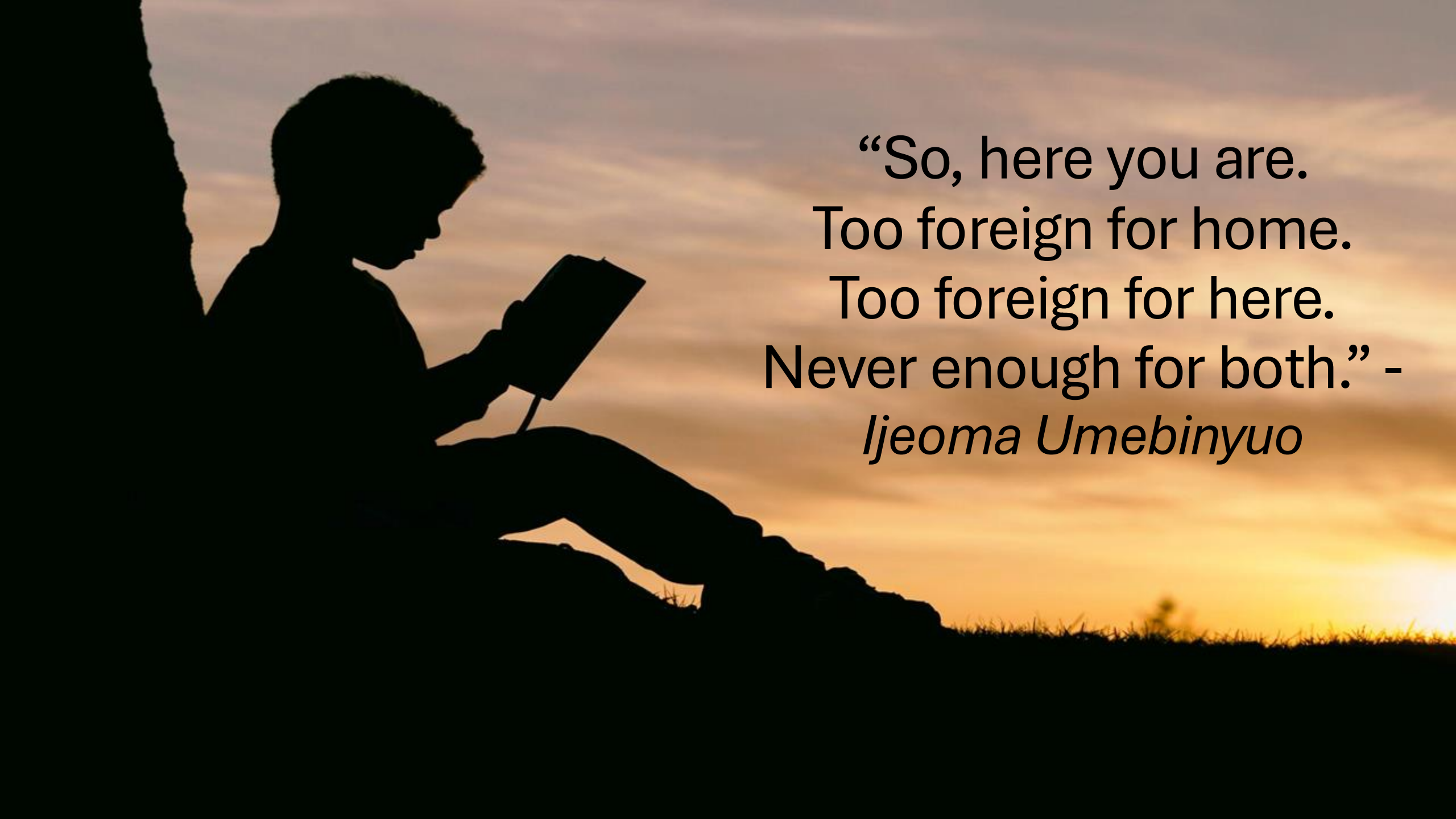
Where is “Home”?



What does “home” mean to you?

What does “home” mean to your child/ren?

Is it possible to feel at home in more than one place?

A silhouette of a person sitting on a grassy hill, leaning against a tree trunk on the left, and reading a book. The background is a sunset sky with warm orange and yellow hues. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

“So, here you are.
Too foreign for home.
Too foreign for here.
Never enough for both.” -
Ijeoma Umebinyuo

Understanding the World of Third Culture Kids (TCK)



To help them recognize and utilize the **GIFTS** that such a childhood provides

To help them recognize and deal successfully with the **CHALLENGES** that are inherent to this experience

To help **NORMALIZE** the TCK experience

Give them a sense of **BELONGING**

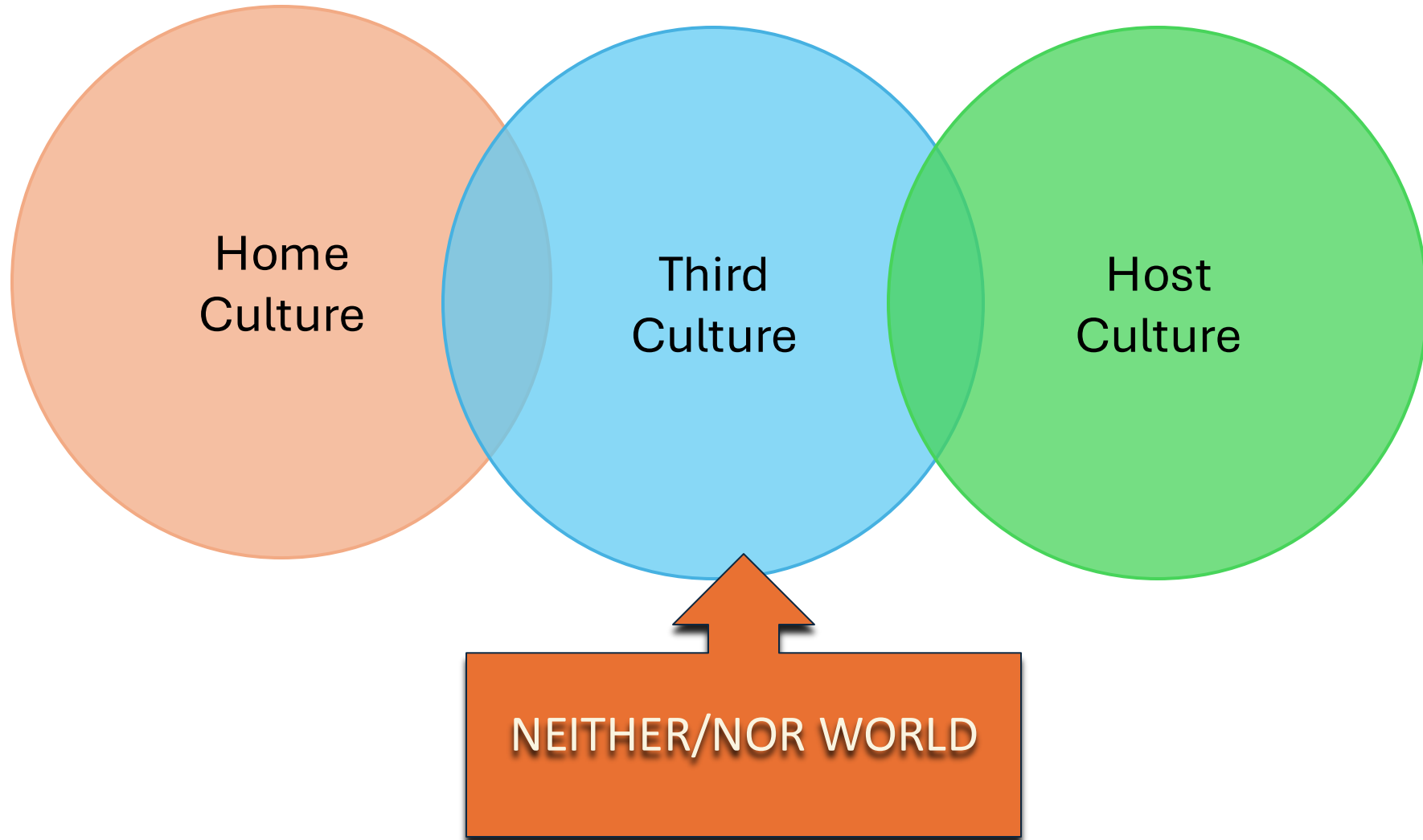
Third Culture Kids (TCKs)

A Third Culture Kid (TCK) is a person who has spent a significant part of his/her developmental years outside their parents' culture

- Although elements from each culture may be assimilated into the TCK's life experience, the sense of belonging is often in relationship to others of similar background.
- The TCK frequently builds relationships with all of the cultures, while not having full ownership of any.



Third Culture Kids (TCKs)



Monocultural vs. Multicultural Identity



Third Culture Kids (TCKs) and Cross Cultural Kids (CCKs)



Identity vs. Culture

IDENTITY

Who am I?



IMAGE OF SELF

CULTURE

Where do I belong?

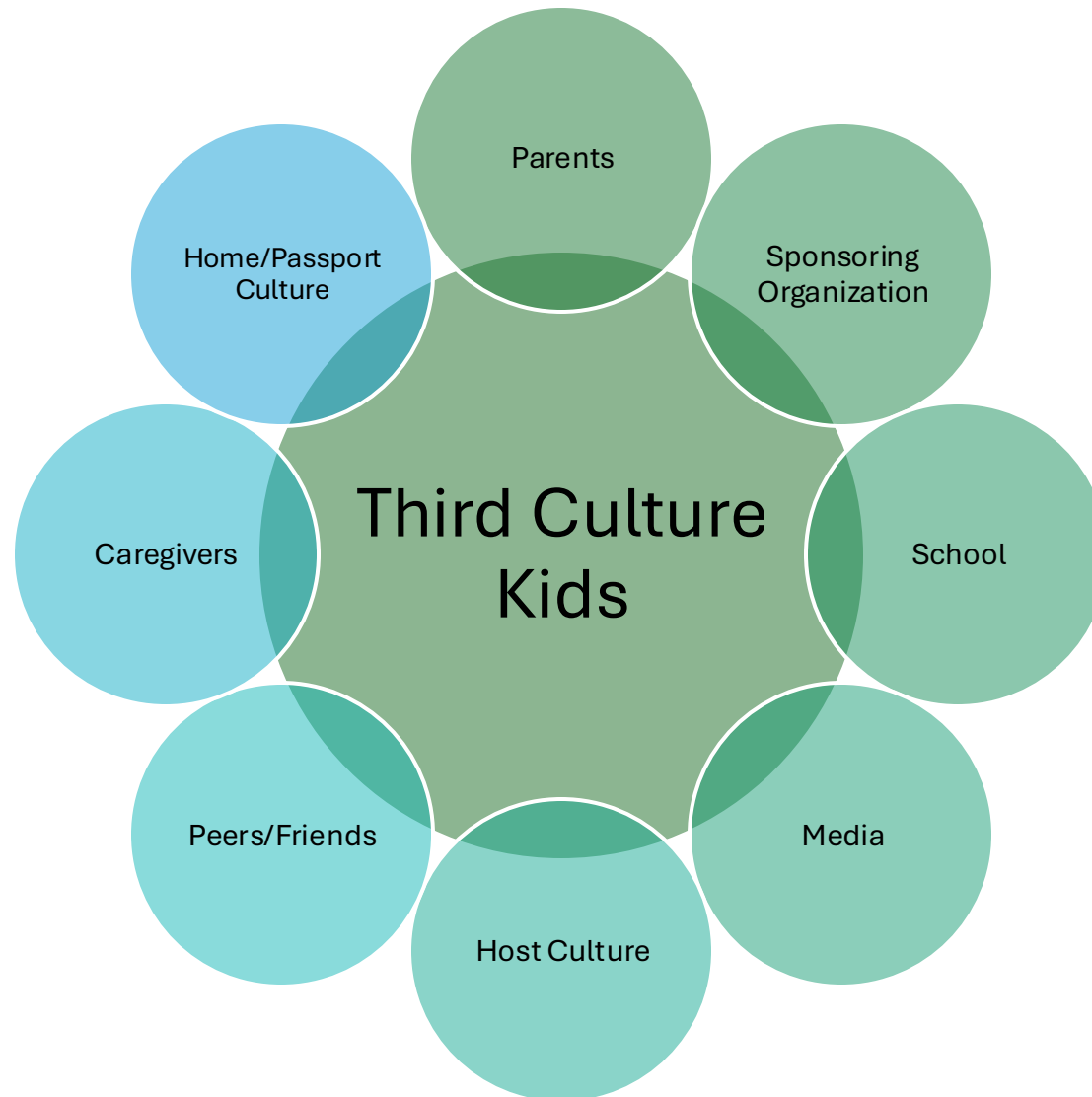


THE WORLD AROUND US

A World of Changing Cultures



The TCK World



Breakout Room Discussion

What resonates most with your experience as a globally mobile family?

What **CHALLENGES** (3) do you foresee or have encountered for your TCKs?

What **STRENGTHS** (3) do you see emerging in your TCKs from this experience?



The TCK Experience Challenges And Strengths

TCK Challenges

Sense of Rootlessness

No Sense of “Home”

Grief from Frequent Departures

Loneliness

Sense of Isolation

Anger Towards Parents for Being Uprooted

Guilt for Being Angry at Parents

Culture Shock

Educational Gaps

Feeling “Unpatriotic”

Confused Loyalties

Separation and Loss

TCK Strengths

Flexible and Adaptable

Tolerant

Respectful

Reflective Thinkers

“Out of the Box” Thinkers

Observers

Good Listeners

Confident

Good Social Skills

Language Skills

Globally Minded

Sensitivity and Empathy

More Mature than Peers

Well-Travelled

Strong Family Bonds

Good Problem- Solvers

Wrapping up...

Change is the only constant.

Home is not a place. It's the connections we build along the way.

TCKs are the citizens of the future.

TCKs have the best of many worlds.

You are stronger than you think.

You are not alone in this journey.



Thank you

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