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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 4,000+ AMERICAN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM KAZAKHSTAN PERSONALLY FACE “BORAT” MOVIE

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Providence, RI-Since 1998, American families have adopted more than 4,000 children from Kazakhstan, and the numbers continue to grow. The impending major theatrical release of the movie, “*Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*” is already impacting some families in negative ways.

The Kazakh Aul of the US, Association for American & Kazakh Families, is a nonprofit organization with members in 27 states. We recognize that Sascha Baron Cohen’s movie is a vehicle for satire and many people - including some of our own members – enjoy his humor. Nonetheless, our members also comprise children who do not yet have the adult skills to understand and separate their young identities from those of the Kazakhstanis who are portrayed by Cohen.

For example, one mother reported that she and her 9-year-old daughter from Kazakhstan recently viewed a television interview with Mr. Cohen as Borat in which he described how one would not want to marry a Kazakh woman because they are ugly, and in the background a scene was panned with peasant women in a very poor village. Another adoptive mother described her children watching an announcer on VH1 segue from a story on Madonna’s recent adoption of an African boy to a story on Borat, saying something along the lines of, “And, now, a country you wouldn’t want to adopt from, Kazakhstan...” The woman’s 7-year-old Kazakh daughter burst into tears.

These two examples demonstrate what Kazakhstan adoptive families in the U.S. are dealing with in response to this movie. Given that the film will live on for years on DVD, its impact upon Kazakh adoptive families, their friends, and their school mates, may be felt for years to come.

We ask that viewers of *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*” understand that the portrayal of Kazakhs in the movie is not true to life, and to be sensitive to the very real feelings of Kazakh children here in the U.S.

The Kazakh Aul of the United States, Association for American & Kazakh Families, is incorporated in Rhode Island, and our mission includes providing a sense of community for American families with children adopted from Kazakhstan. Through heritage camps & festivals we educate and strive to meet the cultural needs of families.

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