



# CHECKLIST FOR A NAMING CEREMONY

## PLANNING

First things first



We are clear about our objectives for this ceremony

We have identified:

- About whom?** The newcomer
- By whom?** Parents are responsible for **crafting/organizing/presiding**
- With whom?** who **participates/is invited** (godparents, grandparents, siblings)
- What kind of event?**
- When?** A fitting **date/time** for the event
- Where?** A suitable **place/setting/venue**

### COMMUNICATION AND CONTINGENCY

- We have contacted or invited all ('With whom?') noted above
- Participants have approved their roles
- If there is disagreement about how to proceed we know who makes the final decision
- We have contingency plans for 'Where?' and leeway for timing

PAUSE



## CREATING

Making sense (parents)



We, the craftspeople, are agreed on:

- Why and how** we are ritualizing the arrival of our child
- What is at the **HEART** ♥ of this ceremony
- The **key values, ideals or philosophy of life** we wish to transmit to our child
- Decisions confirmed** (Who, What, When, Where)
- If there is disagreement, we have discussed the issues

### CONTENT

- Words** ♥ **Promises** parents, godparents, others
- Music**
- Gestures/symbols/objects**

### FORMAT

- ENTRY INTO CEREMONIAL SPACE**
- Welcome**
- Heart** ♥ **Promises** to our child
- Closing/exit** ceremonial space > transition
- Social gathering**
- Choreography/scenography** check for visual participation
- Reminder list**
- We have checked for flow and choreography**

PAUSE



## REALIZING

Expressing meaning



- Prepare setting** (parents/presider/organizer)
- Open ceremony** (presider/parents)
- Ritualizing** (Content + Format)
  - ◆ Conduct (presider) ◆ Participate (all)
- Close ceremony** (presider)
- Open social part of event** (organizer)
- Social gathering** (all)
- Close event and clean up** (parents/organizer)

### DURATION OF EVENT (suggested)

**Ceremony** (5-15 minutes)

**Social gathering** (2-4 hours)

April 2016. This checklist is not intended to be comprehensive. Modifications to fit specific situations are encouraged.