



February 16, 2011

Parliament of Australia
The Senate
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 1600
Australia

Dear Members of the Senate Community Affairs Committee:

RE: Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption policies and practices

As members of collaborating organizations, Adoptees of Color Roundtable (ACR) and Adopted and Fostered Adults of the African Diaspora (AFAAD) we are offering this letter in support of your formal inquiry into practices of the Commonwealth Government pertaining to forced adoptions that took place from the 1940s to the 1980s.

ACR was founded in 2009 as a convening space for adoptees of color, domestic and international adoptees, with many years of research and both personal and professional experience in adoption studies and activism. Together, we drawing upon our first-hand accounts of racialized adoptee histories as well as our experiences as scholars, activists, professors, artists, lawyers, social workers and health care workers to find common cause and critically examine the global network of inter-country and domestic adoption practices, laws and policies. We provide support and healing for adult adoptees to address the losses and wounds of adoption, education, and resources for those who have been dislocated from their families and in some cases, culture and places of origin.

AFAAD was founded in 2006 as the first international nonprofit, social justice organization of its kind that brings together adult adoptees and fosters care alums from across the global African diaspora. AFAAD connects, supports, and advocates for the needs of the African diasporic adoption and foster care community on a international level, through community outreach and education, legislative advocacy and research.

As a result of our experiences and expertise, our members support your efforts towards developing a national framework for addressing the consequences the forced adoption had for the mothers, their families and children.

We ask that the Australian government take a firm supportive stance by carefully examining the submissions from members of Origins, and numerous women and children of Australia. We look forward to reviewing the findings in your June 30 report, together with your recommendations. While we understand that your primary charge is to ensure that the Government protects the rights of citizens of Australia, we believe your actions set a significant precedent in helping ensure the protection of women and children everywhere.

Sincerely

Adoptees of Color Roundtable
www.adopteesofcolor.org

Adopted and Fostered Adults of the African Diaspora
<http://afaad.wordpress.com>