

Nodutdol for Korean Community Development



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February 23, 2011

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

Dear Senator:

Re: Support of Origins, Inc for the Commonwealth of Australia's Inquiry into Forced Adoption Policies and Practices

I am writing on behalf of Nodutdol for Korean Community Development, a community organization based in New York. Many of our members and supporters are Korean adoptees. We have seen the long lasting impact of international adoption to a larger community. We have seen our members who are adoptees struggle with the reality of adoption and not knowing their birth families their entire lives. We have been there to support our members who decide search for their families, which often times takes years and lead nowhere. We have met with mothers in Korea who were forced to give up their children because of the lack of support for single and married mothers and the stigma against single mothers. We are intimately familiar with the consequences of adoption. Thus, we were surprised and appalled to see how rampant adoption was in Australia and the coercive nature of the adoption practices.

We want to express our support for Origins' call for an Inquiry by the Commonwealth of Australia into forced adoption policies and practices. It is time for justice for the generations of grieving mothers who were essentially forced into giving up their children for adoption. Mothers in Australia, South Korea and around the world deserve not only an apology from the institutions and governments that created these situations but also legislation and concrete changes to the system that will end forced adoptions.

We will be closely following news from Australia to ensure that the inquiry is approved. A move by the Australian Senate to carry out this inquiry in good faith will show to the world its position on human rights and justice for mothers.

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Sincerely,

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