

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADULT ADOPTEE MOVEMENT

On Wednesday 16 July, members of the Adult Adoptee Movement will join the Movement for an Adoption Apology and other campaigners to demand an apology for the UK Government's role in historic forced adoptions. The protest has been organised by Zara Phillips, adoptee advocate and campaigner. The group will gather outside Parliament and later deliver a petition to 10 Downing Street.

The Joint Committee on Human Rights Inquiry in 2022 concluded that approximately 185,000 adoptees were taken from their families and stripped of their identities during the Mass Adoption Era. Those children, now adults, continue to suffer the devastating lifelong impacts of adoption trauma including higher rates of suicide, Complex PTSD, addictions and autoimmune conditions. Those adoptions were sanctioned and enabled by the state, largely to punish unmarried mothers and to provide children for childless couples.

The Adult Adoptee Movement stands with the protesters to say:

Adoptees are not our birth parents' shame or our adoptive parents' infertility cure.

We are not 'lucky', 'chosen' or 'grateful'. We were taken, in breach of our human rights.

We are not victims, we are survivors. We deserve respect, support and an apology.

AAM renews its call for more research into adoption outcomes, representation for adoptees in policy discussions and funded mental health support for those affected. We also urge the Government to urgently review current policy to prioritise children's rights and child-centred alternatives to stranger adoption, such as kinship care and Special Guardianship.

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