

ADULT ADOPTEE MOVEMENT RESPONSE TO CHURCH OF ENGLAND APOLOGY FOR  
FORCED ADOPTION

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:00AM THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2026**

“An apology about us, without us, is not accountability”

“The Church must not present this process as survivor-informed. It was not safe, not equal, and not shared.”

“You cannot apologise for coercion while excluding survivors from having a voice. That is not accountability, it is repetition.”

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The statement given by the Archbishop of Canterbury today is not a meaningful apology. For many of us, engaging with the Church in their apology process was distressing and re-traumatising. We were asked to stay silent, excluded from shaping the apology, and are now told we are being ‘listened to’. This all compounds the damage.

There is no admission of wrongdoing in this statement. No recognition of the specific harms. No offer of redress or support.

This apology process has been led by the Church’s safeguarding team, yet they repeatedly ignored our safeguarding concerns and failed to listen at every turn. As a result, there was no meaningful engagement with AAM. This is reflected in the ‘apology’ which virtually ignores adoptees.

The statement uses minimising, passive and distancing language throughout. It also downplays the Church of England’s role in forced adoption, which extended far beyond the mother and baby homes it ran. There is no mention of the role of the Diocesan Moral Welfare Associations, the Church of England Children’s Society, or the many clergymen who were instrumental in severing us from our families.

The Church has demonstrated that they are not yet ready to listen, reflect or change. We are sad to say, this statement is an insult to survivors.

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