

STATEMENT BY ADULT ADOPTEE MOVEMENT ON UK GOVERNMENT APOLOGY FOR HISTORIC FORCED ADOPTION, 2 JULY 2026

This apology is for the adoptees who were taken at their most vulnerable and sent to strangers. For those who lost their wider family, medical history, culture, language or nationality. For those who suffered abuse, neglect or racism in their adoptive homes; who grew up hearing they were from 'bad blood', should be 'grateful', or had been 'saved'. For those subjected to the brutal, systemic racism of the adoption system who were judged 'less than' because of race. For those who, due to disability or medical conditions, were judged less worthy of love and care. For those who were deceived about their origins. For those who live with the long term physical and mental health consequences of adoption. For those who have died.

It marks a fundamental correction of the narrative on historic adoption practices. What happened to you was wrong.

We would like to thank all those who have made this apology happen, including: the Joint Committee on Human Rights; the Chair, members and staff of the Education Select Committee; Department for Education ministers and officials; journalists; all those who gave evidence at hearings; all allies who have given generously of their time and expertise; and, most importantly, the adult adoptee community, our source of strength and experience.

This apology would not be possible without the long and tireless campaigning by the Movement for an Adoption Apology. We stand in solidarity with them and look forward to working with them in the future.

The measure of this apology will not be the words spoken today, but the actions taken tomorrow.

[Adult Adoptee Movement](#), A Community Interest Company

Registered in England, company number 14788263

Registered address: 2 Frederick Street, London WC1X 0ND

Please send all correspondence via email to adultadopteeuk@gmail.com