

- 18.2. Each time we have been thwarted – our action in 2000 before the European Court of Human Rights was eventually adjourned in favour of a ‘domestic remedy’ that was not available to us. This has never been our preferred route, and we have come before our government in sadness rather than anger, as our archive of correspondence will show.
- 18.3. It remains our hope that the humanity of the British public will ultimately ensure that Government fully appreciates and understands the endless suffering of thousands of your children, and moves swiftly to address many of the outstanding issues before we die. More than anything, we want to spare our children this unresolved legacy.

19. Inquiries and Redress

- 19.1. There have been two important parliamentary inquiries into child migration over the past twenty years which had a positive impact for former child migrants. The Association took a consistent position in regard to each inquiry and made similar recommendations on key points.
- 19.2. The Association played a full and active role in the UK Health Select Committee inquiry into child migration in 1998. Key members travelled from the USA and Australia to give their personal testimony in London.
- 19.3. Nine recommendations for future action concluded our written submission but most were rejected or only partially accepted. For example, the government did not implement the most significant recommendations for a judicial inquiry, a national memorial and a compensation scheme. Similarly, instead of a national apology by the Prime Minister, a statement of regret was offered by the Secretary of State for Health.
- 19.4. There was agreement to establish a £1 million Travel Fund to help reunite families separated by child migration but this lasted for only three years and provided for just one visit by 450 former child migrants. This was roughly a third of those who would have used a less restricted Fund where visits could be made to more distant relatives, if they were the only surviving members of a family. This measure compares very badly in size to the later Australian Fund.
- 19.5. Obviously, families separated for over fifty years cannot be regarded as fully reunited after a single visit. Again, this suggests that small gestures and half-hearted responses were seen as sufficient by the UK government at that time. We spent