

- 14.9. In 1993, former Prime Minister John Major expressed his indifference to the plight of former child migrants and missed a vital opportunity for positive, decisive leadership. During a Commons adjournment debate, David Hinchliffe, MP for Wakefield called for an independent public inquiry to end the disgraceful Government cover-up of the issue. Mr Major did not answer the question directly but washed his hands of any responsibility: *'Any concern about the treatment of the children in another country is essentially a matter for the authorities in that country.'* [IAFCMF6]
- 14.10. Margaret Humphreys' work with the All Party Group of MPs played a key role in the establishment of the Health Select Committee Inquiry into the welfare of former British child migrants in 1998, chaired by David Hinchliffe.
- 14.11. Sadly, the Inquiry's short report resulted only in a *'statement of regret'* by the Secretary of State for Health rather than a full Apology by Prime Minister Blair, who told us all there would be 'no forgotten people' in his election manifesto. We assume it was fear of the cost of redress measures that prevented the British Government from making a full national Apology in 1999.
- 14.12. Given the late Audrey Wise, MP for Preston and member of the Health Select Committee in investigation described child migration as *'war crimes without the war,'* [IAFCMF7] we do not believe a full apology was avoided because the extent of abuse was not understood.
- 14.13. There were some helpful measures put in place, but the British Government failed to develop any long term policy regarding child migration, the same mistake they made following Gordon Brown's Apology in 2010. Within three years from the HSC 1999 report, we were back to the drawing board and CMT's funding was once more under threat. The clock was ticking but yet again the opportunity for many of us to find our families was once more under threat. This was one of the driving forces behind the New Orleans Congress.
- 14.14. It took too long to resolve CMT's funding to anything close to adequate, by which time many more of our mothers and fathers had died before we could be reunited with them. This constitutes, more explicitly than anything else, secondary abuse of your citizens. Unforgiveable, given that the Child Migrants Trust had made the consequences of restricted funding abundantly clear. Margaret Humphreys is on record as repeating, time and time again – *'every day counts for former Child Migrants'*. In those years our parents were ageing –now most have died - and we ourselves are now ageing and dying. The Government's refusal to act has become a