

Office and Dr Dan Poulter, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health met with myself, John Hennessey and Margaret Humphreys to discuss our request for a separate judicial inquiry into child migration. We were urged to contact the then Chair of IICSA, Fiona Wolfe, regarding former child migrants' participation. The Ministers advised they would be reporting to the Prime Minister after our meeting.

- 14.3. Within a week of that meeting, Fiona Wolfe resigned and we received no formal meeting minutes or advice about our next step. However, the terms of reference for IICSA were extended to 1945, and for that we are appreciative.
- 14.4. This is not the Inquiry former child migrants require to address the full range of issues that require investigation, rather than limiting the focus to those strands that relate only to institutional sexual assault. However, that at least some questions are being asked – more than two years after that meeting. But it is too late for John Hennessey, who died in May 2016, without ever knowing this Inquiry would have listened to his evidence.
- 14.5. Thirty years after Margaret Humphreys first informed the British Government of all we suffered and what was needed, and almost seven years on from a national Apology, it is just not good enough. Many former child migrants remain excluded from participation unless they identify as a survivor of childhood sexual assault.
- 14.6. Children kidnapped from home and family, continually flogged and beaten senseless, starved and deprived of warmth and safety, forced into slave labour and then denied their true identity is apparently not considered worthy of investigation? It is not good enough and amounts to another layer of indifference and abuse.
- 14.7. The Association has an extensive and damning archive, hundreds of documents showing our continual lobbying to the British Government in pursuit of our objectives over the past 20 years. Sometimes our letters have been unanswered. But, equally, there have been welcome moments of recognition and engagement with past Prime Ministers Blair, Brown and Cameron.
- 14.8. There have been many failures and lost opportunities along the way. Resistance by the British Government to accept its responsibilities for the colossal policy failure of child migration and often brutal consequences for thousands of British children is an indictment of our country. As the years have rolled by, it is nothing short of a national disgrace that many former child migrants have gone to their graves without adequate help to find their families or any explanation for why they were selected for deportation and a stolen childhood of degradation and abuse.