

127. As a result, the UK government failed former Child Migrants and their families by sending them overseas in the first place, then failed them again by not providing them with adequate protection, and then failed them yet again by not making adequate reparations for the ongoing trauma and abuse they suffer as a direct consequence of this deliberate policy. Indeed, it is extremely difficult to justify the discriminatory treatment of former child migrants compared to the standards required for children in care in the UK in the same period.
128. Even now, while we finally have a formal apology, we still do not have a sustainable and adequately funded UK government strategy for responding to the legacy of the child migrant policy. As a result, the stark reality is that many of the reunions that should have taken place will now never be possible because the people involved have died waiting for adequate funding.

Secondary Abuse

129. CMT has developed the concept of 'secondary abuse' as an explicit description of the continuing negative impact of the historic power imbalance between former Child Migrants and the institutions in whose care they were abused as children.
130. One concept of secondary abuse refers to adults abused as children going on to harm others as a result of their own damaging experiences. However, in every day speech, 'secondary abuse' is regarded as adding insult to injury. In our context CMT considers secondary abuse to be practices and attitudes that further compound the harm arising from the original abuse.
131. The Trust has encountered many examples of institutions compounding the original harm arising from historic abuse by their present day attitudes and practices. These range from subtle undermining through continued institutional attitudes and processes, to more serious breaches including denial of historic abuse, inappropriate use of authority and failure to observe confidentiality. A simple but common example is the refusal of agencies to divulge information which would enable former Child Migrants to find their parents, which prolongs unnecessary separation **[MH75]**. In the worst cases, parents die before they can be traced. Such cruel practices all carry the potential for re-traumatisation.
132. CMT has evidence of failed family reunions where lack of independence or poorly informed practice that takes no account of the agency's historic abuse of power has led to further devastating outcomes (secondary abuse). Some mothers, for example,