

RE:

**Commonwealth Contribution to Former
Forced Adoption Policies and Practices.**

To whom it may concern,

My name is Gabrielle Phillips and in 1973, I was forced by my mother and the Catholic Church in conjunction with the commonwealth Government; to live in an unmarried mother's home (convent) for the duration of my pregnancy... I had no contact with the outside world during this time other than to have medical checkups on the pregnancy. My Mother told the family that she had sent me to a boarding school. So this isolated me for life on this incident in my life. Not only was I incarcerated for the whole pregnancy and birth of the child, I was forbidden to even acknowledge the incident altogether; as though it never happened. I was sent there with the clothes on my back and no more. The child was whisked away from me at birth and I was told it never happened and that I'm not a mother and to forget about it. To my family and the world it seemed as if this time in my life never happened. I never had the opportunity to grieve or mourn the loss of this child that was born to me and then cruelly taken away. I was only 14 years old!

Yours sincerely Gabrielle Phillips