

H.A.L.T.
HELPING ADOPTEES LEAD TOGETHER

**5357 N. Winchester Ave., Unit 1
Chicago, IL 60640 USA**

February 1, 2011

Department of the Senate
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 1600
Australia

Members of the Senate of Australia:

As members of H.A.L.T. (Helping Adoptees Lead Together), we are writing to support Origins, Inc. in their quest to remedy the forced adoption policies and practices of the Commonwealth Government. Over 200,000 Australian unwed mothers were forced or coerced to relinquish their parental rights from the late 1940s to 1980s. We ask that you help Origins, Inc. bring justice for the women and children of Australia.

Founded in 2004, H.A.L.T. is an international organization of adoptees from South Korea committed to supporting policies and practices that keep families intact. Our members' activities have included educational initiatives with Korean and Korean diasporic communities, public speaking and writings in the Korean press and academic publications, and the development of programming and support services for adoptees localized within the Chicago area. As adoptees, we intimately understand the devastating impact of family separation on the lives of both birth parents and the children they often have been forced to relinquish.

As the institution and value of family is fundamental to every society in the world, we ask that the Australian government take a firm supportive stance by examining the claims represented by Origins and numerous women and children of Australia. Not doing so will not only indicate Australia's inability to address past harms to families within your own country, but also an unwillingness to strengthen support systems for women and children everywhere.

H.A.L.T. together with adoptees worldwide will be closely monitoring your response to as well as leadership in this human rights issue.

Sincerely on behalf of H.A.L.T. membership,
Becky Belcore
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