

25<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Secretary  
Senate Standing Ctee  
on Community Affairs

Dear Sir / Madam

Years of fears and tears are not instantaneously resolved by an apology. A public acknowledgment of responsibility for the private pain of so many natural mothers, adopted children and their families is only the first step. Provision also needs to be made for support services, counselling etc to enable the healing of so many of us.

We have all been damaged and need assistance to deal with the trauma which years of denial and silence has compounded.

I was compelled to give my child up by the argument. (inter alia) that she would not be a "bastard", in society's eyes as she would be if she stayed with me. My "sin" in making love outside of wedlock was mine alone to bear. My loss and punishment continue to this day.

My daughter feels betrayed, abandoned and angry that she was adopted... I cannot convince her of my love. She is in desperate need of support and counselling so that her life can improve.

I ask that you make recommendations to the govt for provision of social support services at public purse expense

Yours faithfully