

To Whom It May Concern

I was fourteen and a half when with my first sexual encounter I fell pregnant.

I was raped by two boys when I was three months pregnant.

I was sent from the country to the city where I was hidden away at the Church of England Maternity Home called Kedesh at 179 Stevenson St Kew Victoria.

I was sent alone by taxi late at night from Kew to the Queen Victoria hospital where I gave birth to my baby. I was then abused at the hospital and not allowed to see my child or nurse the newborn who was wrenched away from body as it emerged into the world while I was still in the middle of labour and the process of birth incomplete.

I was at the most vulnerable point of life a mother and child could ever be at and it was at this time that the Church of England determined that my very own baby should be wrenched away from my absolutely defenceless body.

In the months that followed I was locked up in Winalton girls home and treated like a criminal. ***YET I HAD DONE NO WRONG. ALL I DID WAS GIVE BIRTH TO A BABY.***

I was locked up and criminalised to such an extreme that when I was released I suffered extreme discrimination marginalisation and ongoing ostracization.

This cruel action has destroyed me. I was deprived of being an ordinary citizen. I was deprived of being a Mother and a Grandmother. I will be deprived of being a Great Grandmother. My entire lineal heritage has been forever altered like the African American and I am displaced eternally with no recourse to what is rightfully mine including aspects of my own identity.

These cruel actions set me upon a path that would have been otherwise unexperienced and my life's path has changed forever as you could never ever imagine. I cannot change it.

You stole my child my life my history. I was split apart from what family and homelife I had forever. My life ended when I was still an innocent child.

How indeed is your Inquiry intended to ***help me?!***

Karen J. Tonkin