United Adoptees International

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

Onderwerp Support of Origins Inquiry into Forced Adoption Policies and Practices

Ref.Nr. UAI'11/CF-ORIGINS/AUSTRALIA-001

C.c. Origin Inc NSW and Track Korea

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith United Adoptees International (UAI) would like to express their concern regarding violations of Human Right towards Adoptees and (first)Parents. We also would like to express our support to Origins Inc New South Wales Australia and their efforts to get their voices heard.

UAI is the first European based Foundation of Adoptees which focuses on political and legislative issues regarding (intercountry) adoptions as whole and especially those who have been victims of Human Right Violations like Adoptees and (first) parents. The UAI has become notedly within Europe due to their protest against an intra European Adoption Resolution. Internationally the UAI was the only organisation of adoptees who protested officially against the 'Babylifts' from Haiti. The UAI works closely together with international adoption researchers like Prof. R.A.C. Hoksbergen PhD and Peter Selman PhD and reached the infamous title of the adoption watchdog and critic in the Netherlands. UAI is also acknowledged by the Dutch Ministry Security and Justice as an important player in the National adoption debate and works closely with the National Youth Council regarding Adoption issues to redesign and develop new guidelines for social workers and general policies to halt childtrafficking for adoption etc.

Europe (EU) showed centuries of childtrafficking (Hutsebaut, 2003) for shaping nuclear families *(The UAI would like to state, that legalised adoptions which are formed by childtrafficking does not deserve the title adoption)*. Also shows this history cooperation in and on all levels of government bodies, medical organisation, so-called social-care systems (Bos, 2007) and churches (The Irish Ryaen Report, 2000-2009). Besides the trafficked children during wartime and dictatorships *(estimated numbers of trafficked children for social reengineering in the EU within the last century is +250.000)* the trafficking of children and diminishing rights of (single) mothers and children was created simultaneously in order to create the impossibility for tracing parents and children; with tremendous and unnecessary suffering for many people involved.

It is an international phenomena when adoptees start searching they will find hinder by those organisations who executed the trafficking or adoptions. It is not an exemption that many involved (governmental) institutes deliberately destroyed adoption/child records to prevent tracing the involved parties and parents with the arguments that it is not in the interest of adoptees to find their parents, or that the parents where promised secrecy of the relinquishment. Many times the experience of adoptees shows, that next to the small numbers of difficult 'reunions', the 'reunions' are essential to many. If not existential, including the parents. Research (Raak, 2007) als shows, that it is of huge importance that questions regarding kinship should be answered and that it can help overcome or contribute traumatic experiences for the direct involved.

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To create awareness for these issues the UAI would show their support to Origins and TRACK (Korea) for their effort to create awareness for the unclassified universal parental rights and those of adoptees.

The UAI has been following Australia regarding many issues closely related to relinquishment and adoption. We were very pleased to see, that in October last year and official apology was made to mothers for the past adoption practices. But the apology should have been done with the acknowledgement, that criminal activities where the subject of creating these situations. With diminishing the seriousness of those issues in Australia will also weaken the international development of creating attention for Human Rights for the victims, (first) parents and children (adoptees).

The UAI believes, that the time has come that governments take their responsibility (Post, 2007) and end their involvement and cooperation with the international childtraffickingmarket which (intercountry) adoption has become.

We hope, you will listen to those who have been seriously hurt and left alone. Because community building starts with a safe haven for those who are most vulnerable. A family which is inflicted in despair due to situations like these, create traumatic families and traumatized families create a traumatized society. Compassion and reconciliation is needed for all those who have been involved but that is only possible when their voices are heard and been taking seriously.

We hope, your government will listen to Origins Inc New South Wales and all those who support their mission and statements.

On behalf of the UAI Board and Management

Sincerely,

Hilbrand W.S. Westra
Managing Director United Adoptees International

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*Ryan Report,****Commission to inquire into Child Abuse****, Ireland 2009*