

Movement for an Adoption Apology in Scotland



FEB, 2023 NEWSLETTER

NEWS UPDATE

On March 6 2022, the Minister for Children and Young People, Claire Haughey, announced funding of £145,000 to introduce peer support for people affected by historical adoption practices and research into how existing support services can be improved. [Historical adoption practices – gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/historical-adoption-practices)

We now know some details about both the peer support and the research.

Peer support

The Scottish government have agreed to fund a proposal to establish specialist peer support groups for those affected, in partnership with Health in Mind. This is the mental health charity that operated the phone support during the engagement activity last year. Health in Mind (<https://www.health-in-mind.org.uk/>) continue to operate a helpline. You can phone and speak to someone on **07741743971**.

https://www.health-in-mind.org.uk/services/historical_adoption_trauma_support_service/d250/

Peer support groups are typically run and facilitated by people who have lived experience. The types of approaches that may be used are regular group meetings, online forums and information sharing. Members can create a connection through their shared experiences and can relate to each other's story in a unique way that they feel counsellors and other trained professionals are not able to do.

The planning and implementation of this peer support service has already begun and been influenced by a working group of people affected by historical adoption.

Health in Mind are currently recruiting a Peer Development Worker with relevant lived experience of historical adoption who will enable and facilitate the work of the project - [Peer Development Worker \(health-in-mind.org.uk\)](https://www.health-in-mind.org.uk/peer-development-worker)

The closing date for the post is **12 noon- Monday 6 February 2023**.

Research

The Scottish government has commissioned a scoping study of the support services available in Scotland for people affected by historical adoption practices. The intention is to identify where there is a need to improve, introduce or enhance the services to better meet the needs and expectations of those affected by historical adoption.

A similar exercise was carried out by the Australian government following their national apology. That report can be seen here....

<https://aifs.gov.au/research/commissioned-reports/forced-adoption-support-services-scoping-study>

The Scottish study will be undertaken by [The Lines Between](https://www.the-lines-between.org/) and started on 9 January 2023. It will take approximately 8 months to complete. It will cover mental health services as well as search and connect. The methodologies will include online and reply paid surveys, in depth interviews and possibly focus groups.

It is essential that we contribute a clear picture of our experiences of trying to access support in Scotland

If you would like to support the study, you can contact The Lines Between by email - ian@thelinesbetween.co.uk or by calling - **07494 006709**.

Alternatively, feel free to contact us at maascotland@gmail.com if you would prefer us to pass on your details, or would like to chat about that.

UK EVENTS

The UK Joint committee on Human Rights (JCHR) published its report into 'The Violation of Family Life: Adoption of children of unmarried mothers 1949-1976' on 15 July 2022.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1522/the-right-to-family-life-adoption-of-children-of-unmarried-women-19491976/publications/>

MAA Scotland reviewed this and submitted a document mapping the report recommendations against those that we gave to the Scottish government. Please contact us if you would like a copy of this or our recommendations. While the recommendation for an apology from the UK government is very welcome, the report's other recommendations fall far short of our ask.

The deadline for a UK government response to that report was 15 September 2022. However, that date fell during the political turmoil of last year, and that included a revolving door of Education ministers. The current chair of the JCHR, Joanna Cherry KC MP, wrote to the Education minister Gillian Keegan MP on the 26th January, 2023.

She wrote..

“During the course of this inquiry, Harriet Harman who was then Chair of the Committee, and other members of the JCHR including me, were struck repeatedly by the appalling treatment of these mothers and the raw emotions still suffered by the women and adopted people from whom we heard. The continued hurt felt by the women and adopted people who so generously and courageously gave testimony to the committee is being compounded by the undue delay in the Government response. They deserve a response to our report and I would be grateful if you can set out in short course when the Government response will be sent to us.”

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/33716/documents/184204/default/>

CONTACT US AT MAA SCOTLAND

WE ARE HAPPY TO HEAR FROM ANYONE WHO IS AFFECTED BY HISTORIC FORCED ADOPTION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT OUR STORIES ARE HARD TO SHARE, AND ALL INFORMATION WILL BE HELD IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE IN TOUCH OR JUST RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTERS, PLEASE CONTACT US AT

Email : maascotland@gmail.com

Twitter: @ScotlandMaa

Instagram: maascotland