LA LSIC - FORCED ADOPTIONS INQUIRY
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Virginia Frauder
[redacted]
Ph: [redacted]

Personal Submission to the Forced Adoption Inquiry

To: Yuki Simmonds

Parliament of Victoria
Legislative Assembly, Legal and Social Issues Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

My society has robbed me of the opportunity to be a hero; to myself; to a small boy. It took away the chance to stand up for a little baby. Can anything else be as craven as failing a child?

An image that will stay with me forever is one we have all seen. After a terrible week of bombing in Syria, through all the detritus and grime, a small boy was filmed in a medical clinic. Covered in thick dust he was sitting with his hands on his knees and his head in his hands. This is the child we all betrayed. Let down by promises made and never kept, his despair is heartbreaking. Breaking our hearts now, his was broken long ago. No heroes to fight for him and his right to be a child.

That little boy is symbolic of all the children that were left behind without heroes to help navigate the arbitrary world of forced adoption. Will he get a home? Will it be a good home? Who will come to these children in the silence of the night? A loving mother, an incestuous father; we do not know once the door is closed.

How many stories have you heard about the pain of young women with what they suffered giving up their children? When will you have heard enough to actually do something about stopping a practice that still goes on today?

Only when the practice is stopped will our pain stop because it will have been meaningful. When you hear about young indigenous women having their babies taken from them (Phillip Adams, “Beyond Sorry” – Late Night Live, 2021) this practice makes us all helpless again.

The voices of women have brought forced adoption to light, but it will be the practices of men to stop it.