

## Child Migration Programmes

### Update on the work of the Church of England in response to the report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

In March 2018, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (the “**Inquiry**”) published its [Child Migration Programmes Investigation Report](#). That report made two recommendations which apply to the Church of England because a former Church of England Body (the Advisory Council for Empire Settlement, or “**CEACES**”) had facilitated the migration of children to Anglican dioceses overseas. The Inquiry heard from former child migrants, sent by a range of organisations, about appalling abuse they suffered, and this has previously been evidenced in detail by the Child Migrants Trust.

The Church accepts the Inquiry’s recommendations and, although the migration programmes are long since closed, hopes that the Inquiry’s report is widely read to ensure that this never happens again.

The two recommendations which apply directly to the Church of England are that:

- (1) The Church apologises directly to those child migrants for whose migration CEACES was responsible.
- (2) The Church ensures that it retains and preserves its records containing information about individual child migrants, and provides easy access to those records.

The Inquiry has recently written to the Church of England asking it to publish an update on its response to these recommendations.

Following IICSA’s public hearing into child migration in 2017, the Church of England made [an unreserved apology](#) to former child migrants and their families for the part played by CEACES in supporting the Government’s migration programme. While the Church of England does not itself hold the details of individual child migrants which it would need to apologise directly to them, the Church has contacted other organisations (including [the Child Migrants Trust](#) and the Anglican Church in Australia) to help it locate these details. Unfortunately, this has not yet proved possible.

The Church will ensure that its records are preserved permanently in the Church of England records centre. Anyone wishing to access these records should contact the National Safeguarding Team at [safeguarding@churchofengland.org](mailto:safeguarding@churchofengland.org).

We repeat our apology to the children and families who were affected by the migration programme facilitated by CEACES and once again pay tribute to the courage of former child migrants who came forward to share their accounts with the Inquiry.

If you are affected by child migration and would like to talk to someone in the Church, please email the National Safeguarding Team at [safeguarding@churchofengland.org](mailto:safeguarding@churchofengland.org) and someone will contact you.

**February 2020**