

# Apology to Former Child Migrants by the British Government

24 February 2010 – 24 February 2010

## Details

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On 24 February 2010, the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown issued an apology to child migrants, for the United Kingdom's role in deporting thousands of children to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Some former child migrants were funded by the British Government to go to London and hear the Prime Minister's statement in person.

In his statement, Mr Brown said:

*To all those former child migrants and their families... We are truly sorry. They were let down.*

*We are sorry they were allowed to be sent away at the time when they were most vulnerable. We are sorry that instead of caring for them, this country turned its back.*

*And we are sorry that the voices of these children were not always heard, their cries for help not always heeded. And we are sorry that it has taken so long for this important day to come and for the full and unconditional apology that is justly deserved.*

In his apology speech, the Prime Minister announced the Family Restoration Fund, to help reunite former child migrants with their families. The Fund is administered by the Child Migrants Trust and is open to any former child migrant sent before 1970 from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales as part of child migration schemes.

## Gallery

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### Child Migrant Apology

**Description:** This is a video of the British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, delivering an apology to the people sent as child migrants from Britain in the twentieth century.



### Child Migrant Apology - Response

**Description:** On 24 February 2010 the British Government apologised to Former Child Migrants sent from Britain. This is the response by Harold Haig, secretary of The International Association of Former Child Migrants and their Families.

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## Child Migration Statement

**Description:** This website holds a video of the statement of apology made to Former Child Migrants by the British Parliament's House of Lords.

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Related Events

- [Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants, House of Commons Health Committee, Parliament of the United Kingdom \(July 1997 - 23 July 1998\)](#)

#### Related Concepts

- [Child Migration \(1800s - 1970s\)](#)

## Resources

- [Gordon Brown apologises to child migrants sent abroad](#), BBC News, 24 February 2010
  - [On their own: Britain's child migrants](#), Australian National Maritime Museum website, 2010
  - House of Lords Hansard 24 Feb 2010: Column 1018, [Child Migration Statement](#), 24 February 2010
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/apology-to-former-child-migrants-by-the-british-government/>