



Press release:

## The United Nations calls for independent commissions of inquiry to establish facts surrounding allegations of illegal intercountry adoptions

Danish Korean Rights Group welcomes the UN statement to member states to initiate commissions to investigate allegations of illegal intercountry adoptions to determine the responsibilities of all parties, facilitate the search for origins and propose adequate reparation measures for victims. "States shall ensure that all victims, including those adopted in the past, receive the assistance they need to know their origins,"

It is a good day for all adoptees around the world! [The United Nations statement of September 29, 2022](#) states that independent commissions should be established to investigate illegal adoptions.

On 23 August 2022, the [Danish Korean Rights Group \(DKRG\)](#) submitted an application to South Korea's Truth and Reconciliation Commission requesting a thorough investigation into overseas adoptions from South Korea.

Since then, almost 300 adoptees from Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Germany and the United States have supported [the request for an in-depth investigation](#) into overseas adoption from South Korea.

*"[The announcement from the UN](#) supports the Danish Korean Rights Group's request to South Korea's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the statement from the UN even goes further than DKRG's request, as the UN's statement calls for, among other things, that the states investigate all parties to the adoption on its own initiative and states that victims of illegal adoption have a right to know the truth. That must apply for the Korean state as well", an optimistic Peter Møller says (co-founder of Danish Korean Rights Group).*

DKRG's request to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission concerns adoptions from Holt Childrens Services, Inc. and Korean Social Service, Inc. and asks for the role of the Korean state at that time to be investigated.

*"In the announcement from the United Nations, it is explicitly mentioned that an investigation must take place with a view to investigate all parties to the adoption. In addition to the adoption agencies, it is obvious to also look at the role of the state at that time, and also at the roles of the parties today", says Peter Møller.*

The Danish Korean Rights Group has not yet received a message from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but are very optimistic based on the very clear statement from the UN and UN experts.



The announcement from the UN also means that it is extra important that the Korean state and the Korean authorities secure the adoptees' original documents. The UN also states that UN member states must facilitate the search for origins and propose adequate reparation measures for victims and that illegal intercountry adoptions may constitute serious crimes such as genocide or crimes against humanity.

This is serious and we are concerned that the parties to the adoption will try to avoid the truth coming out so that they can be held accountable.

*“For decades, adoption agencies have actively lied and deceived adoptees. With the UN's announcement, that time is hopefully over, and adoptees from South Korea can look forward to the truth about overseas adoption finally coming out”, Peter Møller concludes.*

This requires action! The Danish Korean Rights Group has great confidence that the UN's call for action will be heard by South Korea's authorities.

[Click here to read the UN's statement](#)

[Click here to read the UN statement in full length](#)

For further information, please contact the Danish Korean Rights Group, Peter Møller: peter.moller@danishkorean.dk or Whatsapp: +45 30645565 or DKRGs Korean contact: Boonyoung Han: [boonyoung.han@danishkorean.dk](mailto:boonyoung.han@danishkorean.dk) or phone number: 010-3903-8044.