

John Bond

Healing the wounds of the past - Australia's Sorry Day and Journey of Healing.

A multi-media story



In Australia between 1910 and 1970, tens of thousands of Aboriginal children were removed from their families in an attempt to assimilate them into the culture of white Australia.

In 1997 the report of an inquiry into these policies brought to national attention their tragic outcomes.

The Australian Government attacked the report and refused to apologise.

But 11 years later, the Australian Parliament came together in a unanimous and wholehearted apology.

Decisive in this change of heart was a community movement of a million people who signed Sorry Books, organized a nation-wide Sorry Day in 1998, and throughout the following decade took part in

a Journey of Healing which worked for truth, healing and justice for the Stolen Generations.

John Bond was the Secretary of Australia's National Sorry Day Committee from 1998 until 2006, and was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his commitment to Sorry Day and the Journey of Healing. He worked with Initiatives of Change in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe for 10 years. He now lives in Oxford, UK, and coordinates the conference on Just Governance for Human Security, which brings several hundred people annually to the Initiatives of Change conference centre at Caux, Switzerland.