

Bouwe van der Eems (ZA)

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Subject: Proposed new school law

Dear Member of Parliament

The Association for Homeschooling has represented homeschooling parents in South Africa since 1994 and promotes the freedom of parents to choose the type of education that is in the best interest of their children, as this is expressed in art. 26(3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations. This declaration states : "*Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.*"

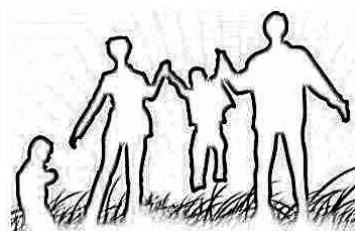
During the period of apartheid, home education was illegal in South Africa. The parents Andre and Bokkie Meintjies were jailed in 1994, and their children were placed in an orphanage, because they educated their children at home. However a few years later the Nelson Mandela government legalized home education in South Africa with the publication of the South African School Act in 1996. Since it was legalised, homeschooling has grown exponentially in South Africa.

A proposed new school law, that will make homeschooling illegal in Sweden, is presently before the Swedish parliament. The Association for Homeschooling has been communicating with the Swedish embassy on this proposed law since 2009. A letter from the Association has been published on the website of the Swedish government at <http://www.sweden.gov.se/content/1/c6/12/82/38/91633e46.pdf>

The Association would like to urge you to vote against the proposed school law that would modify chapter 24, paragraph 23 in the proposed new Swedish school law and would essentially make homeschooling in Sweden illegal. In a pluralistic and democratic society such as Sweden's, freedom in education must be respected because it is a recognized human right of parents to determine the best form of education for their children. This law will take away the freedom of Swedish parents to provide their children with a type of education that has a proven record of success.

Thank you very much for considering this request.

Regards



Bouwe van der Eems

Chairman – Association for Homeschooling

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