



FROM : Association for Homeschooling
6 Arend Street, Amandelsig, Kuilsrivier
CAPE TOWN, 7580
Tel. (082) 907 9696 / Fax. (086) 657 7216
Email : bouwe@tuisskolers.org
Website : www.tuisskolers.org

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TO : The Ambassador
TAIFA HOUSE
302 Brooks Street
Menlo Park 0081
PRETORIA
Email: info@kenya.org.za
Fax : 012 362 2252

ICW : Basic Education Bill

Dear Sir / Lady

Home education can be defined as the elective practice whereby children are educated directly under the personal oversight of their parents, often, though not exclusively, by their parents and usually in a home setting. Since its inception in 1992, the Association for Homeschooling represents the homeschooling community schooling in South Africa.

During 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 Mandela government legalised home education with the publication of the South African School Act in 1996. Since it was legalised, homeschooling has the fastest growing education model in the country.

Chapter 2(6) of the Constitution makes Kenya a monist state meaning that international law becomes part of domestic law. International law includes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states: "*Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.*" The right to choose the education of their children is a therefore fundamental human right that all parents have, including parents in Kenya.

Unfortunately homeschooling is conspicuously absent Basic Education Bill 2012, therefore leaving parents in Kenya without a legal framework that protects their rights.

The Association for Homeschooling in South Africa would like to urge the Kenya parliament to adapt the bill so that the fundamental rights of parents are not affected, and that Kenyan parents will enjoy the same rights as parents in South Africa.

It would be highly appreciated if you could convey this message to the Kenya parliament on behalf of South African homeschooling parents.

Yours sincerely

Bouwe van der Eems