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29 October 2012

**TO :** The Ambassador  
New Zealand High Commission  
125 Middel Street, Nieuw Muckleneuk  
PRETORIA, 0181  
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ATTENTION : Mr. Mann

**ICW : PROPOSED BILL THAT WILL INFRINGE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF NEW ZEALAND PARENTS**

Dear mr. Mann

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.

Since New Zealand has a similar positive legal atmosphere, homeschooling has been prospering there as well. Unfortunately the proposed Social Security (Benefit Categories and Work Focus) Amendment Bill is threatening this positive legal atmosphere. This bill will make it compulsory for beneficiaries to send their 3 - 5 year old children to a Government registered ECE (Early Childhood Education) centre for 15 hours a week.

The Universal Declaration of Human Right states that : "*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 fundamental human right that all parents have. If the proposed bill is accepted, this will mean that New Zealand parents will lose some of their fundamental human rights when they become beneficiaries.

The Association for Homeschooling in South Africa would like to urge the New Zealand government to adapt the proposed bill so that the fundamental rights of parents are not affected, and that New Zealand parents will keep the rights than parents in South Africa.

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

Yours sincerely

Bouwe van der Eems