

To: Whom It May Concern  
c/o Senatorin für Bildung und Wissenschaft  
Rembertiring 8-12  
D-28195 Bremen  
Germany

From: Pat Montgomery, Ph.D., Directress Emerita

Re: The Neubronner Case

Date: September 27, 2007

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am appalled to learn that the persecution and prosecution of home educating families is still going on in Germany. The Neubronner family in Bremen has recently been fined for accommodating their children's own desire for education based in their home.

As Directress of Clonlara School and its Home Based Education Program, I have worked with thousands of families like the Neubronners in forty-two (42) countries over the past twenty-seven (27) years. Home education is a time-honored, successful way for children to grow and learn and become contributing members of society.

Germany is alone in the world in forbidding its citizens the free exercise of choice in education. Numerous German school authorities state a fear that parents would use home education as an excuse to neglect and to isolate their children from society. This does not happen in all of the other countries where I have had the pleasure to know and to serve home educating families. It is an unfounded fear, and this fact can be supported by documentation – research studies, dissertations, field studies, anecdotal reports, and more.

It was Adolph Hitler who introduced the German Schulzwang in 1938. It is well past time to eliminate it, along with those unwarranted fears concerning home educating parents and students.

So many German families have been forced to leave their homes and move to other European countries, to Canada, England, Ireland, and the States in order to educate their children without fear of reprisals from officials. This is most unfortunate, especially for Germany itself. The Neubronner family should not have to emigrate in order to abide by the wishes of their children to home educate. Please take steps to stop this unnecessary exodus. Please reconsider and grant the appeal that the Neubronners have made.

Thank you for your efforts in this regard.