

September 26, 2007, Uppsala, Sweden

To Whom It May Concern  
c/o Senatorin für Bildung und Wissenschaft  
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**Concern: The Neubronner case**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was astonished to receive the news that Germany still prosecutes homeschooling families, as in the case of the Neubronners in Bremen. I live in Sweden, work as corporate consultant and writer, and homeschool my two school-aged children. I face no threats, fines or jail sentences from Swedish authorities. Two teachers from our local school meet my children once a year to see how they are doing. Not all Swedish political parties think homeschooling is the ideal, but it is my right as a free citizen in a democratic country respecting human rights according to the Swedish school law, chapter 10 §4 (my translation and my italics):

A school-aged child *shall* be allowed to fulfil the school obligation *in other ways than what is stated in this law*, if it appears to be a satisfactory alternative to the education otherwise available to the child according to the law. Possibilities [for the authorities] to have an insight into the activities shall be provided.

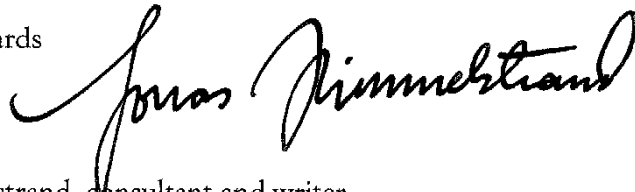
When the Swedish Government in 1995 made all the protocols of the European Convention on Human Rights a Swedish law through Government proposition 1993/94-117, homeschooling was explicitly mentioned as being allowed by Swedish school law.

As far as I understand, German authorities are concerned that if they give a permission to socially well-integrated families as the Neubronners and other families, then parents with special ideological backgrounds would follow and use homeschooling to neglect or isolate their children. This is definitely not the case in Sweden. I have personally met many Swedish homeschooling families. Their children obviously do at least as good school children, and often better. Swedish homeschooling families are highly caring about their children, certainly well above average. In my work and writing, I have looked into the research on homeschooling. The results clearly show that home schooled children on the average do at least as good, or better, in every respect compared with school children.

I have been told that the German Schulzwang was introduced by Adolf Hitler 1938. This is clearly a relic of the past. Although I would love to welcome the Neubronner family to Sweden, I think they should have a right to live and homeschool their children in their native country, a democratic country in the European Union of today.

Please rethink this case and give the Neubronners the permission they have appealed for to homeschool their children.

With kind regards



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