

## Presentation - PETI - Brussels, April 19, 2016 Petition No. 2434/2014

Madame Chairman, Distinguished Members of the European Parliament Petitions Committee,  
Ladies and Gentlemen, Greetings!

On behalf of the Nordic Committee for Human Rights and the 40 prominent lawyers and other professionals from the Nordic countries who have co-signed this Petition, I thank the Petitions Committee for this opportunity to address you.

We find that Brussels IIa Resolution is applicable to compulsory public care. The European Court of Justice Grand Chamber judgment in Case C-435/06 delivered in 2007 confirms this. (See: [Memorial](#))

The Swedish Government Bill 2007/08:98 acknowledges the assessment in the Grand Chamber judgment.

Compulsory care and foster home placements against the will of the parents and the children are very prevalent in Sweden and the Nordic countries.

[Sweden's 5th periodic report](#) to the UN Child Committee, states that 17 200 children were in foster homes or institutions in 2010. The minister of social affairs affirmed that 32 000 children were in foster or institution care in 2014, which is an increase of ca 50 % (**correction: 86 %**) in 4 years.

Sweden and the Nordic countries are very rich countries. An increasingly high number of placements are made every year, instead of investing the money for foster care on the children's families. The payments to the foster homes are exorbitant and now we see what we call the "[lucrative child care industry](#)". Children are being removed from their loving, caring, fully competent parents and placed in foster homes to live with total strangers - for money: income for unemployed who want to stay at home with their own children, **concealed adoptions** to childless couples, or pure business. There are even [Stock market companies](#), as care-providers.

Swedish law stipulates that the social services should investigate the children's relatives, however, relatives are usually [discriminated](#).

Sweden and the Nordic countries have lost the sense of Family, which has the right to state protection in accordance with Article 8 of the European Convention. Social workers prefer to place children with strangers instead of relatives.

Censorship of contacts: foster parents and social workers prevent contact between the children and their parents. Some parents haven't seen their children for over 10 years!

Regular contacts allow the children to maintain and even repair their broken family life.

The Administrative courts usually enforce the decisions of the social workers, which ultimately are the decisions of the social councils.

Foster parents and social workers invariably refuse to apply decisions that are favourable to the parents and children and there are no laws for enforcement.

The European Court of Human Rights requires the state to unceasingly work towards a reunification of the children and their parents.

Lawyers who work from a Human Rights point of view and take their work seriously, who try to help to keep families together are penalised. The courts invariably reduce the fees that should be paid and the lawyers can be dismissed from cases upon the recommendation of a social worker.

Some Cases referenced in the Petition:

[Domenic Johansson](#), removed from the airplane 2009, when his parents were to emigrate to India; totally traumatised.

[Donia Hassan](#) died in foster home 2012, and [Felicia Pettersson](#) died in an institution, 2005. No investigation, no one charged.

A new case: [The 5 Bodnariu children](#), EU citizen children, were removed from their family by Barnevernet in Norway in November 2015. They need protection.

Children and parents commit suicide. Two 14 yr old girls [committed suicide](#) in the beginning of 2015. They were refused contact with their parents.

I can go on and on, but we have only five minutes.

We are requesting a Fact-finding visit to Sweden and Finland which are both bound to Brussels IIa Resolution.

**We want to see changes.**

Thank you!

[The Petition and the Petitioners](#)