

2018-08-28

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors,

Dear Sirs, Mesdames,

I, the undersigned, Ruby Harrold-Claesson, lawyer and president of the Nordic Committee for Human Rights - NKMR/NCHR - For the Protection of Family Rights in the Nordic countries, refer to my E-letter, "Information to Embassies" sent on August 26, 2015.<sup>1</sup>

I would once again like to draw to your attention the very prevalent cases in the Nordic countries, in which foreign children are arbitrarily removed from the care of their loving, competent parents and placed in foster homes to live among total strangers. The reasons for the interferences in the families' lives can range from "risk for future emotional abuse", mental or physical abuse (a smack on the hand or bottom) or any other reason which the social workers may choose to prefer. These unnecessary interferences into children's and their families' private and family lives have been made possible through the law, but they invariably cause great suffering and trauma for the people involved.

Although being aware that these cases are well-known to most of the members or the Diplomatic Corps, I would however like to remind you of the danger facing foreign families, in Sweden and the neighbouring Nordic countries.

### Presentation of The NCHR

On 2 February 2017, The European Court of Human Rights gave the NCHR accreditation to intervene as Amicus Curiae in a Case that is pending against Norway.

Since April 2016, The NCHR is a member of the [Fundamental Rights Platform](#), FRP, at the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. On April 19, 2016, the NCHR defended the [Petition](#), which we raised in the European Parliament's PETI Committee, the aim of which is to secure the European Union's protection for the families in the Nordic countries whose children have been removed from them and placed in foster homes.

On behalf of the Board and members of the NCHR, I am therefore inviting Your Excellencies, or representatives of your staff, to attend our coming Symposium which will take place at Hotel Scandic Crown, in Gothenburg, on Saturday **September 29, 2018**.

Please see: [The NCHR Symposium 2018](#). The theme of this year's Symposium is:

**"CPS - Destruction of family life in the Nordic welfare states."**

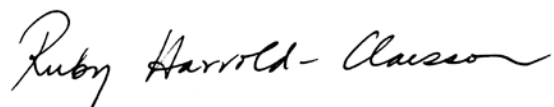
One Embassy sent a staff member to attend the NCHR's Symposium 2017. The Embassy representative informed the NCHR that many of her colleagues at other Embassies are aware of the problems facing foreign families and that they are very concerned. She informed us also that she was sure that other Embassies would have sent representatives to the NKMR's Symposium, if only they had received earlier notice. The NCHR is therefore sending this information although the program is not yet ready for publication.

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<sup>1</sup> - Please see attached letter, "Information to Embassies", dated August 26, 2015.

We look forward to meeting you and I thank you in advance for your participation at the NCHR's Symposium 2018.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ruby Harrold-Claesson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

Ruby Harrold-Claesson (Mrs)  
President.