



Association of McKenzie Friends

voluntary public interest advocacy

www.mckenzie-friends.co.uk

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CHILDREN SCREAMING TO BE HEARD

Bridging Incompatible Legal Systems in the EU Economic Area

An International Workshop in Support of Citizens' Petitions on Children's Rights

Child rights issues have become human and child right duties, not only as 1,000 children are taken by the UK authorities every month, but also as UK citizens are being punished for petitioning in Brussels. Citizens are therefore asking every responsible adult in every EU institution and member state to make a difference: on behalf of *defenceless children* and *intimidated parents*, as a Polish mother told the EU Petitions Committee on 11/11/14. The Committee heard about [Systemic Patterns of Child Snatching and Forced Adoptions in the UK](#) on 19/03/14 and on 11/11/14. As a consequence, a meeting was held on 04/12/14 with the EU Commission regarding what legislation may require change about [what is unique in the UK](#).

[The Council of Europe Resolution 1908/2012](#) on **Human Rights and Family Courts** calls on Member States to implement the **UN Convention on Child Rights** and to ensure that domestic procedures are in line with the **European Convention on Human Rights**. In reality, however, neither are adhered to, also in other countries. In Prague, the [international conference on child removal proceedings](#) affirmed the Resolution on 03/10/14.

[The Motion for a Resolution](#) on the **25th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** calls on the Commission, Member States and relevant institutions to take action and was signed by 106 MEPs.

This Conference in Brussels aims to bring awareness to politicians and media so that legal loopholes and gaps of implementation can be closed. Above all, EU citizens are looking for adults who take responsibility and hold those accountable who have managed to get away with child abuse without accountability.

Among the proposed speakers are:

Politicians

[Peter Jahr MEP](#) for Germany

[Tatjana Zdanoka MEP](#) for Latvia and initiator of petitions by citizens in the UK concerning forced adoptions

[Anna Maria Corazza Bildt MEP](#), initiator of the group "Children's Rights and Wellbeing" at the EU Parliament

[John Hemming, the only MP](#) who consistently campaigns for victims in the UK.

Lawyers

[Dr Marica Pirisikova](#), Agent of the Government of the Slovak Republic at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, who helped to free two Slovakian boys after 920 days – just before adoption

[Ian Josephs \(Monaco\)](#), has helped some 1,000 cases per year for 50 years

[Ruby Harrold-Claesson \(Sweden\)](#), lawyer and Chairperson of the Nordic Committee on Human Rights

Journalists

[Christopher Booker](#), The Telegraph UK

[Florence Bellone](#), RTBF, Belgian Radio

A voluntary Initiative of Public Interest Advocates assisting Litigants in Person

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