



Association of McKenzie Friends
Voluntary Public Interest Advocacy

www.mckenzie-friends.co.uk

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STOP the FORCED REMOVAL of CHILDREN from their PARENTS

On the Consistency of Rising Trends in Care Statistics in UK, Germany and Sweden

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Executive Summary

This petition requests the STOPPING of all forced removals of children from their parents as this crime against humanity emerges, not only in the UK but across Europe, not only recently, but with a rising trend since the 1990’s.

Based on official statistics from the UK, Germany and Sweden, this petition presents activities that are unacceptable in any democratic society; let alone one that claims to subscribe to the *Fundamental Charter of Human Rights*, the *European Convention of Human Rights* and the *UN Convention on Child Rights*.

Removing children from their families under false pretences is as criminal as stealing property. Police brutality and cruelty are covered up by shields of secrecy and pseudo-legitimation in 'family courts'. Forced adoptions are only a small percentage of **forced removals** which have resulted in **90,000** children in care in the **UK**, **50,000** in **Germany** and over **30,000** in **Sweden**. Tomas Zdechovsky MEP publishes that Norway had [46,000 children in care in 2014](#)¹.

However, official [UK statistics about Looked After Children](#)² do not take into account all Local Authorities: when trying to compare the population of local authorities with the number of children removed, it appeared that data from only **152** of **326** Local Authorities got recorded.

In 2012 the Council of Europe report on [Human Rights and Family Courts](#)³ addressed its "*concerns about cases where children are taken away against the will of their parents and in violation of the right to respect for family life and the principle of a fair trial.*"

In 2015 its report on [Social Services in Europe](#)⁴ examined the legislation and removal of children calling a number of practices "*abusive.*" Further studies are compiled on [International Reports](#)⁵.

This petition asks the EU Commission to act as a truly democratic law proposing body, genuinely implementing the *European Convention of Human Rights* and the *UN Convention on Child Rights* and, in the interest of future generations, to verily listen to [Children Screaming to be Heard](#).⁶

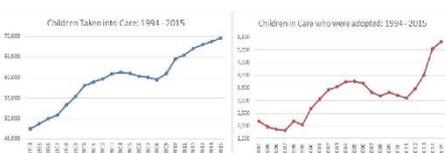
Fact-Based Aims

United Kingdom

Social Workers removing children from their families is one of the most disturbing human rights scandals of our time.

This is the subtitle of [MEPs must investigate this child-snatching scandal](#)⁷ in The Telegraph (UK) in March 2014.

Shortly before, 30 parents had travelled to the Petitions Committee hoping to get their children returned from UK authorities. However, instead of seeing their hopes fulfilled, two were arrested for having travelled to Brussels and one father had his contact with his children curtailed. This was later recorded in an Early Day Motion by former MP John Hemming: [Petitions to the EU Parliament](#)⁸.



Based on [Government statistics](#)⁹, the graphs above show the number of children in care and being adopted as consistently rising since 1994.

¹ <http://tomaszdechovskymep.tumblr.com/post/139103872277/children-removed-without-advance-warning>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-looked-after-children>

³ <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=19220&lang=EN>

⁴ <http://bit.ly/21mZF90>

⁵ <https://punishmentwithoutcrime.wordpress.com/4-recommended/background-reports/>

⁶ <https://mcknews.com/videos/london-conference/>

⁷ <http://bit.ly/1Nl1xwg>

⁸ <http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/1239>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-looked-after-children>

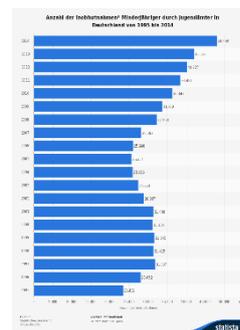
The 'dips' occur nearly concurrently from 2004 to 2008 in the UK and between 2004 and 2006 in Germany.

Germany and Sweden

In 2015 petitions from Germany were on the agenda of the Petitions Committee showing a similar picture of rising trends in the destruction of families, also by targeting foreigners, especially from 'new EU Member States'.

This is backed up by official statistics obtained via www.statista.de

In April 2016 three lawyers from the *Nordic Committee of Human Rights* presented their experiences to the Petitions Committee: [Petition Nr 2434/2014 admissible](#)¹⁰, echoing experiences from the UK and Germany:



1. Alarming numbers of children are taken into care.
2. Children suffer and are being abused whilst "in the best interest" is more blasphemy than reality.
3. Instead, the 'child care business' is an industry beyond any human decency.
4. Legal efforts on behalf of parents or children are stifled in unequal 'playing fields'.
5. [Non-qualified 'experts'](#)¹¹ provide reports that contain what they are paid to say.

This petition therefore aims at

1. Stopping trends showing children being taken into care that Government statistics have recorded since 1994 in the UK, Germany and Sweden.
2. Listening to children who were removed against parents' will, who were taken into care and through forced adoptions, who want to return to or at least have contact with their biological parents.
3. Ensuring international scrutiny over national violations of Human and Children's Rights laws.

Critique by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: 2014

The UN report [Concluding observations on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography](#)¹² gave rise to this article in the Daily Mail (UK) on 05 August 2014:

- [How London became the child abuse capital of the world](#):¹³ Trafficked here by gangs, prey to pimps, paedophiles and murderers... the booming trade in 'lost' children that shames us all;
 - Children are used to trick the benefits system and for sex abuse rings.
 - A new United Nations report paints a dark picture of the British capital.

Criticism comprises:

- The lack of data collection. (*Page 2, paragraph 9*)
- The non-coverage of all types of offences in legislation; the sale of children, which is not identical to trafficking, child prostitution and child pornography. (*Page 3, paragraph 12*)

¹⁰ <http://www.nkmr.org/en/received-letters/2621-petition-nr-2434-2014-admissible>

¹¹ <http://netk.net.au/Psychology/ExpertReports.pdf>

¹² http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=CRC/C/OPSC/GBR/CO/1

¹³ <http://dailym.ai/1nW1BaD>

Recommendations include:

- The designation of a high-level authority unit to monitor activities under the Optional Protocol and to ensure better coordination across the four jurisdictions in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to ensure consistency. (Page 4, paragraph 18)
- Dissemination and awareness raising activities regarding the Optional Protocol. (Page 5, para 20)
- The allocation of sufficient resources for the prevention and protection, physical and psychological recovery and social integration of victims as well as the investigation and prosecution of the offences covered by the Optional Protocol. (Page 5, paragraph 24)
- Put in place measures tailored to target potential abusers of children. (Page 6, paragraph 26b)
- Provide more resources for law enforcement agencies to improve prosecution and conviction rates for crimes covered by the Optional Protocol. (Page 6, paragraph 26c)
- Develop prevention programmes targeting children in the most vulnerable conditions, such as -
 - Children in street situations who may come into contact with gang members or groups (particularly in England), irregular migrant children and children living in residential institutions. (Page 7, paragraph 26d)

Council of Europe Reports as Reference: 2012 and 2015

European-wide analysis and plans for action are provided by these two reports: -

[Human Rights and Family Courts](#)¹⁴

Written by Christopher Chope MP in 2012, the report starts with:-

- a. *“The Parliamentary Assembly is concerned about the functioning of family courts in some member States of the Council of Europe, and especially about cases where children are **taken away** against the **will of their parents** and in violation of the right to **respect for family life** and the principle of a **fair trial**.”*
- b. *Children ought to be separated from their parents, only in very exceptional circumstances, subject to judicial review and in line with the requirements stemming from the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989.*
- c. *The Assembly therefore calls on member States to fully implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.”*

[Social Services in Europe](#)¹⁵

Legislation and practice of the removal of children from their families in Council of Europe member States by Olga Borzova (Russia) in 2015, quotes what is ‘abusive’ on page 12:

- a. *“The unwarranted **complete severing** of family ties.*
- b. *This occurs often in combination with **removing children** from parental care **at birth**.*

¹⁴ <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=19220&lang=EN>

¹⁵ <http://bit.ly/25fSPb8>

- c. *Basing placement decisions on the effluxion of time.*
- d. *And/or recourse to **adoptions without parental consent.***"

Furthermore, the recent [Children Screaming to be Heard](#)¹⁶ conference in London adds more evidence to allegations of families destroyed and lives ruined.

In particular, Ian Josephs, long-term advisor of parents with a law degree from Oxford now living in Monaco and publishing www.Forced-Adoption.com, said that parents should be convicted in a criminal court before their children can be lawfully taken away, as the removal of children is a [Punishment without Crime](#)¹⁷.

Will Revising Brussels II be the Answer for Children as our Future in the Spirit of the Fundamental Charter?

Given our experiences as 'lay legal advisors', with hundreds of cases collectively, we request the EU Commission to cover the following scenarios when revising Brussels II:

1. **Custody** battles between couples over their children.
2. Violations of International Law by States assuming **parental rights** via Social Services and the Police.
3. Assuming **jurisdiction** over **foreign** children to keep control and custody of such children.
4. [using the secrecy of family courts to cover up criminal activities](#)¹⁸.
5. The failure of the **Police** to protect children from abuse, as [investigated in Australia](#)¹⁹ in 1997.
6. **Organised abuse** with multiple victims and multiple perpetrators, as investigated by a [National Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups](#)²⁰, in the UK in 2012;
7. The extent of **institutional failures** to protect children as currently under 13 investigations in the UK by the [Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#).²¹

Appealing to National Parliaments, EU Parliament and EU Commission

In general, this petition appeals to Politicians and Administrations to do whatever is in their power to STOP the removal of children by Social Workers in Member States. If we as adults want to secure a humane future for our children and grandchildren we need to challenge all reasons for removing children forcibly and heal the traumatisations incurred through such separations.

In particular, our petition appeals to all MEPs who:-

1. Contributed to the recent [Plenary Debate on Protecting the Best Interest of the child \(across borders\)](#)²² on April 27th 2016.
 - Following this progress the original title of our online petition *Abolish Adoptions without Parental Consent* was changed to [Protect Children equally across EU Member States from removal by Social Services](#)²³.

¹⁶ <https://mcknews.com/videos/london-conference/>

¹⁷ <https://punishmentwithoutcrime.wordpress.com/about/>

¹⁸ <https://mckenzie-friends.co.uk/2015/03/07/using-the-secrecy-of-ukfamilycourts-to-cover-up-criminal-activities/>

¹⁹ <http://bit.ly/20IXW2G>

²⁰ <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/inquiry-child-sexual-exploitation-gangs-and-groups>

²¹ <https://www.iicsa.org.uk>

²² <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/plenary/video?debate=1461783977875>

²³ <https://www.change.org/p/eu-parliament-abolish-adoptions-without-parental-consent>

- In order of popularity, signatories of the petition are from: UK, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Ireland, Czech Republic, The Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Spain, Belgium, Bulgaria and Estonia.
2. Signed the [Resolution on the 25th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of Child \(2014 / 2919 \(RSP\)\)](#)²⁴.
 3. Are members of the [Intergroup “Children’s Rights”](#)²⁵.
 4. Represent petitioners affected from other Member States.
 5. Are members of the Committees for Petitions ([PETI](#))²⁶, Legal Affairs ([JURI](#))²⁷, Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs ([LIBE](#))²⁸ and Human Rights ([DROI](#))²⁹.

Scandals about Child Sexual Abuse - Organised by Gangs and Groups

In the UK, the [Rotherham child sexual exploitation scandal](#)³⁰ hit the news across the EU and resulted in a national inquiry in 2011 by the Office of the Children’s Commissioner: -

- [Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups](#)³¹
- The submission [Satanist Ritual Abuse of Children](#)³² concluded with this recommendation:- *There is a need³³ for an urgent, thorough and pro-active consideration of the nature and extent of satanist ritual abuse of children, including a review of court cases, police and legal procedure, and meetings with victims.* – Dr Linda Stalley on behalf of the Maranatha Community

In November 2012, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP gave this speech as Minister of Education: [The failure of child protection and the need for a fresh start](#)³⁴ yet the statistics show no fresh start or change.

The Wikipedia entry shows links to nine further ‘sex gangs’ in Aylesbury, Banbury, Bristol, Derby, Keighley, Oxford, Peterborough, Telford and the [Rochdale scandal](#)³⁵.

Mainstream Media Coverage in the UK

The *Association of McKenzie Friends* has been campaigning to [lift the secrecy of family courts](#)³⁶ since 2011. It prevents journalists from reporting and supporters from attending in the public gallery.

Despite that, *The Telegraph* publishes regularly individual cases as well as systemic aspects. National TV stations also made programs:

²⁴ <http://bit.ly/27shMyw>

²⁵ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdf/intergroupes/VIII_LEG_04_Childrens_rights.pdf

²⁶ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/peti/members.html>

²⁷ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/juri/home.html>

²⁸ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/libe/home.html>

²⁹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/droi/home.html>

³⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotherham_child_sexual_exploitation_scandal

³¹ <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/inquiry-child-sexual-exploitation-gangs-and-groups>

³² <http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/pdf/jan12-satanist-ritual-abuse-of-children.pdf>

³³ <http://bit.ly/1Weq7So>

³⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-failure-of-child-protection-and-the-need-for-a-fresh-start>

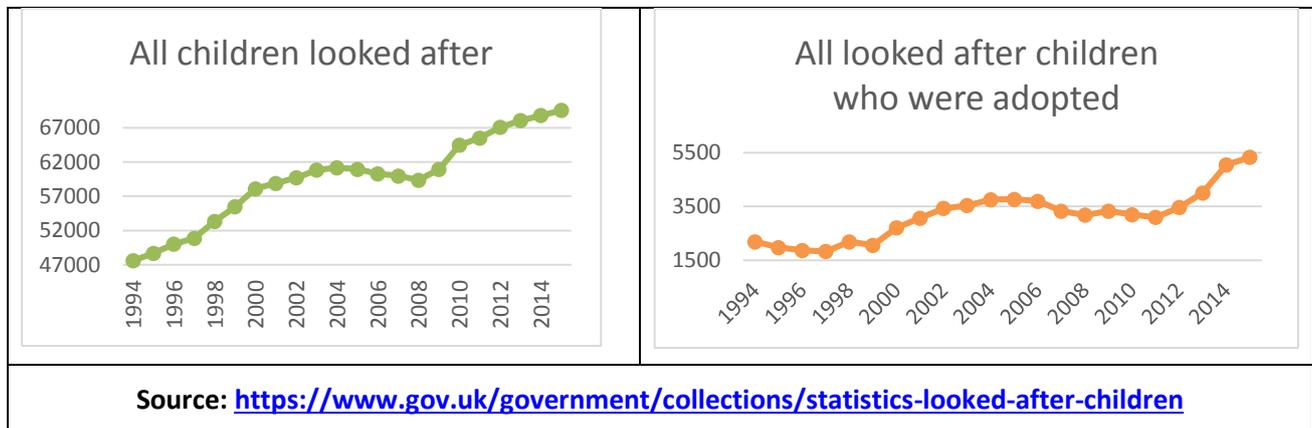
³⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochdale_sex_trafficking_gang

³⁶ <https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/the-secrecy-of-the-family-courts-should-be-lifted-now.html>

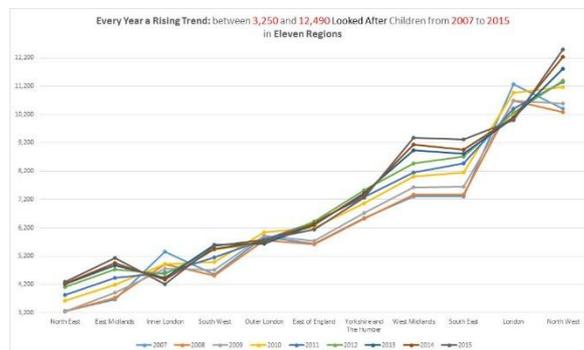
- **22-Mar-2014: The TELEGRAPH: [MEPs must investigate this child-snatching scandal](#)³⁷** - Social workers who take away children is **one of the most disturbing human rights scandals** of our time;
- **03-Apr-2014: CHANNEL 4: [15,000 Kids and Counting](#)³⁸** – a Film about Forced Adoption;
- **02-Feb-2015: BBC: [Thousands of Children Forcibly taken into Care](#)³⁹** - Every year about 11,000 children are taken into local authority care without the consent of their parents;
- **23 March 2015: RUSSIA TODAY [Forced Adoption: UK families flee to Ireland to keep their children](#)⁴⁰** - UK families are fleeing to Ireland as social workers continue to use false allegations and vague definitions of abuse to forcibly remove children from their parents and boost adoption statistics;
- **14-Jan-2016: The TELEGRAPH [Most sex abuse cases go 'unsolved' as police fail to investigate, says judge](#)⁴¹** - Judge says police are failing to investigate sex crimes.

Historical Data since 1994

Since September 2013 [Statistics about looked-after children](#)⁴² have been published by the UK Government, showing **Growing Trends since 1994:**



Regional Data since 2007



³⁷ <http://bit.ly/1Nl1xwq>

³⁸ <http://www.channel4.com/programmes/15000-kids-and-counting>

³⁹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-31089412>

⁴⁰ <https://mcknews.com/23-03-2015-rt-forced-adoption-uk-families-flee-to-ireland-to-keep-their-children/>

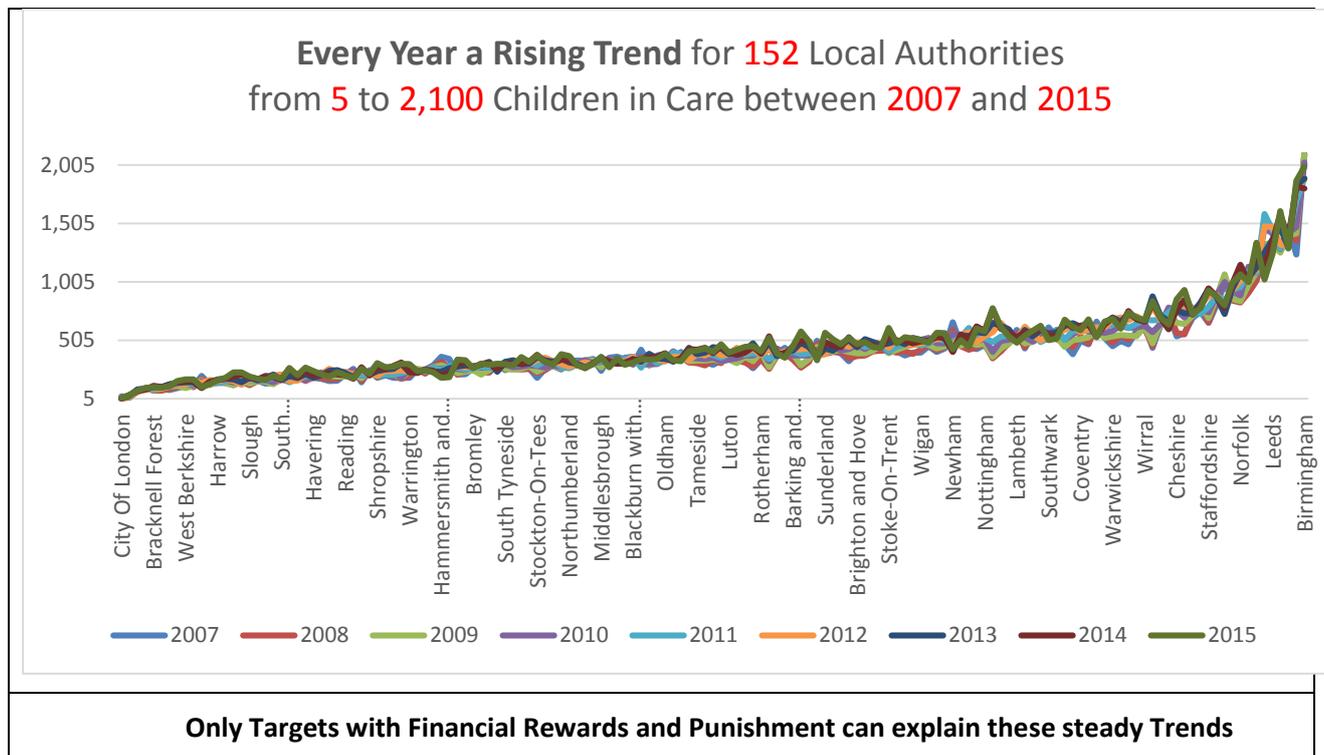
⁴¹ <http://bit.ly/1pnM04b>

⁴² <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-looked-after-children>

Growing Trends are Perpetuated and Consistent since 2007

For what reasons have **152** of **326** Local Authorities taken children into care? What do the **174** missing Councils do?

The examination of national and regional data highlighted that data of only **152** of the **326** Local Authorities appears in [Statistics on children under local authority care at national and local authority level](#)⁴³.



The Advent of Social Media and Scrutiny by McKenzie Friends

In 2006 [Hansard, Column 632](#)⁴⁴ published:

- **Ms Sally Keeble (Northampton, North) (Lab):** “Further to the Government’s plans for the court system, will my Right Hon. and Learned Friend say what plans she has for the family courts, especially in relation to ending their ability to send people to prison, for contempt of court for breach of a contact order without having a public hearing?.”
- **Ms Harman:** “My Hon. Friend raises an extremely important point, which she has put to me in a written question, so I know what the answer is. **Last year something like 200 people were sent to prison by the family courts, which happens in complete privacy and secrecy.** The idea that people are sent to prison without any reports of the proceedings makes even more important the work that we are undertaking with the family courts, and with the important intervention of the Constitutional Affairs Committee, to open them up so that they act in the public interest while maintaining personal privacy.”

⁴³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-looked-after-children>

⁴⁴ <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/vo060613/debtext/60613-0003.htm>

In 2009 McKenzie Friends accompanied the [worst of all child snatching cases](#)⁴⁵ where Nigerian parents were sent to prison and deported after seven children were taken.

In 2016 a McKenzie Friend won [note taking in a public gallery](#)⁴⁶ which was not allowed in the Nigerian and other cases.

Secret UK Family Courts assume Jurisdiction over Foreign Children

The issue of foreign children being targeted by Social Services, then being ‘processed’ in secret family courts, has become apparent on a number of occasions:

- 2009: [Foreign Kids Snatched by UK Govt](#)⁴⁷ – a blog as a resource – originated by the daughter-in-law of Human Rights Activist Desmond Tutu – on behalf of her and Tutu’s grandson.
- 2011: [The Secrecy of Family Courts should be Lifted Now](#)⁴⁸ - an online petition with over **2,000** signatures.
- 2012: [Non-UK Kids in Care – a Voluntary Report](#)⁴⁹ – recording **6,500** foreign children in care and illustrating the non-compliance by Local Authorities with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations to inform Embassies.
- 2013: [Abolition of Adoptions without Parental Consent](#)⁵⁰ – our written submission to the Petitions Committee of the EU Parliament.
 - a [12-page Dossier of Evidence](#)⁵¹ supports the petition.
- 2013: [Protect Children Equally across all EU Member States – from Removal by Social Services](#)⁵² - our [online](#) petition now addressing the EU Commissioner with over **5,800** signatures.
 - March 2015: First amendment: [Using the Secrecy of Family Courts to Cover-Up Criminal Activities](#)⁵³ – on the reasons for ‘Hampstead Mother’ and I fleeing UK jurisdiction.
 - Feb 2016: Second amendment: [Using Bail Conditions to Cover-Up Online Exposure of Child Sexual Abuse](#)⁵⁴ – on the harassment and intimidation experienced as ‘public interest whistleblower’ resulting in a criminal trial re supposed ‘witness intimidation’.
- 27 April 2016: [Protecting the best interest of the child \(across borders\) in Europe](#)⁵⁵ – **Plenary Debate** in **EU Parliament** with contributions by 27 MEPs from 18 countries addressing EU Commission and EU Council.
- 28 April 2016: [Kid’s best interests must come first in cross-border custody cases, urge MEPs](#)⁵⁶ - Press Release by EU Parliament.

⁴⁵ <https://gloriamusa.wordpress.com/about/>

⁴⁶ <http://bit.ly/21NA3lL>

⁴⁷ <http://www.foreignkidssnatchedbyuk.com>

⁴⁸ <https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/the-secrecy-of-the-family-courts-should-be-lifted-now.html>

⁴⁹ http://www.academia.edu/5709931/Non_UK_kids_in_care_report

⁵⁰ <https://mckenzie-friends.co.uk/petitions/abolish-adoption/>

⁵¹ https://drive.google.com/open?id=1NCF_XdMTNhnf947eniZ3SocOWyJ5Cl6pramw4iOPY9c

⁵² <https://www.change.org/p/eu-parliament-abolish-adoptions-without-parental-consent>

⁵³ <http://mckenzie-friends.co.uk/2015/03/07/using-the-secrecy-of-ukfamilycourts-to-cover-up-criminal-activities/>

⁵⁴ <https://mckenzie-friends.co.uk/15-12-27-using-bail-conditions/>

⁵⁵ <http://bit.ly/1VOMzBG>

⁵⁶ <http://bit.ly/1WhUx6W>

Missing and Dying in Care - in the Children’s ‘Best Interest’?

In March 2013 Labour MP Madeleine Moon asked the Secretary for Education “How many children under 18 years old have *died while in care* of local authorities in the last 10 years in each local authority area and if he will make a statement.”

The answer is [published in a table](#)⁵⁷ with regional figures and shows this to be on average 40 to 70 a year:

The number of children who die while in the care of local authorities in England is low, typically around 50 children per year. Due to these low numbers and to protect their identities, figures cannot be provided for each individual local authority.

Number of looked-after children who have died while being looked after by a local authority,^(1, 2, 3) year ending 31 March 2003 to 2012, England

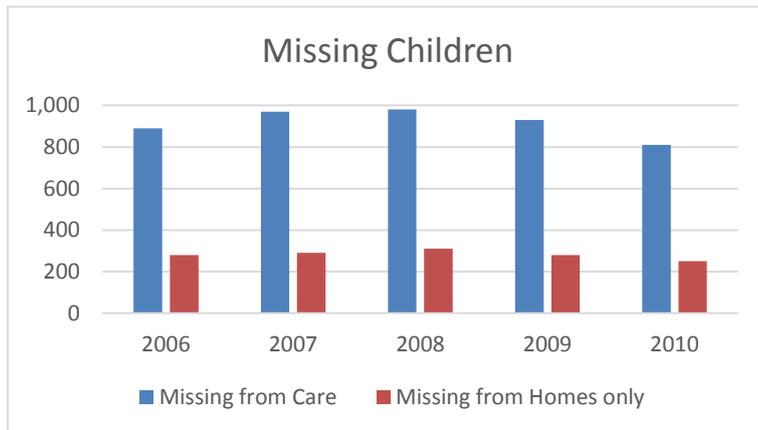
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
England	60	60	70	60	70	50	50	50	50	40
North East	0	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___
North West	10	10	10	10	20	10	10	10	10	(4)___
Yorkshire and the Humber	10	(4)___	10	(4)___	10	(4)___	(4)___	10	10	10
East Midlands	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	10	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___
West Midlands	10	10	10	(4)___	10	10	10	10	10	(4)___
East of England	10	10	10	(4)___	10	(4)___	10	(4)___	10	(4)___
London	10	10	10	20	20	10	10	10	10	10
Inner London	10	10	(4)___	10	10	(4)___	10	10	10	(4)___
Outer London	10	10	10	10	10	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	10
South East	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	(4)___	10
South West	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	(4)___	10	(4)___	10	(4)___

⁽¹⁾ Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. ⁽²⁾ Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements. ⁽³⁾ Regional figures do not add up to England total due to rounding. ⁽⁴⁾ Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality. Source: SSSA 903.

Unfortunately the statistics are incomplete and inconsistent and have only been made available from 2006 onwards.

⁵⁷ <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2013-05-20d.155195.h#g155195.r0>

After data for 2006-2010, only one figure is available for 2015 and in that table the total number of looked after children is far superior than in all previous years.



The Missing Children	2015
• Children who had a missing incident	6,110
• Children missing	160
• Children looked after during the year	99,230

Mainstream Media: Thousands of Children in Care disappear Each Year

Channel IV: Thousands of Children in Care **disappear** each year

- May 2014: <http://www.channel4.com/news/missing-children-care-homes-foi-babies>

The Times: Alarm raised as 19 **babies vanish** from council care

- June 2014: http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/National/article1420225.ece

Hence our Hopes

As McKenzie Friends, we have become Advocates and [Voices for the Voiceless](#)⁵⁸ as well as [Children Screaming to be Heard](#)⁵⁹.

We hope that our messages will be heard beyond the Press Release that followed the Plenary Debate:

[Kids' best interest must come first in cross-border custody cases, urge MEPs](#)⁶⁰

For the question remains:- In whose custody?

Is it their biological parents or a series of foster parents who are paid by the same State that pays Social Services and Police to remove children forcibly?

Sabine K McNeill

Sabine K McNeill

07 June 2016

⁵⁸ <https://sabinemcneill.co.uk/passion/online-publications/>

⁵⁹ <http://childrenscreamingtobeheard.com/>

⁶⁰ <http://bit.ly/1VQgaUN>