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The abuse by social services of member States of the Council of Europe of their authority to remove children from their parents' custody

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Mr Alexey PUSHKOV and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

The Parliamentary Assembly welcomes the measures taken by the member States of the Council of Europe aimed at protecting children from violence and all forms of exploitation. To that end, juvenile justice and social patronage services actively use the rights vested in them.

However, an excessively broad interpretation by social services of their rights is becoming more frequent. This leads to conflict situations involving the removal of children from their parents' custody.

National legislation of the member States provides for the removal of children from their parents' custody only as a measure of last resort used for their protection. In practice social services often resort to this measure without proper justification and on the basis of unverified data. Most often this measure is used in relation to children of migrant families.

The Assembly should carry out a thorough analysis of such cases and take measures in order to truly protect the rights of children and families where they live.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

PUSHKOV Alexey, Russian Federation, EDG
AGUZAROV Tamerlan, Russian Federation, EDG
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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left