



**Doc. 13759**

21 April 2015

## Removal of children from immigrant families in Norway

### Written declaration No. 589

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This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

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More information has recently come to light about children being taken from immigrant families in Norway due to inadequate child care, after acknowledging that preventive measures have failed and that the child's biological parents do not have the necessary skills and capacity to ensure the child's safety and to meet the child's needs. We regret that, as regards short-term care, the biological family and close relatives are not given priority. Parents or relatives face problems in obtaining information from the Norwegian authorities about their children.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child requires that States Parties respect the right of the child to preserve his/her identity, including nationality, name and family relations. Due regard should be paid to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.

As globalisation increases, nationals of different States experience cultural differences, and different child-rearing principles cause misunderstandings. Therefore, it is necessary to implement international agreements which would allow the exchange of information about the child and emphasise co-operation with the competent authorities of the child's State of origin. These principles are enshrined in the 1996 Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children.

We call on the Norwegian Parliament to ratify the Hague Convention as soon as possible.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

VĖSAITĖ Birutė, Lithuania, SOC  
ANTIČEVIĆ MARINOVIĆ Ingrid, Croatia, SOC  
BABAYAN Vahan, Armenia, EC  
BĒRZINŠ Andris, Latvia, ALDE  
BESELIA Eka, Georgia, SOC  
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC  
DOBEŠOVÁ Ivana, Czech Republic, ALDE  
GHILETCHI Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD  
IWIŃSKI Tadeusz, Poland, SOC  
JAKAVONIS Gediminas, Lithuania, ALDE  
KLEINBERGA Nellija, Latvia, ALDE  
LAIZĀNE Inese, Latvia, EC  
LĪBIŅA-EGNERE Inese, Latvia, EPP/CD  
MAGRADZE Guguli, Georgia, SOC  
MULIĆ Melita, Croatia, SOC  
SKARDŽIUS Arturas, Lithuania, SOC  
SOTNYK Olena, Ukraine, ALDE  
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD  
VLASENKO Sergiy, Ukraine, EPP/CD  
VUČKOVIĆ Nataša, Serbia, SOC  
ZELIENKOVÁ Kristýna, Czech Republic, ALDE  
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD  
ZOHRABYAN Naira, Armenia, EC

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Total = 23

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EC: European Conservatives Group  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialist Group