

- **Petition 0848/2006 by Mirosław Kraszewski (Polish) on alleged discrimination against Polish speakers by the German child and youth welfare authorities (Jugendamt)**

The petitioner maintains that, in dealing with disputes in mixed Polish-German households, the German child and youth welfare authorities, either in writing or orally, prohibit the use of Polish in cases where the German parent is seeking supervised access, involving the presence of a child or youth welfare worker specially trained to supervise contacts between children and parents and prevent antisocial behaviour. The use of Polish is forbidden on the grounds that, from the educational point of view, it is not in the child's best interests. The petitioner, who is directly affected by this, however, takes the view that bilingualism is advantageous to children's development and points out that the attitude adopted by the German authorities is a source of discrimination against Polish parents. He argues that the German youth welfare authorities are infringing the children's rights and are guilty of discrimination based on nationality.

Information

- numerous petitions have been tabled on the same subject, most recently Petition 0713/2006 which was dealt with as indicated below.

Recommendations

- declare admissible;
 - ask the Commission for information;
 - consider together with other petitions on the same subject and inform colleagues in the Bundestag Petitions Committee.
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- **Petition 0849/2006 by Brygida Pokrzepowicz (Polish) and 3 co-signatories on alleged discrimination against Polish speakers by the German child and youth welfare authorities (Jugendamt)**

The petitioner maintains that, in dealing with disputes in mixed Polish-German households, the German child and youth welfare authorities, either in writing or orally, prohibit the use of Polish in cases where the German parent is seeking supervised access, involving the presence of a child or youth welfare worker specially trained to supervise contacts between children and parents and prevent antisocial behaviour. The use of Polish is forbidden on the grounds that, from the educational point of view, it is not in the child's best interests. The petitioner, who as the grandmother of a Polish-German child living in Germany, is personally affected by this, argues that this contradicts the principle that bilingualism has a positive effect on children's development and that the position adopted by the German authorities is a source of discrimination against Polish parents. She does not consider that this can be justified by inadequate proficiency on the part of youth welfare workers coming into contact with the children of mixed couples. The petitioner argues that the German youth welfare authorities are infringing the rights of the children concerned and are

guilty of discrimination based on nationality. She is accordingly seeking action by the European Parliament.

Information

- Numerous petitions have already been tabled on the same subject, most recently Petition 0848/2006 which was dealt with as indicated below.

Recommendations

- declare admissible;
- ask the Commission for information;
- consider with other petitions on the same subject and inform colleagues in the Bundestag Petitions Committee.