

New UN report on German Education

In 1999 Katarina Tomasevski, a UN Special Rapporteur, made a report on education in Europe in which she said "The objective of getting all school-aged children to school and keeping them there till they attain the minimum defined in compulsory education is routinely used in the sector of education, but this objective does not necessarily conform to human rights requirements. In a country where all school-aged children are in school, free of charge, for the full duration of compulsory education, the right to education may be denied or violated. The core human rights standards for education include respect of freedom. The respect of parents' freedom to educate their children according to their vision of what education should be has been part of international human rights standards since their very emergence."

This year a new Rapporteur, Vernor Muñoz, made a report on the German education system which said, "Distance learning methods and home schooling represent valid options which could be developed in certain circumstances, bearing in mind that parents have the right to choose the appropriate type of education for their children, as stipulated in Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The promotion and development of a system of public, government-funded education should not entail the suppression of forms of education that do not require attendance at a school. In this context, the Special Rapporteur received complaints about threats to withdraw the parental rights of parents who chose home-schooling methods for their children."

It seems that Germany's attempt to criminalise home education is coming under pressure.

www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/4session/A.HRC.4.29.Add.3.pdf
(paragraph 62)