

Expat community protests proposed law forcing all homeschooling in the Dutch language

We, the homeschooling community of varied nationalities, protest the proposed new legislation on the following grounds:

We do not oppose learning the Dutch language, but forcing all education in the Dutch language is unacceptable. Exemptions to Dutch language education appear to be granted to private and international schools, why not homeschools? This bias is tantamount to economic discrimination. If you can afford private school, your child can learn in his native language. If not, he must be educated in the language of a country where he is not a citizen, nor plans to acquire citizenship.

We, the expat community, are primarily brought to the Netherlands to work for companies who feel that our skills bring something valued to the company. Skills which are not readily available among the Dutch population. In most cases the unique nature of our skills are intimately connected to our native language and culture. Yet, your proposed legislation would have that uniqueness assimilated and purged. In this new dawn of nationalism and nativism, this legislation will be interpreted as being in continuity with these trends, xenophobic and discriminatory of the migrant community.

Yet, if you are determined to pursue this goal of assimilating migrants, we would hope that you would see the wisdom in distinguishing between types of migrants, whether they be: students, working, or the highly skilled migrants; as being exempt from such policies on the current religious ground. Many of us come from English, French, or German cultures. Children educated in our languages yet living here and learning the Dutch language are an asset to Dutch society, liaisons connecting our communities. We wonder what harm can be presented to justify this drastic change in policy. Where is the documentation of abuse or harm to society that skilled migrants would be educated according to their cultural and religious convictions, as the law has until now provided?

The banning of homeschooling has a dark history beginning in Nazi Germany in 1938 with their ‘Reichsschulpflicht Gesetz’ compulsory education. Homeschooling is still banned in Germany and there are an increasing number of court cases being brought to fight such persecution, even citizens seeking asylum in other countries to pursue what they feel is their right. If these laws are passed, we’re certain that the Netherlands will face the same long legal battle with some of your own citizen choosing to flee than submit to a system which defies what their conscience tells them is best for their child. We kindly ask you to reconsider.

Signed: Jeremy Bullard _____

Signed: Dr. Derek Bass _____

Signed: Dr. Alex Stewart _____

Signed: Dr. Tim Swing _____

Signed: Jennifer Tunguz _____

Signed: Jackie Kirsten _____

Signed: Leslie Lowe _____

Signed: Nathan Prater _____