

to jacinda.ardern, Jan.logie, rajen.prasad, sua.william.sio, s.bridges, melissa.lee, Asenati.Lole-T., peseta.sam.lot., tim.macindoe, Alfred.ngaro, mike.sabin

Dear Select Committee Members

Thank you for reading my written submissions and listening to my oral submissions.

Today is International Human Rights Day
<http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>.

I would like to draw your attention to the Human Right breaches in the Social Security (Benefit Categories and Work Focus) Amendment Bill.

First of all I would like to bring to your attention the various Human rights and International Conventions [Right of Parents to Choose Education](http://hef.org.nz/beneficiaries/right-of-parents-to-choose-education/) <http://hef.org.nz/beneficiaries/right-of-parents-to-choose-education/>. Please also note in this link: "Furthermore, the *Education Act* does not require any children under 6-years old to attend an early childhood education centre. The Act nowhere discriminates against children of beneficiaries. The Social Security (Benefit Categories and Work Focus) Amendment Bill ignores the *Education Act* and coerces beneficiary parents to enrol their children."

Secondly, I have already tabled the [BERLIN DECLARATION](http://hef.org.nz/2012/berlin-declaration/) <http://hef.org.nz/2012/berlin-declaration/> with you. This document is a reminder that there are many Countries in the World who are watching where home schooling families are being discriminated against. Please do not make New Zealand one of these Countries by leaving the Social Obligations in this Bill.

And Thirdly, the Home Education Foundation sent out a media release today [Media Release 14 – Social Security Bill Is Unjustifiably Discriminatory, Says NZ Law Society](http://hef.org.nz/2012/media-release-14-social-security-bill-is-unjustifiably-discriminatory-says-nz-law-society/) <http://hef.org.nz/2012/media-release-14-social-security-bill-is-unjustifiably-discriminatory-says-nz-law-society/> pointing out the wisdom of the Law Society where they stated "that the imposition of the specified social obligations...raises serious issues of discrimination." The Law Society also said "Harm is potentially much increased because of the sanctions regime...The benefits to be gained from the measures would not appear to be in due proportion to the harm done to the targeted group." Significantly the Law Society said "New Zealand courts would at first glance consider this Bill discriminatory under the Bill of Rights".

The Social Obligations and attendant sanctions imposed by the new Social Security Bill are unfair, discriminatory, coercive, and breach human rights. Please remove the Social Obligations from the Bill, and insert exceptions to work testing for home schooling mothers.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully
Barbara Smith
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