



To: the political leaders in Sweden

Statement for the protection of Christian education in Sweden
Apeldoorn, 14 September 2018

We, participants of the European Conference for Christian Education in the Netherlands (ECCEN) hold in Apeldoorn on 12-14 September 2018, are deeply concerned with the political climate affecting Christian schools in Sweden.

We call upon the political leaders who are forming the new government to commit to the protection of the right to provide Christian education through the establishment of Christian schools.

Sweden has repeatedly committed to uphold “the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religions and philosophical convictions”, as provided by: Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights,¹ as well as Article 26(3) of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, Article 18(4) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² Article 13(3) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,³ Article 18(1) and Article 14(2) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁴

Introducing legislation which unable Christian parents to place their children in Christian schools would violate one of the most fundamental rights, robustly protected by the European Court of Human Rights.⁵

International, European and national associations of Christian schools and educators are supporting Swedish parents in the protection of their rights.

We pray for wisdom to do right to all Swedish people, parents, children and educators.

On the behalf of 83 participants from 13 countries (Australia, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Kenya, Nepal, The Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America),

ECCEN Board

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¹ Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental, adopted 20 March 1952, ratified by Sweden 22 June 1953, entry into force 18 May 1954.

² International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted 16 December 1966, ratified by Sweden 6 December 1971, entered into force 3 January 1976.

³ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted 16 December 1966, ratified by Sweden 6 December 1971, entered into force 3 January 1976.

⁴ Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted 20 November 1989, ratified by Sweden 29 June 1990, entered into force 2 September 1990.

⁵ ECtHR, *Kjeldsen, Busk Madsen and Pedersen v Denmark*, App Nos 5095/71, 5920/72 and 5926/72, 7 December 1976; *Folgero and Others v Norway*[GC] App No 15472/02, 29 June 2007.