



The Honorable Mr. Andris Teikmanis  
Ambassador of Latvia to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
The Embassy of Latvia  
45 Nottingham Place  
London  
UK - W1U 5LY

Brussels, 7 April 2014

Re: Forced adoption of Katya Brice

Dear Honorable Ambassador,

Against Child Trafficking is a Brussels based child rights non-profit organisation. We assist, inter alia, parents who are at risk to loose, or have lost, children to (intercountry) adoption. In this context, we have taken it upon us to support Ms. Laila Brice with advice and advocacy, based on our expertise and experience with similar cases.

Ms. Laila Brice and her two daughters are Latvian citizens and reside in Great Britain. The youngest daughter Katya was taken into care by the Merton social services and put up for adoption, without the consent of her mother and older sister.

As a Latvian citizen, Ms. Laila Brice and her daughters would need your urgent help to prevent this adoption, as it would permanently destroy their family. It would also strip Katya of her Latvian nationality, and there would be no continuity in the child's upbringing and to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2014, in Brussels, we attended the European Parliament's Petition Committee, where Ms. Laila Brice and her oldest daughter Ms. Maija Zargarjana presented their individual Petitions in which they called upon the EP Petition Committee to investigate the forced adoption system in the UK.

The facts had been analyzed in debt by the Committee beforehand. The Chairman of the European Petition Committee announced an investigation whereby the Committee would, as a first step, write to Merton social services to ask for explanations.

That same day, a manifestation took place in front of the British Embassy in Riga where the Petition was served for the UK Ambassador in Riga by local campaigners on behalf of Ms. Laila Brice.

