

## **PARENT CHILD FORUM**

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Office for Foreign Affairs  
ATTN: Ms. E. Schindler  
Heiligkreuz 14

9490 Vaduz

### **Third Country Report Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

Dear Madam, dear Sir:

Thank you very much for your invitation to comment on the situation of women in Liechtenstein. Undoubtedly, many grievances concerning the equality of men and women in Liechtenstein have been improved in recent decades. This fact is reflected in the third country report submitted by the Government.

The Parent Child Forum is a small family counseling service with the following focus areas: childcare – couples and family counseling – continuing education for parents, young people, and children.

In light of the magnitude of this topic, please allow us to make only two critical remarks concerning the political and social situation of women in Liechtenstein:

#### **Childcare**

Care for children outside the home in Liechtenstein is administered by eight daycare centers and by day mothers. In 2005, 33 day mothers took care of 76 children. For many years, the Parent Child Forum has fought for appropriate remuneration for the hours of care rendered by day mothers. If the importance of the educational work and the great responsibility in childcare are valued properly, then the current rate of CHF 6.00 per hour of care is clearly too low in the Liechtenstein context. So far, the Government has failed to accept as an argument the direct comparison between the cost to the State for childcare in a daycare center versus childcare

provided by a day mother. The very inexpensive care provided by day mothers exploits the idealism of any day mother. Improving the remuneration of day mothers with State funds would be an act of fairness.

### **Women's opportunities for political participation and the printed media**

In recent years, several measures have been taken to promote women in political bodies. An important instrument in this regard is the politics course that is supposed to prepare women for contributing their skills in political bodies and in public. However, this course draws attention to actual or supposed deficits only in women. The existence of such deficits may also be assumed in men.

At the same time, it has been shown that our printed media (Volksblatt, Vaterland, Liewo) portray women less frequently and usually always in the same stereotypes. As a crass example, we would like to mention the weekly Saturday supplement of the Vaterland, "Wirtschaft regional (regional economy)". In each issue, one person is presented who, in some form, has been successful in politics or business and/or has an interesting hobby. Of the 49 portraits in 2005, 89% were of male interview partners (in the "Persönlich gefragt (in person)" feature), and 11% were women. In Liechtenstein, over 20% of women now work in management positions or run their own business. Moreover, we assume that some of these women have an interesting hobby in addition to their job. These 11% female interview partners do not even represent the actual number of women in leadership positions, let alone anything even close to an equal consideration of both sexes. Since these media are political party newspapers subsidized by the State, the demand should go without saying that women be given a public presentation at least commensurate with their social accomplishments.

Such continuously repeated discrimination in the media does not contribute to an equal treatment of women in public and political life. Special courses and offerings for women will do little to change this.

We hope these two examples have helped provide you with further insight into the social situation of women in Liechtenstein.

Yours faithfully

E. Beck, President

M. Marxer-Schädler, Director

[signed]

[signed]