

Laureates, NCHR'S 20th Anniversary Celebrations

December 4, 2016

Laureate

Livstids utmärkelse / Lifetime Achievement Award



Erik Fribergh, former Registrar at the ECHR

Erik Fribergh is awarded the NCHR's 20th Anniversary Diploma for outstanding bravery, compassion and humanitarian engagement for children and families who, without pressing need, have fallen victims to the social welfare systems in Sweden and other European countries.

Erik Fribergh was Permanent Secretary at the European Court of Human Rights from 2002 to 2015. He has previously worked with the Council of Europe at the former European Commission Secretariat, and earlier, at the Administrative Court of Appeal in Gothenburg. During his time in the European Commission, he was administrator, and the Cases, Olsson v. Sweden and other compulsory care cases that had been submitted to the Commission by lawyer, former medical practitioner, Siv Westerberg, testify of Erik Fribergh's integrity.

On February 4, 2016, Erik Fribergh received The King's 12th size medal with a bright-blue ribbon. According to the Royal Palace website, the King confers medals to Swedish and foreign nationals, for outstanding contributions to the community and also to commemorate significant people or important events.

[Olsson v. Sweden](#)

Laureate

Lifetime Achievement Award



John Hemming, f d parlamentariker (MP), Birmingham, UK

John Hemming is awarded the NCHR's 20th Anniversary Diploma for integrity and outstanding Human Rights work for children and families who, without pressing need, have fallen victims to the British social welfare system.

John Hemming is a British politician, former Member of Parliament for Birmingham Yardley and Group Chair of the Liberal Democrats on the city council of Birmingham.

During his time in the British Parliament John Hemming was the only parliamentarian who consistently worked for an amendment or repeal of laws on compulsory care and forced adoption of children in the UK. He is still involved in cases of state abduction and forced adoption of children, and he has been personally involved in several cases that have been featured in the media, for example, [The Fran Lyon case](#).

John Hemming drafted the [Family Justice Bill - United Kingdom](#), which hopefully will become law in the UK in the very near future.

For more information see: [John Hemming's web site](#)

Laureate
Lifetime Achievement Award



Ian Josephs, MA, LLB, Language School Director, Monaco

Ian Josephs is awarded the NCHR's 20th Anniversary Diploma for integrity and outstanding Human Rights work for children and families who, without pressing need, have fallen victims to the British social welfare system.

Ian Josephs has a law degree from Oxford University, but he does not work as a lawyer. He devotes much time and his own money to help British families in their fight against the all-powerful social worker's actions, which usually end in the forced adoption of children.

Ian Joseph has been involved in almost all compulsory care - and forced adoption cases that have been published in the British media. However, because he lives in Monaco, he is inaccessible to British jurisdiction.

The families concerned are imposed gagging orders and several hundred parents have been sentenced to imprisonment after they published details of their cases or mentioned their children's names in public.

Ian Josephs is married and the father of seven children and grandfather of 14 children.

For more information, see: [Forced adoption, family courts, social services, children in care](#)

Laureate

Lifetime Achievement Award



JUDr Marica Pirošíková, Slovakien

Marica Pirošíková is awarded the NCHR's 20th Anniversary Diploma for outstanding bravery, compassion and humanitarian engagement for children and families who, without pressing need, have fallen victims to the social welfare systems in Europe.

Ms Pirošíková is the Agent of the Slovak Republic before the European Court of Human Rights. In the Slovak Republic she is responsible not only for the proper defence of the Slovak Republic before the European Court of Human Rights, but also for the execution of the European Court of Human Rights judgments. Within this remit, she regularly attends meetings of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and makes reports in this regard for the Slovak Republic. In addition she is very actively involved in harmonizing practice of the general courts and the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic with the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as harmonization of legislation with the standards of the Convention. As external member of pedagogical staff of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic she has trained hundreds of judges and prosecutors, which has resulted in their decisions becoming consistent with the case-law of the ECHR. She also lectures on human rights to attorneys and the Council of Europe sends her to other Member States of the Council of Europe as an expert to give lectures on the case-law of the ECHR and enforcement of judgments.

Marica Pirošíková is a member of the expert committees of the Council of Europe e.g. The Committee of Experts on the Reform of the European Court of Human Rights.

[Protection of children's human rights in the Council of Europe Member States](#)

Laureate
Lifetime Achievement Award



Tatjana Ždanoka, Professor, European parliamentarian, Human Rights Defender

Tatjana Ždanoka is awarded the NCHR's 20th Anniversary Diploma for outstanding bravery, compassion and humanitarian engagement for children and families who, without pressing need, have fallen victims to the social welfare systems in Europe..

Ms Ždanoka is a Latvian politician and Member of the European Parliament. She is co-Chairwoman of the Latvian Russian Union and sits with the European Greens–European Free Alliance group. She is a standing member of the European Parliament's Petitions Committee, PETI. As a member of the PETI, the Report signed by 32 prominent Nordic lawyers and other professionals that the NCHR had sent to the Council of Europe on Human Rights Day, 2012, was brought to Tatjana Ždanoka's attention. She encouraged the NCHR to send a petition to PETI, which we did in December 2013 and since then the Human Rights violations that are being committed against children and their families in the Nordic countries has been on the European Parliament's agenda.

Among Tatjana Ždanoka's qualifications we note her complaint to the British Parliament on forced adoptions. Her involvement in one case led to a baby in Northamptonshire being returned to its mother, and the mother gaining £ 17,000 in compensation. In another case, Ms Ždanoka's letter to a Court resulted in a social welfare committee withdrawing its decision to take a child.

[Latvia complains to UK Parliament over forced adoptions](#)

Laureate

Lifetime Achievement Award



Tomáš Zdechovský, European Parliamentarian, Human Rights Campaigner

Tomáš Zdechovský is awarded the NCHR's 20th Anniversary Diploma for integrity and outstanding Human Rights work for children and families who have fallen victims of the social welfare systems within the European Union and Norway.

Tomáš Zdechovský has earned three Master's degrees and he is also holder of a Bachelor's degree in political communication. He is a crisis manager, media analyst, poet and author, a Czech politician and MEP. He is a member of the Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party. In May 2014 he was elected member of the European Parliament, part of the European Peoples Party, EPP.

Tomáš Zdechovský is married and the father of three children, expecting a fourth in January 2017.

He publicly demonstrates against the Norwegian system for compulsory care of children, barnevernet. He has stressed that he would never want his children to be treated the way children are treated by barnevernet in Norway.

[Tomáš Zdechovský \(KDU-ČSL\): Say no to the norwegian terror!](#)

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