

To the European sister organisations

Religious and Humanist leaders of The Netherlands strongly appeal to the Dutch government to heed the call from the European Committee (EC) regarding the relocation of vulnerable and unaccompanied children from the Greek refugee camps.

We ask you - just as we will do – to appeal to your government to join the call to action of the EC, either together with other EU member states or - if necessary - independently.

Your government might already belong to the eleven countries that have agreed to take in the children (see list at the end of this letter). In that case your action could be perhaps be limited to thanking the government for this compassionate deed.

We ask you to send a letter along the lines of the following draft to your government not later than April 28<sup>th</sup>.

To the most honourable....

As the spiritual leaders of...., who believe in a country where freedom, solidarity, and human dignity go hand in hand, we find that the situation that vulnerable and unaccompanied children in Greek refugee camps are in, touches us deeply.

We believe it to be important that all the countries in the European Union share responsibility for the action plan created by the European Committee regarding the relocation of this group of vulnerable children.

We have yet to see unanimity and solidarity between the member states to find a joint solution to this situation. In anticipation of a joint solution, eleven EU countries have already decided to accommodate a part of this group of children.

Religious and Humanist organisations from all European countries are calling upon their governments to take steps towards helping these children.

Against the background of this Europe-wide call for humanity and human dignity, we hope that you feel supported to make a powerful step towards a solution - preferentially within the boundaries of a collective solution - and to heed the call of the European Committee.

We hope we can count on you. You can count on us.

We wish for much wisdom for you and your government, and we keep you in our prayers to the Almighty.

In interconnectedness,

Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, Rabbi emeritus Reform Synagogue The Hague,

Bikram Lalbahadoersing, Chair of “In Vrijheid Verbonden”

‘In Vrijheid Verbonden’ is an umbrella organisation of religious and humanistic organisations in The Netherlands, representing:

Boeddhistische Unie Nederland Buddhist Union of The Netherlands),

Hindoe Raad Nederland (Hindu Council of The Netherlands),

Nederlands-Israëlitisch Kerkgenootschap (Organization of Jewish Communities in the Netherlands),  
Nederlands Verbond voor Progressief Jodendom (Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism),  
Contactorgaan Moslims en Overheid (Organisation for contact between Muslims & Government)  
Humanistisch Verbond (Union of Humanist Organisations in The Netherlands),  
Raad van Kerken in Nederland (Council of Churches in The Netherlands)

List of EU members already committed to support the EC call to action:

Belgium,  
Bulgaria,  
Germany,  
Finland,  
France,  
Greece,  
Ireland,  
Croatia,  
Lithuania,  
Luxembourg,  
Portugal