

Ms. Jane Walker

Queensland Australia

February 19, 2019

Ministry of Justice c/o  
Committee for Pardoning  
Sölvhólsgötu 7 101 Reykjavik  
Iceland E-mail: postur@dmr.is

**Subject:** Request for the pardoning of Nara Walker

Dear Sir/Madam,

With the reference to the Constitution of Iceland, no. 33/1944, Article 29, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, the undersigned hereby asks the honourable Committee of Pardoning to recommend that my daughter be pardoned by the President of Iceland, an inclusive pardoning of her sentence and financial penalties.

My daughter has already fought for fifteen months to prove that she acted in self-defence against serious domestic abuse, which regrettably resulted in an injury to her former husband.

She has already been detained on a travel ban for over fifteen months, far away from her family and friends. As a result, she is suffering from escalated post-traumatic-stress-disorder [See attached certificate from her psychologist, [REDACTED]. Is this not enough of a punishment for her?

I find it a grim decision that the Icelandic authorities are planning to send my daughter to a high security prison. I am genuinely concerned about her mental health and of her possibilities to regain her strength in life. The fifteen months detainment has drained her emotional and financial resources. She has had no opportunity to earn a living, since she has no working permit in Iceland. I refer here to her substantial legal, medical and living expenses, and her court mandated debt which has increased through accrued interest over this lengthy time.

Her future earning capacity will be severely affected by her current criminal conviction and subsequent travel restrictions.

### **Overview of the case**

The Icelandic courts found my daughter Nara Walker guilty of grievous bodily harm to her former husband when she, in an altercation on November 1st 2017 bit off a piece of his tongue.

Humane procedures were denied Nara in an investigation with notable errors. Nara pleaded with the police that she was the victim, that her husband had assaulted her numerous times. Regardless of Nara presenting with bruising to her arms (where he had pinned her whilst forcing himself onto her), pain in her torso, and a lump on her spine, medical attention was withheld whilst she was in police custody.

A doctor's certificate [see attached] including a CT Scan and X-rays taken in the following days confirmed her severe injuries; a fractured rib, internal bruising and a sprained spine. The court received a medical report from a non-biased witness which showed that that he too, had serious injuries inflicted by Nara's then husband.

This witness statement verified Nara's testimony, and along with evidence of previous abuse to Nara, was presented in the courts. Her then husband admitted under oath that he had assaulted her previously.

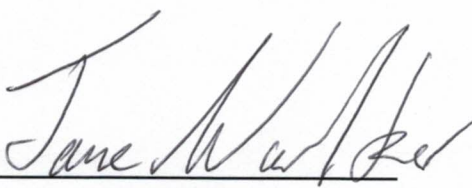
Nara's case first went to the District Court of Reykjavik on February 12th, 2018. She was sentenced to 12 months in jail, nine of which were suspended. The case was appealed in the Icelandic Court of Appeals which, on December 7th, 2018, still found her guilty and increased her sentence to 18 months in jail, with 15 months suspended. Nara is to pay damages to her former husband (1,8 million ISK). She also carries all legal cost, amounting to over 5,8 million ISK.

Even though The Icelandic Court of Appeals stated in its judgement that the evidence showed that Nara's description of events was correct, and she was indeed defending herself, the manner of her self-defence did not meet the standards set for such action in Icelandic law. The court offered no justification for this judgement [No. 404/2018].

My daughter applied in good faith to the Supreme Court of Iceland to have her case reviewed. The application was rejected. She has stated in interviews to the press, that with this ruling, the Supreme Court of Iceland missed the chance to use her case to set a precedent in cases of self-defence by women who are submitted to gross violence or domestic abuse. This is regrettable.

I personally have had great faith in the Icelandic judicial system due to the fine reputation of Iceland for women's rights and equality of the sexes. Now, having reviewed the case of my daughter, I have regrettably discovered that things in Iceland are not as they are presented on the world stage. One reference is a recent research on domestic violence in Iceland that was published by Kvennaathvarfid [<http://www.ruv.is/frett/kenna-tholendum-um-heimilisofbeldid>]. It seems from what I have observed that the Icelandic judicial system has had problems with its handling of cases like that, which is reflected in the judgement of my daughter's case.

I hereby plea to the honourable committee to take my request seriously, to pardon my daughter, both for her wellbeing and as a precedent for other women in the same situation. This would then show the world that Iceland is again a country that is leading the way in the fair and equal rights of women, and that Iceland does not tolerate domestic violence or sexual abuse.

  
Jane Walker

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