



IOK/63/2018

21 December 2018

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

cescr@ohchr.org

Viite 64th Session - ICESCR

Asia LOIPR – Finland – 2019 – NHRI submission

This is the submission of the Finnish Human Rights Centre/National Human Rights Institution for the preparation and adoption of the List of Issues Prior to Reporting for Finland by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in March 2019, during its 64th session.

The submission aims at drawing your attention to some issues that we find important to be included in the LOIPR for Finland. The issues in this submission reflect themes that the Finnish NHRI has worked on and it includes possible questions to be placed before the Government. It is not an exhaustive list.

In addition, reference is made to the submission made recently to the Human Rights Committee for the LOIPR under the ICCPR and the submission made by the Human Rights Centre in 2013, including many of the issues relevant also today.

The submission does not in general refer to issues reflected in previous concluding observations 2014:7 by the Committee.

We will provide more detailed submissions prior to the hearing of Finland.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

Sirpa Rautio
Director

Leena Leikas
Expert

This document is electronically approved and has no signature.

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (64th session)
Submission from the Finnish National Human Rights Institution for the
adoption of the List of Issues Prior to Reporting – Finland

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General information on the National Human Rights situation

The Finnish Human Rights Center (HRC) is an autonomous and independent expert institution whose task is to promote and monitor the implementation of fundamental and human rights in Finland as well as to increase cooperation and exchange of information between various actors in the field. According to its founding legislation, one of the tasks of the HRC is to participate in European and international cooperation related to the promotion and protection of fundamental and human rights. The HRC represents the Finnish NHRI in international NHRI cooperation.

The HRC forms the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), alongside with its pluralistic 38-member Human Rights Delegation and the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

The National Human Rights Institution in Finland was established by law in 2012, and received **A-status in 2014**.

1. In 2014, the Parliamentary Ombudsman was designated as the Finnish National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under the Optional Protocol of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).
2. In 2016, the entire Finnish NHRI together was given a statutory special task to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
3. The Human Rights Centre has a wide mandate¹. The current resources are very limited in relation to the mandate and tasks despite incremental growth over the past few years. The HRC has 4 permanent posts. There is funding for a 5th permanent post in the budget approved for 2019. The budget of the Human Rights Centre is c. 600.000 euros. The Finnish NHRI overall resources are c. 60 posts and a budget of some 6 million euros (including the c. 600.000 euros for the Human Rights Centre) most of which is allocated to the Parliamentary Ombudsman for its tasks of examining complaints and conducting on-site investigations. Considering the resources, however, the overall Finnish context needs to be taken into account. There are several independent human rights bodies working in Finland of which the Finnish NHRI is but one.²

- Please report on the measures taken to ensure that the NHRI (Human Rights Centre, Human Rights Delegation and the Parliamentary Ombudsman) is provided with adequate financial and staff resources to enable it to carry out its mandate effectively, including the special tasks with regard the CRPD.

4. Issues relating to human rights structures and resources

- **human rights monitoring and promotion structures** that are confusing to citizens, fragmented, have at times overlapping mandates, lack of resources and only in some cases ability to recommend compensation to victims of violations.

¹ <https://www.humanrightscentre.fi/about-us/human-rights-centre/>

² Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, Equality Ombudsman, Child Ombudsman, and Data Protection Ombudsman.

- **insufficient resources** for human rights work in government and in independent institutions and actors and especially the Finnish Human Rights Centre.
 - **shrinking space or decreasing support for the NGOs** due to cuts in Government funding.
5. Issues relating to implementation of human rights
- **Negative**, polarized and populist **climate against human rights**, linguistic and other minorities and human rights defenders, fueled by some politicians, political parties, media and individuals.
 - insufficient **knowledge and implementation of** international human rights standards on all levels of administration.
 - lack of overarching **human rights impact assessment**, in planned and implemented legislation, including insufficient **assessment of compounding effects** of legislative changes to access to rights.
6. Currently a major **reform of health and social services** is prepared in Finland³ together with a **regional reform**⁴. The reform aims to reshape the structures and services in healthcare and social welfare. It is due to take effect in 2021. Its objective is to reduce inequalities in health and wellbeing, improve the equality of services and the access to services as well as to curb costs.
7. The reform means that:
- Responsibility for the organisation of health and social services will be transferred from local authorities and joint municipal authorities to the 18 counties on 1 January 2021. The counties are bigger entities and have better resource capacity. They will organise services in ways that are most appropriate for the region's population as a whole.
 - Health and social services will be integrated at all levels to form client-oriented entities. Services must be organised so that they are timely, effective and efficient. Another goal is to safeguard the availability of locally accessible services.
 - Multisource financing of healthcare and social welfare will be made simpler
 - People will have more freedom of choice. Freedom of choice will be a key method to improve the availability of primary services.
 - There will be more digital services, and information will flow more smoothly between service providers.
 - The reform will help bridge a large part of the sustainability gap in general government finances. The Government aims to save EUR 10 billion, and the health and social services reform is expected to cover approximately EUR 3 billion of this sum.
 - Besides structural and financial reforms, the steering and operating models in healthcare and social welfare will be thoroughly modernised. The aim is to achieve better services that are not only more client-oriented, effective and cost-efficient than before but also better coordinated.

³ <https://alueuudistus.fi/en/what-is-the-health-and-social-services-reform->

⁴ <https://alueuudistus.fi/en/what-is-the-regional-reform->

- How will the Government ensure that, despite good intentions, for example the persons with disabilities are not sidelined in the reform, especially with regard to the provision of more services digitally and their standing or lack of it in the competitive selection of service providers?

8. The **observations and recommendations of the ESCR-Committee** in 2013 have not been published in national languages, although it usually is done timely and has been done with regard to all other conventions on a regular basis.

Ten key problems in Fundamental and Human Rights in Finland

9. The Parliamentary Ombudsman, part of the NHRI, has listed ten key problems in fundamental and human rights in his annual report since 2013. The list includes typical or ongoing problems that have been identified specifically through the observations compiled by the Ombudsman under his remit. The Ombudsman mainly obtains information on failures and shortcomings through complaints, inspection visits and his own initiatives. However, not all fundamental and human rights problems are revealed by the Ombudsman's actions (for example violence against women). This list reflects his findings in 2017. For more details on individual topics, see the annual report of the Ombudsman.⁵
1. Shortcomings in the conditions and treatment of the elderly
 2. Shortcomings in child welfare services
 3. Shortcomings in guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities
 4. Policies limiting the right to self-determination in institutions
 5. Problems with legal assistance for foreigners and the vulnerability of undocumented immigrants
 6. Flaws in the conditions and treatment of prisoners and remand prisoners
 7. Problems in the availability of health services and the relevant legislation
 8. Problems in learning environments and decision-making processes in primary education
 9. Lengthy handling times of legal processes and shortcomings in the structural independence of courts
 10. Shortcomings in the prevention of and recompense for fundamental and human rights violations

Ongoing implementation of the Covenant

Prohibition of Discrimination (Art. 2)

10. **Trans-people** continue to face **discrimination** characterized by transphobic attitudes, gender stereotypes and discriminatory legislation. (FRA survey 2013⁶ and Ministry of

⁵ <https://bit.ly/2PRXREr>

⁶ [EU Fundamental Rights Agency LGBT Survey \(May 2013\)](#)

Justice study 2016⁷). This discrimination issue was also highlighted by UPR recommendations that Finland received and accepted in 2017⁸.

11. The situation with regard to **discrimination in work-life** is still being monitored by multiple authorities. According to the law, the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman monitors all discrimination grounds. However, the discrimination in individual work-life cases is monitored by the occupational safety and health authorities. The Equality Ombudsman continues to monitor compliance with the Act on Equality between Women and Men.
12. The National Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal of Finland with its wide powers and possibilities to impose penalty payments, prohibitions, obligation decisions and even reconciliations does not monitor the application of the Non-Discrimination Act in working life. Complaints based on the Act on Equality between Women and Men fall within the mandate of the Tribunal also in the working life. For an individual to receive compensation in cases of work-life discrimination a criminal investigation needs to be conducted by the police, on the initiation of the occupational safety and health authorities, and depending on the outcome of criminal proceedings.
13. All this is likely to create confusion on the right forum for the victim of discrimination, especially if the victim has lacking skills in national languages or is unaware or unsure of his rights not to be discriminated against.
14. **Discrimination due to the digitalisation** is increasing. Accessibility and universal design need to be increasingly considered. The digital divide between old and young, rich and poor affects the access to rights, information, services and participation options.

- Please explain any plans to improve the human rights protection with regard to work life discrimination.
- What plans are there to diminish the digital divide and improve the equality in the quest to digitalise the society to the maximum?

15. Additional themes under prohibition of discrimination

- discrimination in sports
 - o non-deductable fees for paraolympians for participation in international competitions,
 - o lower salaries for female athletes, allocation of bookings for training facilities etc.
 - o number of women in managerial and decision-making roles in sports and sports organisations⁹
- discrimination of persons with disabilities in education and employment

⁷ 1/5 of respondents had experienced hate speech or harassment more than once within a month. Of the LGBT respondents 81 % never reported the incident of hate speech or harassment further.. <https://bit.ly/2R4vO68> (english summary)

⁸ <https://bit.ly/2SawqHM>

⁹ http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/160521/OKM_6_2018.pdf

- discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, language in employment and in housing.
- discrimination based on age, gender, gender identity or sex in employment and in access to health.

Right to Work & Just and Favourable Conditions of Work (arts 6 and 7)

16. Right to work is not realised for persons with disabilities. It is estimated that only 15-20 percent of persons with disabilities participate in the labour market. The implemented labour market policies have traditionally not encompassed persons with disabilities. The assumption has been that persons with disabilities do not participate in paid work in the open labour market, but rather rely on disability pension for their income and subsistence. In recent years, there has been policy developments aiming to improve access to labour market for persons with disabilities.
17. Persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual disabilities, often participate in working-life outside the normal/open labour market. Municipalities organise 'work activities' for persons with disabilities, but the remuneration for the work carried out is often insufficient to even cover the cost of lunch. The remuneration for 'work activity' is between 0-12 euros per day.

- What measures will the Government take to improve the right to work of persons with disabilities?
- What measures will the Government take to guarantee just and fair working conditions for persons with disabilities participating in working-life outside the normal/open labour market?

Right to Social Security (art 9)

18. The European Committee of Social Rights has reprimanded Finland several times on the insufficient amount of various benefits. There are also multiple violation decisions by the Committee against Finland.¹⁰ In January 2018 the Committee noted in its latest report¹¹ that:
- the minimum level of sickness benefits is inadequate;
 - the minimum level of unemployment allowance is inadequate;
 - the minimum level of maternity allowance is inadequate.
 - the amount of social assistance, consisting of basic assistance and any additional benefits that may apply is not adequate;
 - the granting of social assistance to nationals of other States Parties is subject to a length of residence requirement of four years.

¹⁰ <https://bit.ly/2ltAwLb>

¹¹ <https://bit.ly/2rLZ5Yd>

19. Also, the Committee noted, that

- equal treatment with regard to social security rights, access to family allowances and the right to maintenance of accruing rights is not guaranteed to nationals of all other States Parties.

- What steps is the Government taking to ensure the sufficient level of social security and other social benefits, taking also account observations by the European Committee of Social Rights?

Protection of Family (art 10)

20. According to the extensive report published by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights in 2014, **violence against women is especially common in Finland**¹². Domestic violence also affects children in many ways. According to research carried out in 2017 by the Central Union for Child Welfare¹³, as many as 40% of parents have at some point used violence against their children for discipline purposes. According to a report published by the Ministry of the Interior in May 2018, violence against women is currently the second most serious factor affecting general safety¹⁴. A fifth of women in relationships have experienced violence from their partner. Around 30% of young women and girls are worried about sexual violence. Sexual violence, domestic violence, violence in close relationships, sexual harassment, and the quiet acceptance of all of these is disturbingly widespread in Finnish society. The future review published by the Ministry of the Interior in June 2018 states that violence hotspots include women who suffer repeated violence in close relationships and that, because of this, gender equality is not fulfilled with regards to personal safety.¹⁵

21. Reference is made to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, the **Istanbul Convention**, which entered into force in Finland in 2015. The first monitoring cycle is currently ongoing¹⁶ and the GREVIO-expert group is to give its views and recommendations on the implementation in Finland in July 2019.

22. During the **country visit of the GREVIO-experts** the question was raised with regard the court fee levied on the unsuccessful applications of restraining orders. Also the risk of losing one's residence permit (on family grounds) if the marriage ends and its significance for reporting or not reporting a violent spouse to the police were discussed.

23. A **National Action Plan for the Implementation of Istanbul Convention** in 2018–2021¹⁷ was adopted in 2017. Most of the actions towards the implementation of the Convention are financed within existing resources and often depend on the priorities

¹² <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/violence-against-women-eu-wide-survey-main-results-report>

¹³ <https://www.lskl.fi/verkkokauppa/piiskasta-jaahypenkkiin/>

¹⁴ http://intermin.fi/artikkeli/-/asset_publisher/selvitys-turvallisuudessa-on-isoja-eroja-eri-vaestoryhmien-valilla

¹⁵ http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/160894/12_TUKA_SM_WEB.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

¹⁶ <https://bit.ly/2Sa6HPz>

¹⁷ <https://bit.ly/2r2WqZQ>

within the ministries and administration. The lack of multiannual funding affects the planning and implementation of the actions.

24. In 2018 the Human Rights Delegation made a statement with recommendations on the implementation of the Convention drawing attention to lack of resources etc. in the implementation of the Convention.¹⁸

25. Reference is made also to the

- recommendations under the CEDAW Convention in 2014
- recommendations under the CAT Convention in 2016
- recommendations in the UPR process in 2017
- the first ever individual complaint against Finland, examined by the CEDAW Committee¹⁹ (Communication 103/2016, decided upon on 5 March 2018)

26. In addition to increased violence against women, **hate speech** and general **misogyny** has increased, especially on the internet and various social media platforms.

- What steps has the Government taken to ensure the sufficient long-term resources for the overall implementation of the Istanbul Convention and especially for the services aimed at victims of the domestic violence, including victims of minority (and minority within a minority) origins, the geographical distribution of services and cultural/linguistic provision?
- Are there plans to appoint an official national monitoring body responsible for the independent monitoring and supervision of activities to combat violence against women, and to report to Parliament once every parliamentary term on the progress and problem areas regarding implementation, in order to stimulate discussion in society about the topic?
- What steps have been taken to ensure a safe reporting of domestic violence for persons whose residence permit depends on their marital status?
- How is the Government ensuring that the domestic violence and the best interest of the child is appropriately taken into consideration in the custody proceedings?

27. Currently the Parliament is examining draft bill that aims to remove the possibility of children under the age of 18 to **marry with a special permission** or at least to clearly limit the age for such a permission. There are c. 20 applications for such a permission annually, most applicants being 17 years of age.

- Please provide additional information on the under aged marriages concluded with a special permission and the effects of such marriages to the education, development and wellbeing of those persons.

¹⁸ <https://bit.ly/2AgHOdK>

¹⁹ <https://bit.ly/2FFShVV>

28. The national School Health Promotion (SHP) study is conducted every two years with participation of 236 000 pupils in 2017 (pupils from 1st to 9th grades around the country). According to the study, experiences of **sexual harassment and violence** are more commonly experienced by children born abroad and children belonging to minorities, including linguistic and religious minorities.²⁰

- Please report on the steps taken in schools and free time activities of children to prevent sexual harassment and acts of violence experienced by children born abroad and children belonging to minorities, including linguistic and religious minorities. Elaborate on the protection of LGBT-children and non-binary children in this regard.

29. The general lack of resources allocated by municipalities to welfare services and the poor availability of qualified social workers and the high turnover of employees impact negatively on the standard of child welfare services. The supervision of foster care is insufficient. Children's right of access to information is not sufficiently observed and children who have been placed in care are often unaware of their rights, the rights and obligations of the institution or the duties and responsibilities of their case worker.

- What measures have been introduced to make sure that the workload of individual social workers allows them to appropriately perform their statutory duties with regard to organizing and supervising the substitute care of a child?

Right to adequate standard of living (art 11)

30. **Child poverty**²¹ is continuously rising. In 2016 more than 10 % of children (over 110.000 children) were affected by poverty. In single parent households the poverty level was threefold (22%) in comparison to two parent households (7%). Social security aimed at families with children have been cut multiple times in recent years (for example the child support was reduced by 8% in 2015). This affects the wellbeing and integration of children in the society.

31. Some 5 % of **young persons** between the ages of 15 and 29 are **socially excluded**, 2/3 of them men.²² Especially the marginalisation of young men is on the rise and against the best efforts of the authorities, they do not seem to find to the services adequately.

- What measures are planned to strengthen the basic social security of families with children and to decrease child poverty?
- What immediate action is planned to improve the social inclusion of young men?

²⁰ <https://bit.ly/2SeGPIN>

²¹ <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/child-poverty>

²² <https://thl.fi/en/web/sukupuolten-tasa-arvo/hyvinvointi/hyvinvointi-ja-terveyserot/syrjavyminen>

32. According to a survey²³ conducted by a disability NGO in 2017 (1577 responses), over half of the persons with disabilities have difficulties **managing client fees in social and health care services**. Many persons pay for services that according to the legislation should be free. Only 9 % received salary or income based on entrepreneurship. The majority received old age pension or pension due to inability to work. The most costs were related to healthcare, transportation, and care and assistance at home.

- How is the current socioeconomic status of persons with disabilities compatible with the implementation of the CRPD? Are there plans to reduce the non-deductable parts of service fees to decrease the overall cost of health and social services for the persons with disabilities?

- How does the Government plan to ensure the right to adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities after the reform on health and social services takes effect in 2021 with a view to increased privatization of services?

33. Reform on earnings related **pensions** took effect in 2017²⁴.

Right to health (art 12)

34. The Act on Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals in Finland still includes **infertility requirement for legal recognition**. The gender registered at birth can only be changed if the person, 18 years of age, presents a medical statement certifying that they wish to permanently belong to the opposite gender, live in that gender role, and have been sterilized or are infertile. This requirement constitutes a severe interference to the physical integrity of a person and has been found a human rights violation by the European Human Rights Court.

35. The amending of the Act on Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals has come to a standstill. Finland is for the time being, the only country in the Nordics where sterilization/ infertility is required for legal gender recognition.

36. The European Court of Human Right's conclusion has also been echoed in seven UPR-recommendations that Finland received and noted (not accepted) in 2017²⁵. Additionally, the CEDAW Committee has in 2014 recommended expeditiously to amend the Act on Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals (para 29 (b))²⁶.

37. **Intersex-children** in Finland are still subjected to medically unnecessary sex-“normalising” surgery without their informed consent, contrary to the 2017 resolution ‘Promoting the human rights of and eliminating discrimination against intersex people’ by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)²⁷. There is also variation in practice in different geographical locations with regard performing or not

²³ <https://www.invalidiliitto.fi/jasenkysely-2017>

²⁴ <https://www.tyoelake.fi/en/themes/pension-reform-2017-whats-new/>

²⁵ <https://bit.ly/2SawqHM>

²⁶ <https://bit.ly/NCKXu5>

²⁷ <https://bit.ly/2CqtKu0>

performing such surgeries. Equally, problems have been reported in receiving treatment for **non-binary persons**. With no national guidelines for treatment, some regions/hospitals have interrupted treatments.

- What are the Government plans with regard amending the Trans-legislation and especially removing the infertility requirement from the process of legal recognition of gender?
- Does the Government have plans to ban medically unnecessary procedures on intersex children without their free and informed prior consent?

38. According to a recent study²⁸ 20% of women and 10% of men in Finland have experienced **symptoms associated with indoor air** at the workplace.²⁹ In recent years the problems have become more common in school buildings. Of the 5000 teachers and other school professional that replied in a university survey³⁰, 40 % considered that their state of health had worsened during the last year due to such problems. The air quality issues equally affect children and students in schools. Some municipalities have effective working groups on indoor air, while others do not even have guidelines in place on how to proceed in the event of a problem.

39. Insufficient **availability of services** in the Sami and other languages, including sign languages, especially for children and elderly persons in the field of health and social services is a continuous problem. Also insufficient cultural sensitivity in the provision of services and care is common.

40. It appears from articles written by investigative journalists that antipsychotic drugs intended for adults are being used to **medicate children placed in substitute care** homes. The number of children under medication has rapidly risen and close to 4000 children are medicated currently. The given reasons for medication include sleeping disorders. In many cases, therapy is not available, due to lack of professional therapists in remote geographical locations. The social workers responsible for organising and supervising the substitute care were effectively unable to perform their statutory duties due to excessive number of client families per social worker.

- What instant measures are taken to ensure a healthy learning environment for children and teachers in areas affected by unhealthy school indoor air quality?
- What measures are planned to ensure that health services are available also in Sami, Roma and sign languages and that cultural sensitivity is part of the provision of services?
- How is the Government handling the insufficient availability of psychiatric therapy for children in care homes in remote areas of the country?

²⁸ <https://thl.fi/en/web/thlfi-en/research-and-expertwork/population-studies/national-finhealth-study>

²⁹ <https://bit.ly/2SYFVKt>

³⁰ <https://www.oaj.fi/ajankohtaista/julkaisut/2017/oajn-ja-turun-yliopiston-sisailmatutkimus-2017/>

41. Additional themes under right to health

- insufficient mental health services for
 - o children and youth, older persons
 - o for LGBTI persons
 - o prisoners, asylum seekers and refugees
- sexual education, sexual and reproductive health and rights of
 - o persons with disabilities, especially women and girls
 - o persons in closed religious communities
- Health services for asylum seekers, refugees and undocumented migrants.
- Amount of sufficiently qualified health care personnel for persons with disabilities and for elderly persons. Salaries of the health care personnel.
- Support for informal care workers (family members).

Right to Education (art 13)

42. **Cost free basic education**, as required by law, is not always equally available and accessible to all students.³¹

43. The **administrative procedures and decision making** of local education authorities and educational institutions have presented problems concerning legal protection. often in cases of special support applications, decisions open to appeal are not issued, the parties concerned are not heard, or the decisions are otherwise noncompliant with the Administrative legislation.

- What steps are planned to improve equal access to free basic education?

Right to Culture and Science (art 15)

44. Generally **negative attitudes towards** national minorities, indigenous people Sami as well as immigrants and asylum seekers³² **prevail and negative discourse has increased**. This includes hate speech and harassment towards **Sami**, and other minorities due to their culture and language even by politicians, media and individuals. The linguistic atmosphere has worsened, as evident from the studies and reports by the Ministry of Justice in 2016³³ ³⁴ and 2017³⁵. Use of sign languages has not been studied in the same way as other languages. There is a great need for that. A large part of the hate speech towards Sami is aimed at denying their rights, their culture,

³¹ https://www.oph.fi/english/education_system/basic_education

³² <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/eumidis-ii-main-results>

³³ <https://bit.ly/2LvaiFS>

³⁴ <http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/78941>

³⁵ <https://bit.ly/2R4NI5U>

language or their identity as Sami. **Roma** and Sami are faced with various types of discrimination also from within their own communities³⁶.

45. Minorities lack **visibility** in Finnish society in general but also in educational materials, cultural life, media etc. The use of different languages, including sign languages, in everyday life and visibility of different cultural heritage in cultural life, media (subtitles, translations etc) and education would increase tolerance and understanding.
46. A part of the culture is maintenance and development of the languages. The permanent **funding** of Sami Giellagáldu, the centre for coordinating and deciding on the Sami language issues, preserving the cultural heritage relating to Sami languages and acting as a professional expert body for Sami language users is constantly in danger.

- What steps is the Government taking to ensure better visibility and inclusion of minorities and users of different languages and their interests in the society, educational materials, media, civil service etc.?

Good practices

47. The first **Seri Support Center (SARC)**³⁷ opened in May 2017 as part of the Helsinki University Hospital. In Helsinki area all sexual assault victim care is centralized to this clinic and it is open 24/7. The clinic is a support center for people over the age of 16 who have experienced sexual assault regardless of sex or gender. The support center provides a low-threshold service. The patients are offered medical treatment and forensic examination within one month of the sexual assault and after the acute visit everyone is offered psychosocial counselling. There are plans to open additional support centers in other parts of the country as well.

³⁶ <https://bit.ly/2SdbHmO>

³⁷ <https://bit.ly/2GxBqVU>