

IHMISOIKEUSKESKUS
MÄNNISKORÄTTSCENTRET
HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE



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Action Plan for 2019

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ACTION PLAN FOR 2019

Approved by the Human Rights Delegation on 14.1.2019

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The resources of the Human Rights Centre

The Human Rights Centre's (HRC) budget for 2019 is EUR 625,000. In addition, of the EUR 250,000 of additional appropriation granted by the Parliament for the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman for the overseeing and promotion of the rights of older people for 2019, some EUR 110,000 has been allocated to the HRC for salary costs and operating expenses. The total amount of financial resources available in 2019 after the additional appropriation is EUR 735,000.

In 2019, the HRC has five permanent posts (the director, three experts, and an administrative assistant). In addition, an expert will be recruited to the centre for a fixed term in 2019 (VL11). Interns can be employed in assisting tasks according to need - and as the work premises allow. The HRC does not employ an information officer of its own; instead, communication services are provided as part of the centre's official duties and outsourced from service providers.

The HRC is administratively part of the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman and does not pay for the available infrastructure.

The main lines of action of the Human Rights Centre

The main lines of action of the Human Rights Centre are:

- the promotion of fundamental and human rights (information, education and training)
- independent monitoring and reporting of fundamental and human rights;
- promoting and monitoring the rights of persons with disabilities;
- operation of the Human Rights Delegation and other domestic cooperation;
- European and international cooperation;

Action Plan for 2019

Promotion of fundamental and human rights

Communication of information on fundamental and human rights

- Regularly preparing an international newsletter.
- Communicating about current fundamental and human rights issues and the work of the HRC.
- Providing information about the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the work of the UN's Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Disability Rights Committee operating under the Human Rights Delegation.
- Providing information about the rights of older people.
- Providing new Members of Parliament and Members of the European Parliament with a tailored package of current fundamental and human rights issues and providing the Parliament with information about this.
- Organising events for invitees and the public on current topics.
- Organising press meetings together with the Parliamentary Ombudsman.
- Ensuring the accessibility and availability of communication on the HRC's website and in other means of communication. Increasing communications in plain language.
- Procuring specialist services to support the centre's communications (for advocacy and targeted communications).
- Utilising fundamental and human rights networks in the communications (Human Rights Delegation, the Government's fundamental and human rights network).
- Using social media channels (Twitter, FB) in information provision.

Fundamental and human rights education and training

- Continuing to market and develop the HRC's lecture series on fundamental and human rights. Preparing training materials on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the rights of indigenous peoples.
- Strengthening the availability of the fundamental and human rights training through cooperation, for example, with the help of the Government's eOppiva training platform.
- Completing the joint project with the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman on the education module for principals and education management (implemented by the regional state administrative agencies).
- Charting the needs for and implementing activities in line with the fundamental and human rights education project aimed at those working with the housing services for persons with disabilities and older people together with the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman and other partners.
- Charting the needs for education on the rights of older people, producing educational contents, and collaborating with other actors in the field.
- Training public officials on the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, and charting the need for expanding the training to other target groups.
- Supporting the joint project of the University of Helsinki, the Ministry of Justice and the HRC on developing democracy and human rights education in teacher training.
- Providing expert support to fundamental and human rights training providers on topics such as human rights and business, with particular focus on companies in the care sector.

Research on fundamental and human rights

- Following research on fundamental and human rights, particularly in the priority areas of the HRC's activities.
- Commissioning reports on topical subjects either independently or in cooperation with other actors.
- Participating in an international research project on the effects of the recommendations by UN treaty bodies in 20 countries.

Monitoring fundamental and human rights

- Together with the Ministry of Justice, carrying out a survey to supplement the Fundamental Rights Survey of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights implemented in all EU member states. The survey is used to provide an understanding of the respondents' general knowledge of fundamental rights, conceptions of the importance of different rights, and experiences of how these are realised in daily life in Finland. The national additional sample of the survey particularly targets language minorities (Swedish, Russian, Arabic) and persons with disabilities.
- Publishing reports on these in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice.
- Particular attention is paid on the implementation of the rights of persons in a vulnerable position and separate studies are conducted on these if necessary.
- The centre will monitor the implementation of the National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights as an independent expert of the fundamental and human rights network with regard to chosen themes.
- Participating in topical, international reporting processes.

Promotion and monitoring of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Continuing goal-oriented cooperation with disability organisations and the authorities for promoting and monitoring the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities while avoiding overlapping activities.
- Monitoring the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in general, and collecting particularly empirical evidence and preparing initiatives utilising the two data sets.
- Using the collected data also in the monitoring for the preparation of the parallel report to be submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Continuing the planning and preparing of that report.
- The Disability Rights Committee, a permanent division under the Human Rights Delegation, will participate in the monitoring as part of the national monitoring mechanism. The Disability Rights Committee will prepare its own work plan.
- During the elections of spring 2019, implementing a polling station accessibility survey as part of the Disability Team of the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

The Human Rights Delegation's activities and other cooperation

- Continuing the processing of topical themes included in the work plan of the Human Rights Delegation.
- Organising workshops to discuss the monitoring of fundamental and human rights and advocacy. Preparing a base paper on the current fundamental and human rights topics before the spring elections.
- Assessing the activities of the delegation at the end of 2019 from the viewpoint of the establishment of a new delegation in 2020.
- Engaging in goal-oriented cooperation to promote and monitor fundamental and human rights in Finland (independent ombudsmen involved in fundamental and human rights, the authorities, the Parliament, universities, research institutes, non-governmental organisations, the media).

Participation in international and European cooperation

- Participating in cooperation between national human rights institutions as members of the boards of ENNHRI and GANHRI (until 3/2019).
- Participating in the events and working group activities of both networks according to the priority areas in the centre's activities, and engaging in regional or bilateral cooperation with other national human rights institutions.
- Continuing cooperation with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights in contexts such as research and communications as well as the implementation of surveys.
- Collaborating with international organisations in accordance with the priority areas of the centre's activities.
- Reapplying for accreditation ('A' status) by the GANHRI committee on accreditation together with the Parliamentary Ombudsman.
- Participating in events concerning fundamental and human rights organised during Finland's Presidency of the Council of Europe and the European Union.

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