

UN COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

21.4.2017

92nd session - Examination of Finland — Proposed recommendations by Finnish NHRI – 25 and 26 April 2017

Article 2

New Non-Discrimination Act

Recommendation: Continue the process of improving and clarifying the human rights structures in Finland, especially with regard to monitoring equality and non-discrimination.

Hate speech, racism and political parties

Recommendation: Encourage political parties to take more effectively and openly action against hate speech and racism among their members in their behavior, on-line writing and appearances in other media.

Article 5

Sámi issues

Recommendation: Take immediate steps to remedy the current situation with regard to various Sámi related issues to end the continuous unclear and uncertain state of affairs and to enable further development of the Sámi languages and culture and to improve the implementation of the human rights of Sámi.

Definition of Sámi and inclusion in the Sámi electors register

Recommendation: Take immediate steps to clarify the definition of Sámi and the related process so that the self-identification of the Sámi as a group plays stronger role, the decisions are not discriminatory and that the legal certainty exists.

Nordic Sámi Convention

Recommendation: Ensure that in the Act bringing the Nordic Sámi Convention into force, the FPIC process is utilized and the views of the Sámi Parliament are taken effectively into consideration. Ensure that Sámi are duly represented in the advisory councils in order to protect their right to practice the traditional livelihood and maintain and develop their language and culture with no unnecessary and unreasonable limitations.

Free prior and informed consent (FPIC)

Recommendation: Make sure there is a functioning process of FPIC in all matters that concern Sámi and the issues affecting the maintenance and development of their traditions, language and culture.

ILO Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples

Recommendation: Continue the process to ratify the ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries and in a constructive, meaningful and structured manner engage the Sámi people in all matters concerning them.

Changes in the Asylum and Aliens Rights in 2016

Recommendation: Initiate without delay a study on the cumulative effects of the legislative and policy changes and the current state of affairs to the asylum process in order to ensure and monitor that Finland is fulfilling its obligations under international conventions and continues respecting human rights of all persons.

Non-Discrimination Ombudsman - Supervisor of forced returns

Recommendation: Ensure that the office of the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman has sufficient resources to supervise forced-returns in a more coordinated and extensive capacity.

Health Care Services for Paperless Persons

Recommendation: Amend the legislation so that all undocumented migrants would have access to both necessary and emergency health care services. Undocumented minors should be provided all health care services defined by the Health Care Act.

Human Rights Education

Recommendation: Ensure that more resources and importance is allocated to human rights education at all levels of education system, including teacher training.
