

IHMISOIKEUSKESKUS  
MÄNNISKORÄTTSCENTRET  
HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE



# Human Rights Centre

## Action Plan for 2018

## **Human Rights Centre Action Plan for 2018**

The Action Plan of the Human Rights Centre for 2018 has been approved by the Human Rights Delegation on 13 December 2017.  
The version in English is a summary of the action plan.

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# Action Plan for 2018

## The Resources of the Human Rights Centre

In 2018, the Human Rights Centre (HRC) has four permanent posts (the director and three experts). In addition to them, starting from November 2017, a coordinator for international affairs will work in the centre in a two-year project. Additionally, young associate expert and interns may be employed to carry out assisting project-related tasks as necessary. The HRC still has no secretary or information officer.

The HRC's budget for 2018 is about €600,000. The HRC is part of the Office of the

Parliamentary Ombudsman and does not pay for the infrastructure it uses (e.g. the facilities, equipment, registry and administrative services are provided either by Parliament or the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman). The available financial resources are personnel and operational costs, of which the proportion of personnel costs is about €440,000. The costs of the operation are about €160,000, from which €30,000 will be reserved for communications and about €60,000 for acquiring expert services (e.g. reports).

## The Main Lines of Action of the Human Rights Centre

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

- promoting fundamental and human rights;
- 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 cooperation in Finland;
- European and international cooperation.

## Promotion of Fundamental and Human Rights

### Fundamental and human rights education and training

- The marketing and development of the lecture series on human and fundamental rights (PIO) published in 2017 will be continued.
- The availability of the fundamental and human rights training will be strengthened through cooperation, for example, with the help of the Government's eOppiva training platform.
- Training material on the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights of indigenous people will be prepared.
- A presentation stand on fundamental and human rights education and a stage programme will be prepared for the Educa event taking place in January 2018.
- The HRC will produce a training module for the training implemented by the regional state administrative agencies for principals and managements of municipal educational administration.
- The HRC will participate in inspections carried out in closed institutions and collect an information base of competence needs to be used in further planning of the educational project.
- The HRC will provide expert support regarding topics such as human rights and business activities for those carrying out fundamental and human rights training.

### Research on fundamental and human rights

- The HRC will communicate information on topical research and events related to human and fundamental rights in its news bulletin.

- The HRC will commission reports on topical subjects either independently or in cooperation with other actors.
- The discussion based on the report on research on fundamental and human rights in Finland (Selvitys perus- ja ihmisoikeus-tutkimuksesta Suomessa: asiantuntijoiden näkemyksiä) published in autumn 2017 will continue.
- Between 2018 and 2022, the Unesco professorship at the Faculty of Educational Sciences of the University of Helsinki, focusing on values, dialogue and human rights, will be supported and development of research on this subject area will be promoted in Finland.
- The content of the social inclusion obligation in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be specified in a study conducted by the HRC.

### Communication of information on fundamental and human rights

- The HRC will draw up news reviews.
- The networks in the field of fundamental and human rights will also be used in communicating information. The most important one is the Human Rights Delegation.
- The HRC will organise private and public events.
- The HRC will communicate 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 its own activities.
- The joint campaign of the HRC and the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman on the rights of persons with disabilities will be launched during the first half of 2018.
- Efforts will be made to ensure the accessibility and availability of communication on the centre's website and in other means of communication.

## Monitoring Fundamental and Human Rights

- The HRC will pay special attention to themes or rights that are not promoted or monitored by a special delegate or other overseer.
- In particular, the HRC will monitor the realisation of the rights of people in a vulnerable position, including immigrants, asylum seekers and sexual and gender minorities and will also investigate them on its own initiative, if deemed necessary.
- In the monitoring, efforts will be made to pay attention to discrimination on multiple grounds.
- 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. In particular, the HRC will monitor the realisation of the fundamental and human rights education and training.
- Important themes remaining outside the National Action Plan, such as the reform of the Act on legal recognition of the gender of transsexuals, will be monitored.
- Violence against women is a topical theme in 2018 (periodic reports for the Istanbul Convention and the CEDAW are due in 2018).
- The rights, including linguistic rights, of indigenous people and minorities are topical themes from the point of view of both the international monitoring of conventions and the legislative projects in Finland.
- Between 2018 and 2019, the HRC will, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, implement a national fundamental rights barometer to explore the level of general awareness of fundamental rights in Finland, views on how important different rights are and experiences on how they are realised in everyday life.

## Promotion and Monitoring of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- The HRC will continue cooperation with disabled people's organisations and the authorities in 2018 to promote the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- The HRC will monitor the realisation of human rights of persons with disabilities in general and will collect information based on experience, in particular.
- The HRC will monitor the Government's reporting to the UN's Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and will comment on it, if necessary.
- 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 Activities of the Human Rights Delegation

- In 2018, the delegation will continue processing the topical themes recorded in the working plan in different ways.
- A workshop will be organised by the delegation in 2018 to discuss the monitoring of fundamental and human rights and advocacy.
- The new experts of the Disability Rights Committee will be familiarised with the activities of the national human rights institution and the Disability Rights Committee during the first half of 2018.
- The Disability Rights Committee will draw up its own action plan for 2018.

## Participation in International and European Cooperation

### **During 2018, the Human Rights Centre will**

- Participate actively in cooperation between national human rights institutions as a board member of ENNHRI and GANHRI and as a member of their different working groups. It will also participate in the implementation of the new strategy of ENNHRI and the development of cooperation regarding the rights of persons with disabilities in GANHRI.
- Strive to increase awareness of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the Charter on Fundamental Rights in Finland and intensify cooperation with FRA in activities such as research and communication of information.
- Organise a joint Nordic meeting of NHRIs, which is aimed at strengthening cooperation in issues such as the rights of the Sami and research on fundamental and human rights.

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