

IHMISOIKEUSKESKUS
MÄNNISKORÄTTSCENTRET
HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE



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Action Plan 2020

HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE ACTION PLAN 2020

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The resources of the Human Rights Centre	4
The main lines of action of the Human Rights Centre	4
Action Plan for 2020	5
The promotion of fundamental and human rights	5
Communication of information on fundamental and human rights	5
Fundamental and human rights education and training	5
Research on fundamental and human rights	5
Monitoring fundamental and human rights	6
Promotion and monitoring of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	6
Promoting and monitoring the rights of older persons	7
The Human Rights Delegation's activities and other cooperation	8
Participation in international and European cooperation	8

The resources of the Human Rights Centre

The Human Rights Centre's (HRC) budget for 2020 is EUR 855,000.

In 2020, the HRC has seven permanent posts (the director, five experts and an administrative assistant). Interns, young experts or specialists may also be employed under a fixed-term contract in project-related tasks. The HRC does not have a post of a communications expert/information officer; instead, communication services are provided alongside the centre's official duties or 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 HRC will move to new premises in the Parliament's Building C at the beginning of February 2020. The new premises include desk space for nine persons.

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, research)
- independent monitoring and reporting of fundamental and human rights;
- promoting and monitoring the rights of persons with disabilities;
- promoting and monitoring the rights of older people
- operation of the Human Rights Delegation and other cooperation in Finland;
- European and international cooperation;

Action Plan for 2020

The promotion of fundamental and human rights

Communication of information on fundamental and human rights

- Communicating about current fundamental and human rights issues, monitoring and the centre's work. (see below for communication concerning the rights of persons with disabilities and older persons)
- Launching a newsletter.
- Using social media channels (Twitter, FB) in information provision.
- Organising events for invitees and the public on current topics.
- Ensuring the accessibility and availability of communication on the centre's website and in other means of communication.
- Publishing a plain language website for the centre in Finnish and Swedish.
- Procuring communication services to support the centre's communications for advocacy and providing targeted information.
- Utilising fundamental and human rights networks in the communications (incl. Human Rights Delegation, the Government's fundamental and human rights network).

Fundamental and human rights education and training

- Starting to update the HRC's lecture series on fundamental and human rights and further developing other thematic materials to continue the series.
- Organising training on fundamental and

human rights for the staff of housing services for persons with disabilities together with the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

- Mapping the needs for education on the rights of older persons and producing educational contents in collaboration with other actors in the field.
- Mapping the needs for education and providing education on the topic of human rights and business, with a particular focus on companies in the care sector.
- Training public officials on the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and mapping the need for expanding the training to other target groups.
- Completing the joint project with the University of Helsinki and the Ministry of Justice for the development of human rights education in teacher training. Supporting the University of Helsinki in carrying out further measures and obtaining funding. Organising an event and meetings for presenting the final results of the project.

Research on fundamental and human rights

- Following research on fundamental and human rights, particularly in the priority areas of the HRC's activities.
- Creating strategic partnerships with research institutes and research groups/researchers to promote research and advance research knowledge.

Monitoring fundamental and human rights

- Paying particular attention to monitoring the implementation of the rights of persons in a vulnerable position (see below for the monitoring concerning the rights of persons with disabilities and older persons).
- Collecting empirical evidence using surveys if necessary.
- Monitoring the implementation of the entries on fundamental and human rights included in the Government Programme in connection with selected themes and projects, e.g. together with the Human Rights Delegation.
- Monitoring the development of the rule of law in Finland and Europe through means such as the new monitoring process of the European Commission and the work by the Venice Commission operating under the Council of Europe.
- Monitoring the development related to the fundamental and human rights dimensions of climate change.
- Monitoring the development related to the fundamental and human rights dimensions of digitalisation, new technologies and artificial intelligence as well as cyber security issues.
- Participating in topical, periodic international reporting processes, and promoting and supporting the participation of non-governmental organisations in these.
- Participating in the operations of ENNHRI and its working groups.
- Launching the efforts to construct an information system for the Human Rights Centre promoting the systematic monitoring of fundamental and human rights (the so-called Belfast project).
- Publishing a report of the Finnish results of the fundamental rights barometer compiled by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in 2019 (national addition).

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 the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and monitoring its implementation.
- Monitoring the achievement of the targets concerning the rights of persons with disabilities included in the Government Programme, and contributing to taking the fundamental and human rights of persons with disabilities into account in implementing these.
- Compiling a summary of the materials of the FRA's fundamental rights barometer concerning the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities and drawing up initiatives based on the results.
- Continuing the planning and preparation of a parallel report submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities utilising survey results. (Data of the Finnish Disability Forum and the EU's fundamental rights barometer).
- The Disability Rights Committee (a permanent division under the Human Rights Delegation) will participate in the monitoring as part of the national monitoring mechanism. Launching the activities of the Disability Rights Committee as a permanent division under the Human Rights Delegation re-established on 1 April 2020.

Promoting and monitoring the rights of older persons

- Participating in international discussions and efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Together with GANHRI, organising a discussion event of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and national human rights institutions on the rights of women with disabilities and participating in a Conference of States Parties to the CRPD.
- 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 activities by the HRC and the Disability Rights Committee operating under the Human Rights Delegation (part of special statutory task).
- Continuing goal-oriented cooperation with organisations, supervisory authorities, researchers and other key agents involved in working with older people. Increasing cooperation with municipalities, particularly the municipal councils for older people.
- Monitoring the achievement of the targets concerning the rights of older persons included in the Government Programme, and contributing to taking fundamental and human rights into account in implementing these.
- Continuing the efforts to promote the right to self-determination of older persons in the services for older persons.
- Continuing training in organising and procuring services for older persons, and taking the rights of older persons into account in this context. Promoting dialogue between supervisory authorities and companies providing services.
- Meeting with companies in the care sector and other key stakeholders in issues related to corporate responsibility.
- Organising an international event of corporate responsibility and public procurement in services for older persons.
- Participating in international discussion and activities in promoting the rights of older persons. Organising an international meeting of experts for discussing the Convention on the Rights of Older Persons and participating in a session of the UN's Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.
- Providing information about the rights of older persons, failures in the implementation of the rights as well as topical work related to the theme at the centre and internationally.

The Human Rights Delegation's activities and other cooperation

- Assessing the activities of the delegation ending its term based on an online survey carried out at the end of 2019 and a discussion held in the delegation. Compiling an assessment memo of the activities also including development ideas for establishing a new delegation.
- Launching the operations of the new, third Human Rights Delegation at the spring of 2020.
- Preparing a preliminary work plan for the new delegation and the themes discussed in meetings held in 2020.
- Organising the delegation's annual workshop to discuss the monitoring of fundamental and human rights and advocacy.
- Engaging in goal-oriented cooperation to promote and monitor fundamental and human rights in Finland (independent agents involved in fundamental and human rights, the authorities, the Parliament, universities, research institutes, non-governmental organisations, the media).
- The special target in 2020 is fundamental and human rights in local administration, and collaboration with municipalities/joint municipal authority.

Participation in international and European cooperation

- Participating in events held by ENNHRI and GANHRI and the operations of their working groups according to the focus areas of the HRC's activities.
- Engaging in regional or bilateral cooperation with other national human rights institutions.
- Carrying out bilateral project cooperation with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights on EU fundamental rights dimension, Fundamental Rights Charter and monitoring and promotion of the rule of law. Co-operating systematically in research and communications, training and exchanges of information on fundamental rights issues both at the national and European level.
- Engaging in cooperation with the EU and international organisations (incl. CoE, UN) according to the focus areas of the HRC's activities.

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