

Statement by Finnish League for Human Rights

UPR Pre-session on Finland

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1. Access to justice



- Finland has received numerous recommendations from UN treaty and other Human Rights bodies regarding inadequate implementation of non-discrimination measures and tackling of racism.
- Both for the victims of Gender-based violence as well as trans, gender non-conforming and intersex people, an inadequate legal framework remains to protect them from systematic human rights violations.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Access to justice

Regarding non-discrimination:

- Draft the necessary improvements to its **Criminal Code and other legislation** in order to improve the **access to justice of victims of hate crimes and hate speech.**
- Grant the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman **mandate to intervene in cases of discrimination in employment**

RECOMMENDATIONS: Access to justice

Regarding gender-based violence and rights of sexual and gender minorities:

- **Implement the Action Plan for the Prevention of FGM** fully and efficiently.
- **Criminalise the intentional conduct of forcing an adult or a child to enter into a marriage**, including the legally invalid marriages.
- **Reform the Trans Act** in a way that provides quick, transparent and accessible legal gender recognition based on self-determination, including minors.

2. Right to social security



- Human rights monitoring bodies (CESC, ESC) have repeatedly called on Finland to ensure that social security provision is sufficient to ensure an adequate standard of living.
- No ex-ante evaluation of the human rights impacts has been undertaken in the context of the ongoing reform of the social security system.
- Disaggregated data and analysis is lacking on the realization of this right for groups that face discrimination.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Right to social security

- Take immediate action to **raise basic social security benefits**, and **create a long-term strategy** to raise its level to comply with human rights obligations and recommendations by treaty monitoring bodies.
- Ensure that the ongoing **Social Security reform is fundamentally aimed at advancing the economic and social rights of the groups at most risk of poverty, marginalization and discrimination**, including by conducting a thorough human rights impact assessment.

3. Rights of the Sami indigenous people



- In last UPR cycle, Finland received six recommendations regarding the rights of the Sami.
- The Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) has not been realised in all of the relevant legislative and other procedures affecting the Sami.
- The ILO Convention 169 remains unratified.
- A reform of the Sami Parliament Act has been underway but the government has so far failed to come forward with a proposal.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Rights of the Sami indigenous people

- Urgently **reform the Sami Parliament Act** taking into consideration the rulings by the UN Human Rights Committee.
- **Strengthen the application of the principle of free, prior and informed (FPIC) consent** in all legislation, policies and official decisions, concerning the rights of the Sami.

THANK YOU!

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