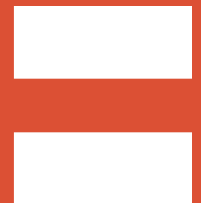


Finnish Human Rights Centre

UPR Pre-session on Finland
29 August 2022 in Geneva

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Situation in Finland – Human rights architecture

Third UPR cycle: Introduce further measures against discrimination, including ensuring the same level of protection for all grounds of discrimination. (See recommendations 93.30. by Indonesia, 93.38. by State of Palestine, 93.39. by Albania and 93.40. by Bulgaria.)

- Mandates of the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, Equality Ombudsman and the Non-Discrimination and Equality tribunal still asymmetric
- Partial reform of the Non-Discrimination Act may address some of the problems, but not all
- Study by the Human Rights Centre: Finnish human rights structures fragmented, holistic approach for their development needed




Recommendations – Human rights architecture

- **Strengthen the existing actors in Finnish human rights structures, instead of setting up new actors. Any consideration of new actors or functions should be based on a careful and holistic analysis of the existing structures and on a needs assessment.**
- **Prioritise reviewing and amending the Non-Discrimination Act and the Equality Act together to harmonise and strengthen the legal protection of victims and to better tackle intersectional discrimination.**



Situation in Finland – immigration policies

Third UPR cycle: rights of the children during the asylum procedure (recommendation 93.126 by France.), ensuring fair treatment for persons in need of international protection and respecting the right to reunification for refugees (recommendation 93.152 by Kazakhstan), reviewing legislation on the granting of asylum and migration in order to align it with international obligations and standards (Recommendation 93.153. by Honduras).

- Government's recent actions paint a mixed picture
- Some positive developments: legislative proposal to fully remove income requirement for family members in family reunification situations where the sponsor is under 18 years old
- New concerns have aroused 



Situation in Finland – immigration policies

Possibilities to seek asylum at borders

- Amendment to the Border Guard Act
- Reception of asylum applications could be centralised in exceptional circumstances -> border between Finland and Russia can be closed
- Concern that effective access to asylum hindered
- Communication by CoE Commissioner for Human Rights to the Finnish Government



Recommendations – immigration policies

- **Ensure effective access to seek asylum at land borders, even in exceptional circumstances**



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info@ihmisoikeuskeskus.fi

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