

**UPR-INFO PRE-SESSION ON DENMARK, CPH/GVA,  
MARCH 2021**

02 MARCH 2021

**STATEMENT UPR PRE-SESSION ON DENMARK  
GENEVA, 25-26 MARCH 2021 DELIVERED BY EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR OF THE DANISH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN  
RIGHTS, MS. LOUISE HOLCK**

DOC. NO. XXX.XX

REF. EMTH

Thank you for the opportunity and invitation to present our views at this pre-session prior to the third UPR of Denmark in May 2021.

This statement is delivered on behalf of Denmark's A-status National Human Rights Institution - the Danish Institute for Human Rights; the UN Paris Principles-institution in Denmark and Greenland.

Due to time constraints and as suggested by the organisers this statement will address the following issues: the establishment of a national human rights action plan and racial discrimination. Additionally, I would like to mention a few issues pertaining to Greenland.

During the previous review Denmark noted recommendations from Germany and

Indonesia to develop a National Action Plan for Human Rights.

Though Denmark upholds a high level of human rights protection, there is no systematic and strategic approach to the implementation of human rights recommendations. No systematic and public evaluation is carried out when Denmark receives recommendations from international human rights mechanisms.

Despite the adoption of several action plans concerning various human rights issues, including on combatting the trafficking of women; Denmark is yet to adopt a comprehensive national action plan for human rights to ensure proper identification of relevant human rights challenges and implementation of human rights standards. An inter-ministerial working group on human rights has been established, but efforts to promote and protect human rights nationally could be further strengthened.

We therefore recommend that Denmark:

- Take steps to develop a comprehensive national human rights action plan; and
- Ensure that the inter-ministerial working group on human rights establish a clear procedure for following up on recommendations from human rights mechanisms in cooperation with civil society actors and the national human rights institution.

During the last review one of the main issues pertaining to Denmark was the development of a national plan against racism. Several countries supported this recommendation, including Costa Rica, Russia and Poland. Another recommendation concerned the development of a national plan for combating hate crimes.

Denmark has neither developed a national action plan against racism nor has it developed an action plan for combating hate crimes, however the Government has

said that it will develop an action plan that specifically combatting anti-Semitism.

We therefore recommend that Denmark:

- Adopt a national action plan to combat racism as well as ethnic and religious motivated hate crimes

In addition, I would like to mention that in collaboration with the Human Rights Council of Greenland we recommend that Greenland:

- Introduce general protection against discrimination; and
- Strengthen statistical systems and analysis relevant to the human rights protection of people in Greenland.

Thank you for the attention!