

**Universal Periodic Review Working Group 38th Session
for Denmark
Thursday 6th May 2021**

Submission from Human Right 2 Water (HR2W)



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Human Right 2 Water has a mission to use and share expert knowledge on how the human rights to water and sanitation should be integrated into law, policy and practice to realise safe and sustainable access to water and sanitation for all, including the most vulnerable and marginalised. Its vision is a world where all people realise the human rights to water and sanitation.

Established as a non-governmental organisation on 6th May 2020

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Dated: 14th October 2020

Submission from Human Right 2 Water for the UPR of Denmark

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With Reference to,

1. The compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, in cooperation with the human rights mechanisms, and the implementation of international human rights obligations, the existing relationship between water, sanitation and Health (A/HRC/WG.6/24/DNK/2).
2. The following paragraphs are noted,
 24. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned that women from minority groups faced difficulties in accessing education, employment and health care.
 67. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Denmark eliminate discrimination, including intersecting forms of discrimination, against migrant women (CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8, para. 34)
 26. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern at reports that persons belonging to minority groups and non-citizens, particularly non-nationals of European Union countries, faced structural discrimination in Denmark regarding access to employment, housing, health services, quality education and access to justice. (CERD/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 20)
 68. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted with concern that quota refugees, migrants reunited with their family and undocumented migrants continued to encounter difficulties in gaining access to health-care facilities, goods and services. It recommended that Denmark ensure that all persons belonging to disadvantaged and marginalized groups had access to basic health care. (E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 18)
 69. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Denmark ensure that persons with disabilities had equal access to the highest attainable standard of health (CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1, para. 57).

Considering that,

3. The country makes good efforts to include Human Rights in their education system, the human rights to water and sanitation are not automatically included, even if they are largely not an issue. JMPⁱ statistics quote 100% realisation of SDG 6.1 for safely managed drinking water and 99.6% SDG 6.2 for safely managed sanitation.
4. There are still some sources of discrimination, as noted above, especially for women from minority groups, migrants, and non-nationals. While access to water and sanitation are not specifically mentioned as areas of concern, if it is not mentioned at all then it is possible that women without proper access to housing and justice could also find themselves unable to afford or access the services that they need, specifically those related to sanitation and hygiene and preservation of their dignity, privacy and hygiene health.
5. There does not appear to be a specific monitoring system to measure and benchmark the exact numbers and types of people without access to safely managed water and sanitation, by minority group, gender and age. Monitoring would provide some insurance that any deterioration in services will be picked up through tracking of this data, and provision can be accommodated in response. Such monitoring would also highlight the small number of very vulnerable people that are currently excluded from the aggregated data, and suggest targeted responses by government to ensure that services are available for all people, however marginalised, and however small the group.

It is therefore recommended that:

6. Education at schools and Universities that deals with human rights should also include the human rights to water and sanitation in the curriculum.
7. Specific mention is made of minority and disadvantaged groups when it comes to the human rights to water and sanitation
8. Specific minority and disadvantaged groups should be listed by type with regard to access to water and sanitation, specifically women migrants, women from minority groups, women non-citizens, female non-nationals of European Union countries, and

people who are overlooked due to their age, gender or disability.

9. Human rights indicators should be created to benchmark the current situation with respect to all minority and vulnerable groups and their access to safely managed water and sanitation.
10. Human Rights Indicators for water and sanitation should be monitored over time, and responses made to correct any found inadequacies.

¹ <https://washdata.org/>