

REFERENCE: CERD/91st/FU/GH/SK/ks

22 December 2016

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 91st session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Norway, pursuant to Rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 14, 30 and 38 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/NOR/CO/21-22), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 21st and 22nd periodic reports, at its 87th session in August 2015.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its 23rd and 24th periodic reports to be submitted in a single document by 19 September 2017.

Paragraph 14 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee commends the State party for having created the Norwegian human rights institution, including the appointment of mandate holders. The Committee wishes to receive in the next periodic report more information about whether the mandate of the national institution covers racial discrimination and whether it is empowered to receive complaints from individuals, including discrimination-based ones. The Committee also would appreciate receiving in the next periodic report an update concerning the status of the Norwegian human rights institution's application for accreditation by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

H.E. S.E. M. Hans BRATTSKAR
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Paragraph 30 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee thanks the State party for its reply. It notes the information provided on measures taken with a view to acting upon the proposals made by the Sami Rights Committee, allocating sufficient financial resources to the Sami Parliament, and amending the Mineral Act and the Reindeer Herding Act. The Committee, however, is concerned that overall its previous recommendation on the situation of the Sami remains unimplemented. In particular it is concerned that little has been achieved in clarifying and securing Sami land and resource rights outside Finnmark, and in legally recognizing the right of the Sami to free, prior and informed consent. The Committee also regrets the lack of information on expanding the mandate of the Sami Parliament so it is consulted on financial initiatives and budgetary measures, and on State party's plans to revise the fisheries legislation, as previously recommended by the Committee. The Committee therefore reiterates its recommendation and requests the State party to provide up-to-date information on concrete measures taken to comply with it.

Paragraph 38 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee appreciates the information provided by the State party on measures taken to prohibit the use of children as interpreters in the areas of health and law enforcement. The Committee recommends the State party to pursue its efforts in this regard, and to provide up-to-date information in its next periodic report on progress achieved towards the establishment of a Sami interpreter service and a patient's health service, as well as to indicate the steps taken with a view to developing and adopting the act on interpreting.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Norway, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Anastasia Crickley
Chair
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination