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Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Norway*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.¹ It is a summary of 20 stakeholders' submissions² for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

II. Information provided by the national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles

2. The Norwegian National Human Rights Institution (NIM) recommended, in the sphere of international human rights obligations, ratifying Optional Protocols to CRC, CRPD and ICESCR, incorporate the CRPD into the Human Rights Act and strengthen coordinated and transparent follow-up to recommendations of international human rights monitoring mechanisms.³

3. NIM stressed that the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal was intended to provide low-threshold access to justice but faced challenges with accessibility. In this context, NIM recommended that Norway conduct a review of the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal and follow-up to strengthen effective access and remedy in discrimination and harassment cases and to follow-up on the parliamentary decision to secure effective access to justice and remedies for children.⁴

4. NIM underscored that the use of isolation in prison was a long-standing human rights issue, challenging inmates' rights to privacy. It recommended to revise current standards on isolation in prisons to ensure a daily minimum standard of eight hours outside the cell and ensure that solitary confinement was only used in exceptional cases when strictly necessary.⁵

5. NIM further noted that statistics and recent events had raised particular concern for women prisoners. While women made up approximately 5 percent of the prison population

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



in 2023, they accounted for 80 percent of registered cases of self-harm and 65 percent of all suicide attempts in Norwegian prisons. NIM recommended that Norway secure sufficient health services for female prisoners and ensure that all suicides and attempted suicides were investigated by the Board of Correctional Services.⁶

6. NIM recommended that Norway ensure that all police districts produce disaggregated statistics on the specific ethnic minorities that were exposed to hate crimes and develop a low-threshold online tool where people could report hate speech and be referred to the various complaint mechanisms and support services which were available.⁷

7. NIM also announced that in 2023, the Norwegian Truth and Reconciliation Commission had delivered its final report, which was scheduled for parliamentary debate in 2024. The Commission had found that historical assimilation policies had ongoing negative consequences for the Sámi people, the Kven people and the Forest Finns. NIM recommended that Norway follow-up the Commission's report with substantive and timely measures aimed to avoid future human rights violations, contribute to reconciliation, and ensure meaningful participation of the affected groups in the process.⁸

8. With respect to mental health, NIM underscored those reports indicated that the use of coercion in mental health care remained a problem. It recommended that Norway take steps to reduce the use of coercion in mental health care, to further strengthen legislation and refrain from any undue use of coercion.⁹

9. Further, NIM warned that the share of children growing up in persistent low-income level households in Norway had seen a significant increase over the last decade, from 6.7 percent in 2003–2005 to 10.6 percent in 2020–2022.¹⁰

10. NIM underscored that unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors under the age of 15 were placed in special care centres managed by the Child Welfare Services, and those aged between 15 and 18 received care in reception centres managed by the Directorate of Immigration. The latter received a lower standard of care compared to other children in the same age-group that were under the care of the Child Welfare Services. NIM recommended that Norway provide unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors aged 15–18 a standard of care and protection equivalent to that offered to other children under the responsibility of the Child Welfare Services.¹¹

11. NIM expressed concern that of December 2022, 432 unaccompanied minor asylum-seeking children had disappeared from reception centres since 2015 and were still missing. NIM recommended that Norway continue efforts to strengthen the protection of unaccompanied minor asylum-seekers, including the prevention and effective follow-up of disappearances.¹²

12. With respect to climate change and environmental issues, NIM highlighted that many human rights, such as the right to life, health, privacy and property, were threatened as a consequence of climate change. It noted that, while Norway was central in the negotiations that led to the agreement at COP 28 in 2023 to “transition away from fossil fuels”, the country had plans to expand, not phase out, oil and gas production and export. In this context, NIM recommended to implement deep, rapid and sustained reductions in line with the 1.5°C target, in both domestic and exported greenhouse gas emissions, in order to protect people from the worst effects of climate change and thus safeguard their human rights.¹³

III. Information provided by other stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations¹⁴ and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

13. IAPD noted that during the third periodic review cycle, Norway received recommendations to broaden its international human rights obligations. However, IPAD stressed that Norway had not become a party to a number of international human rights instruments, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the Optional Protocol to the Convention

on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure; the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. IAPD recommended that Norway ratify international instruments, treaties, and protocols relevant to promoting and implementing human rights to which it is not yet a party and remove all reservations to ratified treaties.¹⁵

14. ICAN urged Norway to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a matter of international urgency.¹⁶

15. WSO recommended Norway to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRPD.¹⁷

16. Samiraddi recommended Norway to develop an action plan on the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.¹⁸

17. Samiraddi called on the government to revise the draft Nordic Sámi Convention to align with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ensuring the realization of the Sámi People's right to free, prior, and informed consent.¹⁹

B. National human rights framework

Constitutional and legislative framework

18. WSO recommended that Norway incorporate the CRPD into the Human Rights Act without further delay,²⁰ and withdraw the declarations made upon ratification of the CRPD.²¹

19. WSO recommended that Norway repeal legislation and practices restricting legal capacity of persons with disabilities and remove functional capacity standards throughout Norwegian law, including the removal of criteria that declares a person not competent to give consent.²²

20. PFT called on the government to review the legal definitions of rape in the Penal Code. There is also an urgent need to amend and revise the definition of rape contained in Article 291 of the Penal Code of the term free consent.²³

C. Promotion and protection of human rights

1. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

Equality and non-discrimination

21. JS3 underscored that research by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Norwegian Human Rights Institution, the Holocaust Centre and the Norwegian Helsinki Committee indicated that negative attitudes and hate speech remained a serious issue for the Sámi, Jews, Kvens/Norwegian Finns, Roma people ('gipsies'), and the Romani people/travellers.²⁴ JS3 recommended that Norway ensure that all police districts prioritise hate speech and other hate crimes, strengthen minority rights at all levels in the Norwegian government structure, adopt a separate law on national minorities in line with the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and establish a low-threshold online service to report on experienced or observed hate speech.²⁵

22. CoE-ECRI stated that the public debate was often driven by xenophobic and anti-migration discourse and that the intensifying waves of hate speech increased prejudice, particularly against Muslims. Numerous hateful comments were published even in the moderated sites and on the Facebook-accounts of several members of the government. There was no effective mechanism in place for consistently removing hate speech from the Internet. The police had no explicit mandate to work on online hatred and no specific resources have been allocated to this task.²⁶

23. CoE-ECRI recommended that Norway develop and enact rules that prohibit the use of hate speech by their members in their activities in and outside of state institutions, and on the Internet and in their interaction with other media.²⁷

24. CoE-ECRI recommended that the police concentrate the investigation of online hate speech in specialised units and that they equip these units with the necessary human, technical and financial resources to effectively combat online hate speech.²⁸

25. CoE-ECRI recommended enacting a legal framework for cutting the funding of and disbanding racist organisations including political parties.²⁹

26. CoE-CoM recommended reviewing periodically the Action Plan on Antisemitism in co-operation with the Jewish minority, to ensure it continues to respond to current challenges effectively, and in addition, look into further measures to counteract antisemitism.³⁰

27. OSCE-ODIHR stated that, with respect to the latest 2022 Hate Crime Report and ODIHR's key observations, ODIHR recognized Norway's efforts to build the capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice professionals to identify, investigate and prosecute hate crimes. However, based on the available information, it observed that Norway's hate crime recording, and statistics did not sufficiently distinguish hate crimes from other crimes.³¹

Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

28. JS3 underscored that in 2023, the government proposed new legislation on solitary confinement without granting the right to eight hours a day outside of the cell and noted that the extensive use of solitary confinement might be an important factor behind suicides and mental health problems in Norwegian prisons.³²

29. JS3 recommended that Norway provide sufficient resources for specialist health care, adequate prison buildings, and increasing prison staff to secure prisoners' rights, ensure that mentally ill prisoners have access to adequate health care, amend legislation to grant all prisoners a minimum of eight hours a day outside the cell, ensure that the Mandela Rules are adhered to and that inmates cannot be kept in solitary confinement for more than a maximum of 15 days.³³

30. JS3 raised concern that despite the political acknowledgement that the number of suicides in prisons was too high, prevention had so far largely failed.³⁴

31. CoE-CPT observed that medical screening in Trandum Police Immigration Detention Centre upon admission was not always conducted promptly and often did not include a physical examination of the person concerned. It recommended that a needs assessment be carried out by the management with a view to reinforcing the provision of psychological/psychiatric care to foreign nationals in the Centre.³⁵

32. CoE-CPT recommended that the authorities take the necessary steps, including at the legislative level to ensure that, in all psychiatric establishments, decisions on involuntary hospitalisation are always based on the opinion of at least one qualified psychiatrist.³⁶

33. CoE-CPT recommended ensuring that prisoners subject to complete exclusion from company or to court-ordered full isolation benefit from a structured programme of purposeful and preferably out-of-cell activities and are provided daily with meaningful human contact.³⁷

International humanitarian law

34. JS3 underscored that Norway had played a leading role in the UN in promoting resolutions recognising the role of human rights defenders and underlining the obligations to protect them, however, human rights defenders (HRD) experienced refusals when applying for visas to Norway, particularly the multi-entry Schengen Visa.³⁸

35. JS3 recommended that Norway provide visas to HRDs from all countries, particularly countries that do not respect the right to promote and protect human rights and develop and strengthen programs to provide visas and temporary stays to HRDs facing deteriorating conditions in their home country.³⁹

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

36. CoE-ECRI noted that access to justice remained difficult for victims of discrimination.⁴⁰

37. CoE-CPT noted with concern that persons detained by police and without financial resources still did not under all circumstances have access to an ex officio lawyer, free-of-charge, from the outset of deprivation of liberty.⁴¹

38. PFT recommended Norway to take all appropriate measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute, punish, and provide compensation for gender-based violence against women and sexual violence, especially through amending the rape law.⁴²

39. PFT recommended implementing measures that assist and encourage victims of violence to contact the police and ensuring that specialist training in sexual offenses is mandatory for judges dealing with sexual offences.⁴³

40. OSCE-ODIHR positively noted that in 2021, the Norway Police established a National Expertise Group on Hate Crime. The Group was part of the Oslo Police District and was a reinforcement of the Oslo Police District's Hate Crime Unit. The mandate of the Group is to build the capacities of the regional police districts through training and guidance and, if necessary, to provide assistance in specific cases. The Attorney General's Annual Circular, which sets out goals and priorities for the year for police and prosecution services, had included hate crime as a priority area for over 20 years. This meant that hate crime cases, whatever the severity, are given priority and cannot be dismissed due to capacity or other reasons within police districts.⁴⁴

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

41. The European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses requested Norway to abide by their commitment to uphold the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, the Covenant and the Convention for all citizens, including Jehovah's Witnesses.⁴⁵

42. JS2 positively noted that the state of freedom of expression in Norway continued to be very good, as confirmed by the Norwegian Freedom of Expression Commission Report 2022 and Norway's high ratings on press freedom indexes such as that published by Reporters Sans Frontières.⁴⁶

43. JS2 recommended that Norway take immediate measures in developing structured access and clear written policies for offering short-term visas to artists and cultural workers who are invited to festivals, workshops, concerts, and other such events.⁴⁷

44. JS2 recommended the government to remove "lack of conditions for return" when evaluating criteria for granting visas to artists invited to take part in arts programs in Norway and ensure that these applications are prioritized in the processing queue.⁴⁸

45. JS2 stated that Norway should make clear to the public that the protection of artistic freedom and the right to disseminate creative works, to perform and display artworks without fear of threat or reprisal is central to the overarching right to freedom of expression that the Norwegian government clearly values; and issue assurances that threats of violence, hate speech and other communications threatening artists and cultural workers will not be tolerated.⁴⁹

46. EAJW recommended Norway to take robust action to counter hate speech in the media and elsewhere and prosecute acts of violence and vandalism against Jehovah's Witnesses.⁵⁰ EAJW also recommended the government to abide by its commitment to uphold the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, the Covenant and the Convention for all citizens, including Jehovah's Witnesses.⁵¹

Right to marriage and family life

47. ADF International recommended that Norway ensures that the right to private and family life is duly implemented, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other applicable international human rights treaties and it further recommended to ensure that the actions of Norway's child welfare services do not arbitrarily compromise family integrity, and that parents are not unjustly or discriminatorily stripped of their rights.⁵²

48. ADF International advised the government to ensure that children who are separated from their families are not prematurely placed in long-term care and, where appropriate, are allowed to have regular contact with their parents with a view to ensuring family reintegration

and prevent family separation and ensure that financial and material poverty do not serve as the sole basis for removing a child from the care of parents within the child welfare system, strengthen levels of transparency, supervision, and expertise within the child welfare system and ensure that a high threshold is applied for interventions in case of child neglect and abuse to ensure family unity and consequently the best interest of the child in alignment with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁵³

Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

49. ECLJ highlighted that Norway predominately served as a destination country for victims of human trafficking., with majority of these victims being women who are being exploited in sex trafficking from Eastern European countries.⁵⁴

50. ELCJ recognized that while Norway had taken some steps to combat human trafficking since the last UPR, authorities still lacked the necessary training, resources, and funding to effectively combat human trafficking. ECLJ noted that Norway should implement standard operating procedures for victim identification to ensure that victims of human trafficking were properly identified instead of the victims just being deported to their home countries.⁵⁵

51. CoE-GRETA urged the authorities to strengthen the criminal justice response to human trafficking, and to ensure that human trafficking offences are promptly investigated, regardless of whether a report has been filed or not, making use of all possible evidence gathered through special investigation techniques and financial investigations, and not having to rely mainly on the testimony of victims or witnesses.⁵⁶

52. CoE-GRETA urged the authorities to strengthen the identification of victims of trafficking and their referral to assistance by setting up a formalised National Referral Mechanism which defines the procedures and roles of all frontline actors who may come into contact with victims of trafficking, in order to improve clarity and legal certainty, and applying the procedures to all victims of trafficking, regardless of the setting in which the victims are detected.⁵⁷

53. PFT recommended Norway to criminalize forced labor in line with international agreements while ensuring that victims of modern slavery are not detained for immigration violations by conducting victim screening and providing victim identification training to migration and law enforcement officials.⁵⁸

54. PFT advised developing an evidence-based national action plan in coordination with relevant stakeholders to address modern slavery.⁵⁹

Right to health

55. WSO recommended Norway to replace forced treatment and commitment by a wide range of non-coercive support and services in the community that meet the needs expressed by persons with disabilities, and that respect the person's autonomy, choices and dignity, including peer support, medication-free services and other alternatives to the medical model of mental health.⁶⁰

56. WSO advised the government to develop procedures for redress covering all victims of forced psychiatric interventions, ensuring victims are granted restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition, including effective measures aimed at the immediate cessation of violations.⁶¹

57. CoE-ECRML recommended ensuring that health and social care facilities such as hospitals and retirement homes offer services in North Sámi.⁶² It commended the efforts by the authorities to increase the number of interpreters available and the use of technology to facilitate the provision of interpretation services for North Sámi speakers in situations where there are no interpreters available in person. CoE-ECRML encouraged the authorities to ensure that there are sufficient funds available for putting in place the training of interpreters of Sámi languages in compliance with the new Interpreting Act.⁶³

Right to education

58. JS1 recommended to ensure that education is accessible, acceptable, and adaptable for all, ensure that independent schools are accessible to all families, irrespective of their income.⁶⁴

59. JS1 observed that not all families can carry the financial burden of sending their children to independent, culturally appropriate schools, and that insufficient funding for independent schools consequently negates many children's rights to inclusive education.⁶⁵

60. In the context of right to education, JS3 recommended that Norway improve access to comprehensive sexuality education by providing teacher training and quality-assured teaching resources, ensure non-discrimination by making comprehensive sexuality education accessible in all official languages and ensure non-discrimination by making comprehensive sexuality education equally accessible for all pupils, including those with disability.⁶⁶

61. JS1 recommended Norway to define standards under which non-governmental schools can be established.⁶⁷

62. JS1 called on Norway to grant non-governmental actors the right to establish schools and limit the veto powers of local authorities.⁶⁸

Development, the environment, and business and human rights

63. JAI underscored that while Norway used significant renewable energy for its domestic energy needs, Norway is a major exporter of fossil fuels, routinely placing within the world's top ten largest fossil fuel producers. As such, JAI stressed that Norway had the opportunity, and an obligation under international law, to undertake actions to mitigate climate change and take proactive adaptation measures to protect its peoples' human rights. Such measures should include reevaluating and reducing its economic reliance on the production of fossil fuels, introducing regulations to encourage enhanced carbon accounting by corporations, adopting more robust climate change adaptation measures in its cities and along its coastlines, and working closely with Indigenous groups to develop solutions that respect their traditional lands and rights.⁶⁹

64. Noting that in 2023, Norway announced a large fossil fuel exploration and extraction expansion plan that would see a record number of land blocks be made available to energy firms in the Barents Sea, AI expressed serious concerns about such expansion plans on the impact of human rights and the possibility of significant and even catastrophic damage to the climate system from Norway.⁷⁰

65. JAI encouraged Norway to consider such expansion plans within the framework of the "no-harm" principle as well as the impact such expansion may have on the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, and the self-determination of climate-vulnerable peoples.⁷¹

2. Rights of specific persons or groups*Women*

66. CoE-CP welcomed the high level of equality between women and men achieved in Norwegian society.⁷²

67. IAPD warned that violence against women in Norway was escalating widely, especially sexual violence including rape. IAPD stated that the current definition of rape in Article 291 of the Norwegian Penal Code still focused on the use of force or threat by the perpetrator as the basis for proving the crime of rape, rather than focusing on the absence of free consent as outlined in the legal definition of rape in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, to which Norway is a party, thus limiting the ability of rape survivors to access justice and compensation.⁷³

68. JS3 reported that the prevalence of gender-based violence, including sexual violence and rape against women and girls, remained high and that according to a 2023 study, one in five women in Norway had been the victim of rape at least once in their lifetime, almost half

more than once. It also stated that many rapes were not reported to the police. Survivors who turned to the police experienced significant barriers to accessing justice, including the law, which falls short of human rights standards.⁷⁴

69. IAPD recommended that Norway take appropriate measures to address gender-based violence against women, including sexual violence, amend the definition of rape contained in Article 291 of the Norwegian Penal Code to ensure that emphasis is placed on the absence of free consent as a basis for proving the crime of rape aligning with global and regional standards and provide specialized training for judges dealing with sexual crimes.⁷⁵

70. CoE-CP and CoE-GREVIO recommended that the authorities integrate the gender dimension of violence against women into the design, development and evaluation of laws, policies and measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention based on an understanding of the link between the prevalence of violence against women and the structural inequalities between women and men, with the aim of addressing the specific needs of women victims as well as raising awareness of and counteracting the negative stereotypes against women which legitimise and sustain violence against women.⁷⁶

71. PFT recommended Norway to strengthen measures by the Norwegian authorities aimed at preventing and combating violence affecting women who are or may be exposed to intersectional discrimination.⁷⁷

Children

72. PFT recommended Norway to reconsider the child protection system, giving priority to the best interests of the child stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁷⁸

73. ECPAT Norway highlighted that the risk of children and young people becoming victims of online sexual exploitation and abuse had increased, with Norway being one of the most connected countries in the world with ninety-three per cent of 9–11-year-olds having their own mobile phones.⁷⁹

74. ECPAT Norway recommended to establish systematic collection of reliable and disaggregated data concerning incidents of sexual exploitation and child marriage in Norway, including children who, upon arrival in Norway, were already married. It further recommended to develop action plan for ending trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, which includes adequate resources and S.M.A.R.T indicators.⁸⁰

75. CoE-ECRI stated that there were many alarming reports about high levels of fear and distrust of parents with a minority background towards the Norwegian Child Welfare Services, which were triggered by very harsh restrictions to the visiting rights of parents, whose children were placed in foster-care.⁸¹

76. UFI noted that Norway's positions in domestic law are not incompatible with the country's international commitments, but that Norway had yet to realize the full potential of allowing for parental rights or follow through with obligations they have willingly accepted.⁸²

77. UFI urged Norway to give serious consideration to changing laws and policies which were in conflict with parental rights to ensure these laws and policies align them with international agreements, treaties, and conventions while meeting the needs of Norway's children.⁸³

Older persons

78. JS3 reported that the prevalence of malnutrition among home-dwelling older persons in Norway was relatively high at 14 %. JS3 recommended that Norway ensure adequate screening of the nutritional status of elderly people receiving care at home, in nursing homes, and other institutional settings, allocate resources to significantly reduce the number of elderly affected by and at risk of under- and malnutrition and ensure that personnel in the municipalities' health care systems have necessary food and nutrition competency.⁸⁴

Persons with disabilities

79. JS3 warned that during elections, many polling stations were inaccessible for persons with disabilities and that they faced challenges in political life, including getting the

assistance needed to hold positions, attend meetings, campaigns, or otherwise engage in political actions. JS3 recommended that Norway ensure equal access for all to participate in democracy by assisting disabled persons and providing accessible locations for polling stations, council meetings, and other political events.⁸⁵

Indigenous Peoples and minorities

80. Broken Chalk recommended enhancing the commitment to bridge the gap in Sami education and ensuring adequate resources for the education of teachers in the Sami languages. Broken Chalk further recommended that Norway implement Sami language programs in schools for Sami children and review school curricula to ensure that Sami culture is considered an integral part of history education for all children in Norway.⁸⁶

81. JS3 stated that Sámi traditional livelihoods were carriers of language and culture, and access to land was essential to safeguard and develop Sámi languages, culture, and societies.⁸⁷

82. JS3 recommended that Norway strengthen the implementation of the principle of Indigenous Peoples' right to free, prior, and informed consent in energy production and mining licensing processes in Sámi areas by, inter alia, ensuring independent impact assessment investigations, making resources available for Sámi rightsholders' genuine and effective participation and repealing the practice of allowing business projects before the validity of the licence has been legally approved.⁸⁸

83. Samiraddi recommended Norway to implement the Sámi People's right to a free, prior and informed consent to be implemented in the legislation.⁸⁹

84. Samiraddi recommended to discontinue pre-permitting of expropriation for cases concerning land encroachment that may impact traditional Sámi areas or Sámi traditional livelihoods.⁹⁰

85. CoE-CoM recommended that Norway take an active role in facilitating a regional dialogue on the conclusion of the Nordic Sami Convention, with a view to improving cross-border cooperation between Norway, Finland and Sweden on Sami issues and ensure the protection of the rights of the Sami.⁹¹

86. CoE-ACFC encouraged the authorities to ensure that decisions relating to lands traditionally used by the Sami are taken with their effective participation, that they have a substantial influence on these decisions, and that industrial development on such land does not negatively affect the Sami's possibilities to maintain and develop their culture in those areas.⁹²

87. CoE-ECRI recommended that all child welfare services further develop their intercultural competence and sensitivity, reach out more intensively to minority groups, build up a regular and sustainable exchange with them and continue to promote mutual understanding and trust with minority groups.⁹³

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons

88. The Norwegian Organization for Gender and Sexual Diversity (FRI) recommended that Norway increase the level of funding to police activity regarding online hate speech, increase the level of knowledge about hate crimes and subjected minorities among police employees, as well as increased knowledge about LGBTQIA+ among employees in schools, kindergartens, child welfare services, immigration services, healthcare and social services and increase the level of funding for measures seeking to prevent online misinformation.⁹⁴

89. CoE-ECRI noted with satisfaction the adoption of the Action Plan for Gender and Sexual Diversity for the years 2023–2026 and the fact that it attaches particular importance to the challenges faced by transgender persons.⁹⁵ CoE-ECRI further noted that the Action Plan contained a broad range of measures aimed at raising knowledge about the LGBTI experience and creating more positive attitudes towards LGBTI persons among the general population and in the public sector.⁹⁶

90. CoE-ECRI noted that the life situation of transgender and intersex persons remained difficult and their treatment by the health services needed improvement.⁹⁷

Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

91. Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) recommended that Norway work to provide ongoing language lessons for refugees to enable them to fully integrate into Norwegian society. ACC also encouraged Norway to improve communication with refugees by making processes transparent, by improving bureaucracy, by explaining administrative processes to refugees, and by engaging in dialogue with refugees themselves.⁹⁸

92. Broken Chalk recommended that Norway strengthen its efforts to promote language education for migrants upon arrival in the country by widening their options, including introducing Norwegian and English education programs.⁹⁹

93. IAPD raised concern that people of migrant origins, especially people of African descent, in Norway faced unfair discrimination in the enjoyment of human rights and access to basic services, including health care services and employment. IAPD recommended that Norway strengthen the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination against individuals of migrant background and those of African descent in accessing human rights and basic services such as healthcare and employment, ensuring effective implementation, and imposing appropriate penalties on employers engaging in discriminatory practices, establish an independent body to investigate and address complaints of discrimination and conduct large-scale awareness campaigns and educational programs aimed at challenging stereotypes, prejudices and biases in the workplace.¹⁰⁰

94. JS 3 recommended that Norway establish non-discriminatory guidelines for asylum processing, ensuring that all applicants receive fair and equal treatment regardless of nationality and reduce the processing time for asylum applications, including procedural reforms, increased personnel, and use of technology.¹⁰¹

95. PFT recommended Norway to establish stronger safeguards to ensure that asylum seekers are not returned to countries where they may be at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.¹⁰²

Stateless persons

96. JS3 reported that in February 2024, the UNHCR concluded that Norway lacked arrangements for early identification of non-returnable stateless migrants and effective procedures to address such cases. JS3 recommended in this context that Norway improve the situation of unreturnable stateless migrants, who remain in asylum reception centres for years without any effective solution, in line with UNHCR recommendations.¹⁰³

Notes

¹ A/HRC/42/3 and the addendum A/HRC/42/3/Add.1, and A/HRC/42/2.

² The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

*Civil society**Individual submissions:*

ADF International	ADF International, Geneva (Switzerland);
Anglican Communion	Anglican Consultative Council, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
Broken Chalk	The Stichting Broken Chalk, Amsterdam (Netherlands)
EAJW	EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, KRAAINEM (Belgium);
ECLJ	The European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg France);
EN	ECPAT Norway, Oslo (Norway);
FRI	FRI - Foreningen for kjønns - og seksualitetsmangfold, Oslo (Norway);
IAPD ORG	International Alliance for Peace and Development, Geneva (Switzerland);
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva

	(Switzerland);
JAI	Just Atonement Inc., (United States of America);
PFT	Partners for Transparency, Cairo (Egypt);
Samiraddi	Saami Council, Karasjok (Norway);
UFI	United Families International, Gilbert, Arizona (United States of America);
WSO Norway	We Shall Overcome, Oslo (Norway);
<i>Joint submissions:</i>	
JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by: AICSN, Kristne Friskolers Forbund and OIDEL, Oslo (Norway);
JS2	Joint submission 2 submitted by: Freemuse, Freemuse, Asker (Norway);
JS3	Joint submission 3 submitted by: NGOFHR Norwegian NGO-Forum for Human Rights, Oslo (Norway).
<i>National human rights institution:</i>	
NIM	Norwegian National Human Rights Institution, Oslo (Norway).
<i>Regional intergovernmental organization(s):</i>	
CoE	The Council of Europe, Strasbourg (France); Attachments: (CoE-ECRI) European Commission against Racism and Intolerance report on Norway (six monitoring cycle), adopted on 4 December 2020; (CoE-GRETA) - Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Norway, Third Evaluation Round, Strasbourg, published on 8 June 2022; (CoE-ACFC) Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Strasbourg, Fifth Opinion on Norway, published on 2 February 2022; (CoE-CoM) CM/ResCMN (2022)5 Committee of Ministers, Resolution CM/ResCMN (2022) 5 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, adopted on 6 July 2022; (CoE-ECRML) Report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for the Regional and Minorities Languages, Eight Evaluation Report on Norway, Strasbourg, adopted on 17 November 2021; CoE-ECRML Follow up Report: Evaluation by the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for the Regional and Minorities Languages of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts' eighth evaluation report on Norway, 15 March 2023; (CoE-GREVIO) Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, Baseline Evaluation Report on legislative and other measures giving effect to the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), Norway, adopted on 13 October 2022; (CoE-CPT) Report to the Government of Norway carried out by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment from 28 May to 5 June 2018, CPT/Inf (2019) 1.
OSCE-ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Warsaw (Poland).

³ The National Human Rights Institution (NIM), paras 1, 2 and 3.

- ⁴ NIM, para 4.
- ⁵ NIM, paragraph 5.
- ⁶ NIM, paragraph 7.
- ⁷ NIM, paragraph 11.
- ⁸ NIM, paragraph 17.
- ⁹ NIM, paragraph 12.
- ¹⁰ NIM, paragraph 20.
- ¹¹ NIM, paragraph 21.
- ¹² NIM, paragraph 22.
- ¹³ NIM, paragraph 25.
- ¹⁴ The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:
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| ICERD | International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination |
| ICESCR | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights |
| OP-ICESCR | Optional Protocol to ICESCR |
| ICCPR | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights |
| ICCPR-OP 1 | Optional Protocol to ICCPR |
| ICCPR-OP 2 | Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty |
| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| OP-CEDAW | Optional Protocol to CEDAW |
| CAT | Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment |
| OP-CAT | Optional Protocol to CAT |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| OP-CRC-AC | Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict |
| OP-CRC-SC | Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography |
| OP-CRC-IC | Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure |
| ICRMW | International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families |
| CRPD | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| OP-CRPD | Optional Protocol to CRPD |
| ICPPED | International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance |
- ¹⁵ IAPD, paragraph 1. See also Joint Submission 3, paragraph 7.
- ¹⁶ ICAN, page 1.
- ¹⁷ WSO, para 3.
- ¹⁸ Samiraddi, p.4.
- ¹⁹ Samiraddi, p.4.
- ²⁰ WSO, para 5.
- ²¹ WSO, para 5.
- ²² WSO, para 16.
- ²³ PFT, p.7.
- ²⁴ JS3, paragraphs 61 and 63.
- ²⁵ JS3, paragraphs 61 and 63.
- ²⁶ CoE-ECRI, p. 7.
- ²⁷ CoE-ECRI, para. 51.
- ²⁸ CoE-ECRI, para. 59.
- ²⁹ CoE-ECRI, para. 69.
- ³⁰ CM/ResCMN (2022)5, para. 8.
- ³¹ OSCE-ODIHR, para 9.
- ³² JS3, paragraph 9.
- ³³ JS3, paragraph 9.
- ³⁴ JS3, paragraphs 27 and 29.
- ³⁵ CoE-CPT, p. 5.
- ³⁶ CoE-CPT, p. 7.
- ³⁷ CoE-CPT, p. 6.
- ³⁸ JS3, paragraphs 66 and 67.

- 39 JS3, paragraphs 66 and 67.
- 40 CoE-ECRI, p. 7.
- 41 CoE-CPT, p. 4.
- 42 PFT, p.7.
- 43 PFT, p.7.
- 44 OSCE-ODIHR, para 11.
- 45 The European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses, paragraph 41.
- 46 JS2, para 2.
- 47 JS2, para 8.
- 48 JS2, para 8.
- 49 JS2, para 8.
- 50 EAJW, para 41.
- 51 EAJW, para 41.
- 52 ADF International, paragraph 22.
- 53 ADF International, paragraph 22.
- 54 ECLJ, paragraphs 21 and 28.
- 55 ECLJ, paragraphs 21 and 28.
- 56 CoE-GRETA, para. 104.
- 57 CoE-GRETA, para. 169.
- 58 PFT, p.7.
- 59 PFT, p.7.
- 60 WSO, para 22.
- 61 WSO, para 25.
- 62 CoE-ECRML, p. 27.
- 63 CoE-ECRML Follow-up Report, paras. 33 and 34.
- 64 JS1, p.6.
- 65 JS1, para 13.
- 66 JS3, paragraph 34.
- 67 JS1, p.6.
- 68 JS1, p.6.
- 69 JAI, paragraphs 2 and 4.
- 70 JAI, paragraph 16.
- 71 JAI, paragraph 16.
- 72 CoE-CP, p. 2.
- 73 IAPD, paragraph 5.
- 74 JS3, paragraphs 46 and 47.
- 75 IAPD, paragraph 5.
- 76 CoE-CP, p. 3 and CoE-GREVIO, para. 27.
- 77 PFT, p.7.
- 78 PFT, p.7.
- 79 ECPAT Norway, paragraph 5.
- 80 ECPAT Norway, p. 6.
- 81 CoE-ECRI, p. 8.
- 82 UFI, para 6.
- 83 UFI, para 2.
- 84 JS3, paragraphs 49 and 51.
- 85 JS3, paragraphs 57 and 58.
- 86 Broken Chalk, paras 49–50.
- 87 JS3, paras 59 and 60.
- 88 JS3, paras 59 and 60.
- 89 Samiraddi, p.4.
- 90 Samiraddi, p.4.
- 91 CM/ResCMN (2022)5, para. 15.
- 92 CoE-ACFC, para. 101.
- 93 CoE-ECRI, para. 92. See also CoE-CoM, para. 7.
- 94 FRI, paragraph 2.
- 95 CoE-ECRI -follow up, para. 1.
- 96 CoE-ECRI, p. 7.
- 97 CoE-ECRI, p. 7.
- 98 Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), page 5.
- 99 Broken Chalk, paragraph 47.
- 100 IAPD, paragraph 3.

¹⁰¹ Joint Submission 3, paragraph 13.

¹⁰² PFT, p.7.

¹⁰³ JS3, paragraphs 64 and 65.
