



**International Convention on
the Elimination of All Forms
of Racial Discrimination**

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**Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under
article 9 of the Convention**

**Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial
Discrimination**

Norway

Addendum

**Information received from the Government of Norway on the
implementation of the concluding observations***

[26 March 2012]

* In accordance with the information transmitted to States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document was not formally edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

Reply to the recommendations contained in paragraph 9 of the concluding observations (CERD/C/NOR/CO/19-20)

Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion

1. The Government considers it important to have contact//consult regularly with different groups of immigrants.
2. Informal dialogue is one important tool. The Ministry of Children, Equality and Social inclusion invites different groups of immigrants to informal meetings on a regular basis.
3. Norway's Contact Committee for Immigrants and the Authorities (KIM) is both an advisory body and a forum for dialogue, and helps to bring the views of the immigrant population to the attention of the decision-making authorities. KIM was established in 1984. The present committee was appointed by the Government in 2010 and meets at least four times a year. Immigrants living in all parts of Norway are represented in KIM.
4. The purpose of the Anti-Discrimination Act that came into force in 2006 is to promote equality, ensure equal opportunities and rights and prevent discrimination based on ethnicity, national origin, descent, skin colour, language, religion or belief. As of 2009, a new duty to make an active effort and to report has been introduced in the Anti-Discrimination Act. This means that public authorities, employers in the private sector that regularly employ more than 50 employees and employers in the public sector are required to make active, targeted and systematic efforts to promote the purpose of the Act. The Government's Action plan to promote equality and prevent ethnic discrimination (2009–2012) proposes 66 new measures to promote equality and prevent ethnic discrimination. Eight ministries are involved in implementing the various measures.

Ministry of Health and Care Services

5. Norway is considering improving knowledge about refugees suffering traumatic stress and increasing competence in the services provided for refugees. In order to strengthen the services provided, the Psychosocial Centre for Refugees was merged with three other centres in 2004 to form the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS). Clinical activities were transferred to the public health services. These changes have led to the strengthening of psychosocial efforts for refugees in recent years.

Ministry of Education and Research

6. The Ministry of Education and Research does not have regular consultations in the area of education as far as discrimination and drop-out rates among migrant students are concerned. With regard to changes in legislation and other related issues, however, the views of relevant parties are heard through consultation processes.
7. The Ministry of Education and Research has a special programme aimed at reducing dropout rates from upper secondary school, called "Ny Giv" (New Possibilities). This programme may also help to prevent students with an immigrant background from dropping out.
8. The Ministry of Education and Research suggests an amendment to the Education Act, so that teaching for students who have recently arrived in Norway can be given in separate introductory classes or schools (for a limited period of time). The Ministry will

continue to work on this issue and will make suggestions regarding the content of such classes and how they should be organized. Introductory classes will hopefully give students of school age arriving in Norway a better start.

9. The Ministry of Education and Research has increased the resources allocated to training teachers for a multicultural educational environment. In 2012, four university colleges will receive additional resources for training more bilingual teachers (NOK 1.4 million in total).

10. Second language training is among the priority areas in the national strategy for in-service teacher training. The topics multicultural pedagogy//education and second language training are included in the new teacher education programmes.

Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs

11. The Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs has recently published a guide for public sector undertakings, in which it informs public sector undertakings about their obligations concerning the promotion of equality. There are also guidelines for promoting pluralism in the public sector. Programmes for increasing the recruitment of immigrants to the public sector are one measure discussed in these guidelines.

Reply to the recommendations contained in paragraph 12 of the concluding observations

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

Ministry of Justice

12. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children under the age of 15 are taken care of by the child welfare authorities. For asylum seekers aged 15 to 18, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration and the asylum reception centre where the asylum seeker lives are responsible for providing care. All juvenile asylum seekers are entitled to care, education, health services and opportunities to participate in different activities. In 2009 Norway spent over NOK 1.3 billion on care and reception centres for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Even though the Government tries to prevent unaccompanied asylum seeking children from coming to Norway, there has been a considerable increase in the numbers of such asylum seekers.

13. Several measures are being introduced or planned in order to strengthen the legal protection of juvenile asylum seekers. Since 2011, a legal guardian has been appointed for all juvenile asylum seekers as soon as they have been registered by the police. As of January this year (2012), the Government has increased its allocation to the municipalities in order to cover the extra costs of providing legal guardians. A new proposal in the legislation on immigration will ensure that juvenile asylum seekers' special needs for representation are met. The new mechanism for special representation in the legislation on immigration and a new Guardianship Act are due to come into effect on 1 July 2013.

Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion

14. In order to improve the situation for juvenile asylum seekers over the age of 15, a pilot project was launched in 2011, with the objective of ensuring faster transfer to the municipalities.

Ministry of Health and Care Services

15. Asylum seekers are entitled to the same health services as the rest of the inhabitants in the municipality in which they live, and they are also entitled to have an interpreter. This includes the right to a family doctor. All children with a legal residence permit have the same rights to dental care services as the other inhabitants of the municipality in which they live.

Ministry of Education and Research

16. All children, including juvenile asylum seekers, have the same right to primary education in Norway. This includes special education and language teaching. Those who are over compulsory school age (over 16 years old) have no right to education according to the Norwegian Education Act, but there is a Government grant for municipalities who have juvenile asylum seekers over the age of 16 who are in need of primary education. The Ministry is now considering introducing a right to primary education for juvenile asylum seekers over the age of 16 who have not had sufficient education earlier in life. A right to secondary education is also being considered by the Ministry.

17. The Ministry of Education and Research has started working to improve the information and knowledge available to municipalities and teachers on how to provide high-quality education to children seeking asylum.

Reply to the recommendations contained in paragraph 13 of the concluding observations

Reception centres and special return centres for asylum seekers

Ministry of Justice

18. The experience gained from having reception centres for rejected asylum seekers was not good, and so in 2010 the Government decided to close these centres. Rejected asylum seekers are given the opportunity to stay in ordinary asylum reception centres. There are no special reception centres for children aged between 16 and 18. They are given the opportunity to live in the reception centres for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. At the age of 18, they are moved to ordinary reception centres. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) visited Trandum Detention Centre in 2011. CPT submitted its report in December 2011. In the Norwegian Government's view, the report indicates that the situation at Trandum is in line with international human rights standards.

Ministry of Health and Care Services

19. Mental health-care services in Norway have been strengthened for several years running. There is an ongoing programme which aims to recruit more psychologists to the municipalities.

Reply to the recommendations contained in paragraph 16 of the concluding observations

Shelter services

Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion

20. The Crisis Centre Act specifies that it is the responsibility of the municipalities to provide a good-quality service for the users. The employees are to have the necessary

competence to meet the users' special needs. There are several ongoing programmes aimed at ensuring that personnel are able to upgrade their skills as needed. The Crisis Centre Act specifies that the crisis centre service also includes follow-up during the re-establishment stage when necessary. This includes help to settle into a new home.
