



The recommendations of the Human Rights Delegation for the promotion of fundamental and human rights during the 2019-2023 Government Term

Statements made by the Human Rights Delegation (2016–2018)

- The financing and coordination of the work for combating violence against women and domestic violence will be improved.
- The Trans Act will be reformed in its entirety and the infertility requirement will be abolished from the Act.
- The legal protection of asylum seekers will be returned to the state it was in prior to the changes made to the Aliens Act in 2016, in relation to for example the time limits for submitting appeals and the possibilities for obtaining legal aid.

Fundamental and human rights in decision-making

- The commitment of regional and local-level administrative organs to the implementation of fundamental and human rights will be promoted by extending fundamental and human rights coordination activities and the structures necessary for these to the regional and local level.
- The knowledge base for legislative drafting will be enhanced by assessing the research-oriented needs related to fundamental and human rights questions and by funding these research efforts with the Government's research funds.
- The knowledge base will also be enhanced by developing dialogue and increasing participation that supports decision-making for different population groups.
- The fundamental and human rights-related competence of those involved in the legislative drafting process will be enhanced through education.
- The advance assessment of the effects that legislation, various official projects as well as state and municipal budgetary estimates have on fundamental and human rights will be enhanced, and special attention will be paid to the possible accumulation of any negative effects.

- The activities of the Finnish Council of Regulatory Impact Analysis will also place further emphasis on the questions related to fundamental and human rights.

The promotion, monitoring and supervision of fundamental and human rights

- Fundamental and human rights-related education and training will be increased at all levels of government.
- Accessible knowledge on fundamental and human rights will be developed and published in different languages and in a manner that is compatible with different means, modes and formats of communication.
- Questions related to the resources and mandates of the actors involved in the promotion, monitoring and supervision of fundamental and human rights will be assessed, and their possibilities to act will be enhanced.

Equality, inequality and participation

- The authority of the Non-discrimination Ombudsman will be extended to cover cases of occupational discrimination, and the prevention of discrimination in working life and education will be enhanced.
- New methods for the prevention of hate crimes related to antisemitism and islamophobia will be developed, and the proposals submitted by the Government's working group on hate speech will be widely implemented.
- Action will be taken to improve the general language atmosphere, and the visibility of minorities and minority languages in Finnish society will be supported. Special attention must be paid to the status of Swedish as a national language.
- An adequate level of income for all will be guaranteed by increasing the level of basic security.

- Child and family poverty will be decreased by critically assessing such factors as the accumulative effects of social and unemployment security cuts on families with children and by developing corrective measures.
- Immediate action will be taken to secure the number and competence of professionals working in child welfare services.
- The official supervisory duties of child welfare services will be developed to become more anticipatory and preventive instead of reactive.
- An adequate level of mental health services (including preventive measures) will be guaranteed for children and young people throughout Finland, and the activities related to guiding young people who are in danger of being excluded to these services will be enhanced.
- Special attention will be paid to the equal availability of services for citizens who live in sparsely populated areas.
- The realisation of language-related rights and the opportunity to use one's own language will be secured in connection with social welfare and health care reforms. Special attention must be paid to the status of Swedish as a national language.
- The services available for people who have experienced domestic abuse will be developed, and an adequate level of special expertise will be guaranteed throughout Finland.
- Violence against women will be combated also with legislative measures, for example by reforming the legislation related to sexual crimes.
- The right of self-determination of the Sámi people and their actual ability to influence the decision-making process will be improved while respecting the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent.
- The opportunities for maintaining the languages and cultures of different groups will be enhanced, and the supervision of the implementation of the Sign Language Act will also be developed.
- Action will be taken to further enhance societal participation processes and participatory operating cultures

The rights of persons with disabilities

- The accumulative effects of customer fees and deductibles on the socioeconomic status of persons with disabilities will be assessed and their negative consequences will be reduced.
- Various methods will be employed to improve the educational level and labour market participation of persons with disabilities.

- Accessibility will be promoted in a widespread manner in every section of society.
- More ambitious support will be provided to European accessibility legislation.
- New operating methods will be developed to enable the comprehensive participation of persons with disabilities, including children, in societal discussion and decision-making.
- The status of persons with disabilities as a party in the disability services will be enhanced, including in the market-based services

The rights of the elderly

- The right of the elderly to a dignified life and the equal availability of services will be secured.
- The promotion of the rights of the elderly and the supervision of the implementation of these rights will be further enhanced.
- The funding that has been granted to the Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Human Rights Centre for the supervision and promotion of the rights of the elderly will be guaranteed in the future as well.

The themes of the future - already here today

- The promotion of accessibility, availability and equality in digitalisation projects will be enhanced.
- The safeguarding of data security, data protection and privacy will be secured in connection with digitalisation as well as during the adoption and utilisation of new technologies.
- Media literacy and source criticism will be developed, and more education will be made available on these topics

The Human Rights Delegation functions as a statutory national cooperative body of fundamental and human rights actors and deals with fundamental and human rights issues of a far-reaching significance and principal importance. The Finnish National Human Rights Institution consists of the Human Rights Centre, the Human Rights Delegation and the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

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