










**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW - UPR**






**A report on the implementation of the recommendations by the Government of Finland**

**ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendation	Ministry	Implementation measures
<p>89.1. Advance its efforts to ratify CRPD (Namibia) / Actively consider ratifying CRPD (China) / Ratify and implement the CRPD, with active involvement of representatives of persons with disabilities (Slovenia) / Expedite the on-going internal proceedings and ratify the CRPD and its Optional Protocol enabling individual complaints (Portugal);</p> <p> <b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>Finland ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the accompanying Optional Protocol on 11 May 2016. The Convention and the Protocol entered into force in Finland on 10 June 2016.</p> <p>The ratification of the Convention required changes to legislation, most recently to the Act on Special Care for Mentally Handicapped Persons (23.6.1977/519).</p> <p>Provisions were added to the Act which relate to the strengthening of the right to self-determination, support for independent activity and a reduction in the use of restrictive measures. Provisions were also added to the Act which relate to the conditions necessary for the use of restrictive measures and the procedure which is to be followed once the restrictive measures have ceased.</p> <p>Furthermore, provisions were added to the Act regarding the recording of and follow-up procedures for restrictive measures, obligations for reporting and notification of restrictive measures, official legal responsibility and liability for damages, and strengthened supervision by authorities. In addition, the provisions of the Act which relate to involuntary special care were changed so as to conform with the requirements of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p>The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health constitute together the focal point referred to in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. A new Advisory Board for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was appointed in January 2017. It operates as a coordination mechanism under the Convention. It will designate from among itself a representative to participate in the activities of the focal point. One third of the members of the coordination mechanism represent persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The national human rights institution, consisting of the Human Rights Centre, its Human Rights Delegation and the Parliamentary Ombudsman, is an autonomous and</p>

		<p>independent structure that works to promote, protect and monitor the national implementation of the Convention. In June 2016 a human rights committee of persons with disabilities was established as a permanent division under the Human Rights Delegation for the inclusion and participation of these persons and their representative organisations.</p>
<p>89.2. Continue strengthening efforts to ratify CED (Argentina) / Ratify CED and fully recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (France);</p> <p> <b>IN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs,  Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>The Government intends to ratify the Convention during its term of office. Amendments to the Criminal Code are considered.</p>
<p>89.3. Ratify the Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Belgium);</p> <p> <b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>The Protocol took effect in respect of Finland on 1 July 2012.</p>
<p>89.4. Proceed swiftly with the ratification of the OP-CRC-SC and OP-CAT (Estonia);</p> <p> <b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>See para. 89.3.</p> <p>The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment took effect in Finland in November 2014.</p> <p>The Parliamentary Ombudsman Act (197/2002) has been amended in order to take account of the Ombudsman's duties as the national preventive mechanism referred to in Article 3 of the Protocol. The amendment took effect on 1 July 2013.</p> <p>The Parliamentary Ombudsman was designated as the national preventive mechanism under the Protocol. Under the Parliamentary Ombudsman Act, the Ombudsman already had the special duty of inspecting closed institutions and overseeing the treatment of the inmates. However, the Optional Protocol brought several new elements and requirements to the inspections. The competence of the national preventive mechanism also extends to other private entities maintaining places where</p>

		persons deprived of their liberty are or may be kept in detention at an authority's order or request or with its consent or contribution.
<p>89.5. Ratify OP-CRC-SC, OP-CAT, CRPD and its Optional Protocol, CED, and OP-ICESCR (Spain);</p> <p> <b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED</b></p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS (CED)</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>See paras. 89.1, 89.2, 89.3 and 89.4.</p> <p>The Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR) took effect in respect of Finland on 30 April 2014.</p>
<p>89.6. Consider signing and ratifying the ICRMW (Egypt);</p> <p> <b>NOT IMPLEMENTED</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment</p>	<p>In 1992, 2004 and 2011 the Government considered the possibility of ratifying the Convention but concluded, on the basis of received comments, that it was not meaningful to ratify it. Finnish law makes no distinction between migrant workers and other immigrants. The same constitutional rights and ratified human rights instruments protect all. Their eligibility for social security is based either on employment or residence in Finland. In addition to the national social security legislation, social security agreements concluded by Finland and the European Union's social security legislation – all including the obligation of equal treatment – influence the status of foreign employees.</p>
<p>89.7. Consider ratifying ICRMW as well as ILO Convention no. 189 on decent work of domestic workers (Philippines);</p> <p> <b>NOT IMPLEMENTED (ICRMW)</b></p> <p> <b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment</p>	<p>See para. 89.6.</p> <p>ILO Convention No. 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers entered into force in Finland in January 2016. When ratifying it, Finland had to repeal the Act on the Employment of Household Workers and to ensure household workers equal treatment to the extent possible.</p>
<p>89.8. Ratify promptly the ILO Convention 169</p>	<p>Ministry of</p>	<p>In November 2014 a Government Bill to ratify ILO Convention No. 169 (HE 264/2014 vp)</p>

<p>(Nicaragua) / Conclude as soon as possible the process towards the ratification of the ILO Convention (169) on indigenous and tribal peoples in independent countries and carry out the necessary internal normative adjustments to this end (Mexico) / Ratify ILO Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries within the term of office of the current government administration (Norway);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Justice</p>	<p>was submitted to Parliament. The reading of the matter was transferred to the post-electoral new Parliament, where it is still waiting for further action. In this context, the Government commissioned in 2016 a new study which draws from the international norms, experiences and practices relating to the rights of indigenous peoples. The study was published on 25 January 2017. The study provides elements for continued discussion about the Convention.</p> <p>During the current electoral period the Ministry of Justice aims at revising the Act on the Sámi Parliament.</p>
<p>89.9. Consider adhering to and/or ratifying all those international human rights instruments that have not been adhered to and/or ratified (Ecuador);</p> <p> <b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED</b></p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p> <p> <b>NOT IMPLEMENTED</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>See paras. 89.1.–89.8.</p>
<p>89.10. Take further legislative and institutional measures for the promotion and protection of human rights including those of the immigrants (Nepal);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>All Ministries</p>	<p>A new Discrimination Act came into force at the beginning of 2015. The new legislation provides equal protection against discrimination regardless of the ground of discrimination and the field of life. For example, the following changes compared with the previous legislation have taken place: 1) one authority, the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, is responsible for monitoring on and promotion of equality concerning all grounds of discrimination excluding gender and gender minorities; 2) the National Discrimination Tribunal and Gender Equality Board have been combined as a one single impartial and independent judicial body: the National Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal; 3) the labour and occupational safety authority continues to be responsible for monitoring discrimination in working life, but the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman</p>

also has a role in the prevention of discrimination in working life; 4) an Equality Plan covering all grounds of discrimination is obligatory for all employers who regularly employ more than 30 persons, for organizers of education and for authorities; 5) neglecting reasonable accommodation is considered as discrimination.

When drafting legislation, authorities must take into account fundamental rights and the human rights instruments binding on Finland.

In 2015 Finland received 32 400 asylum seekers which was a considerable amount compared to the Finnish population. The first package of measures in order to cope with the new situation and secure fundamental and human rights of asylum seekers was adopted by the Government in September 2015. In December 2015 the Government adopted an Action Plan for Asylum Policies consisting of 95 measures. The Action Plan contains measures e.g. on asylum procedures as well as services and social security benefits for asylum seekers. In May 2016 the Government adopted an Action Plan on integrating asylum seekers into the Finnish Society, education and work. Each Ministry is carrying out the measures in its area of responsibility.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has given instructions on the rights of asylum seekers to social and health services and how different actors must fulfil their obligations. The Ministry has also commissioned a study on how municipalities have coped with arranging social and health services to the newly arrived. The Government's key project on addressing child and family services contains a specific section on children and families with a migrant background.

One very important issue is to identify mental health problems among the asylum seekers and to respond to their needs. Funding from the Slot Machine Association and from the EU has been directed to developing mental health services and low threshold activities for asylum seekers. Social and health professionals working in reception centres have been trained to identify mental health problems and to give first aid to the persons in need.

The Future of Migration 2020 Strategy, adopted by the Government in June 2013, sets the following objectives:

Attention must be given to ensuring that fundamental and human rights are enjoyed equally in Finnish society, and more information than at present must be provided about these, both to migrants and to the majority population.

	<p>Discrimination of all kinds must be prevented and combated through more effective intervention and by drawing attention to discrimination and experiences of discrimination.</p> <p>Through action by the appropriate authorities, the identification of victims of human trafficking, the provision of help for them and the exercise of their rights must all be conducted more effectively.</p> <p>The National Board of Education has revised the national core curriculum for pre-primary and basic education. In the revised curriculum human rights, democracy education and children's participation have been given a more important role.</p> <p>The Finnish National Board of Education has prepared a National Core Curriculum for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), which will be finalised in October 2016. Municipalities are to adopt local ECEC curriculums based on the national core curriculum by August 2017. Obligations arising from the international agreements to which Finland is party, like the European Convention on Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, will be taken into account in the provision of instruction. In Finland ECEC and pre-primary education is constructed on the idea of the intrinsic value of childhood. Each child is unique and valuable as he or she is. Each child has the right to be heard, seen, noticed and understood as an individual and as a member of his or her community. Also children's diversity and different ways of acting and learning are appreciated.</p> <p>Finland has fostered the education of immigrants by introducing preparatory education for upper secondary education for immigrants and foreign language students. The education, which is voluntary for providers of education, has begun in autumn 2014.</p> <p>New kinds of preparatory training programmes for vocational upper secondary education "Valma" and for work and independent living "Telma" were launched on 1 August 2015.</p> <p>"Valma" is a training programme that does not lead to a degree, where the varying special needs of the students are taken into account. The training is primarily intended for young people who have completed their basic comprehensive education and need better studying skills, guidance and support in selecting the next steps in education and an occupation. "Telma" is intended for those who due to illness or disability are unable to attend education that leads to a degree after the preparatory training. The new</p>
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training programmes also contribute to multiculturalism at education institutions. At the same time integration of students from different backgrounds supports equality and non-discrimination among all students.

A SIMHE project which supports Immigrants in Higher Education in Finland started in 2016. The aim of the project is to identify the competence of highly educated immigrants at an early stage, and streamline recognition of prior learning (RPL) of highly educated immigrants who reside in Finland with various statuses, guiding them to higher education and working life both on national and regional level.



The Ministry of Education (Division for Youth Policy) has supported a multi-annual programme of the Finnish NGO (Lastensuojelun Keskusliitto, Central Union for Child Welfare) which aims to raise the awareness of the people in general, and especially those working with the children and youth, on the rights of the child, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The project is apt to provide better protection of children from misconduct and discrimination.

In February 2016, a steering group appointed by the Ministry of Education and Culture explored immediate actions to be taken in education, culture, sport and youth work to address the asylum and immigration situation. The steering group was tasked with preparing and fitting together the Ministry and the administrative branch's short and long-term procedures resulting from the situation concerning the asylum-seekers and growing immigration.



On 7 March 2014, the report on a study of the right of undocumented persons to health care services, commissioned by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and conducted by the National Institute for Health and Welfare, was submitted to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

A Government Bill (HE 343/2014 vp) on the obligation of local authorities to arrange certain health care services for certain groups of migrants in an irregular situation was submitted to Parliament in December 2014. The Bill lapsed as the Parliament was not able to adopt it before the Parliamentary elections of April 2015.

See also para. 90.17 on reforms concerning the judicial system.

<p>89.11. Ensure that the National Human Rights Institution is fully compliant with the Paris Principles (India);</p> <p> <b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>In establishing the national Human Rights Centre in Finland, the Government took the Paris Principles fully into account. Finland's National Human Rights Institution has been accredited with A status. The International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (ICC, now GANHRI) adopted its decision at the end of December 2014. The A status was formally presented to the institution at UN headquarters in Geneva in March 2015.</p>
<p>89.12. Reinforce its efforts, such as the drafted National Action Plan for Reducing Crime, to eliminate the phenomenon of bullying and violence at schools (Slovakia);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Education and Culture</p>	<p>The police are implementing their Strategy for Neighbourhood Police Activities by active measures, e.g. by raising legal awareness among children and young people at schools. Many schools have appointed a school police officer of their own to support them in different matters related to peace at school. The police also participate in the activities of the Mannerheim League for Child Welfare to promote peace at school.</p> <p>Under the national information campaign against discrimination, the Ministry of the Interior has prepared related pedagogic material for teachers and arranged training sessions for teacher students.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Culture has financed the KiVa Anti-Bullying Programme (“kiva” means nice), which is a research-based programme aimed at reducing school bullying. The KiVa programme involves both universal and indicated actions to prevent bullying and to tackle cases of bullying coming to attention. The project has been developed in co-operation with the University of Turku and the Centre for Learning Research. About 90% of all comprehensive schools have registered as users of the programme and started implementing the programme. The further development of the programme rests with the University of Turku since 2011 (<a href="http://www.kivakoulu.fi">www.kivakoulu.fi</a>).</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Culture finances the Opintokamu programme for 2014–2018. It is carried out by the University of Turku. The programme aims to develop an action plan to foster psychosocial wellbeing and management of life skills, and to reduce school bullying, school exclusion and an overburdening of the student welfare services in upper secondary education.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Culture gave financial aid between 2012–2015 to the Multicultural Association Walter's Kytke project (“kytke” means connect”), which aims were to promote the acceptance of diversity and equality in schools by carrying out visits to schools and to parents' meetings.</p>



<p>89.13. Brief the Human Rights Council in their UPR mid-term review report on the lessons learnt of the National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights, including on the effectiveness of the established indicators (Hungary);</p> <p> <b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>Finland's first national action plan on fundamental and human rights was prepared for 2012–2013. A Government Network of Contact Persons for Fundamental and Human Rights, consisting of representatives of all ministries, was made responsible for monitoring the implementation of the action plan. The network was supported by a panel of fundamental and human rights actors, consisting of representatives of the special ombudsmen (Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, Ombudsman for Equality, Ombudsman for Children and Data Protection Ombudsman), the Human Rights Centre and civil society.</p> <p>The Government commissioned an external evaluation of the preparation, content and implementation of the action plan. The findings made during the evaluation indicate that the action plan process is useful as an instrument of the Government's human rights policy. The evaluation report commended especially the close dialogue between the group drafting the action plan and civil society during the preparation of the plan. On the other hand, the action plan was criticized for the lack of concrete measures in some areas where needs for development had been identified. Thus, the plan should have focused better on the major human rights problems.</p> <p>The action plan did not include actual indicators, but the evaluation report, too, supported the idea of linking the monitoring of fundamental and human rights with indicators or gauges agreed in advance.</p> <p>Finland's second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights (2017-2019) focuses on the following subjects: fundamental and human rights education and training, equality and self-determination, as well as fundamental rights and digitalisation.</p>
<p>89.14. Undertake further measures aimed at protection of women's rights, including prevention of violence (Ukraine);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of the Interior</p>	<p>The new Government Action Plan for Gender Equality 2016–2019 collates the objectives and measures by which Prime Minister Juha Sipilä's Government promotes equality between women and men. The Action Plan is an instrument for coordinating gender equality policy in the Government. It incorporates measures that all ministries bear responsibility for in their respective administrative branches. The Action Plan consists of approximately thirty measures concerning working life, equal pay, economic decision-making, immigrant reception and integration services, reconciliation of work and family, parenthood, gender segregation in education and labour market, education, sports resources and library services, violence against women and intimate partner violence, and men's health and wellbeing. The Action Plan also includes other measures</p>

to ensure that all Ministries assess the gender impacts of their activities and take them into account in their decision-making. A working group will be appointed to support and monitor the implementation of the measures of the Action Plan and to report to the Government. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health coordinates the work in relation to the Action Plan and its follow-up.

See also paras. 89.15 (Reform of the Equality Act), 89.28, 90.9 (Violence against women), 90.19 and 90.20 (Equal Pay Programme).

The Government's previous five-year action plan (2010–2015) to reduce violence against women ended in 2015. An external evaluation of the action plan showed that the Action Plan was a good instrument in promoting multi-sectoral actions of violence reduction. The implementation of the Action Plan initiated many concrete measures that are also required by the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ("Istanbul Convention").


The key results of the action plan's implementation include e.g. taking intimate partner and family violence into account as a reason for the granting of support measures under the renewed Social Welfare Act (11§; 1301/2014), quality recommendations on shelters to women who are victims of such violence, training of key trainers, development and implementation of the so-called MARAK (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment) -tool, as well as the preparation and publication of various guide books, manuals and web pages.

Finland ratified the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention in August 2015. The national implementation of the Convention is under way. The new Act on Reimbursement out of State Funds for Providers of Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence (1354/2014) entered into force 1 January 2015. The Act transferred the responsibility for financing the services provided in the shelters to the State. The purpose of the new act is to guarantee qualitative and comprehensive shelter services all over the country. The new legislation defines also competence requirements for the shelter personnel. Shelter services are free of charge. For the year 2016, a total of 11.3 million euros have been allocated to 19 shelters that accommodate altogether 118 family places.

In 2016 Finland piloted a so called remote shelter project, the aim of which was to develop shelter services in sparsely populated areas. The project involved establishing a 24/7 remote shelter in connection with a social and health care unit. Psychosocial support for shelter customers was provided from a central shelter via remote access.

	<p>The operation of the remote shelter in the pilot area has been made permanent from 2017 onwards with the help of Government funding, and the objective is to have similar remote shelters in other sparsely populated areas in the future.</p> <p>A government funded 24/7 helpline for the victims and survivors of violence became operational in December 2016.</p> <p>National activities to be undertaken for the purpose of eliminating violence against women will be laid out in a future action plan to be drafted by the coordination body that has been designated in December 2016 in accordance with Article 10 of the above-mentioned Convention. The coordination mechanism will draft an action plan for a term of four years, including plans on detailed cross-ministerial monitoring.</p> <p>The Action Plan for the prevention of circumcision of girls and women 2012–2016 (available at <a href="https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/73924/URN%3ANBN%3Afi-fe201504226370.pdf?sequence=1">https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/73924/URN%3ANBN%3Afi-fe201504226370.pdf?sequence=1</a>) is ongoing.</p> <p>The National Action Programme for the Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health, published by the National Institute for Health and Welfare in 2014, lays out national policies as well as recommendations for municipalities and other actors on promoting sexual and reproductive health. The Action plan includes recommendations for the prevention of FGM. The work will also be continued as part of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. The Action plan has an extensive chapter on sexual violence.</p> <p>Preventive measures against domestic violence are also going on in many areas where it is possible to influence risk factors causing violence against women. These measures include the Action Plan on Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs and Gambling, the Internal Security Strategy (underway) and others which take into account the targets set in the National Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women 2012-2015. The measures set out in the National Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women are still in force.</p> <p>In spring 2016 the National Institute for Health and Welfare published the national guidelines for helping victims of sexual violence. It provides directions to district hospitals on how to create a local treatment chain for helping victims of rape and other forms of sexual abuse. The treatment chain is aimed at creating a seamless continuum of a rape victim's treatment, as well as generating more consistent and uniform nationwide services. The treatment chain includes the examination of the rape victim, as well as the provision of both physical and mental treatment and support services.</p>
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	<p>Furthermore, the legal status of the victim is improved by ensuring the victim's access to legal aid. The treatment chain combines both public and third sector services.</p> <p>The National Institute for Health and Welfare has launched a pilot project for crisis centres for victims of sexual violence. The first pilot centre should start operating in 2017. In the pilot, acute services for victims of sexual violence will be centralized into one centre that will direct the victim to follow-up treatment and services. The crisis centre is a nation-wide pilot, the long-term aim of which is to establish a crisis centre in connection with each of the five university hospitals in Finland, thus covering the whole country.</p> <p>Women's rights and the prevention of violence cannot be separated as specific subjects in the education and training of the police. These issues are integrated into the study modules. In the basic degree programme of the police, the courses in general police theory discuss the Internal Security Programme thoroughly from the perspective of preventive activities of the police. Particular focus is given to the opportunities of an individual policeperson to influence security challenges. The courses in preventive work and neighbourhood police activities include the subjects of intimate partner violence, early intervention, problem-orientation and e.g. local security planning. During advanced studies, the police students acquaint themselves with fundamental and human rights when addressing problems encountered during their workplace learning. The objective in building the students' legal and ethical know-how is that they should know and learn the norms regulating police activities and the ethical principles of the police so that they recognise and internalise the courses of action expected of the police.</p> <p>The degree programme emphasises the obligation of the police both to protect fundamental rights and to interfere with them within their clearly delimited competence. The instruction follows a human rights friendly interpretation of competence provisions. The regulation of fundamental and human rights and the principles of good governance are basic elements in the instruction of administrative law during the police education.</p> <p>The objective of the courses in preventive activities is to introduce the students to the working methods applied in neighbourhood police activities. Theme courses focus on such themes as intimate partner violence, early intervention and child welfare. In the context of intimate partner violence and early intervention, e.g. restraining orders can be discussed as concrete measures.</p>
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		<p>The essential elements of offences taught during courses in criminal law are discussed from the perspective of objects of legal protection and the fundamental and human rights underlying the provisions concerning work safety offences, restraining orders, stalking, homicide and bodily injury, and sexual offences. The essential elements of offences are taught both in theory and in light of practical cases. This makes the teaching easy and concrete and permits to underline the specific features of each subject area.</p> <p>The students are required to weigh and ponder different fundamental and human rights and to take interpretative positions on that basis. When analysing different cases the students are required to identify the problem independently and to contemplate how to approach it during criminal investigation. In the reformed degree programme of the police (a polytechnic-level degree), to start in autumn 2014, the significance of fundamental and human rights will be increasingly emphasised (Police Act , Chapter 1, section 2).</p> <p>Courses in criminology deal with such subjects as theories explaining crime and the specific features of crime in Finland. The draft curriculum was completed on 15 November 2013.</p> <p>In accordance with the Internal Security Programme, the police are, in some areas, carrying out the MARAK programme, based on a risk assessment model for intimate partner violence. The MARAK programme is a new action programme intended to address intimate partner and family violence in a cross-administrative working group.</p>
<p>89.15. Continue its efforts in eliminating discrimination and preventing violence against women and children (Indonesia);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior</p>	<p>See paras. 89.14, 89.15, 89.28, 89.42, 90.3, 90.19, 90.20 and 90.9.</p> <p>The <i>Don't hit the child!</i> National Action Plan to Reduce Corporal Punishment of Children 2010–2015 included targets that extended to the year 2015. A Child Victim study carried out in 2008 has been repeated by the Police Academy and was published in 2014. The results indicate that violence against children is still more common and more commonly tolerated than violence against adults. However, a number of the study's findings indicate a steady decline in the prevalence of violence since the 2000s. Moreover, a study on the attitudes towards corporal punishment of children that was published by the Central Union for Child Welfare in the spring 2014 shows that between 2004 and 2014, the number of adults who approve of corporal punishment as a means of discipline has declined from 34% to 15%.</p>

Currently, children are at the core of one of the key projects of the Finnish Government. The programme to address child and family services aims at a fundamental change in the whole service system for children and families. The goal is to commit the public sector to an approach that better promotes children's rights in decision-making and services and reduces health and wellbeing inequalities. The aim is to provide low-threshold child, youth and family services that work seamlessly together and to give more support to parenting and create tools to monitor children's wellbeing. There is a separate section in the programme targeted at reducing violence against children. An action plan to implement the programme is currently being developed. It will build upon, inter alia, the action plan to reduce corporal punishment of children.

Through the amendment to the Child Welfare Act (741/2007) that came into force on 1 April 2015, many officials and professionals working in the social-, health- and other services where children are met, were set a duty to inform the police in cases where there is a suspicion of child abuse. Before they only had to inform the police in cases where they suspected sexual abuse of a child. Moreover, a right of other persons to inform the police, notwithstanding confidentiality provisions, was introduced.


A pilot project "Children's House" was launched in 2014 in co-operation between the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the National Institute for Health and Welfare, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice. The project provides services for child victims of sexual or other violence, and aims to provide a framework for cooperation between authorities (including police investigation services where the police can consult health care and social service officials, legal and psychological examinations, somatic examinations and cooperation with municipal child welfare authorities) for services that have been available but have been considered inadequate and fragmented. The aim of the project is to produce a service model which works on national level.


The Act on Equality between Women and Men (609/1986) entered into force in Finland in the beginning of 1987. The amendments to the Non-discrimination Act (1325/2014) and Act on Equality between Women and Men entered into force on 1 January 2015. Prohibitions of gender-based discrimination were expanded to cover discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression. Since 2005 the Act on Equality between Women and Men has obliged some of the educational institutions to prepare an operational equality plan. Since the amendments to the Act on Equality between Women and Men adopted in 2014 (2014/1329) the providers of education have been



		<p>responsible for preparing, on an annual basis, an equality plan in collaboration between the staff and pupils or students. The plan may be incorporated in the curriculum or another plan of the educational institution. The obligations of the employers concerning equality planning have also been specified. There is also a new section in the Act on pay surveys. See paras. 90.8, 90.19 and 90.20.</p> <p>Since 2014 the Non-discrimination Act has obliged the providers of education and the educational institutions they run to assess their activities in terms of non-discrimination and take the necessary measures to promote non-discrimination. The measures to promote non-discrimination must be effective, expedient and proportionate in view of the operating environment, resources and other circumstances of the education institution. The provider of education must make sure that the education institution has a plan in place on the measures necessary to promote non-discrimination.</p> <p>Regarding the education of the police, see para. 89.14 above.</p> <p>The Police Department of the Ministry of the Interior and the National Police Board take an active part in different cross-administrative working groups and in cooperation with the third sector to eliminate discrimination and to prevent violence against women and children. In addition, the National Police Board participates in a project on a children's house (LASTA), intended to ensure high-quality action of authorities in cases of child mistreatment.</p> <p>The Police Department of the Ministry of the Interior and the National Police Board also participated in the cross-administrative working group of authorities (LÄPE) set up to prevent intimate partner and family violence.</p>
<p>89.16. Take effective legal and practical measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children, in particular women and children with disabilities, immigrant and refugee women and children, and women and children from ethnic and religious minorities, especially Muslims and Roma (Iran);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>Regarding the education and training of the police, see para. 89.15 above.</p> <p>The Police Department of the Ministry of the Interior and the National Police Board take an active part in different cross-administrative working groups and in cooperation with the third sector to eliminate discrimination and to prevent violence against women and children, persons with disabilities, persons of immigrant and refugee origin as well as ethnic and religious minorities.</p> <p>The National Police Board is active in arranging training and different seminars on the prevention of discrimination and racism, human rights issues and police ethics.</p> <p>Regarding the targets of the Future of Migration 2020 Strategy, see para. 89.10.</p>




	<p>The Finnish Immigration Services takes account of the special needs of different applicant groups when considering their applications, deciding on them and running the reception centres.</p> <p>The National Action Plan to reduce Violence against Women 2012–2015 included measures targeted at women in vulnerable positions (e.g. migrant women, women in ethnic minorities, disabled women). These measures are still in force.</p> <p>Measures included publishing a guide on how to identify violence experienced by disabled women and how to help them. A “Know and Act” -card was produced by the National Institute for Health and Welfare for professionals on how to take into account of the needs of disabled persons in shelters. The card takes account also of the needs of disabled immigrants.</p> <p>Training was provided for professionals from different sectors working with ethnic minorities and immigrants on identifying and interfering with violence.</p> <p>Reform of the Equality Act, see paras. 89.14, 89.15 and 89.26.</p> <p>Finland has become very active in the past few years in promoting the rights of Roma women and girls. In 2013 Finland conducted a study requested by the Roma women themselves on violence experienced by Roma women (<a href="https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/74471">https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/74471</a>) (Summary in English).</p> <p>Based on the results, the violence experienced by Roma women was included into the Government Action Plan for Gender Equality 2012–2015. As a product of the plan, the Roma Women in Shelters -project was carried out. The project produced basic knowledge and good practices about helping Roma women or handicapped persons who are domestic violence victims.</p> <p>Both groups are in a vulnerable position in the context of domestic violence. Domestic violence has special characteristics that should be known and recognized by professionals who work in shelters. The project organized working groups during 2015, seven meetings in total. The material was also commented via e-mail. The materials are web-based and they are widely usable by professionals.</p> <p>The project produced the so called Know and Act -card and web-page to instruct both the personnel in shelters and the Roma women who face domestic violence (<a href="https://www.julkari.fi/handle/10024/130038">https://www.julkari.fi/handle/10024/130038</a>) (in three languages Finnish, Swedish and</p>
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		<p>English). There are Roma women working in the shelters and working with all the clients but with special professionalism to Roma clients.</p> <p>In addition the Women's Line, supported by public funding, has opened a separate help-line for Roma women to help with the special situations faced by Roma women and children. (<a href="https://www.naistenlinja.fi/en/">https://www.naistenlinja.fi/en/</a>)</p> <p>It still remains a challenge to mainstream Roma women's gender equality into the gender equality work in general. The challenge is met for example by carrying out the Roma platform - From policy to practice -project (co-funded by the EU and Ministry of Social Affairs and Health). One component of the project deals with mainstreaming the gender perspective into the National Roma Strategy (NRIS) and the Roma perspective into the mainstream gender policies. The project will hold separate hearings to both Roma women and men about the different needs in terms of gender as well as a gender networking event in order to create a platform for Roma gender actors and mainstream gender actors.</p>
<p>89.17. Continue to combat racism and discrimination and adopt effective national legislation in this regard (Palestine);</p>  <p><b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Education and Culture</p>	<p>The <i>Future of Migration 2020 Strategy</i>, prepared by the Ministry of the Interior, includes measures to combat racism and xenophobia.</p> <p>In May 2016 the Ministry of Education and Culture launched an Action Plan to prevent hate speech and racism and to foster social inclusion. The Government's long-term objective is that in 2025 Finland will be a good country for everyone. This means that the country will be welcoming and international with people representing many different languages and cultures and displaying a positive attitude towards one another and the rest of the world making Finland a unique place to live in. The Action Plan comprises 10 actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Administrative mechanisms. We focus on tackling hate speech and racism and strengthening multiculturalism, inclusion and equality in the Ministry of Education and Culture, its agencies, bodies and other organisations.</li> <li>2. Money to fight racism. We supplement the selection criteria for the Ministry of Education and Culture's discretionary government-subsidised projects and European Social Fund (ESF) measure packages.</li> <li>3. The libraries as a meeting point. We help enable public libraries to encourage active citizenship and democracy.</li> </ol>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. ABCs for adults. We develop the education of teaching staff and other professionals who work with children and young people.</li> <li>5. Power from peer networks. We challenge youth, students, pre-teen organisations and other youth-oriented organisations to create opportunities for multicultural, communal and equal participation.</li> <li>6. The future lies in young people. We support experts in the youth sector to promote human rights and equality to tackle hate speech.</li> <li>7. No more hate speech. A special governmental grant application process for municipal youth services serves to curb hate speech and strengthen equality.</li> <li>8. Show Racism the Red Card! We help disseminate the project in football and other team sports and promote equality work in the field of physical activity.</li> <li>9. Let's talk. A governmental grant application process for the promotion of dialogue between religions is available.</li> </ol> <p>All the Ministry's administrative sectors have been summoned to join the work through a campaign called "Meaningful in Finland".</p> <p>Reform of the Equality Act, see para. 89.15.</p>
<p>89.18. Strengthen efforts to restrict the outbreaks of racism and xenophobia, especially the manifestations of racism on the Internet, as was recommended by CERD (Spain);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>The prevention of racism and discrimination cannot be separated as specific subjects in the education and training of the police. These issues are integrated into the study modules dealing with aliens' issues more extensively. A film on the integration of immigrants into Finland (Kotoudunko Suomeen – maahanmuuttajan kivinen tie, "Will I integrate into Finland? – The rocky road for an immigrant") is used as teaching material on general police theory. The film was produced in 2013 as part of police material for preventive activities, in order to combat racism and open up perspectives towards accepting diversity.</p> <p>The essential elements of offences taught during courses in criminal law are discussed from the perspective of objects of legal protection and the fundamental and human rights underlying the provisions concerning defamation, work safety offences, menace, homicide, bodily injury, and sexual offences. The essential elements of offences are taught both in theory and in light of practical cases. This makes the teaching easy and concrete and permits to underline the specific features of each subject area. The students are required to weigh and ponder different fundamental and human rights</p>

		<p>and to take interpretative positions on that basis.</p> <p>When analysing different cases the students are required to identify the problem independently and to contemplate how to approach it during criminal investigation. In the reformed (polytechnic-level) degree programme for the police, a course dealing with the police, the individual and society will discuss the value and significance of multiculturalism in the work of the police. In addition, the programme will discuss racism, discrimination and social exclusion as phenomena and societal processes and examine internationalisation. The overall structural reform of the police degree programme and the changes brought by the reform are described in para. 89.14. The police have expanded and improved net police activities in order to combat hate speech and corresponding phenomena on the Internet.</p> <p>See also para. 89.17 above.</p>
<p>89.19. Persevere in its efforts to prevent and combat xenophobia, in particular on the Internet (Morocco);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>Regarding the education and training of the police, see para. 89.18 above.</p> <p>The National Bureau of Investigation is responsible for the Net Tip service, which enables citizens to report to the police any suspected offence or unlawful material discovered on the Internet. The Net Tip service can be used for reporting any other suspicion, too, on an electronic form with five subject areas: narcotics, criminal fraud, racist or hate crimes, violent activity, and other security threat. The Net Tip service is available at most public discussion sites in the social media, through an icon with a link to the electronic form for reporting suspicious observations in different subject areas. The police have expanded and improved net police activities in order to combat hate speech and corresponding phenomena on the Internet.</p>
<p>89.20. Step up its efforts to combat racism and xenophobia and ensure that racially-motivated crimes are promptly detected, investigated and sanctioned (Algeria);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>Regarding the education and training of the police, see para. 89.18 above.</p> <p>The National Police Board takes an active part in different cross-administrative working groups and in cooperation with the third sector to eliminate discrimination and to prevent violence against women and children, persons with disabilities, persons of immigrant and refugee origin as well as ethnic and religious minorities.</p> <p>Particular attention is paid to the realisation of human rights in all police activities.</p> <p>The police have a zero tolerance towards all hate crime and hate motivated crime that comes to their knowledge. The Police University College studies annually the statistics on hate crime known to the police. The statistics are used e.g. as an analytical tool for preventing hate crime.</p>

		<p>In 2014–2015, under the YES 7 project, the Ministry of the Interior arranged a series of training sessions on discrimination and equality for the police, prosecutors, judges and occupational safety and health staff.</p> <p>Has been accepted as an objective monitored and supervised by the Office of the Prosecutor General (prosecutor offices as a part of the criminal justice process).</p> <p>The Criminal Code of Finland criminalises e.g. aggravated ethnic agitation separately, and racist motives are a general ground for increasing the punishment for an offence.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice coordinates the implementation of the EU level code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online in Finland.</p>
<p>89.21. Increase the attention and effective measures to fight against discrimination faced by minorities, ensuring the protection of their rights (Spain);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>A new Non-Discrimination Act strengthens the protection of all grounds for discrimination and entrusts the monitoring of minority rights to a new Non-Discrimination Ombudsman.</p>
<p>89.22. Strengthen mechanisms aimed at combating discrimination, racism and xenophobia, and persevere in the adoption of measures to promote tolerance and respect of foreigners and members of national, racial and ethnic minorities (Chile);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>The Ministry of Justice has continued to implement the discrimination monitoring system and an action plan has been prepared for the monitoring of discrimination for 2014–2017. In 2015, the responsibility for the coordination of the discrimination monitoring system was transferred to the Ministry of Justice. The Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations (ETNO) developed an indicator framework for good relations in the Good Relations project (2012–2014).</p>
<p>89.23. More stringent monitoring mechanisms to address the rise in racist and racially-motivated crimes and xenophobic acts, and ensure effective detection, investigation, prosecution, and punishment (Egypt);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>Has been accepted as an objective monitored and supervised by the Office of the Prosecutor General.</p> <p>See paras. 89.18 and 89.20.</p> <p>In the work of the police, cooperation with prosecutors under the Criminal Investigations Act enables an efficient conduct of criminal proceedings.</p> <p>The ongoing process (the so called Aineistopankki -project) to develop the information</p>

		<p>system of the judiciary will strengthen the statistics and improve the monitoring mechanisms.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice has continued to implement the discrimination monitoring system and an action plan has been prepared for the monitoring of discrimination for 2014–2017. The system is being implemented at three stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) collection of timely data on discrimination (studies, statistics, reports by equality bodies, information collected by NGOs and social partners etc.) and publishing it on a specific website under the national equality portal (<a href="http://www.equality.fi">www.equality.fi</a>),</li> <li>2) publishing an annual discrimination study and</li> <li>3) publishing a general report on discrimination in Finland once in a parliamentary period.</li> </ol> <p>In the year 2016 the first study on how hate speech and harassment are perceived by different minority groups was published within the national monitoring mechanism. Under another project the Ministry of Justice is developing a monitoring system for good relations at the local level.</p>
<p>89.24. Continue its efforts to combat racism, intolerance and discrimination as well as to strive towards the integration of Roma and immigrants (Portugal);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Education and Culture</p>	<p>Reform of the Equality Act, see 89.15.</p> <p>The National Policy on Roma was adopted in 2009. The working group monitoring the implementation of the Policy has adopted a monitoring report and submitted it to the Minister of Health and Social Services during spring 2014. The Policy covers the years 2010–2017. Preparations of the next Policy programme have started in 2016. Focus will be on promotion of education and training, employment and employability, prevention of exclusion and inequalities. In addition, improving living and housing conditions is still a current issue among Roma. Especially Roma youth projects focus on activation and improvement of youth participation, networking and well-being as well as promotion of employment. (For example the Au mensa II –project, 2015–2016, funded by Ministry of Education and Culture.)</p> <p>One of the measures of the National Policy on Roma is a survey on the adult Roma population's need for education. This survey was carried out by the National Board of Education in 2015. Anonymous information from adult Roma and institutions of adult education was collected during 2013–2014. The results including proposals are used for further development of education of adult Roma in Finland.</p>

Another measure of the National Policy on Roma is the activity of Romany language nests. The Finnish Romany language is included in the UNESCO list of endangered languages. For the time being, there are Romany-speaking people in Finland, but their average age is rising rapidly. Language nests are meant for Roma people of all ages: children, young people and adults. The activities are mainly verbal and vary from one town to another. More than 20 municipalities or NGO`s have received 414 000 euros for organizing language nest activities between 2009–2016. President Tarja Halonen is the patron of the project.

During 2008 to 2016, a total of 39 municipal authorities received state aid for supporting Roma pupils in basic education – in total 2,5 million euros. It is estimated that some 85% of all Roma pupils of basic education age come within the scope of the aid. The focus of the activities has been directed on development of Roma home and school cooperation, Roma pupils' homework activities to strengthen the general school performance level of Roma, and specific Roma pupils' career guidance counselling and study trips with Roma families to neighbouring institutions.

A cross-administrative programme to implement the national Migration Strategy and the Government's Integration Programme will be adopted during spring 2014.

The Government's Integration Programme for 2012–2015 included the establishment of a centre of excellence on integration to strengthen the management of integration measures by information. The Government made a decision to that effect in its session on spending limits in March 2013. The Budget contains annually an appropriation of EUR 2 million for funding the centre of excellence. The sum includes the salaries of five persons. The centre operates under the Employment and Entrepreneurship Department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment.

The centre of excellence on integration supports local, regional and nation-wide integration work of authorities and organisations. It started operating officially on 21 March 2014.

The centre of excellence is responsible especially for developing and monitoring information, statistics and research on the integration of immigrants. For instance, it conducts different studies on integration regularly, collects good practices developed during numerous projects and models and spreads them nationally.


An important tool for the centre of excellence is its website, displaying a web guide for

applying the Integration Act, a web guide on the reception of refugees, and information about the monitoring of integration processes, integration measures and ethnic relations. The centre updates the website continuously. The website also contains statistical and research information on international migration and integration from Finland and other countries. The website is designed for those working with immigrants.


The Ministry of the Interior and the Advisory Board on Roma Affairs/MSAH organized a transnational workshop on discrimination against the Roma. The workshop Breaking the Barriers aimed at raising awareness on effects of discrimination on inclusion of the Roma. The thesis of the workshop was that recognition and tackling of discrimination contributes to better inclusion of the Roma. Best practices of activities that enhance both equality and inclusion were presented in the workshop.

The workshop addressed experts, both Roma and non-Roma, both civil Society activists and local, regional and national authorities from all over Europe. Results of the workshop were gathered into an electronic Newsletter, which was circulated through various European networks.

A survey on hate speech and harassment and how it is perceived by different minority groups, including the Roma, was carried out in 2015. The MSAH and Advisory Board on Roma affairs were part of the steering group. The survey was launched in spring 2015 by the Ministry of Justice as part of the system for monitoring discrimination. In the survey, the information was collected using an open questionnaire made available via different channels (N 1,475) and by interviewing experts (N 13) and members of the target groups (N 43). Roma respondents and interviewees also reported jeering and name calling; such discrimination mostly occurred in customer service situations with, for example, guards having suspicions of them or stopping them in shops with no reason. Foreign-language speakers, foreign nationals, immigrants, Roma people and members of gender and sexual minorities had primarily experienced hate speech or harassment by people unknown to them. Disabled people had mostly encountered such discrimination by healthcare and social welfare workers, and the Sámi and members of religious minorities by politicians or other people in a public position. Almost a fourth of the respondents had experienced hate speech or harassment by politicians or other people in a public position. When asked whether anyone had observed hate speech or harassment directed at third parties, 75% of the respondents reported having seen harassment or hate speech being targeted at immigrants. A third

<p>89.25. Strengthen its measures to protect the rights of foreigners, immigrants, asylum-seekers and the Roma as well as enhance its integration programmes to enforce the principles of equality and non-discrimination, which are enshrined in its Constitution (Namibia);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment</p>	<p>of the respondents had identified hate speech or harassment directed at Roma people.</p> <p>The Future of Migration 2020 Strategy, prepared by the Ministry of the Interior, includes measures to combat racism and xenophobia. For more information on the Strategy, see para. 89.10.</p> <p>The Article 8(6) of the Directive 2008/115/EC states that Member States must have an effective forced-return monitoring system. Independent external monitoring is considered to improve the legal protection of both returnees and escorts, and prevent excessive use of force and other prohibited treatment. As a result of this, Section 152 b was added to the Aliens Act, whereby then the Ombudsman for Minorities, now the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, is required to monitor removals from the country. The legislative amendment entered into force on 1 January 2014.</p> <p>Regarding the measures to protect the rights of immigrants and asylum seekers, see para. 89.10. See also para. 89.14 for the Gender Equality Plan, which includes measures on immigrant reception and integration services.</p> <p>The Finnish Immigration Services takes account of the special needs of different applicant groups when considering their applications, deciding on them and running the reception centres. The Government Action Plan for Gender Equality includes measures such as promoting employment for immigrant women and men while taking into account the gender perspective, as well as strengthening equality content and gender perspectives in refugee services for those seeking international protection and in the services and support services for promoting integration. The promotion of gender equality has been included in various objectives and measures of the new Government Integration Programme, adopted 8 September 2016.</p> <p>See also para. 89.24.</p> <p>There are particular measures proposed in the National Roma Strategy (NRIS) regarding the Roma EU-migrant. The measures are carried out by different stakeholders and public funding is targeted to the organizations working with migrant Roma.</p> <p>The Helsinki Deaconess Institute's Hirundo Day Centre is a drop-in centre primarily for EU citizens who earn their living through migration. The migrant population in Helsinki largely constitutes of Roma, who in their home countries face discrimination, inequality, and extreme poverty. As a result, begging has become a source of livelihood for them. Hirundo offers services including showers, laundry, heating food, internet</p>
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		<p>access, and a place to rest. The centre's staff provides support and advice, including facilitating access to health and social services. Hirundo's main services are open to all, however women and children are offered additional services and support as well as workshops.</p> <p>Hirundo has received public funding to cooperate with the country of immigrants' origin. In the project Community Development Project, it works in partnership with ACE-Romnja, the first organization in Romania run by Roma women. The aim of the project is to improve gender equality among Roma and non-Roma women and girls, as well as strengthen their opportunities to become full members of their community. The goal of the project activities is to enhance the voice of women in the community, and make their needs visible. In the long run, the project also aims to affect the community's structures, to the effect that problems faced by girls and women can be resolved. An issue facing the Roma in particular is lack of identification documents. There are approximately 100 000 people in Romania without identity papers who therefore do not enjoy the rights and benefits of citizenship.</p>
<p>89.26. Pursue appropriate, efficient policies to eliminate the social exclusion of the most vulnerable groups, in particular mentally disabled children, immigrant and refugee children and children from ethnic minorities at schools (Slovakia);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Education and Culture</p>	<p>The reduction of poverty, inequality and social exclusion was one of the three strategic priority areas set out in the Government Programme for 2011–2015. The government launched an administrative cross-sectoral programme to implement it. The programme included seven themes and 35 priority projects determined by the Government for nine ministerial sectors. Some of the key findings of the programme was that the reduction of poverty, inequality and social exclusion requires cross-sectoral co-operation and that focus must be on preventive services.</p> <p>One of the current government's key projects is Promotion of Health and Welfare and Reduction of Inequality. The project aims at improving the welfare and health of vulnerable groups to narrow differences in the area of health and well-being. The change will be the result of influencing crucial factors determining differences in the area of health and well-being. The changes will be made in people's daily environments as part of services and through cross-administrative cooperation. Organisations, municipalities and expert institutions will cooperate to disseminate good practices widely.</p> <p>The aim of the new Social Welfare Act (1301/2015) is to enable the early support, and especially to guarantee the right to get early support to people in vulnerable situations. See also para. 89.29.</p>


One of the key projects of the current government, the Programme to Address Child and Family Services, aims at a fundamental change in the whole service system for children and families. The goal is to commit the public sector to an approach that better promotes children's rights in decision-making and services and reduces health and wellbeing inequalities. The aim is to provide low-threshold child, youth and family services that work seamlessly together and to give more support to parenting and create tools to monitor children's wellbeing. The programme aims to enhance the wellbeing and individual resources of children, youth and families, including children with disabilities and their families. The programme contains a specific section on children and families with a migrant background.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health continues its work to reform special legislation on services for people with disabilities. A Government Bill will be given to Parliament in autumn 2017. The key principle of the reform is promoting the inclusion and equality of persons with disabilities and reinforcing decision-making genuinely based on the needs of a person with a disability.

See paras. 89.10 (immigrants) and 89.15 (Government's key project to address child and family services).


The Youth Guarantee came into force at the start of 2013. It will ensure that all young people under 25 and all recently graduated people under 30 are provided with a job or work trial, study placement, workshop or rehabilitation placement no later than three months into the period of unemployment. The objective is to provide opportunities for young people with no employment or training by promoting youth employment, by improving their professional skills, by improving young people's possibilities to lead an independent life. During the current government term, the Youth Guarantee will be developed by means of the "Youth Guarantee Towards Community Guarantee" key project. The key project serves to deepen the cooperation between the public sector, the private sector and the third sector in providing support to young people. The objective is to gather the best municipal practices and expand the functional models to a national level.


The One-Stop-Guidance Centre Ohjaamo plays an important role in developing youth services. There will soon be almost forty Ohjaamo centres in various parts of the country. The One-Stop-Guidance Centre Ohjaamo gathers the multisectoral services targeted at young people in a single service point. In particular, it provides


		<p>individualised support to young people between 15 and 29 years of age who have no job or study place, as well as easily accessible services for training, employment and rehabilitation.</p> <p>Finland has fostered the education of immigrants by introducing preparatory education for upper secondary education for immigrants and foreign-language students. The education, which is voluntary for providers of education, has begun in autumn 2014.</p> <p>The legislative amendments in the Basic Education Act concerning support to learning and schooling in basic education came into force on 1 January 2011. The aim was to strengthen all pupils' right to support as early as necessary, and in a as flexible way as possible in basic education and pre-primary education, to make the support better and more planned and to strengthen the support and foster co-operation between professionals dealing with schooling support. The objective was also to change processes with regard to demand and make them more transparent.</p> <p>The new Act on Pupil and Student Welfare (1287/2013) governing student welfare entered into force in August 2014. It brings together existing provisions on student welfare that were scattered across various legislative acts. The new legislation applies to pre-primary, primary, secondary and vocational education. The Act improves the rights of students. It provides students in secondary education the services of psychologists and school social workers. Implementation of the Act is under way. The Ministry of Education and Culture will make a report on the implementation of the law to Parliament in spring 2018.</p> <p>See para. 89.24.</p> <p>In the end of 2015, the Ministry of Education and Culture, has supported projects of NGO's and cultural institutions in the field of youth policy in order to provide quality free time activities for young asylum seekers in Finnish reception centres. Altogether eight national projects were supported with a total amount of 1 080 000 euros.</p>
<p>89.27. Continue efforts in empowering those sections of the society that require special treatment (Nepal);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>All Ministries</p>	<p>The Ministry of Justice guides other authorities on equality planning and the assessment of equality impacts. An Equality Plan covering all grounds of discrimination is obligatory for all employers who regularly employ more than 30 persons, for organizers of education and for authorities. Equality planning is a platform to promote positive actions targeting sections of the society that require special treatment. The Ministry of the Justice has also published online material on equality impact assessment (see link <a href="http://yhdenvertaisuus.finlex.fi/en/">http://yhdenvertaisuus.finlex.fi/en/</a>).To improve the inclusion of special</p>

	<p>groups and their opportunities to influence, the Government has appointed the National Council on Disability, the Advisory Board on Romani Affairs, the Advisory Board for Minority Issues, the Advisory Board on Language Affairs and the Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations. The Sámi have a self-government body of their own, the Sámi Parliament.</p> <p>The Government has implemented Finland's Disability Policy Programme 2010–2015 which contained more than 100 measures related to almost all sectors of society, e.g. accessibility, participation and inclusion etc. According to the outcome evaluation made by the National Institute for Health and Welfare, most of the measures were successfully carried out during the Programme.</p> <p>The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman and the Discrimination Monitoring Group, operating under the auspices the Ministry of Justice, carried out an online survey on what kind of situations in everyday life and to what extent persons with disabilities experience discrimination and unjust behaviour in Finland. In addition to their experiences of discrimination in everyday life, the survey (“As a Disabled Person I am a Second Class Citizen” – A Study on the Disabled People’s Experiences of Discrimination in Everyday Life”) examines their discrimination experiences in employment, the accessibility of online services, as well as access to goods and services. According to the survey, a clear majority (64,2%) of respondents say they have experienced discrimination during the past 12 months. Over half of the respondents (51,4%) regard the attitudinal climate towards the disabled people as bad or very bad. The survey was carried out during spring-summer 2016 and there were altogether 455 respondents, all of whom are persons with disabilities. In addition, 27 individual interviews were carried out. The survey is available online at <a href="http://www.syrjinta.fi/vammaisselvitys">www.syrjinta.fi/vammaisselvitys</a></p> <p>In 2014 the National Board of Education conducted a survey of the total number of pupils and students who were deaf or used the sign language. Of the schools that replied, 304 Finnish-speaking and 18 Swedish-speaking ones reported that they had pupils who were deaf or hearing-impaired or used a cochlear implant. The result paved the way for future work. During 2016 the National Board of Education has been preparing a brochure on teaching in both the Finnish and Swedish sign languages. In 2015–2016 the Board conducted a survey on materials to be used in teaching in sign language. Based on this the Board will draw up a plan on producing material relating to teaching in sign language as part of the production of other teaching material with a limited number of users. In 2015 the Ministry of Education and Culture granted funding</p>
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	<p>for the implementation of the project concerned with producing material for the education, research and teaching in both the Finnish and Swedish sign languages.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education has increased the financial support to Sámi children's language nests for all three Sámi languages spoken in Finland. Language nests are language immersion-based early childhood care centres aiming to revitalize language in danger of extinction. In addition to the Sámi Homeland, the language nests services are now provided also in three cities outside the Homeland area (Helsinki, Rovaniemi and Oulu).</p> <p>Furthermore, educational providers must promote the participation of all pupils and students, for instance by providing opportunities to participate in the drafting of school curricula and other plans, such as those involving the prevention of bullying and the formulation of codes of conduct in schools. Since 2014, a student body is obligatory in each school providing basic education and it must be heard before any decisions are made that affect the position of students. These activities must be designed and implemented to form an integral part of the school community's operating environment.</p> <p>In addition to the National Advisory Board on Roma Affairs (working since 1956) there are also four Regional Advisory Boards on Roma Affairs empowering the Roma at the local and regional level. Health, social services and regional government is undergoing the biggest administrative and operational reform. According to the drafts of the legislation, the empowerment and inclusion of the Roma is going to be strengthened by adding one more Regional Advisory Board on Roma Affairs. A Regional advisory board's representative attends the meetings regularly and participates in the discussion concerning the activities which fulfill aims of the Finland's NRIS which, together with the Roma political NGO program, forms the basis of developmental planning.</p> <p>Regional Advisory boards have sent 4 cities new initiatives concerning the establishment of local Roma action groups. At the moment official action groups are functioning in 17 cities. They are located around Finland and there are a minimum of three in every province. Some of the local Roma action groups have been functioning already for 10 years or more but a majority of them are considerably recent establishments (age between 3–5 years). Local Roma action groups generally have approximately 10 members, half of which represent civil servants from different key services and half Roma. Local action groups also consult municipal specialists in their meetings depending on their activities. Their average number of official meetings in a</p>
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		<p>year is varies from 4 to 8. All of those groups that use money also have separate budgets. Municipalities invest on the yearly basis between 500–6000 euros to the functions of local Roma action groups and their member's mobility to national Roma meetings. The yearly municipal funding spent in 2015 totals approximately 30 000 euros.</p> <p>Fintiko Roma Forum (FRF) is an alliance of all Finnish Roma NGOs run by public funding. The objective is to develop capabilities for participation, empowerment and networking. FRF takes part in national and international human right work and equality promotion. FRF represents its member NGOs in local and regional governance.</p> <p>A majority of the Finnish Roma NGO's are publicly funded. They are invaluable partners in designing, implementing and assessing Finnish NRIS.</p>
<p>89.28. Give special attention to the prevention of domestic violence against women and children (Mexico);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>The purpose of the new Social Welfare Act, which came into force in 2015, is that social services are organised on the basis of need for support. These needs include, for example, need for support because of interpersonal or domestic violence or maltreatment, sudden crisis situation, prevention of social exclusion and reinforcement of social inclusion, need for support due to alcohol or drug abuse, mental problems or other trauma or illness.</p> <p>Regarding the integration of the subjects of women's rights and the prevention of violence into police education, see para. 89.14.</p> <p>The students are required to weigh and ponder different fundamental and human rights and to take interpretative positions on that basis. When analysing different cases the students are required to identify the problem independently and to contemplate how to approach it during criminal investigation. In the reformed degree programme of the police (a polytechnic-level degree) the significance of fundamental and human rights will be increasingly emphasised (Police Act , Chapter 1, section 2).</p> <p>Courses in criminology deal with such subjects as theories explaining crime and the specific features of crime in Finland. The draft curriculum was completed on 15 November 2013.</p> <p>The police administration, including the Ministry of the Interior, participates in a number of cross-administrative working groups and projects between different authorities. In addition, the National Police Board takes an active part in cooperation with the third sector to contribute to the prevention of family violence against women</p>


		<p>and children. Examples of the working groups and projects include MARAK (intimate partner violence risk assessment), LASTA (children's house), Ankkuri (against the exclusion of children and adolescents) and the cross-administrative working group between authorities to prevent intimate partner and family violence.</p> <p>See paras. 89.14, 89:15 and 90:14.</p>
<p>89.29. Strengthen the relevant legislative and implementation frameworks regarding the violence against women (Egypt);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>Regarding legislative amendments, see para. 89.31.</p> <p>Stalking has been criminalised by amendments to the Criminal Code that took effect on 1 January 2014. Sexual harassment has been criminalised by amendments to the Criminal Code that took effect on 1 September 2014.</p> <p>The courses of the police degree programme dealing with preventive work and neighbourhood police activities include the subjects of intimate partnership violence, early intervention, problem-orientation and e.g. local security planning. During advanced studies, the police students acquaint themselves with fundamental and human rights when addressing problems encountered during their workplace learning.</p> <p>The objective in building the students' legal and ethical know-how is that they should know and learn the norms regulating police activities and the ethical principles of the police so that they recognise and internalise the courses of action expected of the police. The degree programme emphasises the obligation of the police both to protect fundamental rights and to interfere with them within their clearly delimited competence.</p> <p>The instruction follows a human rights friendly interpretation of competence provisions. The regulation of fundamental and human rights and the principles of good governance are basic elements in the instruction of administrative law during the police education. Furthermore, the students are introduced into the course of violence-related matters in criminal proceedings and taught how victims can protect themselves against violence and its reoccurrence. Such cases must be given urgent attention in criminal investigation. Cooperation between the criminal investigation authority and the prosecutor during criminal investigation is an important aspect.</p> <p>The overall structural reform of the basic degree programme of the police and the changes brought by the reform are described in para. 89.14.</p> <p>See paras. 89.14, 89.15, 89.28, 89.30 90.14 and 90.9.</p>

<p>89.30. Prevent re-victimization in cases of intimate partner violence and bring perpetrators to justice (Brazil);</p>  <p><b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>Has been accepted as an objective monitored and supervised by the Office of the Prosecutor General.</p> <p>See para. 89.35. The perpetrator's recidivism is a ground for increasing the punishment.</p> <p>The courses in preventive work and neighbourhood police activities include the subjects of intimate partner violence, early intervention, problem-orientation and e.g. local security planning. During advanced studies, the police students acquaint themselves with fundamental and human rights when addressing problems encountered during their workplace learning.</p> <p>The objective in building the students' legal and ethical know-how is that they should know and learn the norms regulating police activities and the ethical principles of the police so that they recognise and internalise the courses of action expected of them. The degree programme emphasises the obligation of the police both to protect fundamental rights and to interfere with them within their clearly delimited competence. The instruction follows a human rights friendly interpretation of competence provisions. The regulation of fundamental and human rights and the principles of good governance are basic elements in the instruction of administrative law during the police education.</p> <p>Regarding instruction in criminal law, see para. 89.14 above.</p> <p>When analysing different cases the students are required to identify the problem independently and to contemplate how to approach it during criminal investigation. The students are required to weigh and ponder different fundamental and human rights and to take interpretative positions on that basis. At the same time, the importance of a smooth and rapid progress of proceedings on such types of offences is underlined. Such cases must be given urgent attention in criminal investigation. Cooperation between the criminal investigation authority and the prosecutor during criminal investigation is an important aspect.</p> <p>The prevention of re-victimization is an important aspect discussed during the education.</p> <p>The overall structural reform of the police degree programme and the changes brought by the reform are described in para. 89.14. The National Police Board takes part in a number of cross-administrative and multi-authority working groups and projects. In addition, the National Police Board takes an active part in cooperation with the third</p>
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		<p>sector to contribute to the prevention of family violence against women and children. Examples of the working groups and projects include MARAK (intimate partner violence risk assessment), LASTA (children's house), Ankkuri (against the exclusion of children and adolescents) and the cross-administrative working group between authorities to prevent intimate partner and family violence. Cooperation between the criminal investigation authority and the prosecutor under the Criminal Investigations Act enables the conduct of criminal proceedings in a high-quality manner.</p> <p>The National Action Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women 2012–2015 included a number of measures to assist the victims and prevent their re-victimisation but also to make the perpetrators liable. These measures are still in force.</p>
<p>89.31. Ensure that rape is categorized as a sexual violation rather than according to the degree of violence used or threatened by the perpetrator; and facilitate access to justice for victims of rape to ensure that cases of rape are reported and prosecuted in court (Slovenia);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior</p>	<p>In Finland rape is not categorized only by the violence used or threatened by the perpetrator. The abuse of another person's defenselessness is also considered to be a rape. Unconsciousness, illness, disability, state of fear or other state of helplessness, even a short term one, can create defenselessness. Defenseless may be mental or physical defenselessness where the victim is unable to prevent someone's actions. Situations where a person is unable to form or express his or her will because of problems related to the ability to speak, weakening of the intellectual functioning or disturbances in state of mind are explicitly mentioned in the Government's Proposal 283/2010.</p> <p>By the amendment to the Criminal Code (509/2014), provisions related to rape offences were changed in many ways. The provision concerning coercion to sexual intercourse was repealed and acts which were earlier considered more lenient than an actual rape shall be punished by the provisions governing rape.</p> <p>By amendment 509/2014 the definition of sexual intercourse was widened so that it also covers the insertion of the sex organ into the mouth and the penetration directed at the anus. Because of this the change the coverage of the rape offence widened at the same time. The Government Proposal 216/2013 related to the above-mentioned legislative changes comprehensively underlines protection of sexual self-determination. This in practice places the lack of consent in the center when dealing with rape cases. In the degree programme of the police, the essential elements of sexual offences taught during courses in criminal law are discussed from the perspective of objects of legal protection and the fundamental and human rights underlying the relevant legal provisions. The essential elements of offences are taught</p>

		<p>both in theory and in light of practical cases. This makes the teaching easy and concrete and permits to underline the specific features of each subject area. When analysing different cases the students are required to identify the problem independently and to contemplate how to approach it during criminal investigation. Different types of sexual violence are discussed in detail during the courses. The students are required to weigh and ponder different fundamental and human rights and to take interpretative positions on that basis.</p> <p>The overall structural reform of the basic degree programme of the police and the changes brought by the reform are described in para. 89.14.</p>
<p>89.32. Take effective measures to eliminate widespread sexual misuse and harassment against women and girls, including on the Internet and via mobile phones (Iran);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>The Act on Measures to Prevent the Spreading of Child Pornography (1068/2006) entered force on 1 January 2007. The purpose of the Act is to ensure that the police may give their list of Internet sites containing child pornographic material and maintained abroad to telecommunications companies, which, in turn, may take technical measures to prevent access to the listed sites.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the criminalisation of stalking by communication.</p> <p>The teaching material for advanced psychology courses during the police degree programme and for the training of emergency centre staff includes a film dealing with children on the web (Lapsemme verkossa). The film is part of police material on preventive activities, intended to teach how to discover and identify paedophilia on the Internet and to prevent the abuse of children.</p> <p>The essential elements of sexual offences taught during courses in criminal law are discussed from the perspective of objects of legal protection and the fundamental and human rights underlying the relevant provisions.</p> <p>The essential elements of offences are taught both in theory and in light of practical cases. This makes the teaching easy and concrete and permits to underline the specific features of each subject area. When analysing different cases the students are required to identify the problem independently and to contemplate how to approach it during criminal investigation. Different types of sexual violence are discussed in detail during the courses. The teaching increasingly includes discussion on different types of offences committed on the Internet. The students are required to weigh and ponder different fundamental and human rights and to take interpretative positions on that basis.</p>

		<p>The overall structural reform of the police degree programme and the changes brought by the reform are described in para. 89.14.</p> <p>See also paras. 89.14, 89.15 and 89.28.</p>
<p>89.33. Ensure that women who are victims of trafficking are recognized as such and provided with protection and assistance (Slovenia) (UK);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>The Future of Migration 2020 Strategy, adopted by the Government in June 2013, sets the following objective: "Through action by the appropriate authorities, the identification of victims of human trafficking, the provision of help for them and the exercise of their rights must all be conducted more effectively."</p> <p>The National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings 2016–2017 was adopted in October 2016. The Plan of Action, prepared on a broad basis, contains the following nine measures, with one or more responsible ministries designated for each:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) develop the coordination of and national cooperation on anti-trafficking activities,</li> <li>2) enhance outreach work for victims of trafficking, their identification and assistance to them,</li> <li>3) monitor legislation on assistance to victims of trafficking, 4) to reveal trafficking by authorities' activities,</li> <li>4) reveal and intervene in trafficking by measures of criminal investigation,</li> <li>5) improve training in anti-trafficking activities and raise awareness of trafficking,</li> <li>6) enhance international anti-trafficking cooperation,</li> <li>7) develop related research, and</li> <li>8) take account of the position, interests and rights of children in anti-trafficking activities.</li> </ol> <p>Legislative amendments concerning the assistance system for victims of human trafficking took effect on 1 July 2015. The most significant amendments relate to defining when the assistance to the victims begins and ends, and to identifying the victims. The amendments are intended to confirm the tasks of the assistance system by law, in order to make the identification of victims and the assistance to them a more foreseeable and transparent structure with a clearer division of responsibilities, protecting the victims and safeguarding their human rights and equal treatment.</p>

	<p>The National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings is of the opinion that the assistance system should have been given a wider remit to identify its customers as victims of human trafficking. Under the current law, the assistance system cannot identify a person as a victim of trafficking in cases such as where the victim is a Finnish citizen and has fallen victim to trafficking in Finland but, for one reason or another, insufficient evidence has been obtained for pressing charges.</p> <p>An IOM-led working group has been set up to prepare guidance on THB issues for social and health professionals in municipalities. The aim is to better recognize victims of THB. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, the Finnish Medical Association and the Union of Health and Social Care Professionals in Finland are involved in the work.</p> <p>In 2012, the Department for Occupational Safety and Health at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health prepared guidelines on the supervision of foreign labour (occupational safety monitoring guidelines 2/2012). Appended to the guidance was a memorandum to guide the work of the inspectors in identifying THB victims and directing them to the Assistance System ("Actions of the OHS protection authorities in identifying THB victims and directing them to the national assistance system"). The guidelines complement the guidelines on the monitoring of discrimination at workplaces 2/2012 as well as the guidelines on the monitoring of foreign labour 2/2012, which are applied, where suitable, in suspicions of THB also.</p> <p>Between 2012 and 2014, the Finnish Immigration Service together with the Joutseno and Oulu Reception Centres implemented the Hapke Project which aimed to develop the system of services for vulnerable asylum seekers and victims of THB. As part of the Hapke Project, the Finnish Immigration Service, the National Bureau of Investigation, the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, the SAK trade union federation and Victim Support Finland, developed an awareness-raising flyer about the risk of THB. It was translated into several languages. A pocket-sized version has been published in 2015 for OSH inspectors to hand out to employees during inspection visits. In addition, OSH inspectors hand out their own contact details and a leaflet "As a foreign employee in Finland", which provides information on working in Finland as well as working conditions.</p> <p>The Regional State Administrative Agency of Southern Finland has provided training to its OSH inspectors in trafficking in 2014.</p>
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		<p>National Rapporteur has been concerned that for the victims with Finnish nationality, the services are provided by the Municipality of the residence not the Assistance Service. This might mean different treatment or lack of services due to the weak knowledge of the trafficking in human beings.</p> <p>On 20 December 2013 the National Police Board issued instructions on intervention in human trafficking and similar offences and on assistance to victims of trafficking (Ihmiskauppaan ja sen kaltaisiin rikoksiin puuttuminen sekä ihmiskaupan uhrien auttaminen). The teaching material for the basic degree programme at the Police University College includes a film on human trafficking in Finland (Minä olen olemassa - ihmiskauppa Suomessa). The film is part of police material on preventive activities, intended to teach how to identify forced labour fulfilling the essential elements of human trafficking and to remind the police of the importance of thorough criminal investigation.</p> <p>The courses of the police degree programme dealing with preventive work and neighbourhood police activities include the subjects of intimate partnership violence, early intervention, problem-orientation and e.g. local security planning. During advanced studies, the police students acquaint themselves with fundamental and human rights when addressing problems encountered during their workplace learning. The objective in building the students' legal and ethical know-how is that they should know and learn the norms regulating police activities and the ethical principles of the police so that they recognise and internalise the courses of action expected of the police. The degree programme emphasises the obligation of the police both to protect fundamental rights and to interfere with them within their clearly delimited competence. The instruction follows a human rights friendly interpretation of competence provisions. The regulation of fundamental and human rights and the principles of good governance are basic elements in the instruction of administrative law during the police education.</p> <p>The overall structural reform of the police degree programme and the changes brought by the reform are described in para. 89.14.</p>
<p>89.34. Implement existing procedures upholding internationally recognized standards in combating trafficking in persons and conduct necessary training for law enforcement to properly identify and protect</p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior</p>	<p>On 13 January 2014 the National Police Board reappointed the nationwide network of police officers and trainers alongside other work to combat illegal immigration, including human trafficking. The members of the network are also responsible for measures to develop, in their own police units, know-how on the specific features of</p>

<p>victims of trafficking (USA);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>		<p>investigating human trafficking offences and assisting victims of trafficking. Moreover, the members are responsible for keeping the training on human trafficking up to date. The network has also highlighted the theme of human trafficking at different seminars dealing with aliens.</p> <p>Regarding the education and training of the police, see para. 89.33 above.</p> <p>All asylum seekers are interviewed during the asylum process before decisions on their asylum applications. The officials of the Finnish Immigration Service interviewing asylum seekers have been trained to identify victims of human trafficking, including sexually abused women as a special group. All interviewers are introduced to the phenomenon of human trafficking and given further training on the subject. Suspected victims of trafficking are referred to the assistance system for identification as victims. Thereafter, the system helps and supports them e.g. in the context of criminal proceedings, and protects them, if necessary. The Finnish Immigration Service does not train law enforcement authorities, except where necessary for residence permit and asylum procedures.</p>
<p>89.35. Watch over the full implementation of laws that forbid corporal punishment in all settings through, among other measures, awareness-raising campaigns between adults and children, as well as the promotion of positive and non-violent forms of discipline that do not affect the upbringing of these children (Uruguay);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>See para 89.15.</p> <p>Even petty assault committed in a close relationship or against a person under 18 year of age is currently subject to public prosecution.</p> <p>The prevention of physical discipline cannot be separated as a specific subject in the education and training of the police. It is integrated into the study modules. In the basic degree programme of the police, the courses in general police theory discuss the Internal Security Programme thoroughly from the perspective of preventive activities of the police. Special focus is given to the opportunities of individual policepersons to meet security challenges and prevent family violence against women and children by their own action. The courses in preventive work and neighbourhood police activities include the subjects of intimate partner violence and family violence including physical discipline, early intervention in violence, problem-orientation and e.g. local security planning.</p> <p>During advanced studies, the police students acquaint themselves with fundamental and human rights when addressing problems encountered during their workplace learning. The objective in building the students' legal and ethical know-how is that they should know and learn the norms regulating police activities and the ethical principles of the police so that they recognise and internalise the courses of action expected of</p>

the police. The degree programme emphasises the obligation of the police both to protect fundamental rights and to interfere with them within their clearly delimited competence. The instruction follows a human rights friendly interpretation of competence provisions. The regulation of fundamental and human rights and the principles of good governance are basic elements in the instruction of administrative law during the police education. The essential elements of offences taught during courses in criminal law are discussed from the perspective of objects of legal protection and the fundamental and human rights underlying the provisions concerning restraining orders, stalking, sexual offences, incest, human trafficking, deprivation of liberty, and homicide and bodily injury.

The essential elements of offences are taught both in theory and in light of practical cases. This makes the teaching easy and concrete and permits to underline the specific features of each subject area. When analysing different cases the students are required to identify the problem independently and to contemplate how to approach it during criminal investigation. Physical discipline is discussed in the context of homicide and bodily injury. The students are required to weigh and ponder different fundamental and human rights and to take interpretative positions on that basis.


The overall structural reform of the police degree programme and the changes brought by the reform are described in para. 89.14.

The Finnish Parliament has decided on legislative changes to introduce new intervention measures for disruptive behavior and to increase the powers of teachers. The purpose is to adopt a proactive and pre-emptive instead of an ex post facto punitive approach. Interactive educational discussions are the primary new means of addressing disruptive behavior and misconduct of students.


In addition, it is possible to give written and oral tasks and exercises to pupils but this is not designed to be a working penalty. The tasks and/or exercises must be appropriate and lend support to learning, instruction and development.



New powers are given to teachers and head teachers to confiscate substances or objects: this applies to substances and objects that effectively disrupt lessons, and to substances and objects that are dangerous (such as weapons, intoxicants etc.).




New powers are given to teachers and head teachers to search and confiscate student belongings and to search clothing cursorily for dangerous objects/substances. This is possible for justified or transparent reasons only.





		<p>These new powers must be applied with discretion and respect for personal inviolability and privacy, as extensively as possible.</p> <p>The Finnish Education Evaluation Centre will evaluate the usage and effect of the new measures by the end of 2017.</p> <p>Such actors as non-governmental organisations - e.g. the Central Union for Child Welfare and UNICEF - organise information campaigns.</p> <p>See para. 89.15.</p>
<p>89.36. Ensure that children are heard in the judicial and administrative procedures concerning them, in accordance with procedures adapted to their maturity and, when children must be placed, this be done in family-type structures rather than in institutions (Belgium);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Education and Culture</p>	<p>The legislation on early childhood education has been amended by provisions that entered into force on 1 August 2015. According to the act, an individual early childhood education plan must be prepared for each child for the implementation of education, teaching and care. The plan is prepared in cooperation between the staff and the child's parents or other guardians. The child's opinion must be sought and taken into account in preparing the early childhood education plan. A provision concerning the involvement of the children and parents was also included in the act. The child's opinion and wishes must be sought and taken into account in planning, implementing and assessing the child's early education, taking account of the child's age and development stage. Children and their parents must have the opportunity to participate in the planning and assessment of early childhood education on a regular basis.</p> <p>Under the Basic Education Act, in early childhood and basic comprehensive education the provider of education must hear the guardian as well as the child before making a decision on special support measures. To implement a decision on special support measures an individual plan concerning the organisation of education must be drawn up for the pupil or student. The plan must be drawn up, unless there is manifest cause to the contrary, in cooperation with the pupil or student and the guardian.</p> <p>The legislation on pupil associations and pupil welfare was amended in 2013. The participation of pupils in decision-making was increased with these changes. The organization of pre-primary education and school work is based on the pupils' participation and ensuring that they are heard. The New National Core Curriculum for pre-primary and basic education (2014) includes these changes.</p> <p>The Criminal Code has been amended by adding penal provisions concerning torture. They took effect on 1 January 2010. Chapter 11, section 9(a) of the Code stipulates that</p>





		<p>a public official who causes another strong physical or mental suffering shall be sentenced for torture.</p> <p>During judicial proceedings, children may be heard at a video conference without their being present in the courtroom. If necessary, the child may be heard without the presence of some parties to the proceedings. The court may order that the hearing be closed to the public. If necessary, a support person may be designated for the child to be heard during judicial proceedings. In criminal proceedings, the questioning of a child victim may be video-recorded and the recording used as evidence in a trial.</p> <p>According to the Act on Child Custody and Right of Access (361/1983) in matters concerning child custody and right of access, the wishes and views of the child must be ascertained in so far as this is possible in view of the age and stage of development of the child. Also, according to the Act, the views of the child must be ascertained tactfully, taking his or her stage of development into consideration, and in a manner not harmful to the relationship between the child and his or her parents.</p> <p>When making decisions concerning children, the Finnish Immigration Service takes due account of the best interest of the child. The Service has drafted instructions on 23 April 2015 on how to take account of the best interest of the child in decision-making. The authorities receiving asylum seeker children ensure that unaccompanied minors get the necessary care.</p> <p>According to the Child Welfare Act (417/2007) a child's substitute care, where it is necessary, should primarily be arranged in the form of family care.</p>
<p>89.37. Promptly create a national mechanism for the prevention of torture with access to all places of deprivation of liberty (France);</p> <p> <b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>Regarding OPCAT, see answer under para. 89.4.</p> <p>Torture has been criminalised by Chapter 11, section 9(a) of the Criminal Code.</p>
<p>89.38. Take steps to ensure by both legislative and non-legislative measures, including initiatives for the promotion of multiculturalism, the protection of all religions and faiths and the non-escalation of hatred among people of different religions and faiths, based</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Culture</p>	<p>The Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations has continued to maintain a dialogue between different religions and to develop a policy of good relations. The <i>Good Relations</i> project prepared a model for the monitoring of good relations. In addition, the project is collecting information about measures to foster good relations at local level.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Culture has given financial aid between 2012–2015 to</p>

<p>on the tenets of understanding, mutual acceptance and respect (Malaysia);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>		<p>the multicultural Association Walter's "Kytke" project, which aims at promoting acceptance of diversity and equality in schools by carrying out visits to schools and to parents' meetings.</p> <p>Preparation of the guidelines for international activity within higher education and research is underway by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The guidelines were completed in 2016. Integration and cultural diversity are part of the discussion themes.</p>
<p>89.39. Implement strict measures, including in the area of legislation, to combat hate speech and other manifestations of racism and xenophobia, including on the internet, in line with the obligations under articles 19 and 20 of ICCPR (Egypt);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Culture</p>	<p>The prevention of racism and discrimination cannot be separated as specific subjects in the education and training of the police. These issues are integrated into the study modules dealing with aliens' issues more extensively. A film on the integration of immigrants into Finland (Kotoudunko Suomeen – maahanmuuttajan kivinen tie, "Will I integrate into Finland? – The rocky road for an immigrant") is used as teaching material on general police theory. The film was produced in 2013 as part of the material dealing with preventive activities of the police, in order to combat racism and open up perspectives towards accepting diversity.</p> <p>The essential elements of offences taught during courses in criminal law are discussed from the perspective of objects of legal protection and the fundamental and human rights underlying the provisions concerning defamation, work safety offences, menace, homicide, bodily injury, and sexual offences. The essential elements of offences are taught both in theory and in light of practical cases. This makes the teaching easy and concrete and permits to underline the specific features of each subject area. When analysing different cases the students are required to identify the problem independently and to contemplate how to approach it during criminal investigation. The students are required to weigh and ponder different fundamental and human rights and to take interpretative positions on that basis.</p> <p>In the reformed (polytechnic-level) degree programme for the police, a course dealing with the police, the individual and society will discuss the value and significance of multiculturalism in the work of the police. In addition, the programme will discuss racism, discrimination and social exclusion as phenomena and societal processes and examine internationalisation.</p> <p>The overall structural reform of the police degree programme and the changes brought by the reform are described in para. 89.14.</p> <p>See also para. 89.17 above.</p>

<p>89.40. Take effective measures to combat racist propaganda and the xenophobic material on the Internet (Iran);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>Regarding the education and training of the police, see para. 89.39 above.</p> <p>Jointly with a number of Internet service operators the police have introduced the Net Tip service, available at most public discussion sites in the social media. The Net Tip service provides, through an icon, an electronic report form for reporting suspicious observations in different subject areas to the police. The police have expanded and improved their virtual activities in order to combat hate speech and corresponding phenomena on the Internet.</p>
<p>89.41. Share its best practices acquired in fighting internet spread racism, including the results of the last measures that is the ratification of relevant instruments, modification of the Criminal Code, police monitoring of the internet (Hungary);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>Regarding the education and training of the police, see para. 89.39 above.</p> <p>Regarding police activities, see para. 89.40.</p>
<p>89.42. Ensure effective implementation of the ILO Forced Labour Convention no. 29 and the ILO Convention no. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value (Uzbekistan);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>The Government and the social partners have been carrying out the Equal Pay Programme in 2006–2015. During that time, the gender gap has been bridged by just over three percentage points from about twenty. Reducing the pay gap has proved to be very challenging.</p> <p>The new Equal Pay Programme 2016–2019 collates the measures, jointly agreed by the Government and the central labour market organisations that promote the realisation of equal pay for women and men. The programme has been prepared in a tripartite working group set by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The Equal Pay Programme aims at narrowing the average pay gap. The average pay gap is around 17% in the entire labour market. The Programme seeks to implement the principle of equal pay laid down in the Act on Equality between Women and Men. According to the Act same wage must be paid for equal work or work of equal value.</p> <p>See paras. 90.19 and 90.20.</p>
<p>89.43. That the first National Action Plan for Fundamental and Human Rights integrate the</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>The first national action plan on fundamental and human rights for 2012–2013 contained 67 separate projects, covering extensively the promotion of rights of</p>

<p>concerns of all minorities (Nicaragua);</p> <p> <b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED</b></p>		<p>different groups. Some projects supported the realisation of equality in general. Examples of the minorities covered by the projects include (non-exhaustively) the Sámi, Roma, immigrants, sexual and gender minorities and persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Equality is one of the main themes of the Second National Action Plan for Fundamental and Human Rights for 2017–2019. Minorities whose rights are promoted by the Action Plan include the Sámi, the Roma, sexual and gender minorities, persons with disabilities, older persons and immigrants, among other groups.</p>
<p>89.44. Consider the possibility of establishing new measures to strengthen the respect for the rights of migrants and fight against all forms of discrimination they suffer (Argentina);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment</p>	<p>The Finnish Immigration Service treats its clients appropriately and without discrimination, thus contributing to respect for immigrants' rights and combating discrimination.</p> <p>The Government has adopted an integration programme for the years 2016–2019. The programme includes measures to promote good ethnic relations, combat racism and promote a good dialogue among ethnic groups.</p> <p>See paras. 89.10, 89.16, 89.24, 89.25 and 89.26.</p>
<p>89.45. Implement training programs in the field of human rights for the police and the forces of order, especially directed at improving the treatment of asylum-seekers and immigrants in an irregular situation and consider ratifying the ICRMW of 1990 (Ecuador)<sup>1</sup>;</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p> <p> <b>NOT IMPLEMENTED (ICRMW)</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment</p>	<p>Regarding the national network of police officers and trainers alongside other work appointed by the National Police Board to combat illegal immigration, see para. 89.34.</p> <p>Regarding the education and training of the police, see para. 89.33.</p> <p>The Migration Department of the Ministry of the Interior and the Finnish Immigration Service do not train policepersons and law enforcement authorities.</p> <p>Regarding the ICRMW, see para. 89.6.</p>
<p>89.46. Evaluate the internal guidelines and criteria with regards to risk assessment in the countries of origin of asylum-seekers and ensure a continuous flow of information and education on these internal guidelines (Sweden);</p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior</p>	<p>The Finnish Immigration Service is active in monitoring the security and human rights situation in asylum seekers' countries of origin as well as the country information about the treatment of returned asylum seekers. The Service monitors the consistency of the decision practice, which also benefits from the active training of officials considering asylum applications, based e.g. on training modules of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).</p>

 <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b>		
<p>89.47. Take concrete measures to reduce the resort to detention of migrants solely for immigration purposes (Brazil);</p>  <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b>	Ministry of the Interior	<p>Interim measures alternative to the detention of asylum seekers always take precedence over detention. These measures include their obligation to report, taking temporary possession of their travel documents, their giving the address where they may be reached or their giving a security. An alien may be detained only if the above-mentioned interim measures do not suffice for establishing whether the alien meets the requirements for entering the country or residing in the country or for preparing or ensuring the enforcement of a decision on removing them from the country or otherwise for supervising their removal from the country and if, in addition, taking account of the alien’s personal and other circumstances, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the alien would hide, escape or otherwise considerably hinder the issue of a decision concerning them or the enforcement of a removal decision; if the detention is necessary for establishing their identity; if the alien is guilty or suspected of an offence and the detention is necessary for ensuring the preparation or enforcement of a decision to remove them from the country; if the alien, while held in detention, has filed a new application for international protection mainly in order to delay or hamper the enforcement of a removal decision; if the detention is based on Article 28 of Council Regulation determining the State responsible for examining an asylum application; or if, taking account of the alien’s personal and other circumstances, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the alien will constitute a threat to national security.</p> <p>The primacy of the interim measures alternative to detention is further emphasised in the amendments of the Aliens Act and the Act on the Treatment of Aliens Placed in Detention and on Detention Units which took effect in 2015, and also in the latest government proposal for amending the Aliens Act, was submitted to Parliament in autumn 2016. According to the proposal it should be stipulated that if the preconditions exist for detaining a minor asylum seeker aged 15 years or more and denied asylum, the person could be obligated to stay in a particular reception centre.</p>
<p>89.48. Apply alternative measures to the detention of asylum-seekers and irregular immigrants, including children and other vulnerable people, and establish a mechanism to examine this practice</p>	Ministry of the Interior	<p>The primacy of the interim measures alternative to detention is further emphasised in the amendments of the Aliens Act and the Act on the Treatment of Aliens Placed in Detention and on Detention Units which took effect in 2015, and also in the latest government proposal for amending the Aliens Act, to be submitted to Parliament in</p>

(Uruguay);



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autumn 2016.





The legislative amendment which entered force in 2015 prohibits the detention of unaccompanied alien children applying for international protection. It also limited the detention of other unaccompanied alien children (aged 15 years or more with an enforceable removal decision) to a very short duration. A child may be detained only after first assessing the feasibility of the interim measures alternative to detention under the Aliens Act, and after finding that such measures are insufficient and that detention is indispensable as a measure of the last resort. An accompanied child can be detained if the detention is indispensable for maintaining the family ties between the child and the guardian. An unaccompanied child under the age of 15 must not be detained at all. An unaccompanied child aged 15 years or more and applying for international protection must not be detained until a decision to remove the child from the country has become enforceable.

Since February 2017 the law provides for a new administrative interim measure as an alternative to detention: the obligation of an alien to stay in a certain reception centre. The obligation means that an alien applying for international protection may be obligated to stay in a designated reception centre and report to the centre 1–4 times a day, if it is indispensable for establishing whether the person meets the requirements for entering the country or staying there, or for ensuring the removal of the person from the country. For an important personal reason, an alien obligated to stay in a particular reception centre may be released from the obligation temporarily.




If the preconditions exist for detaining an unaccompanied child aged 15 years or more, having applied for international protection and issued with an enforceable removal decision, the child may be obligated to stay in a particular reception centre. The application of it reduces the need to detain minors. Therefore, it also has a positive impact on the position of children and the implementation of their best interests.


The procedures for decision-making and court proceedings on detention would also apply to the obligation of a child to stay in a certain reception centre, and the child should be released after two weeks from the imposition of the obligation at the latest. The obligation could remain valid for the maximum of two weeks if it were necessary for ensuring the removal of the child from the country. The proposed obligation of a child to stay in a certain reception centre is intended as a less intrusive alternative to detention in terms of the rights of the individual. The obligation is aimed to reduce the detention of children and thus to better take account of the best interest of the child.


		<p>The government proposal submitted to Parliament in autumn 2016 emphasises measures alternative to detention in respect of other persons than children, too, by making it possible to obligate them to stay in a certain reception centre as one of the measures alternative to detention. The obligation means that the person is obligated to stay in a certain reception centre and to report to the centre 1–4 times a day.</p>
<p>89.49. Adopt specified standards for accommodation of unaccompanied children and establish additional conditions for the appointment of a guardian for them (Thailand);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior</p>	<p>The Finnish Immigration Service plans, manages and supervises the reception of unaccompanied children by applying e.g. the Child Welfare Act. The Service also guides the reception centres regarding the representation of unaccompanied children.</p>
<p>89.50. Give more attention to asylum-seekers and unaccompanied minors in cases of family reunion (Iraq);</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior</p>	<p>The Finnish Immigration Service considers the family reunification applications of asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors appropriately, respecting the unity of families.</p> <p>The Government of Finland has aimed to tighten the criteria for family reunification to the full on the basis of the EU Family Reunification Directive. Regarding family reunification, a legislative amendment in force as of 1 July 2016 extended the requirement of secure means of support to apply to persons receiving subsidiary protection, and also to asylum recipients after three months have passed since the service of the decision to grant asylum. It is possible to deviate from the requirement of secure means of support in individual cases in the best interest of the child or for an exceptionally important reason. Since 16 May 2016 a handling fee has been charged for residence permit applications of family members of recipients of international protection.</p>
<p>89.51. Reconsider the matter by taking the necessary steps to fulfil the objective expressed in 2008 to reach the 0.7% target for ODA in relation to the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 (Norway);</p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>Finland renews its commitment on development aid. However, the fulfillment of the commitment and reaching the target of 0.7% development aid on gross national income (GNI) seems unlikely. Finnish development aid measured in euros was bigger than ever in 2013, reaching an estimated GNI-share of 0.56%. Finland's objective was to reach the 0.7 % share in 2015 by channelling all the proceeds from greenhouse gas emissions rights trading from 2014 onwards to development aid. Unfortunately the</p>




 <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b>		relatively low prices in emissions rights trading have resulted in lower revenues than expected. Finland however is still committed to reaching the 0.7% target in the long run.
<p>90.1. Ratification and effective implementation of CRPD, with full participation and active involvement of NGOs in the promotion, protection and monitoring of the human rights treaty framework (UK); See also comments below</p>  <b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED (CRPD)</b>  <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b>	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	See paras. 89.1 and 89.5.
<p>90.3. Undertake concrete measures to ensure that the media production and coverage are non-discriminatory and promote positive images of girls and women (Malaysia); See also comments below</p>  <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b>	Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	<p>In 2015, the Ministry of the Interior commissioned a study on the freedom of expression and the media, in order to monitor discrimination. The study analysed e.g. the portrayal of different minority groups in media culture.</p> <p>According to the Government Programme on Gender Equality 2012–2015, needs related to legislation on advertising that violates gender equality will be re-evaluated no later than 2014. The evaluation report was completed in December 2014. The current regulation of media and advertising is estimated to be sufficient and comprehensive and currently no new measures are planned in this theme. However, gender equality in the public space is one of the focus areas in the Nordic Council of Ministers gender equality cooperation programme for the years 2015-18; in that context Finland is active in fighting online sexism and hate speech and promoting gender equality in media and advertising.</p>
<p>90.4. Take effective legal and practical measures to prevent and combat dissemination of racist, xenophobic and Islamophobic propaganda in particular in press and on the Internet (Iran); See also comments below</p>	Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice	See para. 90.3.





 <p><b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>		
<p>90.5. Carry out more efforts to integrate the Roma minority in society, especially by the allocation of funds for the implementation of the National Plan and the participation of this minority in carrying out this Plan (Spain); See also comments below</p>  <p><b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>See paras. 89.24, 89.25, 89.26 and 89.27.</p>
<p>90.6. Continue to take tangible measures to guarantee equal treatment of Roma and other minorities to promote the right to work and to better integrate them into the society (China); See also comments below</p>  <p><b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Education and Culture</p>	<p>One of the measures of the National Policy on Roma is a survey on the adult Roma population's need for education. This survey was carried out by the National Board of Education in 2015. Anonymous information from adult Roma and institutions of adult education was collected during 2013–2014. The results including proposals are used for further development of education of adult Roma in Finland.</p> <p>Another measure of the National Policy on Roma is the activity of Romany language nests. The average age of Romany-speaking people is rising rapidly in Finland. Language nests are meant for Roma people of all ages: children, young people and adults. The activities are mainly verbal and vary from one town to another. More than 20 municipalities or NGO's have received 414 000 euros for organizing language nest activities during 2009 to 2016.</p> <p>During 2008 to 2016, a total of 39 municipal authorities received state aid for supporting Roma pupils in basic education – the state aid amounted in a total of 2,5 million euros. It is estimated that some 85% of all Roma pupils of basic education age come within the scope of the aid. The focus of the activities has been directed on development of Roma home and school cooperation, Roma pupils' homework activities to strengthen the general school performance level of Roma, and specific Roma pupils' career guidance counselling and study trips with Roma families to neighbouring institutions.</p> <p>See also paras. 89.24, 89.25, 89.26 and 89.27. The Finnish Roma people have</p>

		<p>traditionally been quite reserved towards data collection. A majority of data collection is done by qualitative surveys in different areas of life. However, a Roma Wellbeing Pilot Survey was conducted in 2013 to plan a comprehensive population study on the health and wellbeing of the Finnish Roma that will form a knowledge basis for the monitoring and evaluation of Finland's NRIS. The objective of the large Roma Wellbeing Study is to produce data on Roma health and wellbeing comparable with the data from other population surveys which form the data basis for a national health and wellbeing monitoring. In 2015, the Roma survey was re-planned and the plan was funded by ESF and will be conducted in alliance with the Nevo Tiija project.</p> <p>Finland has also participated on a voluntary basis to the voluntary indicator working group by EU/conducted by FRA.</p> <p>In addition, Finland is a participating country in Local Engagement for Roma Inclusion (LERI). LERI is a qualitative action research project under FRA's multi-annual Roma Program. It was developed in response to the European Commission's Communication on an EU Framework for National Roma integration strategies up to 2020. LERI brings together local authorities and residents, in particular Roma, to investigate how they can best be involved in Roma integration actions, and identify which aspects of these actions work, which do not, and why. The aim of the project is to facilitate the engagement of all local stakeholders, including Roma, in joint efforts to enable Roma inclusion. The experience gained and the lessons learned during the process will help improve the design, implementation and monitoring of Roma integration policies and actions at the local level.</p>
<p>90.7. Establish broad public outreach programmes to discourage discrimination against ethnic minority residents in Finland (USA); See also comments below</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior</p>	<p>Under the <i>Good Relations</i> project have been tested different local operating models for fostering good ethnic relations and reducing xenophobia. Local immigrant organisations have planned and used different forms of work, e.g. awareness raising weekends and community events, to influence attitudes of the majority population.</p>
<p>90.8. Increase its efforts in the field of discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, inter alia, by review of national legislation and administration with a view to eliminate discrimination against LGBTI people with regard to</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>The Act on Equality between Women and Men (609/1986) was amended as of 1 January 2015. Prohibitions of gender-based discrimination were expanded to cover also discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression. Discrimination based on sexual orientation is prohibited by the Non-Discrimination Act (1325/2014).</p>

<p>family and parental rights and the right to security and integrity of the person (Iceland); See also comments below</p>  <p><b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>		<p>See para. 89.15.</p> <p>As part of legislative changes which followed from enacting a law that enables same-sex marriage, the Act on Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals (563/2002) was amended. After the amendments enter into force (March 2017) there is no longer a precondition that in order for the preferred gender to be recognized a person must not be married or living in a registered partnership (the law previously did already contain an exception when spousal approval was given, whereby marriage would automatically be converted into a registered partnership and vice versa).</p> <p>In November 2016, the Ministry of Social Affairs published a guide on gender equality when working with clients in maternity and child welfare clinics. The purpose of the guide is to support public health nurses in maternity and child welfare clinics as well as other workers in the social health sector to implement gender equality principles on a practical level when working with families and children. The guide offers information and food for thought on the topics of gender equality, gender diversity and family diversity. Workers in maternity and child welfare clinics and workers in other social and health care services encounter different kinds of families and children daily, and therefore they have a good opportunity to increase families' knowledge of equality in childcare and parenting and play their part in dismantling rigid gender norms.</p> <p>According to the Government key project, a programme to address child and family services, the diversity of families is a guiding principle in organizing and developing family services.</p> <p>The parental rights of the LGBTI people are taken into account for example when providing fertility treatments. Sexual orientation or gender identity are not legal grounds for denying a person from assisting fertility treatments.</p> <p>See paras. 89.15 and 89.24.</p>
<p>90.9. Allocate sufficient funds in order to ensure an effective implementation of the National Action Plan to reduce violence against women that came into force in 2010 (The Netherlands); See also comments below</p>	<p>Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>Governmental funding has been raised to increase the amount of shelters and to launch a helpline for the victims of violence against women and domestic violence. See para. 89.14.</p>

 <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b>		
<p>90.10. Further step up the efforts and allocate sufficient funds to ensure the effective implementation of the National Action Plan to prevent violence against women as well as broaden the action plan to cover domestic violence (Norway); See also comments below.</p>  <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b>	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	<p>See paras. 89.14, 89.28 and 90.9.</p> <p>The coordination body to be designated in accordance with Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention, which will begin drafting a new action plan, will cover domestic violence more broadly.</p>
 <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b>	Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health	<p>Regarding the film dealing with children on the web (<i>Lapseemme verkossa</i>), used as material for advanced psychology courses during the police degree programme and for the training of emergency centre staff, see para. 89.32.</p> <p>The essential elements of offences taught during courses in criminal law are discussed from the perspective of objects of legal protection and the fundamental and human rights underlying the provisions concerning restraining orders, stalking, sexual offences, incest, human trafficking, deprivation of liberty, and homicide and bodily injury. The essential elements of offences are taught both in theory and in light of practical cases. This makes the teaching easy and concrete and permits to underline the specific features of each subject area. When analysing different cases the students are required to identify the problem independently and to contemplate how to approach it during criminal investigation.</p> <p>To provide material for their own preventive activities, the police are producing a film on social exclusion, family violence and taking children into care. This material, to be prepared during 2014, is also intended for use in teaching.</p> <p>The overall structural reform of the police degree programme and the changes brought by the reform are described in para. 89.14.</p> <p>In accordance with the Internal Security Programme the Government has, in police</p>

		<p>activities, launched projects focusing on women, children and the prevention and identification of intimate partner violence and family violence. The National Police Board takes an active part in multi-authority cooperation and its development in order to identify and prevent violence against women and children.</p> <p>Besides women, the National Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women 2012–2015 took account of children and perpetrators of violence. Although the action plan has ended, the measures are still in force.</p> <p>See paras. 89.14, 89.15, 89.25, 89.26, 89.28, 90.9, 90.11, 90.12, 90.14 and 90.10.</p>
<p>90.12. Allocate the necessary funds to ensure effective implementation of the National Action Plan to combat violence against women (Palestine); See also comments below</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>See paras. 90.9 and 90.14.</p>
<p>90.13. Take the necessary measures to prevent domestic violence, through the creation of a national action plan, in particular Finland was urged that the violence not be classified depending on the degree of violence or threat used by the author (Spain); See also comments below</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>The National Police Board contributes to implementing the cross-administrative action plan against family violence e.g. through the MARAK programme. Under the Criminal Code, incidents of intimate partner violence and family violence are always offences subject to public prosecution.</p> <p>See paras. 89.14, 89.25, 89.26, 89.28, 90.9, 90.11 and 90.14.</p>
<p>90.14. Step up its effort to prevent violence against women, particularly victims of trafficking, by providing adequate protection and assistance, especially shelters, funding and staffs for these shelters (Thailand); See also comments below</p>	<p>Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of the Interior</p>	<p>In November 2013, the Government made a decision on the implementation of a structural policy programme. As part of proposals for the reduction of local government tasks and obligations, the programme included the transfer of shelters to the responsibility of the central government. The Act on Shelters entered into force in the beginning of 2015. Shelter services are now organised by local authorities but funded by the Government. The Government concludes contracts with those service providers who are considered capable of supplying shelter services. The National Institute for</p>



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Health and Welfare coordinates the shelter services as the representative of the Government. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is the highest decision-making and supervisory authority.


The Government conducted a preliminary study on the operation of a helpline for victims of intimate and domestic violence as yearly as in 2008. In 2014 Parliament allocated some funds for preparing the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, including the development of a telephone helpline. The helpline will be launched at the end of 2016 or in the beginning of 2017.

At the end of June 2013 the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) published the National Quality Guidelines, which define the guiding principles for work at shelters, describe the process of customer work and define the objectives and criteria of the work. The guidelines are still in force.

See paras. 89.14, 89.33 and 90.9.



The National Police Board cooperates actively with a cross-administrative working group and actors of the third sector in order to ensure and improve the protection of victims of family violence. The National Police Board participates e.g. in the SALOS project, intended to prepare an operating model for a network of shelters located in secret places.


The Finnish Immigration Service is responsible for managing the operation of the assistance system for victims of human trafficking. Victims of human trafficking are offered the necessary urgent assistance as soon as possible after admitting them into the assistance system for such victims. According to need, the assistance consists of physical security arrangements, accommodation, food, financial support and medical care and an opportunity to discuss with experts confidentially. Crisis assistance is available from such actors as local authorities, organisations, shelters and reception centres. Accommodation or housing is particularly important for victims of trafficking, because their security is usually also ensured in that connection. Finland has no shelters intended specifically for victims of trafficking. In practice, victims of trafficking are accommodated in private rental dwellings, sheltered residential homes and different shelters. Currently in Finland there is one supportive and sheltered housing unit intended specifically for victims of trafficking. From this unit the assistance system has, when necessary, purchased housing services for their clients. The use of the service will continue. The assistance system has also accommodated some of its clients in facilities


		<p>connected with the Joutseno Reception Centre and intended specifically for victims of trafficking, although these clients have not applied for international protection. In this way the assistance system has been able to respond to the victims' need for accommodation and related support around the clock. The system has also responded to the victims' security risks by means of the continuous presence of its staff and electronic surveillance systems.</p> <p>The legislative amendments related to the assistance system for victims of human trafficking took effect on 1 July 2015. The most significant amendments relate to defining when the assistance to the victims begins and ends, and to identifying the victims. The amendments are intended to confirm the tasks of the assistance system by law, in order to make the identification of victims and the assistance to them a more foreseeable and transparent structure with a clearer division of responsibilities, protecting the victims and safeguarding their human rights and equal treatment.</p> <p>See para. 89.28.</p>
<p>90.16. Provide a framework for prohibiting use of child labour by the Finnish companies engaged with businesses abroad and multinational companies headquartered in Finland (The Netherlands); See also comments below</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment</p>	<p>The Finnish Action plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights was approved by the Government in September 2014. As part of internationally recognised human rights, children's rights are a part of the Action plan as well as its implementation.</p> <p>As regards to business and human rights the Government has published various studies (including a study on Finnish legislation, international business and human rights), provided training both for companies as well as public officials, and established a human rights reporting obligation for state majority owned companies. The Government also organises multi-stakeholder round tables, where companies, non-governmental organisations, labour and trade organisations, and public officials together try to find the best practice to conduct due diligence in various situations. The round tables have clarified the meaning of due diligence in practice and build understanding between various stakeholders.</p> <p>In addition to this, the Government publishes country specific memos, which include also information on child labour issues in the said country. These memos are expected to support companies to be better prepared to various responsibility issues, especially when entering a so called risk country. The memos are available online in Finnish.</p> <p>All Governmental business and human rights actions cover all human rights, but with a special focus on most vulnerable groups, such as children.</p>


		<p>The Government also grants financial support to non-governmental organisations that promote children's rights, both in Finland and abroad.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Government publishes various materials dealing with children's rights available to business. For instance, the General Comment No. 16 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has been translated into Finnish and Swedish. The Government also maintains a regular dialogue with the business sector through the Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility functioning under the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment.</p> <p>Finland is active in the international dialogue on children's rights, which is regarded as one vital mean to promote these rights globally.</p> <p>As regards to multinational companies headquartered in Finland, they are expected to operate according to Finnish legislation. According to Finnish legislation, underage labour (children under 18 years) is regulated by Young Workers' Act (998/1993). The law divides young workers into three groups: 15 years old children, who have completed their compulsory education; 13–14 years old children, who are allowed to do light work, and 13 years old or younger children, who can with a permission from the regional administration work temporarily as a performer or assistant in art or cultural shows or other corresponding events. The Act covers sections on general provisions, admitting to work, contract of employment, regular working hours, overtime work and emergency work, maximum working hours, distribution of working hours, periods of rest, occupational safety and health, training and guidance, medical examination, evidence of a young worker's age, and a requirement to keep a list of young workers. Hazardous and dangerous work is regulated by a Government Decree (475/2006). The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has published a list on dangerous work for young workers. It is prohibited to employ an under 16 year old to do dangerous work. Older than 16 years old are allowed to do dangerous work only under specific conditions stated by the above-mentioned Decree. Compliance with both the aforementioned Act and Decree is supervised by the labour protection authorities.</p>
<p>90.18. Conclude the drafting of the Government bill on administrative proceedings and the preparations of the client service strategy (Sweden); See also comments below.</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance</p>	<p>The legislation on compensation for excessively long proceedings has been extended to cover proceedings in administrative courts, too. The amended legislation took effect on 1 June 2013. Otherwise, the legislation on administrative judicial procedure has been reformed with focus on the development of the provisions on appeals.</p> <p>A Customer Insight Strategy for the Public was launched in June 2013. Despite the</p>






 <p><b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED</b></p>		<p>name, the content of the strategy is more of guidelines for developing customer oriented services in the public sector. It also contains policy lines to involve customers in service design. The strategy covers both the state and municipal services. With the strategy the Government aims at forming a shared understanding between the service providers on the principles of developing public services, at communicating these principles to the customers, and at enhancing their role in designing, producing and evaluating the services. The strategy includes the vision of developing customer services: "The services needed are available to the customer. The customer has an opportunity to be involved in designing the content and delivery of those services".</p> <p>The guidelines are grouped under five headlines: The customer is served according to his needs, the customer receives accessible and easy to use services, the customer can be involved in planning, developing and producing the services, service production is managed in a customer oriented manner, and services are produced cost effectively. Regarding different service channels the strategy states that public service providers have to ensure that the electronic service channel is the most attractive choice for a customer. Public service providers have to be determined to support customers in moving into the use of e-services. When needed an opportunity to face-to-face service is guaranteed.</p>
<p>90.19. Carry out independent investigations regarding the cases of violations of labour rights in the country, including in the area of forced labour and equal pay between women and men (Uzbekistan); See also comments below</p>  <p><b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment</p>	<p>See 89.15 and 90.20 (Equal Pay Programme)</p> <p>Discrimination in working life is prohibited according to section 8 of the Act on Equality between Women and Men (609/1986).The action of an employer shall be deemed to constitute discrimination, if the employer e.g. applies the pay or other terms of employment in such a way that one or more employees find themselves in a less favourable position than one or more other employees in the employer's service performing the same work or work of equal value. If an employer has violated this prohibition, it is liable to pay compensation to the affected person. Compensation has to be claimed by legal action in a District Court. Anyone who suspects that she/he has been discriminated against can request guidance and advice from the Ombudsman for Equality.</p> <p>Provisions concerning equality planning in workplaces (section 6a) have been improved and a new section (6b) on pay surveys in workplaces has been included in the Equality Act as from 1 January 2015. Pay surveys are to ensure that there are no unjustified pay differences between women and men working for the same employer and engaged in</p>

		<p>the same work or work of equal value. The amendments emphasize the rights of the personnel representatives within equality planning, and the employer is obliged to inform employees about the equality plan and the pay survey.</p> <p>See also paras 89.42 and 90.20.</p>
<p>90.20. Ensure equal pay for both sexes (Iraq); See also comments below</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment</p>	<p>See also paras. 89.42 and 90.19.</p> <p>The Equality Act prohibits gender-based wage discrimination, and includes the obligation to promote equal pay. The employer's statutory duty is to promote equal pay. In brief, the principle of equal pay usually means that for the same job or job of equal value the same wages must be paid regardless of gender.</p> <p>In Finland the tripartite Equal Pay Programme has been set up for 2016–2019 aiming to narrow the gender pay gap. If the current development continues, the average pay gap would narrow to 12% or lower across the labour market by 2025 by the latest.</p> <p>The programme 2016–2019 includes the most important factors pertaining to equal pay and measures to amend these issues. The pay and formation of pay can be influenced by pay and agreement policies, payroll systems, company specific equality planning processes as well by carrying out pay surveys. Efforts to increase the general knowledge of pay systems play a key role in narrowing the gender pay gap. The Programme also seeks to change the traditional gender division in education and the labour market by increasing a number of professions in which both women and men are equally represented, and by increasing the share of women in management and leadership positions. The third theme on the agenda concerns reconciliation of work and family life.</p> <p>The programme facilitates continuous evaluation and decision making for further actions as it gathers the leaders of social partners and Government representatives regularly around the same table in a purpose of addressing the issue.</p> <p>The Programme will carry out major research and development project regarding labour market agreements and policies, pay systems, gender division in education and the labour market and gender equality planning and pay surveys.</p>

<p>90.21. Mental health services in schools should benefit from sufficient resources and qualified staff in order to deal with problems affecting in particular adolescents, such as suicidal thoughts and nutritional or addictive problems (Belgium); See also comments below.</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Education and Culture</p>	<p>The work of school and student health care staff includes the promotion of pupils' and students' mental health. According to monitoring reports the mental health of both children and their parents has been regularly monitored in so called extensive health checks (grades 1, 5 and 8) in school health care since 2011. For example, almost all health centres used special measures for the assessment of needs in mental health, and one third for detections of eating disorders. The number of doctors and especially public health nurses in school and student health care has clearly increased in the 2010's.</p> <p>One of the Government's key projects "Programme to address the needs of children and families" (2015–2018) includes many measures to improve the well-being of pupils and students.</p> <p>The new Act on Pupil and Student Welfare (1287/2013) entered into force in August 2014. The Act consolidates the provisions on pupil and student welfare. The Act on Pupil and Student Welfare applies to pre-primary, basic, general upper secondary and vocational education. The new Act brings psychologists' and social workers' services to students in upper secondary education, too. A discussion with a psychologist or a social worker must be arranged within the statutory time limit of seven days. In urgent cases the discussion must be arranged on the same or the following day. The working hours of school nurses must be arranged so that they are available also without appointment. In addition, the Act has intensified the welfare work in school communities and given an important role in this task to multi-professional welfare groups nominated in every school. In order to target the measures in the community, the group collects data on health and well-being of the community. Among others, the National School Health Promotion Study provides data on pupils' and students' mental health. This study has shown that particular attention must be paid to the availability of mental health services at an earlier stage. For this purpose, special measures have been planned to improve mental health work in upper secondary and vocational schools. The ministry of Education and Culture will report on the implementation of the law to Parliament in spring 2018.</p>
<p>90.23. Establish a holistic legal and policy framework to guarantee the equal right of children with disabilities to access good-quality health-care services, public buildings and transportation (Iran);</p>	<p>Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Transport and</p>	<p>The services under the Health Care Act are equally available to persons with disabilities, too. The Government Decree on maternity and child health clinic services, school and student health services and preventive oral health services for children and youth, that entered in to force 2011, defines the health care services for children, youth and</p>

<p>See also comments below</p>  <p><b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Communications,          Ministry of the          Environment</p>	<p>families with the children, including children with disabilities. A special supervision programme has followed up the implementation of the degree until the year 2015. One of the key projects of the Government 2015–2019 is the “Programme to address child and family services”. The programme aims to enhance the wellbeing and individual resources of children, youth and families, including children with disabilities and their families.</p> <p>A working group under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has submitted its report on new legislation on services for persons with disabilities in 2015. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health continues its work to reform special legislation on services for people with disabilities. A Government Bill will be given to Parliament in autumn 2017. The Disability Services Act and the Act on Special Care for People with Intellectual Disabilities will be integrated into a single act. The key principle of the reform is promoting the inclusion and equality of persons with disabilities and reinforcing decision-making genuinely based on the needs of a person with a disability.</p> <p>See also para. 89.1.</p> <p>According to a Government Resolution, persons with intellectual disabilities have a right to housing similar to that of other municipal residents. Society must offer them the opportunity to live in individual housing, rather than in institutions or their childhood homes. This also requires that municipalities have individual services to replace institutional care. The housing programme for persons with intellectual disabilities (KEHAS) included the measures taken in 2010–2015 in order to achieve this goal. During the programme in the years 2010–2015 houses designed for about 3 400 persons with intellectual disabilities was produced. The programme objective is that no persons with intellectual disabilities will be living in institutions by 2020.</p> <p>On 1 January 2013 the Land Use and Building Act (132/1999) was supplemented with a new section 117e, obligating a party engaging in a building project to ensure that accessibility and usability, especially for children, elderly persons and persons with disabilities, be taken into account in the planning and construction of the building and its courtyard and areas for the enjoyment of residents. The Government Decree concerning accessibility of buildings is currently being revised. The aim of the renewal is to find a balance between obligations resulting from the principle of design for all and the costs of building. Accessibility requirements will purposefully be aimed at different building types in such a way, that the more public the uses of the building, the higher the accessibility requirements are. The revised Decree also aims at improving the clarity</p>
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		<p>and conformity of provisions and thus promoting compliance with accessibility requirements. The new Decree should enter into force in 2017.</p> <p>For a long time, one of the objectives of Finnish transport policy has been to mainstream accessibility into different forms of transport and projects on passenger traffic.</p> <p>Taxi services are regulated by legislation that obligates drivers to assist clients with disabilities, to ensure good service. The Taxi Act (217/2007) obligates licensing authorities to ensure a sufficient number of accessible taxis when granting taxi licences. The Act also lays down quality requirements that obligate drivers to take account of the special needs of clients.</p> <p>The regulation of bus and railway transport is mainly based on directly applicable EU Regulations, and the regulation of air and water transport mainly on international treaties and EU legislation.</p> <p>The Public Transport Act (869/2009) obligates the competent authorities to set target standards for public transport services, and bus operators to define the promised quality of their services. The latter obligation means that bus operators must announce how accessible services they can provide. Thus, they are not obligated to provide accessible services as such.</p> <p>Moreover, the Ministry of Transport and Communications has given a wide variety of instructions on e.g. comprehensive accessibility planning by local authorities, accessibility of travel centres, service know-how of public transport staff, and usability of different information services related to public transport. In this context, the Ministry has paid attention to the needs of persons with disabilities in different ways.</p>
<p>90.24. Address overcrowding in the immigration detention facility by increasing the capacity of the existing facility or by making additional facilities available to ensure proper treatment of those detained (Norway); See also comments below.</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior</p>	<p>The Finnish Immigration Service is responsible for managing and supervising the operation of the detention units. During 2014 the overall detention capacity will be increased by introducing a new 30-place detention unit at Joutseno Reception Centre. In the new unit it will be possible to place families and persons in a vulnerable situation in a separate department. In addition to the Joutseno Detention Unit in eastern Finland, another detention unit is available in Metsälä, in the metropolitan region of Helsinki. Furthermore, the amendments of legislation in force since 2015 and the Government Bill to be submitted to Parliament during the autumn session of 2016 are aimed to promote measures alternative to detention (see paras. 89.47 and 89.48).</p>

PARTLY ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATIONS		
Recommendation	Ministry	Implementation measures
<p>90.2. Develop and introduce specific measures directed at improving professional training of the staff of the children institutions, improving the legislation and practice in the provision of psychiatric treatment, as well as eradicating discrimination against ethnic minorities (Russian Federation); See also comments below</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Education and Culture</p>	<p>See para. 90.21. See also the separately submitted information on the reform of the Mental Health Act. The Ministry of the Interior has published a guide for equality planning for educational institutions, in order to improve the skills of the institution staff to promote equal opportunities for children and young persons at different levels of education.</p> <p>Every year the Government finances continuing training relevant to education policy priorities. In 2016 the focus of continuing training has been amongst other things on equality and multiculturalism. Student welfare and individual support are also priorities in further training.</p> <p>The Finnish Immigration Service manages and develops the operation of the reception centres e.g. by providing the staff with appropriate further training. The Service makes active efforts to eliminate any barriers to equality between different ethnic groups in the reception system.</p> <p>The new Act on Pupil and Student Welfare (1287/2013) entered into force in August 2014. For further information see para. 90.21</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Culture will make a report on the implementation of the law to Parliament in spring 2018.</p>
<p>90.15. Train educators and health workers in identifying signs of sexual abuse in children (Slovenia); See also comments below</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</p>	<p>The National Core Curriculum for Basic Education (2014) is taking into account that pupils are taught to protect their privacy and to set personal boundaries.</p> <p>The National Action Plan on Sexual and Reproductive Health for 2013–2020 sets as objectives to improve, in social welfare and health care services, the identification of symptoms caused by sexual violence and to improve the know-how of school staff and social welfare staff to identify sexual violence. Another objective of the action plan is to include information about sexual violence in compulsory studies in the basic education of different vocational groups e.g. in social welfare, health care, pedagogy and education.</p>
<p>90.17. Allocate additional resources to the judicial system as necessary to ensure timely due process</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>The public financial situation in Finland compels all branches of government to cut down on their expenses. The branch of the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary, too, are</p>

(USA); See also comments below




**IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS**


affected by these cuts. In spring 2013, aware of the situation, the Ministry published a programme to reform the administration of justice in 2013-2025. The programme was prepared by a high-level working group, consisting of representatives of e.g. the judiciary, the prosecution service, the Finnish Bar and public officials. The goals of the Programme were updated in the summer 2016. The programme aims to ensure an operational setting where the judiciary can continue to function efficiently. At the same time, the programme aims to secure a high standard of the administration of justice and to ensure a reasonable length of proceedings in the future, too. The programme contains approx. 60 horizontal or sectoral proposals. Most of them have either a direct or an indirect effect on the efficiency of the administration of justice and thus also on the length of proceedings. The purpose is to increase the use of information and communication technologies, electronic services and electronic processes. In this context, the Ministry of Justice is e.g. carrying out a project to develop the steering of operations and document administration in the prosecution service and general courts. The police, too, will join this project. Moreover, processing chains and procedures are being developed both in courts and elsewhere in the administration of justice, to make them determined by the nature and requirements of each case. The programme also proposes structural and procedural reforms. A structural reform of courts of appeal and administrative courts took effect on 1 April 2014, with the purpose of making these courts equal in strength when it comes to heard cases, staff and resources. The preparation of the structural reform of district courts has been started in the 2016. The reform should come into force in the beginning of year 2019 and it aims: to enhance judicial proceedings, to reform the administration, to develop the vocational skills of professionals and to allocate resources more precisely.




The Finnish Act on Compensation for the Excessive Length of Judicial Proceedings (362/2009) entered force on 1 January 2010. Originally, the Act applied to civil and criminal matters considered in general courts of law. With an amendment effective on 1 June 2013, the scope of the Act was expanded to cover administrative and special courts as well as appellate boards, which are subject to the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996).



By all the development measures taken, the Government aims to ensure that because additional resources will hardly become available, the available resources are directed efficiently, taking account of the legal protection required by fundamental and human rights. Furthermore, the Government has taken legislative measures to ensure that

		<p>parties injured by unreasonably long proceedings may get financial compensation irrespective of the level of the court that adjudicated their matter.</p> <p>There is also a new programme to develop the Case Management System of administrative courts which aims to enhance and develop the actions, and affects the length of proceedings.</p>
<p>90.26. Investigate the cases of rendition flights where Finland's participation is suspected and bring to justice those involved, considering additionally the possibility of compensation for victims of torture in conformity with internal legislation and international legislation (Ecuador). See also comments below</p> <p> <b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>As indicated in our previous reply, Finland has investigated the expressed allegations that the Finnish air space or airports might have been used for illegal transports of persons since 2005, including a thorough investigation in 2011-2012. Those investigations were conducted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, with involvement of the relevant authorities. The material available to the Ministry did not, in any manner, support the allegations that Finnish authorities might have been party to illegal rendition flights in any way. With the means available to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs no evidence was found, either, to support claims that any aircraft transporting persons illegally had landed at Finnish airports. However, limited information available did not permit overall definitive conclusions concerning all flights.</p> <p>In 2012, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs forwarded the material collected during the investigations to the Parliamentary Ombudsman. The Parliamentary Ombudsman is an independent body exercising oversight to ensure that public authorities and officials observe the law and fulfil their duties in the discharge of their functions. The aim is to ensure good administration and the observance of constitutional and human rights. The Parliamentary Ombudsman initiated an investigation into the issue, and published his decision on the matter on 29 April 2014.</p> <p>According to the decision of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the Finnish authorities were not involved in the US secret prisoner flight programme. Nor was there any reason to suspect that Finnish territory had been used for prisoner flights knowingly to the Finnish authorities.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Ombudsman had no grounds for criticizing the Finnish authorities for not having tried to investigate the existence of prisoner flights adequately on the basis of the information available to them at the time.</p> <p>The investigation could not, however, give guarantees that none of the flights investigated had been a prisoner flight. It could not be ruled out that Finnish airspace or airports could have been used for rendition flights without the knowledge of the Finnish authorities.</p>



		<p>The Ombudsman stated that a substantial part of the specific information concerning the individual flights was no longer available because of lapse of time and changes in data systems. Thus, the details of the flights could not be investigated in greater depth. It is also possible that even though the flight plans for aircraft used for rendition flights may have indicated Finland as a stopover place, the flights never landed in Finland in reality.</p> <p>The Ombudsman proposes that the authorities heard in the matter should consider how they, by means available in their respective branches of administration, including international cooperation, could improve the capacity to identify possible rendition flights and to intervene in them.</p> <p>A summary of the Ombudsman's findings is included in a press release of 29 April 2014 entitled "Ombudsman finds nothing reprehensible about the actions of the authorities as regards rendition flights" that is found at the following address: <a href="http://www.oikeusasiamies.fi/Resource.phx/pubman/templates/5.htx?id=1046">http://www.oikeusasiamies.fi/Resource.phx/pubman/templates/5.htx?id=1046</a></p> <p>The findings were based on a comprehensive survey conducted by the Ombudsman, who had requested information from all the Finnish authorities that could have had knowledge of the issue.</p>
<b>REJECTED RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		
Recommendation	Ministry	Possible measures considered
<p>91.1. Adhere to ICRMW (Uruguay 3) /Expedite means and ways towards the ratification of the ICRMW as part of its international obligation in promoting and protecting the rights of migrant workers (Indonesia 2) / In conformity with article 77 of ICRMW, declare that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and examine the communications that allege that the rights of individuals protected by this Convention have been violated (Uruguay).</p> <p> <b>NOT IMPLEMENTED</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs,  Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment</p>	<p>None.</p>

<p>90.22. Introduce human rights education as a mandatory part of teachers' training (Slovenia); See also comments below</p> <p> <b>NOT IMPLEMENTED</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Education and Culture</p>	<p>None. See comments below provided during adoption.</p>
<p>90.25. That development aid must not be tied to conditionalities that do not take into account the traditional values of recipient countries (Namibia); See also comments below</p> <p> <b>NOT IMPLEMENTED</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>None. See comments below provided during adoption.</p>
<p><b>VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS</b></p>		
<p><b>Commitment</b></p>	<p><b>Ministry</b></p>	<p><b>Implementation measures</b></p>
<p>(a) Finland renewed its commitment, presented during the first universal periodic review of Finland, regarding the development assistance objective, as further elaborated in the national report for the second universal periodic review;</p> <p> <b>IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCESS</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>Finland renews its commitment on development aid. However, the fulfillment of the commitment and reaching the target of 0.7% development aid on gross national income (GNI) seems unlikely. Finnish development aid measured in euros was bigger than ever in 2013, reaching an estimated GNI-share of 0.56%. Finland's objective was to reach the 0.7 % share in 2015 by channeling all the proceeds from greenhouse gas emissions rights trading from 2014 onwards to development aid. Unfortunately the relatively low prices in emissions rights trading have resulted in lower revenues than expected. Finland however is still committed to reaching the 0.7% target in the long run.</p>
<p>(b) Finland is committed to more effective and systematic monitoring of the implementation of human rights. As part of this commitment, the newly established Network of Contact Persons for</p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>In June 2012 the Government set up the Network of Contact Persons for Fundamental and Human Rights, consisting of representatives from each ministry, the Office of the Government's Chancellor of Justice and the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman. The Network has convened seventeen times (by 18</p>

<p>Fundamental and Human Rights, composed of contact persons representing all Ministries, will monitor the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan and prepare the Government Report on Human Rights Policy. The network will analyse the situation of fundamental and human rights in Finland, including the implementation of Finland's human rights obligations and commitments, and the associated periodic reporting. The network will also review UPR recommendations; Finland has several good practices in the sphere of cooperation with civil society and other stakeholders on human rights. The network will provide an opportunity for further development of these partnership models;</p> <p> <b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED</b></p>		<p>June 2014) and discussed at the meetings e.g. the implementation of the national action plan on fundamental and human rights, the preparation of the Government's human rights report, the periodic reporting connected with Finland's international human rights obligations, the recommendations given to Finland, incl. the UPR recommendations, and other topical human rights themes.</p> <p>Moreover, the network has arranged a number of open seminars on fundamental and human rights and organised joint meetings with the panel of fundamental and human rights actors, consisting of representatives of non-governmental organisations, the Ombudsmen for different human rights and the national Human Rights Centre. The panel has contributed to monitoring the implementation of the action plan.</p> <p>In October 2015 the Government set up the second Network of Contact Persons, which has prepared the Government's second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights for 2017–2019. In February 2016 the network together with the Human Rights Centre organized a hearing concerning the preparation of the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights. Another open hearing on the National Action Plan was arranged in September 2016. The Network has organized a joint meeting with an informal network of NGO's and has heard the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the Chancellor of Justice and the special ombudsmen (Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, Ombudsman for Equality, Ombudsman for Children and Data Protection Ombudsman) on their views concerning human rights issues in Finland. The Network of Contact Persons will monitor the implementation of the National Action Plan. A study on national fundamental and human rights indicators was published in October during autumn 2016.</p>
<p>(c) Finland is committed to present a voluntary interim report on the progress made in implementing the UPR recommendations to the Human Rights Council in 2014.</p> <p> <b>FULLY IMPLEMENTED</b></p>	<p>Ministry for Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>A voluntary mid-term report was submitted to the 26th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2014.</p>

## COMMENTS PROVIDED DURING THE ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN 2012

### 90.1. - ACCEPTED

With regard to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, a cross-sectoral working group, including disability representative organisations, is preparing the supporting documentation for proposing the ratification, with special attention to the need to create a well-functioning and efficient national monitoring system.

### 90.2. - PARTIALLY ACCEPTED

Human rights constitute a key element of the value basis for education in the core curricula that provide a national framework for formulating local curricula. Higher education institutions and providers of vocational education are responsible for educating personnel (including teachers) for institutions related to children. Higher education institutions are autonomous and decide by themselves on the content and nature of their education. The general objectives of vocational education are defined in the national curriculum, which offers a channel for developing the content of education. Employers have primary responsibility for arranging further education for teachers.

The Government is committed to preventing discrimination against ethnic minorities and has established structures for planning related measures and monitoring them regionally (e.g. the Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations (ETNO) and its seven regional Advisory Boards). A plan exists for promoting good ethnic relations at local level, and the National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights 2012–2013 includes a related project.

The first National Policy on Roma is intended to improve the inclusion and equality of Roma in different spheres of life. The first Integration Programme 2012–2015 promotes the integration of immigrants into Finnish society and underlines the need to facilitate their employment. An immigration policy strategy is under preparation.

Regarding mental health services, see response under 90.15.

### 90.3. – ACCEPTED

The current Finnish non-discrimination legislation requires that the production and contents of radio, television and other media be non-discriminatory. As to the social media and the Internet, measures are being developed continuously to prevent and combat inappropriate and discriminatory contents.

The Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women 2012–2015 contains numerous measures, e.g. to produce training materials and to conduct research. The results of the research will be used for highlighting the violence phenomenon and influencing attitudes. One objective of the Government's gender equality programme is to reassess, by the end of 2014, the need for regulation of advertising that violates gender equality.

### 90.4. - ACCEPTED

The Government lays great importance on eradicating racism, xenophobia and inequality, while underlining in mass communication contexts freedom of expression, protected by the Constitution, and the importance of active and courageous public debate conducted through mass media. Tolerance and equality are best promoted by multi-faceted and multi-voiced mass communication.

Finnish legislation determines only the external framework for freedom of expression. The mass media themselves are responsible for supervising the contents. The Council for Mass Media in Finland, as a self-regulatory body, interprets and promotes good journalistic practice. Criminal liability for an offence arising from the contents of a message

provided to the public lies with the perpetrator or accomplice, as defined in the Criminal Code. The punishment for an offence may be increased if the offence was motivated by e.g. race, colour, birth, national or ethnic origin or religion.

No systematic acts to distribute racist, xenophobic or islamophobic material have been identified in the Finnish press. Such acts are mainly attributable to individuals expressing their views in the social media or at other Internet sites (blogs).

#### **90.5. - ACCEPTED**

See response under 90.2. Roma representatives participate actively in the working group steering and monitoring the implementation of the National Policy on Roma. Each ministry implements the measures planned for its sector within the limits of its budget.

#### **90.6. - ACCEPTED**

See comments under 90.2. The National Policy on Roma aims at promoting the employment of Roma by different supportive measures providing more individual employment services and increasing adult education. Employers' attitudes will be improved e.g. by means of a media campaign in autumn 2012.

#### **90.7. - ACCEPTED**

See para. 2 and comments under 90.2. The State supports municipalities by steering of and counselling in equality planning, other training and information, and development projects.

#### **90.8. - ACCEPTED**

Non-discrimination legislation protects e.g. members of sexual and gender minorities against discrimination. This legislation is being developed to improve protection against discrimination on different grounds. The National Police College studies annually suspected hate crime directed against sexual and gender minorities and known to the police.

Under the Government's new gender equality programme 2012–2015, the Act on Equality between Women and Men is being supplemented with provisions promoting equality and protecting members of gender minorities against discrimination. In developing equality policies, the position of gender minorities is taken into account. A working group will be appointed to examine the need to amend the Act on Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals. The possible need to amend family legislation will be discussed.

#### **90.9. - ACCEPTED**

As regards the Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women, a cross-sectoral civil servant working group coordinates and promotes the prevention of violence in close relationships and family comprehensively. Each ministry implements the measures planned for its sector within the limits of its budget. Monitoring data from 2010 and 2011 show that in these years the measures were implemented as planned.

#### **90.10. - ACCEPTED**

See response under 90.9.

#### **90.11. - ACCEPTED**

See responses under 90.9 and 90.10. The tasks of the working group include e.g. highlighting the needs of families, children and youth and different vulnerable groups in work to prevent violence in close relationships and family.

A project (MARAk) is being carried out to reduce the risk of revictimisation among victims of partnership violence. The project influences indirectly the position of the family's children, too. Since Finland also has a national action plan to reduce corporal punishment of children, no specific national action plan is needed against domestic violence.

#### **90.12. - ACCEPTED**

See response under 90.9.

#### **90.13. - ACCEPTED**

See response under 90.9. The Criminal Code contains provisions on assault, petty assault and aggravated assault, punishable according to the seriousness of the offence. After an amendment of the Criminal Code made to reveal hidden domestic violence, in effect as from 2011, petty assault against children and in close relationships is always subject to public prosecution. The amendment has increased the number of assaults known to authorities and led to prosecution in cases that would earlier have gone unprosecuted.

#### **90.14. - ACCEPTED**

The Government considers it important to protect and assist appropriately victims of violence against women and human trafficking. The third Internal Security Programme 2011–2015 envisages e.g. increasing the number and regional coverage of services for victims of crime.

Legislative projects are going on regarding the criminalisation of human trafficking, an assistance system for victims of human trafficking, and special personal security. The Government's intention is that the Welfare Act under preparation will contain a provision on which the need for support because of violence in close relationship and family can be based.

Training is provided to authorities for strengthening their capacities to identify victims of human trafficking, to assist them and to refer them to the assistance system, in accordance with the revised National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and its recommendations. In practice e.g. the Border Guard refers persons to the assistance system, when necessary.

#### **90.15. – PARTIALLY ACCEPTED**

The legislation in force constitutes an excellent framework for identifying children's need for special support early and providing support. The Action Programme for Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health pays particular attention to the prevention and early identification of sexual violence.

The National Development Programme for Social Welfare and Health Care includes a sub-programme to reform services for children, youth and families, with particular attention to developing pupil and student welfare and mental health services. The Government is drafting a coherent act of Parliament on pupil welfare services, which takes account of the services provided by educational institutions and their municipalities. The Government's intention is that the availability of and cooperation between the pupil welfare services (including psychologists' services) be improved. The funding for ensuring pupil welfare services is planned in the Government's Basic Public Services Programme. The act is scheduled to take effect in the beginning of 2014.

Employers are primarily responsible for arranging further education for educational and health care staff. However, educational staff may attend further education funded by the Government. In this context the staff may be trained to recognise signs of sexual abuse in children, in support of the overall pupil welfare services. See also comments under 90.2.

#### **90.16. - ACCEPTED**

The Government's decision-in-principle on developing corporate social responsibility comprehensively in different sectors sets objectives for 11 subject groups. One group concerns strengthening the implementation of human rights treaties. Businesses are encouraged to observe the issued instructions and to respect human rights and rights in working life. In this context it is important to ensure that Finnish businesses operating abroad or cooperation partners of Finnish businesses do not use child labour in their production.

#### **90.17. – PARTIALLY ACCEPTED**

Fair trial requires completing the entire criminal proceedings within a reasonable time. Therefore, the resource needs of all procedural actors must be taken into account. The length of proceedings has been reduced e.g. by redirecting resources, amending legislation and preparing a comprehensive legal protection programme. Indicators for measuring the workload of courts are being developed jointly with the courts. However, only scarce additional resources are available in the current economic situation. Compensation is payable to parties to excessively long judicial proceedings.

#### **90.18. - ACCEPTED**

The Government proposal on reforming the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act is under preparation and will be submitted to Parliament during the electoral period. The scope of the Act on Compensation for the Excessive Length of Judicial Proceedings will be expanded to cover the administrative judicial procedure, too.

A client strategy for the public sector, as an instrument of dialogue between authorities and clients on the principles of service production and the inclusion of clients in the planning, performance and assessment of services, will be completed in spring 2013.

#### **90.19. - ACCEPTED**

The Act on Equality between Women and Men prohibits pay discrimination on grounds of gender. The Ombudsman for Equality and the Equality Board supervise compliance with the Act as independent bodies. Violations of labour rights are investigated by impartial occupational safety and health authorities and ultimately courts.

#### **90.20. - ACCEPTED**

The Government, jointly with employee and employer organisations, continues the equal pay programme to narrow the average pay gap between the sexes to at most 15% by 2015. Employers are obligated by law to promote equality and to give their employees equal pay and increments for the same work or work of equal value.

#### **90.21. - ACCEPTED**

See comments under 90.15.

#### **90.22. – NOT ACCEPTED**

Public authorities must, through different types of support measures, ensure access to human rights education for all sectors of society, including professional groups. However, in Finland the higher education institutions providing teacher education are autonomous, deciding by themselves on the content and nature of the education they offer. Therefore any requirement of a mandatory element, imposed to all higher education institutions, is impossible. See also comments under 90.2 and 90.15.

#### **90.23. – ACCEPTED**

The measures under Finland's Disability Policy Programme 2010–2015 concern, inter alia, health care and rehabilitation, built environment and transport services. The Government pays special attention to design for all (universal design) when developing building legislation and other legislative regulation, and in information steering and cooperation with different actors.

The Finnish Public Transport Act provides that the needs of different population groups, including persons with disabilities, must be taken into account in transport planning. Traffic contractors must e.g. define the services available to physically challenged passengers and the information provided on it. Future transport projects must support the equal opportunity of physically challenged and elderly persons to live and cope independently.

#### **90.24. – ACCEPTED**

The detention unit for persons detained on the basis of the Aliens Act, located in the Metsälä reception centre in Helsinki, has accommodation capacity for 40 persons, which is insufficient. Detained aliens are increasingly being kept in facilities of the police and the Border Guard, although this arrangement should be exceptional. The need to set up a new detention unit and/or to expand the capacity of the Metsälä unit has been recognized but it has not yet been realized due to a lack of finances.

#### **90.25. – NOT ACCEPTED**

Development policy is a central part of Finland's foreign and security policy, which aims at strengthening international stability, security, peace, justice and sustainable development, and promoting the rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights. The Finnish approach to development issues is based on human rights in line with the idea of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. This value-based development policy promotes the universality of human rights, everyone's right to make their choices in life independently, non-discrimination and equality. Finland emphasises the rights of women, children, ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities and indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS, and sexual and gender minorities.

#### **90.26. – PARTIALLY ACCEPTED**

Finland does not permit the use of its air space or airports for flights transporting persons in violation of human rights treaties or international humanitarian law. The Government of Finland has wanted to investigate, as thoroughly as possible and with all the available means, the expressed allegations that the Finnish air space or airports might have been used for illegal transports of persons.

Finland has investigated the allegations since 2005, and conducted the latest investigation in 2011-2012. Information was requested extensively from relevant authorities and the Embassy of the United States in Finland. All relevant flight data was made public on 3 November 2011 by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Since then the Ministry has also responded to new allegations expressed to it by non-governmental organizations.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has collected and published all available information on the alleged rendition flights. The material available to the Ministry has not in any manner supported the allegations that Finnish authorities would have been in any way party to illegal rendition flights. With the means available to us we have found no evidence either to support claims that any aircraft illegally transporting persons have without the knowledge of Finnish authorities landed at Finnish airports. At the same time, it is to be recognized that the allegations concern flights conducted several years ago and the limited information available does not permit overall definitive conclusions concerning all flights.

After exhausting all avenues of investigation available to it, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has concluded its inquiries in to the matter. Since these investigations have not disclosed anything to indicate illegal activity, Finland has no legal grounds for prosecution in the matter and therefore cannot accept the recommendation “to bring to justice those involved”.



The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has also forwarded the material collected during the investigations to the Parliamentary Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is now examining the matter. The Ombudsman is an independent supervisory body, and the Government of Finland cannot anticipate the outcome of the examination. The Government will await the conclusion of the review by the Ombudsman.

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