



REFERENCE: CERD/96th session/FU/AR/ab

30 August 2018

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 96th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Finland, pursuant to Article 9 (1) of the Convention, and Rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year of the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 19 and 25 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/FIN/CO/23), adopted following the consideration of the State party's twenty-third periodic report, at its 92nd session held in April-May 2017.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its twenty-fourth to twenty-sixth periodic reports, to be submitted in a single document by 13 August 2021.

Paragraph 19 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee thanks the State party for the information it provided concerning proposed amendments to the Sámi Language Act to secure existing language rights of the Sámi during the reorganization of government, health care and social welfare services. It also thanks the State party for the recent statistics on Sámi language nests in and outside the Sámi homeland, and for information on reforms establishing the right of children whose mother tongue is Sámi to receive early childhood education in the Sámi language. The Committee welcomes the State party's information that a budget of 2.2 million euros was allocated for Sámi language instruction in the Sámi homeland in 2017, and that there is an annual budget of 500,000 euros for Sámi language learning materials. The Committee notes the State party's information that while it is difficult to find Sámi

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teachers outside the homeland, distance learning opportunities are available to some extent. The Committee is, however, concerned by the State party's information that there may exist shortcomings in the provision of health and social services to Sámi, noting the State party's statement that these shortcomings cannot all be addressed through legislation.

The Committee encourages the State party to continue its efforts to enhance Sámi language education, including outside the Sámi homeland, and requests that the State party provide in its next periodic report additional information on these efforts and their results, as well as information about measures taken to enhance access to health and social services for Sámi.

Paragraph 25 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee thanks the State party for the information it provided concerning legislative protections for individualized assessment of *non-refoulement* claims, and on the work of the national reception system monitoring programme since January 2016. The Committee requests that the State party provide in its next periodic report statistics, disaggregated by nationality, on *non-refoulement* claims filed, denied and granted. It also requests that the State party provide detailed information on the availability of affordable health care services to undocumented migrants, and information on the shortcomings identified and remedied by the national reception system monitoring and assessment programme.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Nouredine Amir
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination