



Skibotn, Norway 27.11. 2018

To UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
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**Supplementary information from the Kvenland Association in Norway/
Comments on the report from The Norwegian National Human Rights
Institution (NHRI).**

**In relation to the hearing of the 23 / 24th periodic report of Norway on 5-6
December 2018. Related to The Supplementary information from the
Norwegian National Human Rights Institution to the UN Committee on the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination / CERD dated 5 November 2018.**

The Kvenland Association in Norway has studied the supplementary report from The Norwegian National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) Norway to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination / CERD in relation to the hearing of the 23 / 24th periodic report of Norway on 5-6 December.

We find that the Norwegian Institute for Human Rights appears to convey a false picture of the situation for children and young people of the Kven population in Norwegian schools. By writing about a "Comprehensive plan for strengthening the Kven language" and "The plan includes focused measures in kindergarten, school and higher education".

In this way, they create the impression that there are kindergartens, schools and higher education for Kven people in Norway.

This does not match reality. The fact is that there are no schools and kindergartens for Kven People in Norway. Only Norwegian and Sami have schools and kindergartens in Norway. The language of instruction in all schools and kindergartens have be Norwegian. Only for Sami children is an exception made. The Sami are given access to have their own kindergartens and schools. For other minorities this is not possible at all.

Kven language is not possible as an instructional language in any kindergartens or schools in Norway.

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Children of the Kven people must choose whether they want Norwegian or Sami as a school language. Afterwards, they can choose Kven language as a subject for up to 3 hours per week in in the two northernmost counties in Norway.

In kindergartens also, the Children of Kven must choose whether they want Norwegian or Sami kindergarten. Afterwards, they can choose to have Kven language as a subject for a maximum of 6 hours per week in Norwegian kindergartens. But this opportunity is also theoretical. In the whole country there is only two kindergarten who have been granted permission to try Kven language as a subject training in kindergartens 4 hours per week.

In our opinion, it is false information to describe these two kindergartens, as “focused measures in kindergartens”. And without mentioning that this two is normal Norwegian kindergartens where some Kven children are offered to learn Kven language up to 4 hours per week. The Kven children have then to be separated from other children while the training is in progress.

We would like to point out that it is not forbidden for Kven children to speak their language publicly. The teachers do not punish them if they do. But they are pressured to be in kindergartens where Norwegian children are in the majority.

It is not forbidden for Kven parents to create their own kindergartens. But the Norwegian laws and systems for funding schools and kindergartens make it practically impossible.

It is not our intention to bring The Norwegian National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in a bad light. We just want The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to get the right information about the situation for Kven children in school and kindergartens in Norway. In our opinion, this is discrimination of our children and a threat to the rights of Kven children to develop their identity.

We request that this letter will be brought to the members of The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for knowledge.

With best regards

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Leader Kvenland Association