



**“Council of Europe, National Human Rights Institutions,
Equality Bodies and Ombudsman Offices
Promoting Equality and Social Inclusion”**

10 -11 December 2015

**Hall A
Finlandia Hall
Helsinki, Finland**

PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Stereotypes, discrimination and inequality prevent individuals from having access to their rights. Human Rights based approach empowers individuals so that they are aware of and can claim their rights and increase the ability of duty bearers to fulfill their human rights obligations. This approach also creates accountability so that individuals can seek remedies when their rights are violated.

National Human Rights Institutions, Equality Bodies and Ombudsman Offices all have their role in promoting equality, fighting stereotypes and monitoring the implementation of Human Rights at a national level. Coordination and cooperation of the work of these independent bodies is critical in order to maximise the impact of their work on everyone, and especially on vulnerable groups in societies. Also their joined efforts at an international and regional level brings added value to the overall Human Rights agenda.

The purpose of this conference is to address ways in which national bodies can break their internal and external boundaries and remove stereotypes existing in societies in order to enable access to all Human Rights by all persons. How national bodies can help the international and regional intergovernmental organisations, and *vice versa*, in their work to improve the state of Human Rights in Europe will also be discussed.

Participants are invited to actively contribute to the discussions and provide good examples on, for instance, (i) actions against stereotypes, (ii) successful projects on Human Rights education, (iii) structural reforms or coordinated projects of national bodies. Positive experiences on influencing government policies, on implementing, evaluating and monitoring the results of national Human Rights action plans and on following up on national implementation of Human Rights standards more generally, will also be shared among participants.

Day 1 – Thursday 10 December 2015

8.30-9.00 Registration

Opening and Welcome

9.00-9.30

Chair *Carlien Scheele*, Chair of the European Committee for Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CDDECS)

Gianluca Esposito, Head of Equality and Human Dignity Department, CoE
Sirpa Rautio, Director, Human Rights Centre, Finland (NHRI)
Petri Jääskeläinen, Parliamentary Ombudsman, Finland (NHRI)

Session I: Stereotypes and Discrimination – Obstacles to Social Inclusion

9.30-11.30

Moderator: *Pirkko Mäkinen*
Equality Ombudsman, Finland

Panelist: **Stereotypes, structural inequality and human rights based approach**
Dimitrina Petrova, Executive Director, Equal Rights Trust

Media, Stereotypes and politics
Joshua Rozenberg, Legal Commentator and Journalist

Discrimination, intolerance and hate speech
Jonas Gunnarsson, General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBT people, Committee of Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

Discrimination in Europe
Petr Polák, Member of Equinet Board, Head of the Division of Equal Treatment, Public Defender of Rights, Czech Republic

Older women and multiple discrimination
Kyungsook Lee, Standing Commissioner, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea

Youth against multiple discrimination
George-Konstantinos Charonis, administrator, youth rights, European Youth Forum

Youth, Stereotypes and Discrimination in Sports
Klaus Heusslein, Co-President, European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation

Discussion

Coffee

11:30 – 11:45

Session II: Human Rights Education – Know your rights, use your knowledge

11:45 – 13:00

Moderator: *Majja Jäppinen*
Research Manager, Finnish League for Human Rights

Panelists: **RIGHTSINFO – an Innovative Way of Explaining Human Rights**
VIDEO

National Baseline Study on Human Rights Education

Kristiina Kouros, Expert, Finnish Human Rights Centre

Human Rights Education Toolbox

Maria Løkke Rasmussen, Senior Advisor, Danish Institute for Human Rights

HRE 2020 - Human Rights Education and Education Indicator Framework

Frank Elbers, Executive Director, Human Rights Education Associates (HREA)

HELP - Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals

VIDEO

Discussion

Lunch

13.00-14.30

Session III: National Bodies – Independent but cooperative

14:30 – 16:30

Moderator: *Debbie Kohner*
Secretary of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)

Panelists: **National Human Rights Structures – to promote and to protect**
Morten Kjaerum, Director, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Sweden

Ombudsmen making impact on the lives of individual citizens

Petri Jääskeläinen, Parliamentary Ombudsman, Finland

National Human Rights Bodies - One Structure for all

Ruth Gallagher, Head of Policy and Review, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Ireland

FRA and the EU promoting and supporting national structures

Thomas Schwarz, Deputy Head of Communication and Information, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

CLARITY – to find the right body to help you

VIDEO

Via video-link

National Human Rights Institutions working with global and regional intergovernmental structures

Alan Miller, Secretary of the International Coordinating Committee for National Institutions for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Chairperson of the Scottish Human Rights Commission

Discussion

Coffee

16.30-16.45

Session IV: NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLANS - To systematically plan and to guide

16:45 – 17:45

Moderator: **Nina Nordström**

Director, Human Rights Policy Unit, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland

Panelists: **National Human Rights Action Plans and systematic human rights work**

Lauri Sivonen, Adviser at the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, CoE

National Strategy on Human Rights and Action Plan for its implementation

Mariam Jajanidze, Adviser, Human Rights Secretariat, Georgia

Specific National Inclusion Strategies and National Human Rights Regime

Deaglán O'Briain, Principal, Equality Division, Department of Justice and Equality, Ireland

Discussion

Evening Program and Dinner on Thursday 10 December 2015
(all conference participants are invited)



18.15 Sibelius Exhibition in Musiikkitalo (red M on the Map) Foyer with a guide Ms. Paula Ranto
<https://www.musiikkitalo.fi/en/event/world-jean-sibelius>

An exhibition of a passionate violinist who was going to become a lawyer but ended up a composer. What was Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) like as a man and as a creative artist? The answer lies in stories told by his relatives, leading conductors, musicians, vocalists and Sibelius Experts.

Production of exhibitions by Pekka Hako Productions Ltd. in co-operation with Virka Gallery and Musiikkitalo.

**19.00 Conference Dinner in Musiikkitalo Restaurant
with cultural program breaking stereotypes**

“Signmark”

Signmark is a deaf Finnish rap artist and the first deaf in the world to get a record deal. His music is party hip hop that takes a stand. He has won several prizes and has promoted rights of persons with disabilities as a Special Representative of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

“Aila Duo”

Aila Duo sings folk pop in the Inari Sámi language, which is spoken in the northernmost part of Finland by only about 350 people. In 2014 they won the singing section at the Sámi Grand Prix, the biggest music competition in the Sápmi region and the new musician award of the international minority language song competition Liet international.

Day 2 – Friday 11 December 2015

Session V: IMPLEMENTING AND MEASURING IMPACT – Concrete results of Human Rights Work

9:30 – 11:45

Moderator: **Kirsi Pimiä**
Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, Finland

Panelists: **Graz- the First Human Rights City of Europe**
Ingrid Nicoletti, Officer in charge, Human Rights Council of Graz, Austria

Providing tools for decision makers on gender based violence
Helena Morais Maceira, Gender Mainstreaming Researcher, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

Implementing rights of persons with disabilities in practice
Liisa Murto, Kynnys ry, Finland

Is Britain Fairer? – Assessing Developments in Equality and Human Rights
Marc Verlot, Director for Research and Intelligence, Equality and Human Rights Commission, United Kingdom

Grassroots evaluation of effectiveness of Human Rights' implementation
Nicole Browne, Co-Director, Participation and the Practice of Rights, Northern Ireland

Cross-governmental coordination and cooperation with NGOs and civil society in preparation and implementation of the NHRAP
Johanna Suurpää, Director, Unit for Democracy, Language Affairs and Fundamental Rights, Ministry of Justice, Finland

Evaluation and follow up of the implementation of NHRAP
Pauli Rautiainen, Tampere University, Finland

Discussion

Session VI: SUMMING UP AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

11:45 – 12:15

Sirpa Rautio, Human Rights Centre
Carlien Scheele, CDDECS