

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 461 (2020)¹ Human rights handbook for local and regional authorities Volume II – Social rights

1. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe refers to:

a. the Declaration by the Committee of Ministers on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe, adopted on 17 May 2019 in Helsinki, reaffirming that the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, and the Congress carry out monitoring of commitments and act as guardians of human rights and democracy in their areas of competence;

b. Congress Resolution 427 (2018) on promoting human rights at local and regional level;

c. Congress Resolution 365 (2014) on best practices of implementation of human rights at local and regional level in member States of the Council of Europe and other States;

d. Congress Resolution 296 (2010) Revised and Recommendation 280 (2010) Revised on the role of local and regional authorities in the implementation of human rights;

e. the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 3 on good health and well-being, Goal 4 on quality education, Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities, Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and Goal 17 on partnerships for the goals;

f. The second volume of the Human rights handbook for local and regional authorities.

2. The Congress, as part of its efforts to strengthen local and regional democracy in Europe and beyond through the promotion of a human rights-based approach to grass-roots' policy making:

a. emphasises the vital role played by grass-roots' authorities in ensuring citizens' access to social rights, delivering social services and contributing to social cohesion;

b. endorses the second volume of the Human rights handbook for local and regional authorities on social rights as a means to offer guidance and assist local and regional authorities and their administrations in fulfilling social rights, including in their response to the Covid-19 pandemic;

c. invites local and regional authorities and their administrations in Council of Europe member States and other States with which the Organisation carries out co-operation activities to disseminate, promote and use this handbook in their local and regional policies;

d. asks its Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by member States of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (Monitoring Committee), in co-operation with other Congress bodies and relevant bodies of the Council of Europe, to prepare the third volume of the Human rights handbook for local and regional authorities.

1. 1. Debated and adopted by the Statutory Forum on 7 December 2020, (see Document CG-FORUM(2020)02-07, explanatory memorandum), rapporteur: Harald BERGMANN, Netherlands (L, ILDG), Congress Spokesperson for Human Rights.