

**STATUTORY FORUM****Human Rights Handbook for local and regional authorities  
Volume II – Social Rights**

Resolution 461 (2020)<sup>1</sup>

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 of Local and Regional Authorities carry out monitoring functions and act as guardians of human rights and democracy in their areas of competence;
  - b. Congress Resolution 427 (2018) “Promoting human rights at local and regional level”;
  - c. Congress Resolution 365 (2014) on the “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 for good health and well-being, Goal 4 for quality education, Goal 11 for sustainable cities and communities, Goal 16 for peace, justice and strong institutions and Goal 17 for partnership 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;
3. Emphasising the vital role played by grass-roots’ authorities in ensuring citizens’ access to social rights, delivering social services and contributing to social cohesion:
  - a. endorses the second volume of the Human Rights Handbook on social rights to offer guidance to assist local and regional authorities and their administrations in fulfilling social rights, including in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - b. invites local and regional authorities and their administrations in the 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;
  - c. asks its 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.

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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.