

Report on visit to Norway

19 to 23 January 2015

Persons with disabilities



Positives

- » ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2013
- » long-time promotion of community living, development of universal design & accessibility
- » strong legal framework against the discrimination of people with disabilities
- » policies to reduce the use of coercion in mental health care

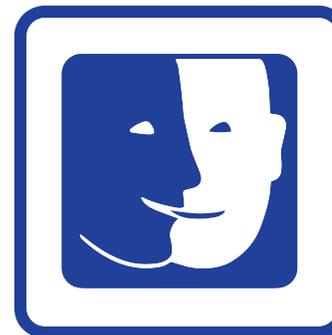
Recommendations

- » develop together with people with disabilities new systems for supported decision-making, based on individual consent
- » revoke plenary guardianship & full incapacitation regimes
- » reform legislation on involuntary placements to apply objective & non-discriminatory criteria
- » reduce drastically the recourse to involuntary medical treatment & restraints
- » medical treatment should be based on free & fully informed consent



Concerns

- » implementation of the CRPD falls short of some of its key objectives - promotion of the self-determination, legal capacity & equality of people with psycho-social and intellectual disabilities
- » Guardianship Act still enables substituted decision-making
- » guardianship model hinders the development of supported decision-making alternatives
- » frequent use of involuntary placements and medical treatment without consent in psychiatric care



Romani people/Taters, Roma and Roma immigrants



Positives

- » Government Commission set up to establish a shared understanding of past injustices & abuses with the active involvement of Romani people/Taters



Concerns

- » past assimilation policies of Romani people/Taters and their current discrimination on the labour market
- » Roma community in Oslo faces difficulties in accessing education, employment & housing
- » child protection measures are frequently applied to separate Roma children from their families
- » municipal bans on begging and “sleeping rough” are discriminatory towards Roma immigrants
- » manifestations of anti-Gypsyism & hate speech

Recommendations

- » address past injustices and eradicate current discrimination against Romani people/Taters
- » build trust between the Oslo Roma community and the authorities & involve Roma in addressing problems
- » develop programmes for mediators & teaching assistants to improve the school attendance of Roma
- » provide family support measures to Roma parents and review the human rights compatibility of Roma childrens’ alternative care decisions
- » reconsider municipal bans on begging and “sleeping rough” & ensure the sufficient availability of emergency accommodation to persons in need of shelter
- » firmly condemn all instances of racist and xenophobic speech
- » enhance the mandate of the Equality and Non-discrimination Ombud to provide assistance & legal representation to victims of discrimination