



General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 March 2023

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Fifty-second session
27 February–31 March 2023
Agenda item 6
Universal periodic review

Written submission by the Finnish National Human Rights Institution*

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the Finnish National Human Rights Institution **, reproduced below in accordance with rule 7(b) of the rules of procedures described in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, according to which participation of national human rights institutions is to be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005.

* National human rights institution with A status accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

** Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.



Annex

Submission by the Finnish National Human Rights Institution

Mr. President,

1. This statement is made on behalf of the Finnish Human Rights Centre, representing the National Human Rights Institution of Finland¹.
2. We welcome the adoption of Finland's fourth UPR report. We thank the Government for the open dialogue with us, and the civil society during the preparations for UPR but regret that due to lack of resources, no hearing was organised before Finland gave its responses to the recommendations.
3. Finland continued to receive several recommendations to better tackle discrimination, hate speech, hate crimes and domestic and gender-based violence. The Government accepted many of the recommendations but noted some related to prompt investigation measures and identification of cases. The Finnish Human Rights Centre wishes to underline that ensuring efficient criminal procedures and access to justice of victims should be a priority of any initiative aiming to strengthen rule of law in Finland.
4. Furthermore, the situation of the Sami was considered in several of the recommendations. Finland accepted the recommendations to reform the Sami Parliament Act. As the rights of indigenous peoples are a priority in Finland's foreign policy, the Government needs to ensure that this is equally reflected in its actions at national level.
5. Finally, parliamentary elections are approaching in Finland. The Government should consider the role of the Parliament in contributing to the implementation of UPR recommendations, and more generally to the discussion on the state of human rights in Finland.
6. In conclusion, the Finnish Human Rights Centre is committed to working with the Government to ensure the implementation of recommendations and will continue its own monitoring role.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ Finnish National Human Rights Institution is comprised of the Finnish Human Rights Centre (HRC), its Human Rights Delegation and the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland. Finland's NHRI has been accredited with A-status since 2014.