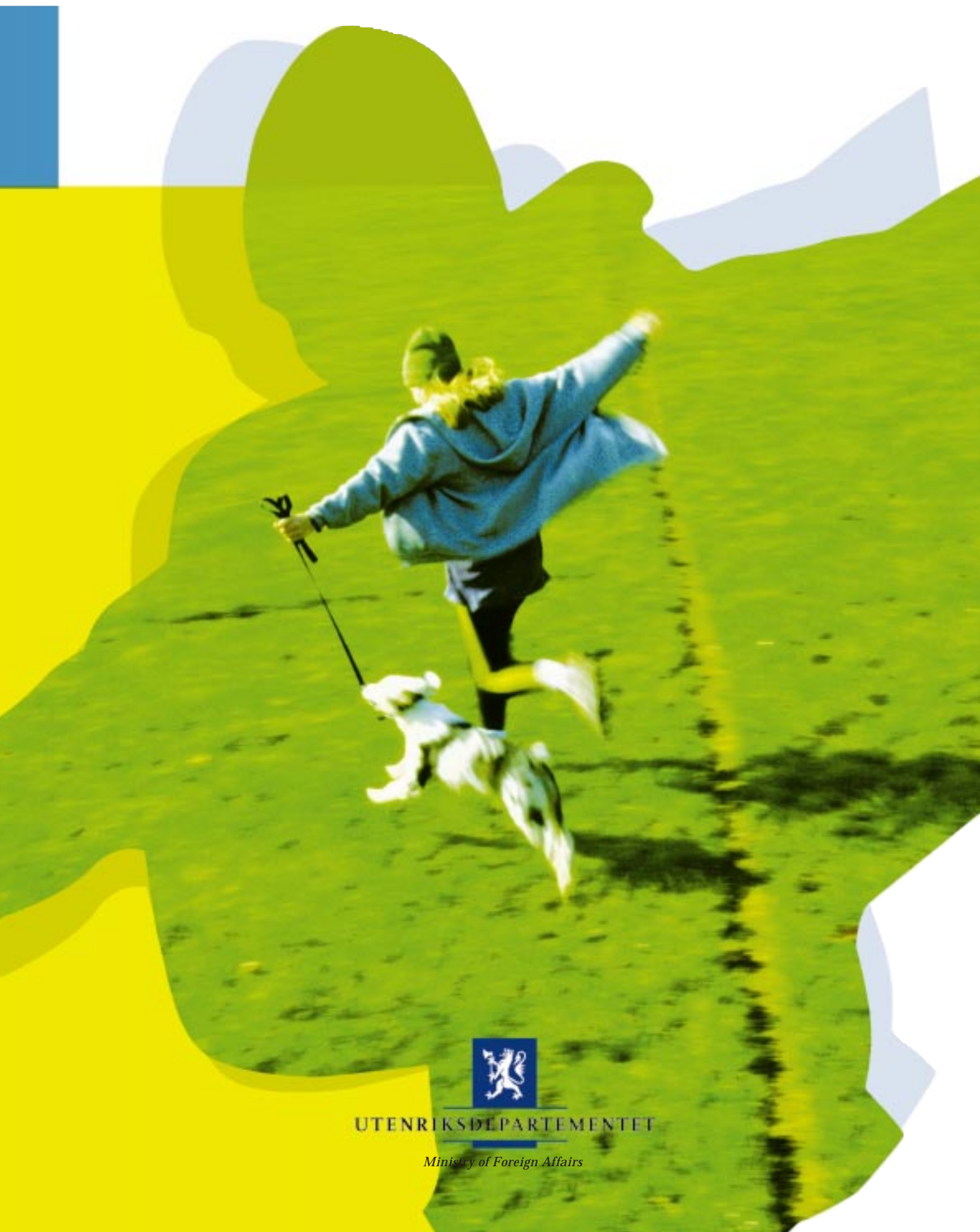


Human Rights 1999

Annual Report on Norwegian efforts to promote Human Rights



UTENRIKSDEPARTEMENTET

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Preface

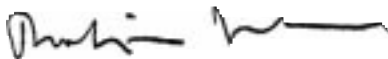
Human rights apply to everyone. They apply to women and men, children and the elderly, both in Norway and abroad. They apply regardless of the colour of your skin, where you live and what religion you belong to. It makes no difference who you love, whether you are disabled or whether you are an asylum-seeker.

I am hereby pleased to present the Annual Report on Norwegian Efforts to Promote Human Rights 1999. The report provides an overview of the areas in which Norway actively sought to promote respect for and observance of human rights in 1999, at home and abroad.

Human rights are a set of commitments concerning the standards and norms that are to apply at all times. These rights have been given to individuals, and the state has assumed an obligation to observe and respect them. Human rights are laid down in legally binding conventions with which Norway and many other states have undertaken to comply.

Norway is committed to promoting respect for human rights on a global basis. Increased respect for human rights helps to promote development and build peace. Our international efforts to promote human rights, whether through international agencies like the UN or in direct dialogue and cooperation with other countries, are an expression of our respect for human dignity and our solidarity with people in other countries and regions.

The Government has chosen to build on Report No. 21 (1999-2000) to the Storting: Focus on Human Dignity. A Plan of Action for Human Rights. We must safeguard the broad consensus as regards the main principles of our human rights policy. This annual report describes Norway's efforts in 1999, but it also tells what the Government will give priority to in order to promote human rights in the years ahead. We want to pursue an active human rights policy. In the time to come, our annual reports will be a measure of the extent to which we have succeeded.



Thorbjørn Jagland
Minister of Foreign Affairs



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HUMAN RIGHTS IN

N O R W A Y



Summary

This Annual Report on Norwegian Efforts to Promote Human Rights in 1999 is a follow-up to the first Annual Report on Norwegian Efforts to Promote Human Rights, which concerned 1998. In order to include statistical material for the whole of 1999, it was decided that the Annual Report would be published in the last half of 2000. Our plan is for these Annual Reports to be used as reporting tools for the Plan of Action for Human Rights (Report No. 21 to the Storting (1999-2000)). Consequently, the layout of the Annual Report conforms to that of the Plan of Action. The Plan of Action was submitted in December 1999 and spans the next five years. It is therefore obvious that this Annual Report will not cover many of the measures described in the Plan of Action. However, many efforts were initiated during the preparation of the Plan of Action and can therefore be reported on in the Annual Report for 1999. The Annual Report is intended to be an important follow-up mechanism for the Plan of Action and to provide information about how the Plan is implemented in practice.

The Annual Report has been divided into two sections, national and international. The national section provides an overview of the work that has been done under the auspices of the Norwegian authorities in 1999 to promote compliance with our human rights obligations. For details of what these obligations consist of, please refer to the Annual Report for 1998. This Annual Report describes important measures in the legal sector and in the field of information, training and education. It also deals with the special priority areas in the Plan of Action. The various ministries are responsible for providing input for the report. Moreover, the ombudsmen that are most involved with Norway's human rights commitments and the Centre for Combating Ethnic Discrimination have been invited to contribute to this Annual Report.

The international section of the Annual Report concerns Norway's international efforts to promote human rights. They include contributing towards setting standards within the framework of international fora, cooperating directly with other countries on various human rights issues and providing financial support for human rights measures. There are separate chapters on human rights and development and on Norway's human rights efforts in relation to individual countries. The Annual Report also describes the Government's special priority areas for human rights in the international sphere.

This Annual Report on Norwegian Efforts to Promote Human Rights is intended to be a useful source of reference for everyone who is concerned about the national and international situation as regards human rights. Emphasis has therefore been placed on preparing an appendix to the report which contains statistics, a subject index, an explanation of abbreviations and a list of human rights organizations and website addresses.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT AND THE PLAN OF ACTION

The Plan of Action for Human Rights was submitted to the Storting on 17 December 1999. It is a follow-up to a recommendation from the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993. Norway is one of the first western countries to have produced such a plan. The Norwegian Plan of Action has a comprehensive approach because it covers both national and international measures to strengthen human rights and because it concerns both sets of rights: political and civil rights, and economic, social and cultural rights. The Plan of Action, which seeks to improve the situation both in Norway and internationally, comprises a total of 325 measures, fairly evenly distributed between the national and the international sections. The Plan of Action has aroused great interest and positive reactions abroad and has been translated into English.

Important measures relating to Norway include a proposal to implement four core human rights conventions in Norwegian law: the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (which the Storting's Standing Committee on Justice asked the Government to incorporate in connection with its recommendation on the Human Rights Act), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Plan also proposes a special Act against ethnic discrimination. Moreover, it proposes allocating to the Institute for Human Rights the role of a national, independent human rights institution. The Plan also includes special efforts in the field of human rights information, training and education in Norway, partly in response to a request from the Standing Committee on Justice in its above-mentioned recommendation. It also announces that a Resource Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be established in Finnmark County or Tromsø in northern Norway. Important international measures include support for a scheme to provide refuge for persecuted authors, strengthening human rights dialogues with China, Turkey and Cuba and establishing a dialogue with Indonesia and Vietnam, establishing a pilot project relating to practical observance of human rights by business and industry, and strengthening the human rights dimension in development cooperation.

The measures in the *national* part of the Plan of Action are concentrated in the following priority areas: discrimination and racism, Sami politics, national minorities, the rights of asylum-seekers and foreigners, remand in custody and the time required to deal with criminal cases, social services and health care, persons with disabilities, children, women, family life, homosexuals and lesbians, freedom of religion and belief, freedom of expression, adult education, the status of victims of crime and issues relating to biotechnology.

International human rights efforts focus on certain *vulnerable groups* – children, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, women, human rights defenders, minorities and indigenous peoples, lesbians and homosexuals; and on certain *specific themes* – capital punishment, torture, fundamental standards of humanity, discrimination and racism, freedom of religion and belief, the right to development, the right to education, legal safeguards, freedom of expression and labour standards.

The work on the Plan of Action has been coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All the ministries have contributed to the design of the plan and will be responsible for its implementation in their respective areas. Norwegian human rights organizations have also provided valuable input.

It is a condition that the measures in the Plan of Action will be financed from the ministries' budget, and any proposals for additional allocations must be submitted and dealt with in accordance with the ordinary budget process.



NORWAY E. Borgen/Scannpix

The Annual Report covers many areas, from for example discrimination and racism in the Norwegian part to the right to education in the international part.



KENYA Kissen Moller Hansen/Samfoto

REPORT FROM OMBUDSMEN

The Parliamentary Ombudsman

The Parliamentary Ombudsman, the Storting's Ombudsman for Public Administration, regards it as important to be able to contribute towards promoting the implementation of human rights, both in Norwegian administrative practice and internationally. Through his work on individual cases where human rights issues are raised, the Parliamentary Ombudsman helps to spread knowledge and understanding of the importance of Norway's international human rights commitments. The Storting's Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs has praised the Parliamentary Ombudsman's far-reaching information activities at home and abroad, since they make an effective contribution towards increasing awareness of the Parliamentary Ombudsman's important role, both in Norway and in other countries.

The Parliamentary Ombudsman also considers it important to provide information to countries wishing to develop their human rights protection. In the course of the year, the Parliamentary Ombudsman receives many delegations and individuals and informs them about democracy and human rights. In June 1999, the Parliamentary Ombudsman hosted a delegation from the Ministry of Supervision in China, who wished to learn about the Norwegian ombudsman system and other Norwegian supervisory and control institutions. In the course of 1999, the Parliamentary Ombudsman received delegations from Mongolia, Taiwan and Slovakia. He also participated in meetings and conferences abroad, thereby helping to disseminate knowledge of a democratic institution that can make an important contribution towards promoting human rights in many countries.

The Commissioner for Children

The mandate of the Commissioner for Children, "to safeguard the interests of children in society", is set out in the Act relating to the Commissioner for Children, which requires the Commissioner to ensure that Norwegian legal and administrative practice corresponds with Norway's obligations pursuant to both national legislation and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The work of the Commissioner for Children is focused on the need to give special priority to incorporating the children's perspective in all decision-making processes that concern individual children, and on the general conditions in which children between 0 and 18 years of age grow up. Efforts are based on the view that while children's rights are an integral part of human rights, they are not fully safeguarded through efforts to promote human rights alone.

Children's requests to the Commissioner for Children increasingly concern injustice, clarification of rights and proposals for changes that will improve their life situation. As a spokesman for children and young people, the Commissioner for Children seeks to include their input in political and practical action.

The status report *Barns Beste* (The Child's Best Interests), published on 1 September 1999, focuses on areas of life where the interests and rights of children lose out in competition with the rights of adults, for instance in the criminal courts, schools, the health service, the child welfare service and when parents separate or divorce.

The Commissioner for Children has also participated in relevant international cooperation on children and provided information about Norwegian experiences and issues. In 1999 there was close cooperation between the Nordic Commissioners for Children on various aspects of the concept of "The Child's Best Inter-

ests" in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The report on this joint Nordic cooperation is available in English and Norwegian.

Steps have been initiated to ensure that children's individual rights are strengthened in all areas of society, through the comments of consultative bodies and through input to members of the Storting, where the lack of reference to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Education Act has been pointed out.

A supplementary report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva was also prepared, submitted and followed up in 1999.

In 1999, the Commissioner for Children also followed up the work of the European Network for Ombudsmen for Children (ENOC) and helped other countries to establish Ombudsmen for Children.

The Gender Equality Ombud

The work of the Gender Equality Ombud is based on Act of 9 June 1978 No. 45 on Gender Equality. The Gender Equality Act is interpreted in the light of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which Norway has ratified.

Implementation of the Gender Equality Act involves dealing with individual cases and providing guidance and information about the provisions of the Act. In 1999, the Gender Equality Ombud dealt with 241 written complaints concerning alleged infringements of the Gender Equality Act. The Ombud also provided guidance for the general public and made a number of speeches on this subject.

In 1999, the Gender Equality Ombud published four issues of the news bulletin *Nytt om likestilling* (Gender Equality News), information in English on gender equality in Norway and a short version in English of the Gender Equality Ombud's annual report.

In 1999, the Ombud received delegations from China, Mongolia, Japan, Turkey and Cambodia and gave a speech to a delegation from South Africa. The Gender Equality Ombud also participated in the Norwegian delegation to the UN Commission on Women and in various conferences in other countries, including Turkey, Iceland and China and the OSCE's supplementary meeting on gender issues in Vienna. In 1999, the Gender Equality Ombud was a member of the EU's Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and of the CEDAW Committee.

The Ombudsman for the Armed Forces and the Ombudsman for the Civilian National Service

This Ombudsman scheme is designed to safeguard the rights of the individual in relation to the defence authorities and the Ministry of Justice as the administrative authority for the civilian national service. Through the Committee of the Ombudsman, the Ombudsman deals with cases of general interest, advises the Storting, Ministers and the Chief of Defence regarding personnel obliged to perform national service, and deals with complaints from individuals.

In the past few years, the Ombudsman for the Armed Forces has found particular reason to point out the need for more doctors in the defence forces and has recommended that special recruitment measures be initiated to fill doctors' posts in the defence forces in northern Norway.

The Ombudsman also considers adult education services in the defence forces to be a human rights issue and has recommended to the Storting that such services be maintained and further developed in cooperation with the civilian school system and the employment sector in general.

The Centre for Combating Ethnic Discrimination

The Centre for Combating Ethnic Discrimination is a public office established by Royal Decree on 11 September 1998. The main purpose of the Centre is to ensure that individuals are protected against discrimination.

The Centre has three different responsibilities: it must provide legal aid for people who believe themselves to be the victims of ethnic discrimination, provide evidence of what kind of discrimination and where discrimination takes place in Norway, and present proposals for measures to prevent discrimination in society.

In the Centre's mandate, ethnic discrimination is defined as negative discriminatory treatment on grounds of religion, race, skin colour or national or ethnic origin. The Centre's work is based on the UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which has been ratified by Norway.

The Centre seeks to strengthen the protection of individuals against violations of their individual human rights by providing legal aid. In 1999 the Centre for Combating Ethnic Discrimination dealt with 179 individual complaints. Through these legal aid services, first-hand information is obtained about how discrimination manifests itself in various areas. Discrimination on the labour market is the area about which the Centre receives most complaints (26%). These cases included harassment at the workplace and discrimination relating to recruitment, promotion or dismissal. Another large group concerned relations between the police and minorities (18%). Some of these cases concerned unnecessary use of force, racist language and immigrants being regarded as less trustworthy than ethnic Norwegians. The Centre also received complaints about discrimination by the social services and national insurance authorities (14.5%), and discrimination on the housing market (4%), in schools (7%) and in relation to the administration of the Immigration Act (12%).

The results of legal aid provided in 1999 varied from case to case and from client to client. In half of the above-mentioned 179 cases, the Centre met the clients' need for information about their rights and obligations. In about forty cases, the Centre's efforts led to financial compensation, compensation for non-pecuniary damage, the reversal of administrative decisions, changes in the practice of the opposing party or an apology. Twelve cases were brought before the courts.

The Centre for Combating Ethnic Discrimination is responsible for providing evidence of the type and scope of discrimination in Norway. Minority organizations and specialized agencies that have direct contacts with people with minority backgrounds provide information to the Centre about problem areas that require special follow-up. The Centre also gathers information from newspapers, radio and television.

In 1999, the Centre for Combating Ethnic Discrimination discovered how the current regulations function in practice. It found that they do not offer victims adequate opportunity to react if they are the victims of ethnic discrimination in restaurants, bars, discothèques, night-clubs, etc., on the labour market or on the housing market and therefore do not provide genuine protection from ethnic discrimination. On the basis of its experience and knowledge, the Centre will be providing advice and proposals in connection with the work currently in progress on an Act prohibiting ethnic discrimination.



NORWAY Tone Georgsen/Scampix

The Centre for Combating Ethnic Discrimination provides documentation of various aspects of the way immigrants are treated in Norway.



NORWAY Scampix

CONSULTATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH NORWAY'S FOURTH PERIODICAL REPORT TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

On 19 October 1999, Norway was examined by the UN Human Rights Committee with respect to Norway's fourth periodical report on the implementation of its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In general, the Committee stated that Norway maintains a high standard in safeguarding human rights. Norway was praised for a detailed report in which it criticized itself on several points.

The Human Rights Committee asked a long series of questions relating to the Human Rights Act, minorities and the Sami people, the duration of remand in custody and the use of restrictions for remand prisoners, and the use of coercion in respect of the mentally retarded and psychiatric patients. The Committee also requested information on the Christian Knowledge and Religious and Moral Education subject, freedom of expression, racism and policy relating to asylum-seekers and refugees, children's right to know their biological parents and the questioning of children in cases concerning sexual abuse.

In its report on the examination, the Human Rights Committee underscores several positive aspects, including the Storting's adoption of the Human Rights Act and the preparation of a plan of action for human rights and annual reports on Norway's efforts to promote human rights. Measures to ensure gender balance in various occupational groups and to reduce immigrant unemployment were welcomed. Improved routines for questioning children who have been sexually abused are also mentioned as a positive development. Moreover, the Committee takes the view that there are certain favourable trends as regards protection of the human rights of the Sami people, such as the fact that the position of the Sami Parliament has been strengthened.

In its report, the Committee also makes recommendations concerning various aspects that it regards as negative. It points out that the time spent on remand is, in certain cases, extremely long, and recommends that an evaluation be carried out of the prosecuting authority's follow-up in cases relating to infringements of the racism provisions of Sections 135 (a) and 349 (a) of the Penal Code. Norway is also asked to withdraw its partial reservation to Article 14 No. 5 (appeal regarding the question of guilt). Moreover, the Committee takes the view that the provision in Section 2, paragraph 2 of the Constitution requiring parents who are members of the Church of Norway to bring up their children in the Evangelical-Lutheran faith is in contravention of the right to religious freedom. As regards issues relating to the indigenous population, the Commission concludes that the traditional ways of life of the Sami people do not appear to be sufficiently protected against competing public and private use of land.

MEASURES UNDER THE PLAN OF ACTION

Norway's ratification of human rights conventions and withdrawal of reservations

Norway signed the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as soon as the protocol was opened for signature on 10 December 1999. The Optional Protocol establishes an individual communications procedure for complaints concerning infringements of the provisions of the Convention. Work has begun with a view to Norway's ratifica-

NORWAY Anders Petersen/Samfoto



In 1999 Norway was examined by the UN Human Rights Committee. One of the topics was use of coercion in respect of psychiatric patients.

tion of this Optional Protocol and of ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, the revised European Social Charter and the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights.

Work on evaluating Norway's reservations to the human rights treaties to determine whether it may be relevant to fully or partially withdraw some of them did not commence in 1999.

Preparation of legislation that addresses human rights concerns

In order to ensure that new laws do not conflict with human rights, it is important that their relationship to human rights is explored sufficiently when drafting new legislation. A committee was established in May 1998 to consider changes in the Instructions for the Preparation of Legislation. In 1999 a new draft of the Instructions was submitted to the ministries. The draft contained a proposal that the relationship to human rights must be examined in cases where this is relevant.

New instructions, which require those preparing legislation to evaluate the relationship to human rights, were adopted by Royal Decree on 18 February 2000 and entered into force on 1 March 2000.

Revision of important legislation in the justice sector

The Ministry of Justice has prepared a draft of a new Act relating to the prison and probation service which was circulated for consultative comment on 14 March 2000. In connection with the measure in the Plan of Action for Human Rights concerning proposed new rules in the field of civil procedure, a recommendation is expected from the Civil Procedure Act Committee on 1 July 2002. The Plan of Action also contains measures to organise a review of the Criminal Procedure Act to evaluate the need for amendments in the light of Norway's human rights obligations. So far, no plan has been adopted to follow up this measure.

Evaluation of current regulations in the defence sector

A working group on human rights in the defence forces was established in 1999, consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Defence, Headquarters Defence Command Norway and the Director General of Military Prosecutions, among other things to evaluate relevant regulations in the defence sector and how they are put into practice. Particularly relevant here are the regulations relating to, and the use of, military detention.

In this connection, the working group has decided to undertake an evaluation of all aspects of military detention, which will entail examining both key legal provisions and local detention instructions, evaluating whether the regulations are complied with in practice and evaluating the premises that are used.

Liaison officers for human rights

A scheme has been established to provide liaison officers for human rights in every ministry. The liaison officers coordinate the ministries' work on human rights issues. This scheme helps to ensure continuity and institutional memory as regards human rights issues. The liaison officers are an integral part of the ongoing work in each ministry. Consequently, no new posts for liaison officers have been established, but persons have been appointed to assume this function in addition to their ordinary responsibilities.

The right to re-open a case after it has been tried by a treaty body

The proposal to change the right to re-open a case when previous processing was in contravention of the legal process requirements pursuant to international law has been circulated for consultative comment. The Ministry of Justice intends to follow up the consultation process with a Proposition to the Odelsting in spring 2001.

Procedures for dealing with requests to re-open a criminal case

Proposals for changes as regards which court is to deal with requests to re-open a criminal case were circulated for consultation with a time-limit of 1 September 1996. A new memorandum proposing a special right to appeal similar to the Danish model was circulated for consultation with a time-limit of 1 July 1999. In the light of the comments of those consulted, the Ministry of Justice decided to further examine the possibility of a special body to deal with such cases similar to the British model. In this connection, representatives of the Ministry's Department of Legislation visited the Criminal Cases Review Commission in Birmingham and had discussions with representatives of the Home Office in December 1999. The Ministry of Justice circulated the report for consultative comment in summer 2000.

The need for legal aid

When violations of human rights are claimed, in a large majority of cases it will be the public authorities that are the counterpart. In Report No. 25 (1999-2000) to the Storting relating to free legal aid, the Ministry of Justice has therefore proposed examining the possibility of introducing a statutory right to free litigation in civil cases concerning alleged infringements of human rights. It also proposes that the existing right to legal aid to bring complaints before international appeals bodies be defined and made clear in statutory rules. This may also apply to complaints originating from criminal cases.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Justice has established two trial projects with a view to strengthening guidance and information relating to the rights of persons with disabilities. The projects are part of Norway's follow-up to the UN's Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, which were implemented after the Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities (Report No. 34 to the Storting (1996-97)) showed that there was a large gap between the UN's standard rules and Norwegian policy in this area. One of the projects is based in the Norwegian Federation of Organizations of Disabled People, the other in the Norwegian Association of the Disabled. The purpose of both trial projects is to advise persons with disabilities on their rights and to collect information on their legal aid needs.

Representation in the courts

The Ministry of Justice has initiated a review of the lay judge system, including an evaluation of the use of persons with different ethnic backgrounds as lay judges. This work will continue until 2003.

Provisional establishment of an ombudsman for the elderly and an ombudsman for the care of the elderly and persons with disabilities

On the basis of a Storting resolution which dealt with a proposal to establish a national ombudsman for the elderly, a development programme has been initiated to try out ombudsman schemes for the elderly and for the care of the elderly and persons with disabilities. The primary responsibility of the ombudsmen is to



NORWAY Jan Petter Lyndu/Scampix

Much work remains to be done to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities.

assist people who need the help of the health and social services and/or their relatives with complaints relating to this sector, investigate conditions that they find unsatisfactory, and help to formulate complaints which are then sent to the appropriate administrative appeals body. They may take up individual cases on their own initiative and must provide information about situations that may weaken the case of individuals in the municipality. The ombudsmen may also actively seek out cases.

The Government will try out the scheme of municipal ombudsmen for the elderly and ombudsmen for care of the elderly and persons with disabilities in the period 1999-2002. In this connection, cooperation has been established with the Norwegian Association of Local Authorities. The trial project will provide a basis for systematically evaluating the lessons learned from various ombudsman schemes and will reveal whether there is a need for a permanent ombudsman scheme and, if so, which models work best.

INFORMATION, TRAINING AND EDUCATION

In connection with the adoption of the Human Rights Act in April 1999, the Storting asked the Government to prepare a "general plan of action to provide information, training and education with a view to protecting and promoting human rights in Norway". It was decided that measures relating to information, training and education would have a central place in the Plan of Action for Human Rights that was being prepared.

Providing information about human rights in education and training

In the educational system, information about human rights is provided within the framework of existing laws and curricula. The educational system in Norway, including legislation and regulations in this area, was the subject of comprehensive reforms in the 1990s. This has contributed towards enhancing the position of the human rights perspective in the curricula for the various educational levels. Through a reform of compulsory education adopted in 1997, for example, new curricula were prepared for 10-year primary and lower secondary education. From the 1999-2000 school year, these curricula were introduced at all levels. Human rights are an important area in these curricula. In connection with the reform, new textbooks have also been published in all subjects..

The new Education Act (Act relating to Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary Education), which entered into force on 1 August 1999, does not explicitly mention human rights, but nevertheless states that "teaching shall further the equal status and equal rights of all human beings, intellectual freedom and tolerance, ecological understanding and international co-responsibility". The Education Act entered into force in the 1999-2000 school year.

As part of the reform of the school system, revised framework plans and regulations were also prepared for teacher training. The framework plans have a common introductory section in which human rights principles are referred to as a natural part of the value base upon which teacher training must be based. The framework plans and associated regulations were laid down by the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs and entered into force on 1 August 1999.

New elective subjects in upper secondary education

In 1999 the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs worked on plans for the introduction of new elective courses on democracy and human rights in upper secondary schools. Proposals for the curriculum for the new elective course have been prepared by the Egil Rafto House Foundation for human rights and were circulated for consultation in autumn 1999.

A curriculum for a new national elective subject in upper secondary schools on North-South Relations was also prepared in 1999. This elective subject will also be a valuable supplement to other subjects relating to human rights issues in upper secondary schools. The North-South Relations course will particularly focus on issues related to development, resources and values. Both elective courses will be offered from the 2000-2001 school year.

Further training for teachers

The Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs emphasises that human rights must be part of one or more common priority areas for the further education and training of teachers in primary, lower secondary and upper secondary schools and in teacher training institutions. Important principles for this are laid down in the Ministry's list of priorities for further education and training in 2000, which were adopted as early as May 1999 and provide the basis for these institutions' planning of further training measures. At the beginning of 2000 there were therefore several concrete plans for further education measures in the human rights area under the auspices of the Section for Continued Training of Teachers at Network Norway Council (a national advisory body on higher education), which receive funding from the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs.

The human rights knowledge base

Research programme on human rights in Norway

Up until now there has been no full overview of ongoing research into human rights in Norway. In autumn 1999, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs therefore commissioned a status report from the Research Council of Norway. The report provides a good overview of Norwegian groups that are doing research into human rights in Norway and the expertise that exists in the various groups. The report shows that a great deal of good human rights research is taking place, although the stated theme of the research is not always human rights. The report also identifies issues and concerns that have so far not been sufficiently researched. It concludes with a recommendation for the preparation of an inter-disciplinary research programme on human rights in Norway.

The Norwegian Institute for Human Rights

Report No. 21 (1999-2000) to the Storting recommends gradually increasing the basic allocation for the Norwegian Institute for Human Rights from 2000 onwards and, after a detailed evaluation of its future tasks and organization among relevant ministries and expert institutions, giving the institute the status of a National Institution for Human Rights in 2001. So far, this has been followed up by increasing the basic allocation for the institute by NOK 0.5 million in the government budget for 2000.

Information and awareness-raising

Value-based, awareness-raising activities are a vital element of all educational programmes. Such activities are not always directly related to human rights but contribute indirectly towards building up respect for human rights and highlighting

the values upon which human rights are based. A comprehensive teaching folder on human rights issues was prepared in connection with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1998. This folder was well received and frequently used in human rights teaching in schools in the 1998-99 school year.

In 1999 the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs allocated NOK 250,000 to support the conference Higher Education for Peace, which was jointly arranged by the University of Tromsø, Tromsø College and the Norwegian UNESCO Commission in Tromsø from 4-6 May 2000. The conference focused on human rights in education for peace and was arranged as a follow-up to UNESCO's World Conference on Higher Education in Paris in 1998.

Strengthening awareness of human rights in the Defence Forces

A working group consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Defence, Headquarters Defence Command Norway and the Director General of Military Prosecutions has been established to consider training schemes for military personnel in order to prevent violations of and promote human rights.

Various courses for the central government administration

Human rights seminar for the central government administration

As a first step in the effort to raise the awareness of central government employees of their responsibility for protecting human rights in their own sectors, the Directorate of Public Management (Statskonsult) arranged a seminar in February 2000 on the theme "Protecting human rights – how can the central government administration contribute?". The main focus of the seminar was to shed light on Norway's human rights obligations and how they are implemented in Norway. More than 40 employees from a broad cross-section of the central government administration attended the seminar.

Course on human rights for all employees of the Ministry of Justice

The need for a course has been defined.

Continuation of a course on refugees' rights for employees of the Directorate of Immigration

Two employees have recently passed an examination in human rights at the University of Oslo. Employees of the Directorate of Immigration might also apply to take part in courses in 2000. Priority is given to this area.

Courses on human rights for the Ministry of Justice's Immigration Department

The first course was held in autumn 1999 and was arranged by the Ministry of Justice's Immigration Department. The Attorney-General and representatives of the Ministry's Department of Legislation gave lectures and were responsible for the professional content. The course was a success. Consideration is being given to offering the course to the Directorate of Immigration.

Implementation of a training programme for employees dealing with applications for asylum

The Directorate of Immigration introduced this programme in March 2000.

SPECIAL PRIORITY AREAS

Discrimination and racism

The parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 21 December 1965, which include Norway, have committed themselves to pursuing a policy aimed at abolishing racial discrimination in all its forms. There are several other international provisions that obligate Norway to combat and eliminate discrimination. Nevertheless, racism and discrimination exist, and an active, continuous effort is therefore necessary to ensure that everyone has equal rights, opportunities and duties to utilize their resources and participate in society. In 1999, the Government implemented the following measures:

Action Plan to Combat Racism and Discrimination

In 1998 the Government then in power presented the Action Plan to Combat Racism and Discrimination (1998-2001). This plan covers measures targeting the judicial apparatus, labour market, housing market, schools, key sectors of public administration, basic and further education for selected vocational groups and activities in local communities. At the end of 1999, work had commenced on most of the measures in the plan, which designates the parties responsible for each measure. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has overall responsibility for following up the plan.

Schools

Steady, long-term efforts to combat discriminating and racist attitudes are important, and the Government's Action Plan to combat racism and discrimination comprises measures that target primary and secondary schools as important priority areas. Schools are to promote equal opportunities for all and contribute actively towards eradicating racism and discrimination. The new framework plans for teacher training that were established by the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs with effect from 1 August 1999 emphasize the fact that the work of teaching in a multicultural society entails new challenges for teachers and administrative personnel at all levels of the educational system. Migration policy and efforts to combat racism and discrimination in a multicultural school environment and society are therefore obligatory topics in the new framework plans.

Work in local communities and the promotion of sound attitudes

In 1999 the Directorate of Immigration (UDI) continued to work closely with NGOs and trade unions in promoting sound attitudes.

The Interdisciplinary Advisory Service was established in 1996 to provide advice and counselling in connection with local efforts to combat racism and xenophobia. In 1999, the UDI increased funding in order to follow up the advisory service with a new brochure and better marketing. The aim is to make the brochure more widely available to local communities where there are government reception centres for refugees and asylum-seekers. Towards the end of 1999, the UDI received numerous inquiries concerning its work with local communities and the Advisory Service from other countries, such as Germany and Sweden, who wish to establish a similar service.

In 1999, the UDI published a handbook on local community efforts to promote sound attitudes based on UDI-funded measures. This book, which has been in great demand, is designed to increase knowledge of methods and instruments for combating racism and discrimination at the local level.



NORWAY Skjold/Knudsen fotosenter

Efforts to combat racism and discrimination in schools and in society are topics in the new framework plans for teacher training in Norway.



The UDI and the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs have collaborated on the EXIT project, which was concluded in 1999. A report, a booklet containing ideas and suggestions and evaluations of results were presented in the first half of 2000. The project aimed partly at preventing recruitment to racist groups and partly at helping young people to withdraw from such groups.

As a continuation of the Youth Campaign against Racism, the UDI and the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs provide funding for the Norwegian Youth Council (LNU)'s Idea Bank project. The Idea Bank is a storehouse for results of projects and measures to combat racism and discrimination for use in information activities and further distribution. The objective is to strengthen multi-cultural efforts oriented towards children and youth by supporting local measures.



NORWAY Erik Johansen/Scampix

Participation and dialogue

Increasing the participation in society of persons with an immigrant background and further developing dialogue between these members of the population and the authorities is a government goal.

The UDI provides funding for local immigrant organizations and activities run by non-governmental organizations that foster diversity, dialogue and interaction in local communities. The aim is to promote tolerance between different population groups through local, non-governmental activities. In 1999, just under NOK 8 million was allocated to counties for further distribution to local immigrant organizations. NOK 2.5 million was allocated to non-governmental measures.

Grants are also provided for nation-wide organizations which, through their general activities and specific projects, contribute towards promoting genuine equality between immigrants and Norwegians, encouraging immigrants' active participation in society and enabling them to become self-sufficient. These national organizations play a pivotal role in communicating the views and needs of the immigrant population to the authorities and the general public. In 1999, NOK 7 million was allocated for this purpose, divided between eight organizations. In 1999, the Directorate of Public Management was assigned the task of evaluating the grant scheme for national organizations, and submitted its report in February 2000. On the basis of this report, the Ministry will consider further developing the scheme.

The Liaison Committee between Immigrants and the Authorities (KIM) is a forum created to ensure dialogue between persons with an immigrant background and public authorities. As from 2000, KIM constitutes a separate chapter of the government budget.

Voter participation among foreign nationals has been low compared with that of the rest of the population, and is declining. 36% of all foreign nationals who are entitled to vote participated in the municipal council elections in 1999, while as many as 46% voted in the 1983 local elections. As in earlier years, information campaigns were launched by the UDI prior to the elections in 1999 which particularly targeted persons with an immigrant background who were entitled to vote. Funding was also provided for campaigns conducted by the immigrants' own organizations to stimulate increased voter participation.

Acquisition of knowledge

Acquiring knowledge is another important means of combating racism and discrimination. In spring 1999, the Norwegian Building Research Institute published four reports financed by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, one of which focused on discrimination in the housing market and another on dialogue and conflict management in residential communities.

In 1999, 36 % of all foreign nationals who were entitled to vote participated in the municipal council elections.

The same Ministry has also initiated a pilot project titled "Equality in the legal system - legal safeguards for persons who do not speak fluent Norwegian".

Reporting

Norway's 15th report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was submitted in October 1999. The report included a description of the Government's action plan to combat racism and the establishment of the Centre for Combating Ethnic Discrimination.

New Act on benefits for newly arrived immigrants

The rate of unemployment among immigrants is significantly higher and employment is lower than for the rest of the population, even after several years of residence in Norway. In many cases, social benefits have become a kind of long-term, guaranteed income. The aim is to strengthen and make plain the connection between the public benefits received by newly arrived immigrants and the latter group's active participation in programmes to qualify them for employment.

On 19 November 1999 the Council of State appointed a committee to study and draft legislation on benefits for newly arrived immigrants. According to its mandate, the committee is requested to evaluate the group of persons to which such a statute should apply, legal safeguards, the use of a mutually binding agreement between the municipality and the individual as a legal basis for disbursement of financial benefits and the level of the benefits. The mandate stipulates that legislation in this field must not weaken municipal self-government.

Establishment of the Centre for Combating Ethnic Discrimination

The Centre for Combating Ethnic Discrimination was officially inaugurated on 10 February 1999 for a trial period up to the end of 2002. The activities of the centre in 1999 have been described earlier in this report. The centre is subject to continuous evaluation during the trial period. The evaluation, which is being carried out by the Norwegian Institute of Urban and Regional Research (NIBR) and the Institute for Sociology of Law of the University of Oslo, will form the basis for the decision as to whether the centre is to continue operating at the end of the trial period.

Labour market policy

At the end of November 1999, unemployment among immigrants was 6.6 per cent, compared with 2.4 per cent for the population as a whole.

In their efforts to reduce unemployment among immigrants, the labour market authorities have mainly concentrated on placing immigrants in ordinary jobs. In the case of long-term unemployed immigrants, the authorities have tailored measures to individual needs. At the end of November 1999, immigrants accounted for about 30 per cent of all participants in ordinary public sector job creation programmes.

The labour market authorities have worked in close collaboration with the Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry (NHO), the Federation of Norwegian Commercial and Service Enterprises (HSH) and the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) on a sponsorship scheme to improve the employment opportunities of immigrants in labour markets throughout Norway. The labour market authorities have arranged training programmes to give their employees greater insight into and knowledge of the qualifications, needs and opportunities of immigrants in relation to the Norwegian labour market.

In July 1998, the Ministry of Labour and Government Administration presented the Action Plan for Recruitment of Persons with an Immigrant Background to the

Public Sector - 1998-2001. This plan aims at increasing recruitment of persons with an immigrant background to the public sector by raising the awareness and enhancing the expertise of employment authorities, reducing the obstacles inherent in current regulations and expanding the basis for recruitment to the public sector by providing the means for acquiring relevant qualifications and experience. The plan was revised in autumn 1999, resulting in greater emphasis on certain target areas.

Work has continued in 1999 on implementing the measures in the Defence Forces' action plan for the recruitment and enhanced integration of persons with an immigrant background into the defence forces.



NORWAY Per Anders Rosenkvist/Samfoto

The Education Act deals with the right to receive tuition both in and on the Sami language.

Sami policy

The basis for official Norwegian policy in respect of the Sami people is set out in Section 110 a of the Constitution of Norway and in the Sami Act. Norway has also endorsed several international conventions of significance for the Sami people. At present, ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries is the only international, legally binding instrument that directly addresses the protection of indigenous peoples, but the Council of Europe's Charter on National and Regional Languages, the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are all important in relation to the Sami people.

National policy and measures in respect of the Sami people

An important principle in Norwegian legislation which regulates the authorities' obligations towards the Sami population is ensuring that the Sami people play an active role in matters affecting Sami interests. This is also in accordance with the provisions of ILO Convention No. 169.

This entails the following main obligations for the authorities:

- Make provision, through legislation and measures, for the Sami people themselves to play the active role in safeguarding and developing Sami languages, culture and social life.
- Allocate sufficient funds to the Sami Parliament to enable it to determine priorities in matters concerning the Sami people.
- Establish routines for cooperation between the Government and the Sami Parliament on the formulation of Norwegian Sami policy, the budget of the Sami Parliament and the development of general policies that will affect the Sami community.

Every four years, a report on the main principles of Norwegian Sami policy is presented to the Storting. Every year, furthermore, a report on the activity of the Sami Parliament is submitted to the Storting, one chapter of which consists of the entire Annual Report of the Sami Parliament. The annual report is an important document in the relationship between the Sami Parliament and the Government, because the Government's report to the Storting contains responses to matters raised in the Sami Parliament's annual report.

The Sami Parliament is the Government's most important source of information and influence when defining the basic premises for Norwegian Sami policy, and emphasis is placed on ensuring that the Sami Parliament participates in the policy-formulation process at the earliest possible stage. This is done, for instance, at meetings between the senior political staff of the respective ministries and the Sami Parliament. There is also contact at the administrative level between the ministries and the Sami Parliament on the follow-up of Sami issues in

the various policy areas. The State Secretary for Sami issues at the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has maintained regular contact with the Sami Parliament's senior political staff by means of meetings with the Sami Parliament and by attending Sami Parliament sessions. A committee of state secretaries for Sami issues has met several times in 1999 to coordinate the work of the ministries relating to Sami policy issues.

New budget procedures

As from 1999, the Sami Parliament has gained greater budgetary independence since its entire allocation is now transferred as a single budget item. Meetings are held on a regular basis at the political level between the Sami Parliament, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and other ministries, at which the Sami Parliament presents its priorities for the following year's budget.

Gender equality

There was particular focus in 1999 on strengthening the position of women in the reindeer husbandry sector. A sum of NOK 1 million allocated for this purpose is administered by the Norwegian Reindeer Husbandry Administration in Alta, whose staff includes a consultant on women's issues, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture. Finding solutions that ensure women of an independent income from reindeer husbandry and promoting equality between men and women in this industry are important goals.

Sami languages

A survey was conducted in autumn 1999 on the population's views on the bilingual service provided by agencies that have close contact with the general public in districts where Sami is spoken. The results of the survey, which was funded by several ministries, will indicate where resources should be concentrated in public sector efforts relating to information and language.

Education Act and appurtenant regulations

Chapter 6 of the new Education Act deals with Sami tuition. The right of pupils in Sami districts to receive tuition both in and through the medium of Sami will be maintained, as will the right of municipalities to decide that Sami is to be a compulsory subject in schools. Pursuant to this Act, the Ministry has issued regulations regarding exemption from tuition in a secondary Norwegian language for pupils who receive tuition in Sami in both primary and secondary school.

Outside Sami districts, the Education Act entitles individual Sami pupils to receive tuition in Sami in both primary and lower secondary school and upper secondary education. Regardless of whether they are of Sami origin, a group of at least 10 pupils who wish to have tuition both in and through the medium of Sami are entitled to receive such tuition as long as there are at least six pupils left in the group.

Partly because of the individual right to language tuition, the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs has issued regulations regarding alternative forms of Sami and Finnish tuition when such tuition cannot be provided by the teachers at a school. Distance learning, intensive courses and special school camp programmes are some of the alternatives mentioned.

Alternative forms of tuition

Projects have been initiated to develop ICT-based distance learning in the Sami language for South Sami pupils, use mobile teachers and test language immersion in practice as an alternative to boarding schools. Other small Sami communities, such as the Lule Sami, will be included in these efforts. Work has also begun on developing nation-wide ICT-based tuition in Sami languages for Sami pupils.

Transfer of responsibility and resources to the Sami Parliament

Since the entry into force of the new Education Act, the Sami Parliament now has the authority to determine the content of the Sami language subject syllabus at primary and secondary school level, and to establish syllabuses in special Sami subjects at upper secondary level in accordance with the number of hours of tuition and the budgets determined by the Ministry. The Sami Parliament is also responsible for preparing proposals for syllabuses in other subjects for tuition in Sami districts.

The new functions delegated to the Sami Parliament in relation to Sami tuition has made it necessary to increase the administrative capacity of the Sami Parliament and provide it with expertise on educational matters. The Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs therefore transferred the secretariat for the Sami Education Council to the Sami Parliament on 1 January 2000. From the same date, the Sami Education Council ceased to exist as a ministerial council.

The tasks of the Sami Parliament include further efforts to:

- disseminate information, build up expertise, formulate guidelines and carry out other developmental measures in connection with the implementation of L97 - the Sami Curriculum introduced in 1997.
- develop, assure the quality of and produce Sami educational aids adapted to the new subject syllabuses for primary and secondary schools
- provide expert advice and support for teachers who teach Sami pupils in day-care centres and primary and secondary schools within and outside the Sami core area
- prepare action plans for special educational aids for Sami pupils in cooperation with the National Centre for Educational Resources.

The state provides a variety of grants to school owners to contribute towards financing tuition for Sami pupils at primary and secondary school level, and to provide teachers with Sami language qualifications.

Teacher training

In Recommendation No. 285 (1996-97) to the Storting, the Storting endorsed the proposal in Report No. 48 (1996-97) to the Storting regarding a special report on Sami teacher training that would include all three Sami language groups. To follow up this proposal, a working group was appointed and presented its report in autumn 1999. The group comprised representatives with a background from various language areas, levels of education, student organizations and the Sami Education Council, in addition to representatives from Sweden and Finland. According to its mandate, the group was to investigate both the need to train Sami teachers and the basis for recruiting Sami applicants to higher education. The group was also to report on the potential of the Nordic countries and Russia as recruitment areas for Sami teacher training candidates. Inadequacies and needs have been analyzed and the group has recommended means of strengthening Sami teacher training, including research and development.

These reports have been published under the title of Official Norwegian Report 2000:3 and circulated for comment to the parties concerned.

Sami land and water rights

In 1980, the Government appointed the Sami Rights Council with a mandate to study and present a proposal on the land and water rights of the Sami people in their traditional settlement areas. The Council presented its second main report (NOU 1997:4) in January 1997 on the natural resource base for Sami culture. The report contains a proposal for a new system of management for land and natural



NORWAY Harry Johansen/Scampix

The Sami Parliament when it was established.

resources in Finnmark and new procedural rules for dealing with encroachment on the natural environment in Finnmark and other areas used by the Sami people. The Council also proposes that the administration of most of the renewable resources in Finnmark be located in municipalities and rural districts. Its recommendation has been circulated for a round of extensive consultation, which was concluded in autumn 1999.

In 1999, the ministries commenced work on following up the recommendation with a view to proposing new legislation on land management in Finnmark County in the course of the next Storting period (2001-2005). The Ministry of Justice has the main responsibility for the follow-up, but other ministries are participating actively in these efforts.

The work of the Sami Rights Council is to continue as far as the areas south of Finnmark County are concerned. The Ministry of Justice is currently formulating a mandate and appointing members for a new committee.

Nordic efforts relating to the Sami people

A working group consisting of representatives from ministries in Norway, Sweden and Finland and the Sami parliaments in the three countries has examined the needs and basis for a Nordic convention on the Sami people. The working group presented its report in June 1998, in which it unanimously concludes that the efforts to elaborate a Nordic convention on the Sami people are important and should be continued.

The Nordic Ministers of Cooperation have decided to establish informal cooperation at ministerial level on Sami issues within the framework of the Nordic Council of Ministers. Further efforts to initiate a Nordic convention on the Sami people will be an important matter for the new joint forum. The forum will maintain close contact with the Sami parliaments in the Nordic countries.

National minorities

Article 27 of the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966 has been a key element of the international protection of minorities. The Article reads as follows: "In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language." The OSCE has also led the way in promoting protection of minorities, as has been clearly reflected in several political declarations. The general protection of human rights, as well as the protection of vulnerable groups such as children, applies to "every person", i.e. also to members of various minority groups.

In recent years, instruments of international law have been elaborated to provide further protection for special groups who are assumed to be at risk. The Council of Europe's Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities of 1 February 1995 is the first legally binding, multilateral agreement on the protection of national minorities in general. Norway ratified this framework convention on 17 March 1999, and the convention took effect with regard to Norway on 1 July 1999. In connection with ratification, it was determined that the Sami people, the Kvens (people of Finnish descent living in northern Norway), the Romani people (travellers), the Roma (gypsies), the Skogfinn (people of Finnish descent living in southern Norway) and Jews satisfy the criteria to qualify as national minorities, and are thereby covered by the convention. However, the Sami Parliament has stated that the Sami people do not stand to gain from being covered by



NORWAY Morten Kristoffersen/Samfoto

In 1999, the ministries commenced work on new legislation on land management in Finnmark County.

the convention, since Sami rights under ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries are broader in scope than under the Framework Convention.

Ratification of the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities and the creation of a special grant scheme for national minorities have led to greater awareness on the part of public authorities of the cultural and social needs of national minorities. National minorities have won increased attention and recognition in public debate, and members of their own ranks have been mobilized to greater activity.

Grants for national minorities

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development maintained its grant scheme for national minorities in 1999. Organizations representing a national minority may apply for funds from the scheme, which can support measures to promote active participation in society, ensure equal opportunity for all and combat discrimination of national minorities.

In 1999 funds were allocated for information activities, transfers of expertise, seminars, self-help activities and a music festival. Two organizations (the Association of Norwegian Kvens and the National Society of the Romani People) have received basic support from the grant scheme. The purpose of basic support is to encourage minority groups to form their own organizations, with a view to facilitating better contact and dialogue between the groups and the public authorities. Experience shows that the grant scheme plays an important role in making national minority groups more visible in society and in reinforcing their activities.

Coordination of policy in respect of national minorities

To follow up Norway's ratification of the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, a coherent policy will be established in this area. As from 1 January 1999, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development was given responsibility for coordinating government policy that particularly affects national minorities in Norway. While the principle of each ministry being responsible for its own sector, such as culture, education and health, will still apply, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development will serve as a liaison between minority groups and the central government administration.

The Elverum Conference

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development attaches considerable importance to maintaining a close dialogue with minority organizations to ensure that their views are heard and given serious consideration in the formulation of policy regarding national minorities. The Ministry therefore arranged a conference entitled "National Minorities and the State - A Conference for Contact and Dialogue" in Elverum on 7-8 October 1999. All the minority organizations were represented at the conference, and provided input concerning the wishes and needs that should be addressed when formulating policy. New contacts and networks were also established, both between the minority organizations and government authorities and between the various minority groups.

Linguistic minorities

Under the new Education Act, pupils of Kven-Finnish origin in the counties of Nord-Troms and Finnmark are entitled to tuition in Finnish. The government contributes towards such tuition by giving the municipalities concerned a special grant for the training and continuing education of teachers in Finnish. Tuition in Finnish as a second language increased from 1997-98 to 1998-99.



NORWAY Marka/Knudsen fotosester

Gypsies satisfy the criteria to qualify as a national minority.

In the 1998-99 school year, a little over 6% of primary and lower secondary school pupils belonged to linguistic minorities. In larger cities, the proportion of pupils who speak a language other than Norwegian was significantly higher; in Oslo, for instance, they accounted for 27% of pupils. Grants are provided for this category of pupil from the budget of the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs to cover the costs of both mother tongue tuition and tuition in Norwegian as a second language.

In December 1998, the Ministry presented Report No. 25 (1998-99) to the Storting on mother tongue tuition in primary and lower secondary school. The report, which was debated in the Storting in March 1999, confirmed that mother tongue tuition and bilingual teaching - besides giving pupils a sense of security as to their own identity - provide a sound basis for learning Norwegian. During the debate of the Standing Committee on Education, Research and Church Affairs on the report, a majority of the committee members concurred with this conclusion.

Asylum and immigration law

Transfer of responsibility for interviewing asylum-seekers from the police to the Directorate of Immigration

Under the present system, the police carry out both the registration of and interviews with asylum-seekers, prior to forwarding the asylum case to the Directorate of Immigration for decision at first instance. To ensure that all relevant information emerges during the asylum interview, it is important that those who conduct interviews with asylum-seekers have extensive knowledge of political, religious and socio-cultural conditions in the asylum-seeker's home country. Partly for this reason, the Government decided in 1997 to transfer responsibility for interviewing asylum-seekers from the police to the Directorate of Immigration where this type of expertise is available. The transfer took place in 2000. The police will continue to be responsible for registering newly arrived asylum-seekers, if necessary undertaking further investigations to determine their identity and route travelled to Norway.

Appeals board for immigration cases (Immigration Board)

At present, the Ministry of Justice is responsible for dealing with appeals against rejections by the Directorate of Immigration in immigration cases. Norway is one of a few western countries where all immigration cases are still dealt with by an administrative system composed of two bodies. Denmark and Sweden, for instance, have introduced systems under which appeals, for either all or certain types of immigration case, are heard by a board. Such arrangements help to strengthen the legal safeguards of foreign nationals, and asylum-seekers in particular, since they offer the asylum-seeker the possibility of appearing in person and because the composition of the board has a broader base than that of a purely administrative arrangement. This was one of the reasons why the Storting adopted amendments to the Immigration Act in March 1999 that provide for the establishment of an independent immigration board to deal with appeals against the Directorate of Immigration's rejections of applications in asylum and other immigration cases.

Detention of foreign nationals pursuant to the Immigration Act

Foreign nationals who are detained pursuant to section 37, sixth paragraph, of the Immigration Act on grounds of suspicion of false identity are currently detained in ordinary prisons. This practice has been criticized on the grounds that such persons should not be imprisoned together with convicted persons serving a sentence. Pursuant to the amendments to Act of 30 April 1999 No. 22, foreign nationals who are incarcerated pursuant to section 37, sixth paragraph, of the Immigration Act shall, as a main rule, be placed in a detention centre for foreign natio-

nals. This must be an institution that is not part of the prison service institutions, staffed by personnel with a knowledge of languages and other cultures. The detention centre shall also be used for preventive detention of foreign nationals who must leave the country following a decision pursuant to the Immigration Act, when there is a risk of their absconding (see section 41, fifth paragraph, of the Immigration Act).

The number of persons placed in custody is monitored closely. Measures have been implemented which have reduced the number of persons detained pursuant to section 37, sixth paragraph, of the Immigration Act. Statistics for 1999 show that only 26 persons were imprisoned pursuant to section 37 of the Act. Only three of them were incarcerated for more than 12 weeks, a small number considering that 10,160 asylum-seekers came to Norway in 1999.

The rights of asylum-seekers

The right to apply for and be granted asylum is set out in Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and internationally regulated by legislation such as the UN Convention of 28 July 1951 relating to the status of refugees, with protocol. The Immigration Act must be implemented humanely and fairly in a way that ensures that Norway assumes its share of responsibility for people fleeing their own countries. New guidelines for criteria for granting asylum entered into force on 15 January 1998. For information on these guidelines, please refer to the 1998 Annual Report on Human Rights. The same applies to information regarding children in asylum cases.

Relaxation of criteria for residence on humanitarian grounds

In the guidelines adopted on 15 January 1999, the Ministry of Justice confirmed the relaxation of practice in respect of asylum-seekers who do not satisfy the conditions for asylum, when "strong humanitarian considerations" warrant doing so. The term "strong humanitarian considerations" in section 8, second paragraph, of the Immigration Act embraces a wide range of factors, both grounds relating to protection of the asylum seeker and compassionate grounds, such as the safety of the asylum-seeker in his home country, health factors, the situation of minors or the asylum-seeker's actual connection with Norway. Under the amended guidelines, an overall assessment is carried out of several different types of compassionate grounds.

Quota for resettlement refugees

Norway's overall approach in its refugee policy is to help people in the areas in which they live. When providing assistance in refugees' immediate surroundings does not suffice, Norway responds to acute situations by receiving refugees in Norway. In addition to receiving asylum-seekers who arrive on their own initiative, Norway has annual quotas for resettlement refugees that are established in consultation with the UNHCR. The quota is 1500 persons. Of the quota for 2000, 50 places were earmarked for prominent persons, such as politicians, trade union leaders or writers. The rationale for this practice is that such persons may be in very dire need of protection, and it may be necessary to bring them directly from their home country to Norway. Funds have also been allocated for 50 places that can be used for alternative resettlement in consultation with the UNHCR.

Remand and the time required to deal with criminal cases

With just a few exceptions, the "24-hour rule" was complied with in 1999. The implementation of Circular No. Fst 6/97, which contains measures and guidelines to mitigate the harmful effects of remand in custody, has been evaluated. In a letter dated 12 April 1999, prison governors were informed of the results of the evaluation. The Central Prison Administration deemed that a great deal had been



NORWAY Svein Erik Dah/Samfoto

In 1999, just over 10 000 asylum-seekers came to Norway.

done to counter the harmful effects of lengthy isolation on remand inmates and that arrangements had been introduced to provide activities for such inmates. The Central Prison Administration recommended that prison service staff make active efforts to induce the police to ease restrictions. Prison governors are required to keep a certain number of cells available for remand prisoners.

Statistics on the use of remand show that remand inmates account for a large proportion of the total number of inmates, but that the average period of time they spend in prison has decreased in the past few years.

The Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)

Norway is a party to the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. All states party to the convention are visited periodically by the CPT. The CPT paid its second periodic visit to Norway in September 1999, when it visited prisons, police districts, detention centres for asylum-seekers, psychiatric institutions and institutions for children. Following its visit, the CPT prepared a report which was sent to the Norwegian authorities at the end of March 2000. The Norwegian authorities will give careful consideration to the CPT's recommendations and will submit an exhaustive reply to the CPT within the time-limit of six months.

Social services and health care

The public health service administers substantial financial and ethical values. The overriding objective of legislation and other structural aspects relating to the public health service is to ensure that professionally adequate health services of equal quality are offered to everyone in Norway irrespective of gender, age, type of illness, residence and income. This is in accordance with fundamental human rights principles and therefore forms the basis for the extensive legislative reforms on which work is now being completed.

In December 1999, the centrist government presented a report to the Storting on the values on which Norwegian health services are based (Report No. 26 (1999-2000) to the Storting). The report deals with the health services offered to various groups of persons who have chronic illnesses or disabilities, and aims at safeguarding human rights in the provision of health services.

The centrist government also presented a report to the Storting on the content and quality of care services - Care 2000 (Report No. 28 (1999-2000) to the Storting). This report focuses on the values and attitudes of persons working in care services and proposes a number of measures to improve the quality of these services. This includes guidelines for municipalities on administrative procedures and internal control systems. The report also discusses management and organizational models.

Use of coercion in mental health care

Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights lays down that no one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The prohibition in Article 3 has great relevance for evaluations from a human rights perspective of the conditions of patients subject to compulsory mental health care. According to the European Court of Human Rights' case law, inhuman treatment or punishment implies that the person concerned is subjected to measures that involve unlawful or severe physical or mental suffering. Article 3 does not ban all discomfort ensuing from treatment without the consent of the person concerned, but prohibits the infliction of suffering that cannot be alleviated unless this is justified by absolutely essential medical measures.

A new Act relating to the provision and implementation of mental health care (the Mental Health Care Act) was adopted by the Storting on 2 July 1999. During the drafting of the new Act, individual provisions, including Article 3, were evaluated in relation to human rights obligations. Besides imposing narrow limits on the use of coercion, the Act also contains general provisions regarding entitlement to treatment and care by mental health care services and stipulating that restrictions and coercion shall be limited to what is strictly necessary. The purpose of the Act is to ensure the proper provision and implementation of mental health care in accordance with fundamental principles of the rule of law for the individual. It is also to ensure that the measures described in the Act are designed to meet patients' needs while respecting human dignity. The new Mental Health Care Act regulates both measures that were previously governed by regulations, and measures that were not previously regulated. The introduction of requirements as regards administrative decisions and rules for appeal will reinforce legal safeguards for patients.

The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs is currently elaborating regulations pursuant to the Mental Health Care Act. Five regulations were circulated for consultative comment in December 1999. These include the Regulations regarding Approval of Institutions Responsible for Compulsory Mental Health Care, Regulations regarding Compulsory Mental Health Care in an Out-patient Institution, Regulations regarding the Examination and Treatment of Patients without their Consent, Regulations regarding the Use of Coercion in Mental Health Care Institutions for In-patients and Regulations regarding the Mental Health Care Professional Responsible for the Administrative Decision.

In connection with the implementation of the new Act, the effect of the rules and their relationship to fundamental legal safeguards and human rights will be evaluated. A dialogue will also be established with mental health care professionals, services, counties and users in order to promote a common understanding of the substance of the rules regarding coercion in mental health care, with a view to reducing the use of coercion.

The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs is currently developing tools for compiling comparable statistics on the use of coercion in Norwegian mental health care.

Reducing the use of coercion in mental health care is an important goal. This was also one of the reasons for the Escalation Plan for Mental Health Care (Proposition No. 63 (1997-98) to the Storting) that was presented in spring 1998. A key measure in the Escalation Plan is to enable municipalities to take better care of and provide assistance to persons with mental illnesses. The Escalation Plan reflects the recognition that mental health care has been neglected in Norwegian health care services for many years. A clear objective is to ensure that the structural changes in and increased resources now being channelled to this sector will also reduce the need for coercion. In 1999, earmarked government allocations for mental health care were increased by NOK 335 million. The Escalation Plan will cover a further six years.

Treatment of psychotic prison inmates

Conditions for psychotic prisoners have been a recurrent problem for the mentally ill inmates themselves and for the prison service. The problems arise as a result of factors such as a long waiting period prior to admission to a psychiatric hospital and early release and return to prison, and the added strain of the prison environment itself.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs has studied the problems related to inmates and prison health services.

Through the Escalation Plan for Mental Health Care (1999-2006), the care and treatment offered to inmates with mental illnesses will be significantly improved.

The use of coercion in connection with the treatment of drug addicts

The use of coercion in treating drug addicts is a somewhat controversial issue, and work has been in progress for some time to facilitate application of the provisions of Act of 13 December 1991 No. 81 relating to the use of coercion in accordance with the Act's intentions. During this process, considerable emphasis has been placed on legal safeguards for drug addicts and on human rights aspects.

To this end, the regulations pursuant to Chapter 5 of the Act of 4 December 1992 No. 915 relating to social services have been amended with effect from 1 January 2000. Chapter 5 regulates the rights of inmates in institutions and use of coercion in institutions that provide care and treatment for drug addicts. This includes provisions regarding urine samples and the return of escaped inmates. Certain amendments and specifications have also been made in earlier provisions. The overall purpose of the amendments is to contribute towards ensuring successful treatment in an institution, both with and without the consent of the person concerned. At the same time, it is important to safeguard the legal rights of the inmates. The rules are therefore formulated so as to ensure legal safeguards for drug addicts, particularly as regards their personal integrity, balanced with the need for effective treatment.

Patients' rights

The Act of 2 July 1999 No. 63 (Patients' Rights Act) guarantees patients the right to necessary health care, the right to be evaluated, the right to a second evaluation, the right to choose a hospital and the right to an individual treatment plan. It also establishes a number of rights relating to treatment. This Act will enter into force in the course of 2000.

Control of communicable diseases

Human rights are important in the health and social welfare sector, and they raise a number of issues as regards the responsibility of the public authorities for ensuring the protection and right to self-determination of individuals and meeting their needs in relation to technological developments, resources and allocation and collective needs. Some types of treatment and the circumstances surrounding such treatment often give rise to a discussion of the human rights aspects involved. Can theories regarding causes and effect/behaviour and heredity, for instance, result in the groundless humiliation or stigmatization of individuals? There are several examples of this in history, and even today such problems arise in connection with HIV/AIDS and the control of communicable diseases. Measures to protect the population as a whole must not jeopardize the life or dignity of individuals or groups of people. The Norwegian Act relating to the Control of Communicable Diseases, which entered into force on 1 January 1995, is based on ensuring legal safeguards for individuals while protecting individuals and the population at large against communicable diseases.

HIV/AIDS

Norwegian HIV/AIDS policy is in line with the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, elaborated by the World Health Organization (WHO). Norwegian health legislation does not deal specifically with individual groups of patients, and thus does not treat persons with HIV/AIDS as a separate group. The Control of Communicable Diseases Act contains certain provisions that apply particularly to persons with a communicable disease that is hazardous to public health. HIV/AIDS is one of 20 such diseases. Other relevant legislation also applies in general and not specifically to persons with HIV/AIDS. Faced with challenges posed by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s, Norway rapidly

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The overall purpose of the amendments to the Act relating to social services is to contribute towards ensuring successful treatment of drug addicts in institutions, both with and without the consent of the person concerned.

developed an effective preventive policy, where members of groups at risk and persons with HIV and AIDS were taken into account at an early stage of the formulation of policy and strategies. Considerable emphasis is placed on the human rights aspect in preventive policy. Since the mid-1980s, the most important overall goals in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS have been to inform the population about HIV/AIDS, prevent behaviour liable to spread infection, prevent discrimination against and the ostracism of persons who are at risk and upgrade the expertise of health care professionals and other personnel who deal with HIV/AIDS problems.

In efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, there has been extensive cooperation between the central health authorities, NGOs, municipalities and individuals.

- HIV/AIDS and ethnic minorities

In several periodic reports to the UN Human Rights Committee and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Norway has referred to the "African case" of 1996. This case arose when the Norwegian Board of Health issued a press release and held a press conference in summer 1996, warning against having unprotected sexual relations with Africans in Norway. This action was perceived as both stigmatizing and racist by Africans, persons from other continents and many Norwegians. In the wake of this matter, emphasis has been placed on establishing fora and preparing material designed to promote a dialogue on official policy and provide information on various measures to persons concerned who have a multi-cultural background.

The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs established a Forum for Immigrants and Health which was originally formed to address the HIV/AIDS problem, but which has since adopted a broader perspective as regards health issues. In 1999, the National Institute of Public Health received funding for a project to provide information to and communicate with persons with a multi-cultural background on the subject of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases. The Plan of Action to Combat the HIV/AIDS Epidemic 1996-2000 (2001) has been translated into English, French and Spanish in order to reach as many language groups as possible in Norway.

Criteria for acceptance as a blood donor in Norway

Several immigrant organizations have repeatedly contacted the public health authorities - the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the Norwegian Board of Health and the National Institute of Public Health - and the blood banks regarding the criteria for acceptance as a blood donor in Norway.

In the interest of patients' safety, Norway has chosen to exclude persons from certain areas that have a different pattern of communicable diseases from that of Norway. This applies both to persons born in the area in question, and persons who have resided in that area for more than one year. It applies to both ethnic Norwegians and persons of other ethnic origins. However, it does not apply to second-generation immigrants unless they have spent a long period of time in the first generation's country of origin.

When a blood donor is chosen in Norway, persons may be excluded on epidemiological grounds, but never on ethnic grounds. But persons living in areas in which certain diseases that can cause a chronic carrier state are highly endemic are at higher risk of infection.

Rehabilitation and individual plans

Many of the articles of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights require authorities to take steps to enable individuals to participate actively in society.

In Report No. 21 (1998-99) to the Storting on responsibility and coping, rehabilitation is defined as *"time-limited, planned processes with clear goals and instruments, in which several players collaborate on providing necessary assistance to supplement the user's own efforts to function and cope successfully, achieve independence and participate socially and in society in the best possible way"*. To this end, work began in 1999 on establishing, by means of regulations, individual plans for treatment and rehabilitation programmes that are also intended to ensure that users participate in establishing and assuming responsibility for such plans. The Regulations are laid down pursuant to the Act relating to Specialized Health Services and the Act relating to Municipal Health Services, which require health services to draw up plans for users in need of "long-term, coordinated" services.

Processing time in social security cases

Article 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights establishes that everyone has a right to social security, including social insurance. Everyone living in Norway who is not specially exempted is a member of the Norwegian national insurance scheme, the foremost instrument for ensuring social security and equitable distribution.

Combined with child benefit, national insurance satisfies the requirement in Article 9 of the International Covenant regarding social insurance for all. The national insurance scheme has been maintained and further developed during the period covered by this annual report.

Pursuant to Article 12 of the European Social Charter, contracting parties shall have a system of social security that satisfies the minimum standards set out in ILO Convention No. 102 concerning Minimum Standards of Social Security and shall endeavour to progressively raise the system to a higher level. Norway satisfies these standards as well as the criteria of several other ILO conventions that set more stringent requirements, including ILO Convention No. 128 on Invalidity, Old-Age and Survivors' Benefits and ILO Convention No. 130 on Medical Care and Sickness Benefits.

Under Article 12 of the European Social Charter (Revised) of 3 May 1996 which, pursuant to a decision made by Royal Decree of 15 October 1999 Norway is to sign and ratify specific parts of, parties shall have a system of social security that satisfies the minimum standards of the European Code of Social Security and endeavour to progressively raise the system of social security to a higher level. Norway satisfies these standards, as well as meeting the requirements set out in several parts of the Protocol to the Code which provide better coverage. Norway has submitted reports to the Council of Europe on its compliance with standards up to 1999.

Article 12 of the Social Charter also requires that steps shall be taken to ensure that social security rights may be acquired, maintained and resumed by such means as the accumulation of insurance or employment periods in all countries party to the Charter. To secure the social security rights of individuals, Norway has entered into a number of bilateral and multilateral social security agreements, such as through the EEA Agreement, which ensure equal treatment and accumulation for economically active nationals of 18 European countries. Norway has also entered into social security agreements with other countries within and outside Europe. In 1999, a treaty succession agreement on social security was entered into with Croatia.

Report No. 50 (1998-99) to the Storting on Equalization examines the distribution of income and standards of living in Norway. The analyses in the report show that the vast majority of the population enjoy good standards of living and that their

living conditions have improved in the 1980s and 1990s. At the same time, the living standards of certain groups have deteriorated, and low income often coincides with a low level of education, poor health and relatively inferior housing conditions. An abridged version of the report is available in Norwegian and English.

The report contains more than 40 proposals for measures to improve the living conditions of those who are worst off in society. Some of the measures were presented in the government budget for 2000, and the whole report was debated by the Storting in spring 2000. As a further follow-up of the report, it has been proposed that an overall plan of action to combat poverty and marginalization be drawn up.

Norway's report under the European Social Charter

The European Social Charter is an international convention that was elaborated by the Council of Europe during the period 1953-1961. It was opened for signature and ratification in 1961, and was ratified by Norway in 1963.

The Social Charter contains 19 articles which lay down rules and legal standards in spheres such as labour market and working environment policy, health and social policy, family policy and social security. An Optional Protocol adopted in 1988 with four new articles has also been ratified by Norway.

At the end of 1999, 26 of the 40 member states of the Council of Europe had ratified the Social Charter.

The reporting procedure

Reports are submitted on the application of the Social Charter's "hard core", Articles 1, 5, 6, 12, 13, 16 and 19, every other year. The other articles, including the articles of the Optional Protocol, are divided into two groups. Reports are submitted in relation to each of these groups every fourth year. The reporting system is organized in such a way that every year a report is submitted on some of the articles of the Social Charter. In year 1, the report covers the "hard core" articles, in year 2 half of the other articles, in year 3 again the "hard core" articles and in year 4 the second half of the other articles.

The reports are reviewed by an independent committee of experts, the Committee of Social Rights, which determines to what extent the various countries fulfil the articles of the Social Charter. The Committee's conclusions are then discussed by a Governmental Committee, which submits its recommendations as to relevant reactions in respect of the individual countries to the Ministerial Committee. The Ministerial Committee then decides whether a reaction should be issued in the form of a recommendation to the individual country.

Norway submitted its report on its application of Articles 1, 5, 6, 12, 13, 16 and 19 in June 1999. Since the conclusions regarding this report have not yet been finalized, they will be reported on in the next Annual Report.

Revision of the Social Charter

The Social Charter was revised in the early 1990s. The Revised Social Charter was opened for ratification in 1996 and entered into force in June 1999. The Revised Social Charter has been drawn up as an independent instrument. It contains amendments to the substantive contents of the articles of the Social Charter, as well as a number of new articles. The Revised Social Charter is structured in such a way that the Social Charter of 1961 forms the basis, while all the amendments and supplements to the original articles of this charter, and the articles of the Optional Protocol and new articles, are incorporated into the revised text.

The number of articles has increased from 19 in the Social Charter of 1961 to 31 in the Revised Social Charter.

While it is intended that the Revised Social Charter will gradually replace the Social Charter of 1961, the latter will continue to function as a separate instrument for many years to come.

Norway will sign and ratify certain of the provisions of the Revised Social Charter.

Persons with disabilities

In connection with the follow-up of Report No. 8 (1998-99) to the Storting on the Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities 1998-2001, the Government appointed an official committee in spring 1999 to examine the rights of persons with disabilities in a larger context and evaluate various strategies and instruments to increase the participation of and ensure equal status for persons with disabilities in Norwegian society. The committee will present its report in 2001.

On 29 October 1999, the Government proposed an amendment of the Act relating to Social Services. Pursuant to this amendment, municipalities would have a duty to establish a system of user-managed, personal assistants as an alternative way of organizing practical, personal assistance for persons with serious disabilities who require help in everyday life, both in and outside their home.

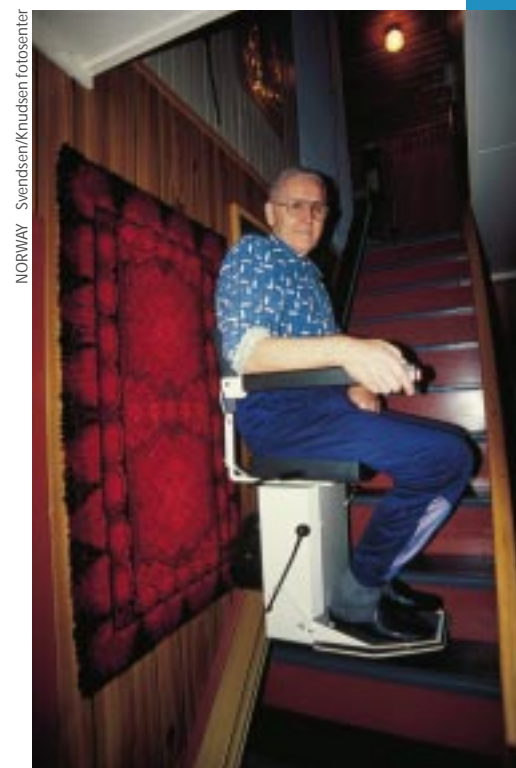
New rules in Chapter 6A on "Rights of and Limitation and Control of the Use of Coercion and Force, etc. in respect of Certain Mentally Retarded Persons" of the Act relating to Social Services were introduced on 1 January 1999. The aim of the Act is to strengthen the legal safeguards of a small group of mentally retarded persons who expose themselves or others to serious injury. The Act sets stringent criteria as regards preventive measures, the use of coercion and procedural rules to ensure thorough evaluation and possibilities of appeal. The practical implementation of this legislation is subject to continuous evaluation.

The Government has launched a major research project at the Nordlandsforskning research centre to evaluate the application of the Act relating to Social Services, and a project at the University of Oslo to study relevant treatment methods. In a joint project between the municipality of Trondheim and Sør-Trøndelag College, information is being collected on the development of expertise and attitudes among personnel and the content of and methods used in training programmes for care personnel.

Students with disabilities

In 1999 all universities and colleges in Norway were required to draw up plans of action for students with disabilities. Furthermore, an inter-ministerial working group was appointed in 1999 to examine the access to higher education of persons with disabilities.

Report No. 8 (1998-1999) to the Storting on the Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities emphasizes measures aimed at raising the level of education of persons with disabilities, for instance in upper secondary education. The new Education Act (Act relating to primary and lower secondary school and upper secondary education), which came into force as of the 1999-2000 school year, confirms the right of persons with special needs to special tuition, based on an expert evaluation of each individual. The Education Act establishes that children with disabilities have a right to be admitted to the nearest school, and that children with impaired hearing have a right to tuition in and through the medium of sign language. At the Nordic level,



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too, attention has been focused on ensuring that everyone has access to education, within the framework of cooperation in the Nordic Council on Disability Policy. To encourage efforts to improve access to universities and colleges in the Nordic region for persons with disabilities, the Council has established an accessibility prize which was awarded to the University of Oslo and other institutions in 1999.

Children

Children and the media

An international celebration to mark the 10th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, organized jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, UNICEF and the Norwegian Commissioner for Children, was held at Oslo City Hall in November 1999. The "Oslo Challenge" was launched on this occasion with a view to strengthening the relationship between children and the media. Several articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child guarantee the rights of children in relation to freedom of expression and to the authorities' obligations to enable the media to perform its important role as a channel for expression and of information. The media, for their part, have a key role to play in terms of focusing attention on the rights of the child, and of allowing children and young people to use the media to promote their rights. Children also have a right to be protected against the harmful, undesirable aspects of information communicated by the media. With the support of Norway and other countries, UNICEF will follow up the "Oslo Challenge" by preparing a handbook with specific examples of media activities that strengthen the rights and opportunities of children. The handbook will also contain a manual of guidelines that countries can use when reporting under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Children and participation

As part of its efforts to increase children's participation in and influence on the development of society, the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs established a Youth Forum for Democracy in 1999. The forum consists of 16 young persons between the ages of 15 and 26 from a wide range of youth organizations and groups all over Norway. During the two-year period in which it will function, the forum will present proposals and provide information to the Minister of Children and Family Affairs regarding ways of strengthening the participation and influence of children in the development of society.

To follow up the Convention on the Rights of the Child, funds were allocated in 1999 to the Children in Focus project. The primary aim of this project is to put the rights of children on the agenda. This includes initiating a process to strengthen the participation of children and young people, offer ideas as to how this process can be started at the local level and increase the activity and involvement of children and young people in their own everyday lives. The target group consists of children and young people from day-care centre age to about the age of 16. The project was launched on the initiative of a number of NGOs, and project activities are coordinated by the Norwegian Youth Council. In 1999, educational material was produced and distributed to all day-care institutions, schools and child and youth organizations throughout Norway. To mark the 10th anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child on 20 November 1999, a celebration was arranged for children in the Spikersuppa park in downtown Oslo with a number of activities.

Development programme to improve the environment in which children grow up

As part of the efforts to improve the conditions in which children live and grow up, the Government has initiated a development programme aimed at strengthening children's environment. The programme began in 1998 and will run for several years. Its aim is to strengthen and further develop local childhood

environments through broad cooperation between governmental and non-governmental agencies. Enhancing the opportunities of children and young people to participate in and influence society and to cope successfully with the challenges they face is a key objective. Efforts to combat violence, bullying, alcohol and narcotics, crime and racism among children and young people will be intensified. Ten municipalities have been selected to participate in the programme. Campaigns have been launched in schools, non-governmental children's and youth organizations and youth groups in all the municipalities.

A special circular on this programme was distributed to all the municipalities in Norway in 1999. The circular emphasized the importance of municipalities arriving at a strategy or plan for joint efforts to improve local childhood environments through dialogue and cooperation with children and young people, non-governmental organizations and groups, parents and other resource persons.

Child welfare

Children and young people who are subject to child welfare measures account for between two and three per cent of the total Norwegian population under 18 years of age. The Government has followed up the Plan of Action for Children and Young People with Serious Behavioural Problems adopted in 1997. A programme was launched in 1999 to promote new, family-based methods of treatment for this group. The methods in question are Multisystemic Training (MST) for young people and Parent Management Training for younger children. The objective is to avoid the inappropriate use of institutions. The national parental guidance programme aimed at enhancing parents' ability to perform their role in bringing up children, which was launched in 1995, has continued. In 1999, the programme was expanded to include parents with school-age children and child welfare professionals who work with the same target group. An evaluation of the programme will be completed in spring 2000.

Research on child welfare and the Child Welfare Act

In 1999, the Research Council of Norway launched the Welfare Programme - Society, Family, Childhood. The new programme comprises research on child welfare (1997-2001) as a follow-up to an earlier programme on the same topic. The programme focuses on the following main areas:

The child welfare service's dilemma: what are the child's best interests?

- Values and normative frameworks of perception for the child welfare service
- The child welfare service's dilemma: what are the child's best interests?
- Problematic contexts in the life of children and young people

The main purpose of this research is to examine the intentional and unintentional consequences of the changes resulting from the new Child Welfare Act (1993). Most of the projects related to this programme have been or will be completed in 2000. The research results currently available will be discussed in an official report on the child welfare service which is to be presented by May 2000.

Sexual abuse of children

In May 1999, the Norwegian authorities presented a plan for Norway's follow-up of the World Congress against the commercial sexual exploitation of children held in Stockholm in 1996. The plan (Q-0988) contains 18 follow-up measures.

A new provision, similar to provisions of the Act relating to Day Care Institutions and the Education Act, was introduced in the Child Welfare Act stipulating that persons who are to be employed by the child welfare service must present a police certificate confirming that they have not been charged or indicted for or convicted of sexual abuse of children. Without this certificate, they may not be employed in the munic-

pal child welfare service or in institutions or become foster parents. A corresponding police certificate may also be required of other persons who perform functions for the child welfare service, such as lay support persons and supervisors.

Unaccompanied minors who are asylum-seekers and refugees

A special allocation is granted to municipalities from the budget of the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs for the resettlement of an unaccompanied minor who is an asylum-seeker or refugee. A working group has evaluated this scheme and in accordance with its proposal, the allocation was increased from NOK 80,000 to NOK 90,000 and the age limit was raised from 18 to 20 years. These amendments entered into force from 1 January 1999.

Age limit for soldiers

In 1999 the Ministry of Defence prepared a draft Bill relating to amendments of the Home Guard Act and the Act relating to Compulsory Military Service. The purpose of the Bill is to raise the age limit for military service, thereby ensuring that no person under 18 years of age participates in an armed conflict. The draft Bill was circulated for comment in autumn 1999, and the Bill was adopted in spring 2000. The initiative must be seen in conjunction with the international process that has been underway for many years to raise the age limit for recruiting children to armed forces and for the participation of children in conflict. An Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child dealing with this topic was adopted in May 2000 (see below).

Women

Gender equality

Preventing gender-based discrimination and promoting equality between women and men are key objectives of human rights efforts. The UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is an important international tool in efforts to strengthen the human rights of women. Under this treaty, States parties are obligated to implement CEDAW at national level and report on their implementation to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women every fourth year. Norway prepared its fifth report in 1999 and sent it to women's and other organizations for comment. Their contributions were included in the report which was forwarded to the UN in printed form in early 2000.

In 1999, an Optional Protocol to CEDAW was adopted, establishing the right of individuals to submit complaints concerning possible violations of treaty provisions. Norway was one of the first countries to sign the protocol. In connection with ratification, Norway will evaluate how the convention is to be implemented in Norwegian legislation.

Efforts to promote gender equality and eradicate discrimination between men and women are authorized by the Gender Equality Act of 9 June 1978, which also provides the legal authority for the enforcement agency, the Gender Equality Ombud. A consultative memorandum proposing amendments to the Act to strengthen the rights of individuals in working and social life was presented in winter 1999.

From a purely legal viewpoint, women are seldom discriminated against in Norway. We seldom see outright discrimination. However, more deep-seated power structures and attitudes are not so easy to alter. Consequently, the actual situation is not as satisfactory as might be hoped.

In May 1999, the Minister of Children and Family Affairs presented a report on gender equality policy to the Storting. The report (Q-0989) was supplemented by

appendices dealing with the following topics:

- gender, power and influence
- young people and gender equality
- men and gender equality
- trafficking in women

Violence and sexual abuse

Violence against and sexual abuse of women and children are among the most serious violations of human dignity and an important signal regarding the lack of equality between women and men. In combating sexualized violence, it is essential that efforts focus on both victims and perpetrators. The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs provides annual grants to cover the operating costs of crisis centres and centres for incest victims; in 1999 support was provided for a total of 70 measures. Government grants cover half of the operating costs of the various centres.

Increasing general expertise as regards victims of violence is another important objective. The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Justice have jointly financed the operation of the Norwegian Resource Centre for Information and Studies on Violence. In 1999, after an evaluation of the centre, it was decided that it should continue to operate for a further period.

The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs have drawn up a plan to reduce violence against women. The plan was presented in November 1999, but was not published in printed form until 2000 (G-0281 B).

Prostitution and trafficking in women and children constitute gross violations of human dignity. In Norway, growing cross-border traffic between Norway (especially Finnmark in northern Norway) and Russia has given this issue new relevance. This concern was addressed in a special appendix to the report on gender equality policy that was presented in 1999. The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs coordinates an inter-ministerial working group that is to draw up a plan of activities to combat trafficking in women as part of the Government's future efforts in this field.

The level of education of immigrant women

In autumn 1999, the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs initiated a survey of the level of education of immigrant women with children in Oslo. The results of this survey will be available in August 2000.

Women's health

Official Norwegian Report 1999:13 on women's health in Norway, which was submitted by the Minister of Health in January 1999, may be read as an analysis of the way women's rights are observed and safeguarded in practice in the health and social welfare sector. The report was circulated to a large number of public agencies for comments, which then formed the basis for the follow-up of the reporting committee's conclusions regarding the need to ensure the integration of a gender perspective into decision-making processes, into the acquisition and dissemination of information and into actual practice in the health and social welfare sector. A strategic follow-up plan has been drawn up to ensure that this is done as from 2000.

Women in the Defence Forces

The Government aims to promote a higher proportion of women in senior positions in the Defence Forces. In 1999, therefore, subordinate agencies of the Defence Forces were requested to submit information and proposals for a plan of action to train women for senior positions in the Defence Forces.

Family life

Forced marriage and bigamy

The Plan of Action to Combat Forced Marriage was presented in December 1998 and covers the next three years. The plan comprises close to 40 measures which various ministries are responsible for following up. The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs will coordinate the implementation of the plan. This work commenced in early 1999, and priority was given to developing information material and establishing a help-line. Material in the form of brochures, guidelines, and a video will be finalized in 2001. The help-line is also due to begin operating early the same spring. In 1999, the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs funded projects run by three organizations. Cooperation with NGOs is pivotal to implementation of the plan and the Ministry will attach greater importance to this field in future. In autumn 1999, counties received a letter from the Ministry underscoring that the child welfare service is responsible for persons under 18 years of age who require temporary accommodation in acute situations arising from a forced marriage. In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry has evaluated measures that will enable former spouses to remain in Norway when a forced marriage is annulled. Proposals for measures was circulated for consultative comment in early 2000.

As part of the efforts to familiarize solemnizers of marriage with the provisions of the Marriage Act, the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs gave an exhaustive presentation of this topic to the heads/ministers/imams of registered religious communities at a meeting arranged by the County Governor of Oslo og Akershus in autumn 1999.

A survey has been conducted of all county governors to determine the number of cases of bigamy that have come to the knowledge of these offices during the period from 1 January 1995 to 30 June 1999. Twenty-two cases of bigamy were recorded during the period in question. In ten of these cases, the bigamous marriage was contracted in another country. During the same period, approximately 105,000 marriages were entered into in Norway. Thus, the number of reported cases of bigamy constitutes a very small proportion of the total number of marriages.

Homosexuals and lesbians

In February 1999, NOVA - Norwegian Social Research presented a report on the standards of living and quality of life of lesbians and homosexuals. The NOVA report shows, on the one hand, that the situation of homosexuals and lesbians has improved compared with earlier surveys. However, the report also reveals a number of alarming facts, particularly as regards young people. For instance, psychological problems and attempted suicides are more common among lesbians and homosexuals than among the rest of the population. One out of four homosexual men and lesbian women under 25 years of age in the survey state that they have attempted to commit suicide at least once. On 20 April 1999, the Storting resolved to ask the Government to present a report on the situation and quality of life of homosexuals and lesbians.

Freedom of religion and belief

In 1999, for the first time, the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs approved an application for public funding for the establishment of a private Muslim primary and lower secondary school. The school is located in Oslo. In considering the application, the Ministry attached importance to the rights of parents, as laid down in international human rights conventions, and the principle of equal treatment in relation to private Christian primary and lower secondary schools that have been approved.



SWEDEN Lars G. Sæstrem/Samfoto

In 1999, the Storting resolved to ask the Government to present a report on the situation and quality of life of homosexuals and lesbians. Photograph from "Gay Parade".

Freedom of expression

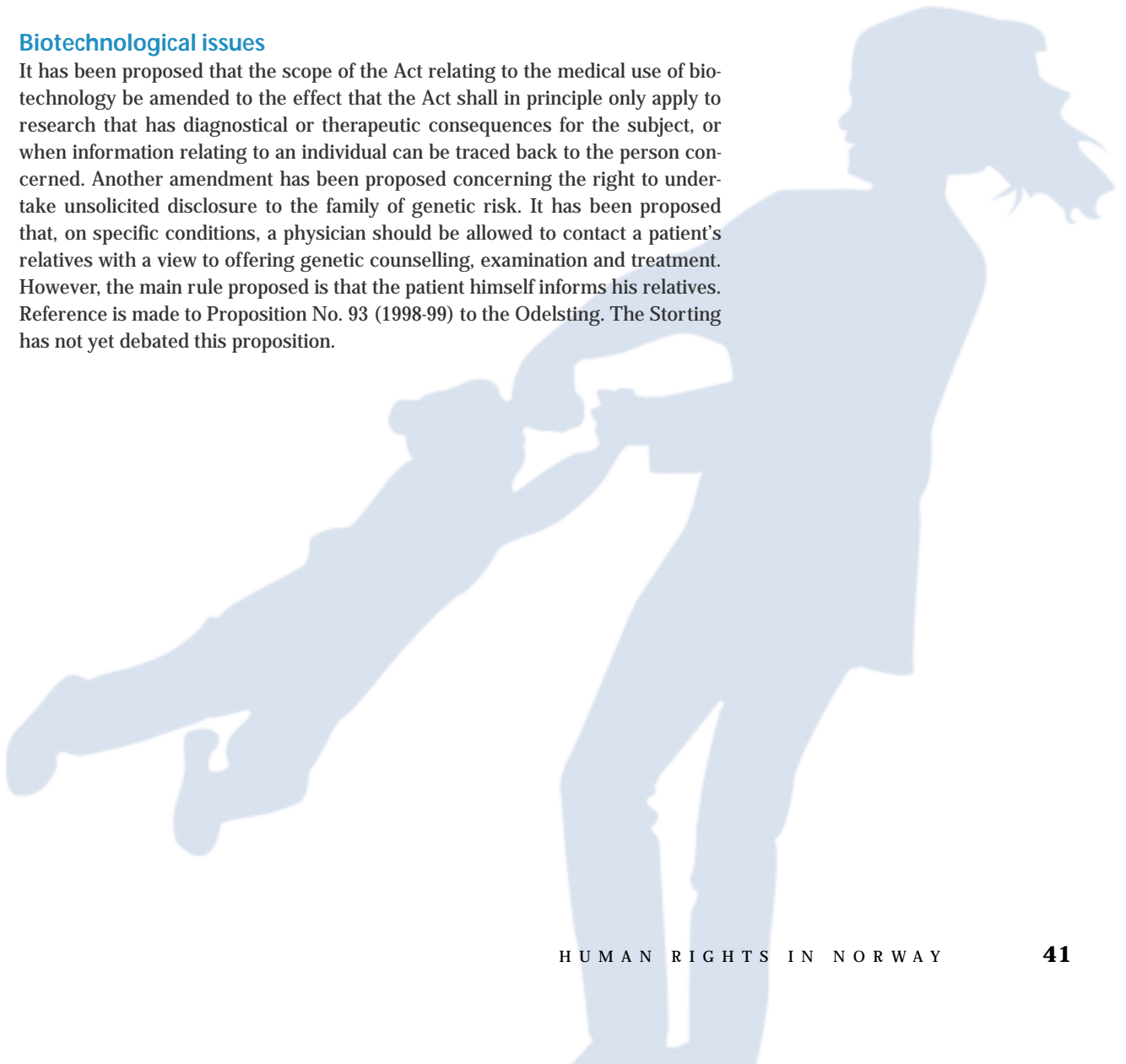
The Commission on Freedom of Expression, appointed in 1996, presented its report, Official Norwegian Report 1999: 27 "Freedom of Expression Should Take Place" - Proposal for a new Article 100 of the Constitution, to the Minister of Justice on 22 September 1999. The report contains proposals for a new constitutional provision relating to the protection of freedom of expression (Article 100). The commission also recommends various legislative amendments, some of which it considers necessary as a result of the proposed constitutional amendment, while it considers that others should be examined more closely in the light of the latter. The commission also focuses on responsibility for facilitating the exercise of freedom of expression.

On 12 November 1999, the Ministry of Justice circulated the report for consultative comment, requesting that the various consultative bodies submit their views by 12 April 2000. The Ministry has commenced work on a report to the Storting on the constitutional amendment proposed by the Commission on Freedom of Expression.

The Symposium on Freedom of Expression, held in September 1998, was jointly arranged by the Council of Europe and the Norwegian Ministry of Cultural Affairs. In 1999, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has initiated efforts to ensure that the symposium is followed up as part of the activities of the Council of Europe in this field, and Norway has participated in determining the nature of the follow-up in the Steering Committee for Culture and Education and its subcommittees.

Biotechnological issues

It has been proposed that the scope of the Act relating to the medical use of biotechnology be amended to the effect that the Act shall in principle only apply to research that has diagnostic or therapeutic consequences for the subject, or when information relating to an individual can be traced back to the person concerned. Another amendment has been proposed concerning the right to undertake unsolicited disclosure to the family of genetic risk. It has been proposed that, on specific conditions, a physician should be allowed to contact a patient's relatives with a view to offering genetic counselling, examination and treatment. However, the main rule proposed is that the patient himself informs his relatives. Reference is made to Proposition No. 93 (1998-99) to the Odelsting. The Storting has not yet debated this proposition.





NORWEGIAN EFFORTS TO
PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

i N t e r
N A T I O N A L L Y



INTRODUCTION

Human rights are the obligations of states towards their citizens. Human rights apply to every individual, regardless of the country in which they reside. This principle of universality imposes an ethical and legal imperative on all of us to strive to achieve global protection of human rights. This principle is also stated clearly in the introduction to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "... a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance...." In other words, human rights is not a question of internal affairs, and the nations of the world have the right and the duty to seek to promote increased respect for human rights in their own country and in the rest of the world. Measures that advance human rights are therefore an important instrument of Norwegian foreign policy.

International efforts to achieve greater respect for human rights are carried out at many levels. Norway takes part in various multilateral fora, in which the UN plays a particularly important role as a mouthpiece, standard-setter and a provider of assistance in the field of human rights. Human rights are promoted in the UN General Assembly (Third Committee), the UN Commission on Human Rights, the UN Commission on the Status of Women and in the different negotiating processes which take place under the auspices of the UN and which are aimed at strengthening the protection of human rights. Norway has also made contributions to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Increasing respect for human rights can also have an impact in terms of promoting development and building peace. Helping to reinforce the protection of human rights is therefore an important aspect of Norway's bilateral relations with other countries. "Human rights dialogues" focus on specific joint projects in which both countries engaged in the dialogue have a contribution to make and where cooperation – dialogue – takes place at various levels: between NGOs, civil society in general and authorities. Development aid can in itself contribute towards realizing human rights – in addition, Norwegian authorities provide project assistance to a multitude of national, regional and international human rights organizations. At regular intervals, Norwegian authorities also take up the human rights situation and individual matters with representatives of countries in which human rights are violated.

COOPERATION WITH LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES

In international human rights efforts, cooperation with like-minded countries is often necessary to obtain necessary support for the measures Norway wishes to initiate. Such cooperation is often informal, having grown out of a common understanding of human dignity and human rights. Partners in dialogues and alliances vary depending on the type of human rights concerned. In other words, cooperation can take many shapes and forms. There has been particularly extensive cooperation between Norway and the other Nordic countries, due to similar cultural backgrounds and historical ties. Other European countries, particularly the Netherlands, Germany and the UK have also been close partners in many connections.

Mention must also be made of the Lysøen Human Security Network. The purpose of this process, which is based on a declaration signed by Norway and Canada at Lysøen in 1998, is to promote increased international support for specific measures to improve the safety of individuals. This cooperation is grounded in the fact that the Norwegian and Canadian authorities in many ways share the same views as regards the importance of international cooperation on the advancement of human rights. In 1999, within the framework of this network, a human rights symposium was organized in China in cooperation with the Chinese authorities. Cooperation has also been established between Norwegian and Canadian NGOs.

Other important partners in the Western group include Australia and New Zealand. Among Latin American countries, particular mention must be made of Norway's contact with Chile, while Thailand is a significant partner in Asia and South Africa is a significant partner in the African group.

NEGOTIATION PROCESSES

In 1999, Norway has participated in a number of working groups within the UN, the Council of Europe and the ILO with a view to drawing up new, stronger or more elaborate rules in the field of human rights.

During 1999, negotiations were completed on an Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women which establishes an individual communications procedure, and on ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Negotiations were also concluded early in 2000 on two Optional Protocols to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which deal with the issues of children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women regarding an individual communications procedure

Under the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979, parties are obliged to take appropriate measures with a view to eliminating discrimination against women. Discrimination is defined as any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of precluding women from exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms in all areas of society on a basis of equa-

TANZANIA Charlotte Thege/Phoenix



Norway plays a proactive role in the work of the UN to eliminate discrimination against women.

lity of men and women and irrespective of their marital status. The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was established to monitor compliance with the convention by the parties to the treaty.

In 1996, the Commission on the Status of Women appointed a working group to prepare an Optional Protocol to CEDAW establishing an individual communications procedure. In March 1999, after four sessions, the working group was able to reach consensus on the text of the protocol, after which the Optional Protocol was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 6 October 1999. Norway has participated in every session of the working group.

The Optional Protocol establishes a communications procedure for individuals or groups of individuals who believe that a state is in violation of the rights enshrined in CEDAW. It also invests the CEDAW Committee with the authority, on certain conditions, to instigate investigations if it receives information indicating that CEDAW provisions are being violated by a state party to the Protocol.

ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Worst Forms of Child Labour

ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (the ILO Convention concerning the Worst Forms of Child Labour) was adopted by the ILO Labour Conference on 17 June 1999.

Child labour is a complex, highly problematic issue on which considerable attention has been focused in recent years in fora such as the UN, the ILO and UNICEF. ILO Convention No. 182 is an important supplement to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ILO Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, and is expected to be a useful instrument in the efforts to combat hazardous child labour. It is regarded as one of the fundamental treaties relating to human rights in working life. Under this convention, all persons under 18 years of age are considered to be children. By ratifying the convention, states commit themselves to taking immediate and effective action to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour. These include slavery, slave-like labour and forced or compulsory labour, hereunder forced or compulsory military recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. Also included are child prostitution and child pornography, the use of children in illegal activities and hazardous or injurious labour. Children are to be withdrawn from the worst forms of child labour and ensured rehabilitation and social integration. The importance of basic education is emphasized.

Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the prohibition against participation in armed conflict of children under 18 years of age

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child prohibits the recruitment and use of children under 15 years of age in armed conflict. Since 1994, a working group appointed by the UN Commission on Human Rights has discussed a draft of an Optional Protocol to the Convention, which would raise the age limit for recruiting children and for the participation of children in armed conflict. The working group's session in 1999 was limited to one meeting lasting one day, at which the Swedish chairman was asked to hold consultations with a view to reaching a possible compromise text. Considerable effort has been made in 1999 to facilitate finalization of negotiations on the protocol. The active involvement of a number of NGOs has also contributed greatly to the completion of this work. These NGOs joined forces in a coalition which initiated

efforts on several occasions to speed up the process, for instance by arranging several regional conferences. Norway has taken a positive view of the work of the coalition and, like several other countries, has supported it financially.

In 1999, in consultation with Norway, Canada arranged two seminars on children in armed conflict. On the basis of the last seminar which took place in December, Canada and Norway drafted a text which formed part of the basis for the working group's negotiations during the January 2000 session. During this session, the working group reached agreement on an optional protocol whereby states are bound to take all feasible measures to ensure that children under 18 years of age do not take part directly in hostilities. The age limit for forced recruitment to armed forces was raised to 18 years, while the age limit for voluntary recruitment was raised to 16 years, but with the possibility for states to commit themselves to a higher age limit.

Reaching agreement on new rules has proved to be a difficult process. In the original draft which formed the basis for the negotiations, it was proposed that the age limit be raised to 18 both for the recruitment of children and for children's participation in armed conflicts. However, a number of countries had great problems in accepting the 18-year limit, making it difficult to arrive at a compromise. However, negotiations were concluded on the Optional Protocol, which was unanimously endorsed by the UN Commission on Human Rights and adopted by the UN General Assembly in May 2000.

Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child contains certain provisions prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children, but the need for more detailed international standards in this field has been widely acknowledged. As part of the international community's efforts to combat the sexual exploitation of children, the UN therefore established a working group in 1994 to draw up an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

After the working group's fifth session in 1999 a number of problematic issues remained to be resolved, particularly in connection with the definitions of "sale of children" and "child pornography" and the substance of the criminality provision. The chairman of the working group held a series of informal consultations in 1999, which resulted in some progress. During the working group's sixth session in 2000, participants showed a strong will to finalize negotiations on the protocol. After two weeks, one question remained, relating to a proposed provision which would permit states that are not party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to become a party to the Optional Protocol. This question was resolved at a special meeting following the negotiation session, thereby enabling negotiations on the protocol to be completed. After receiving the unanimous support of the Commission on Human Rights, the Optional Protocol was adopted by the UN General Assembly in May 2000.

The Optional Protocol contains provisions regarding criminality, jurisdiction and the extradition of offenders. The terms "sale of children", "child prostitution" and "child pornography" are defined. Provisions regarding preventive efforts, including information, and assistance for children who are the victims of sale or sexual exploitation are key elements of the protocol, and emphasis is placed on international cooperation.

Hartmut Schwarzbach/Phoenix



Norway is one of the countries that negotiated a new optional protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Norway has participated in this process since the start of the negotiations, and has sought to achieve an Optional Protocol that is as strong as possible.

Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Work on drawing up an Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture has been in progress since 1994. The aim is to establish a sub-committee to the UN Committee against Torture, patterned on the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, with more extensive investigative powers than those of the Committee itself. The idea is that the sub-committee shall have the authority to visit member states and inspect prisons and other institutions in which persons are deprived of their liberty in order to ascertain whether torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment is taking place. The present Committee against Torture may investigate certain conditions on its own initiative, but this investigative procedure is inadequate in several respects.

The negotiations on the Optional Protocol have been difficult from the outset. The fact that certain restrictive states wish to require the sub-committee to have the consent of the recipient state before carrying out visits and to enable the recipient state to exercise extensive control of the implementation of the visit has given rise to problems.

Little progress was made during the working group's eighth session in 1999. However, a change in the chairmanship of the working group prior to the session may have brought about a slight improvement in the negotiating climate. Although it gave the working group a chance to take a fresh look at the protocol's problematic articles, the group was nonetheless unable to reach a consensus. It is therefore still uncertain when it will be possible to finalize negotiations.

Norway has participated in the negotiations from the very start, and will continue its efforts to achieve a strong text that will give the sub-committee the necessary authority.

Optional Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights regarding Non-Discrimination

Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights obliges the States Parties to ensure the enjoyment, without discrimination, of the rights enshrined in the convention. Since 1998, work has been in progress within the Council of Europe to strengthen legal safeguards against discrimination through the elaboration of an optional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights, which is to contain a general proscription of discrimination. In December 1999, after several rounds of negotiations, the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) completed its negotiations on a final draft of the protocol, which is expected to be adopted in the course of 2000.

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The draft of a UN declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples contains a large number of provisions governing such issues as language, religion, culture, education, land and water and the right to self-determination.

The draft was prepared by a group of UN experts and has been the subject of negotiations for several years. These negotiations take place between states in a

working group appointed by the UN Commission on Human Rights, in which representatives of indigenous peoples and other organizations involved have observer status. Five rounds of negotiations have been held so far, but the working group has made little progress. The right of indigenous peoples to self-determination has been a particularly thorny issue. Norway has participated in the negotiations from the outset, and will continue to work actively to bring them to a successful conclusion. The aim is to present a final draft for adoption by the UN Commission on Human Rights and the UN General Assembly by the end of the UN Decade for Indigenous Peoples in 2004.

Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

For several years there have been discussions about whether to draw up an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to admit of an individual communications procedure in connection with violations of the treaty provisions. A draft of an optional protocol has been prepared by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and circulated for consultative comment. It has not yet been decided whether a working group is to be appointed to draw up an optional protocol, or whether work is to continue in another manner.

Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime on trafficking in persons

Work is in progress within the UN on negotiating a convention on transnational organized crime. There are to be three optional protocols to this convention, one of which will deal with trafficking in persons, with particular emphasis on women and children. The main convention and optional protocols focus on law enforcement, and the objective is to provide effective instruments to strengthen cooperation between countries on combating certain categories of serious crime. The Optional Protocol on trafficking in persons also has important human rights aspects. The draft of the protocol contains provisions regarding legal safeguards for, assistance to and protection of victims. Negotiations on the main convention and two of the three optional protocols were finalized by the end of 2000.

Fundamental Standards of Humanity

As a result of a Nordic initiative, efforts are currently being made within the UN system to focus attention on certain minimum humanitarian standards – Fundamental Standards of Humanity - that apply to all actors in all situations. Norway is submitting the resolution on this topic in the UN Commission on Human Rights. In the resolution adopted in 1999, the UN Secretary General requested, as in previous years, that an analytical study of the topic be prepared for the 2000 session of the UN Commission on Human Rights. In connection with this study, the Secretary General asked states to submit comments on his previous report. Norway submitted such comments in autumn 1999 along with the other Nordic countries.

MULTILATERAL MECHANISMS AND MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

The UN Commission on Human Rights

The pace was hectic and discussions heated at the 55th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights from the very outset. As usual, the mood was set by a

BOTSWANA M. Jelliffe/Trip



Norway has participated in UN negotiations on the rights of indigenous peoples. The right of indigenous people to self-determination is one of the many difficult issues in this work.

NORWAY Trond Isaksen/Phoenix



number of flag issues, such as the Kosovo resolutions, reform of mechanisms, the China and Cuba resolutions, the right to development and, towards the end of the session, a draft resolution concerning defamation of Islam. All in all, 82 resolutions and 10 decisions were adopted, about the same number as the year before.

Evaluations carried out after the 55th session – which coincided with the conflict in Kosovo – show that many countries found the session difficult. Most of the western countries, including the EU and the USA, nevertheless consider the outcome reasonably satisfactory. NGO circles are relatively critical, for one thing about the way country situations were dealt with.

Norway was not entirely satisfied with the outcome, but chooses nonetheless to emphasize the positive results: satisfactory results as regards Norwegian priorities such as racism, children, human rights defenders, fundamental humanitarian standards and new alliances with moderate countries in the South.

The most important individual matters addressed during the 55th session were the following:

- **Kosovo** was dealt with in three resolutions. The debate revealed massive condemnation of FRY's policy and relatively limited criticism of NATO's bombing. Russia ended up rather isolated in its attempts to establish "balanced criticism". The key factor in this context was the contact between the OIC and western countries.
- **China** again succeeded - by means of a "no-action motion" that was adopted by about the same number of votes as before - in preventing a critical (US) draft resolution from being put to the vote.
- Resolutions criticizing the human rights situation in **Iran** were adopted with a clear majority - at the same level as before - but with a more moderate text. The draft resolution against **Iraq** was adopted with a larger majority than in 1998, despite the military operations in the area.
- As usual, **Cuba** was very active in a number of fields, but ultimately ended up in a relatively isolated position. A Czech/Polish draft resolution on the human rights situation in Cuba was adopted with the smallest possible margin, partly due to the strong support of the USA.
- **Seven country resolutions**/chairman texts (Rwanda, Burundi, Nigeria, Sudan, Colombia, Myanmar, East Timor) with more or less satisfactory texts were adopted by consensus. This may confirm the tendency towards it being more difficult to achieve a majority vote in favour of critical country resolutions, although this impression is counterbalanced to a certain extent by the Kosovo texts.
- The debate on **the reform of the mechanisms of the UN Commission on Human Rights** revolved around a proposed reform aimed at the comprehensive streamlining and rationalization of these mechanisms. The proposal was the main arena for a tug-of-war between a group of countries in the South (the LMG group, which takes a more restrictive view of human rights), which oppose rationalization, and western countries in favour of a stronger universalization of human rights. This is a tug-of-war that has gone on in the UN Commission on

Human Rights in the past few years. On the whole, the LMG Group did not gain any ground, but a majority of the countries in Latin America and several countries in Africa support the moderate policy. A compromise was reached in the form of a chairman text adopting certain uncontroversial reforms and establishing an inter-sessional working group to draw up proposals for the next session.

- The resolution on **the right to development** was, as happened at MRK 54 but not at the General Assembly, adopted by consensus after extensive consultations. This result offers some small hope that further debate on this important issue will be less dominated by North-South polarization.
- New topics include proposals regarding **the right to democracy**, globalization, defamation of religion and the obligations and responsibilities of mankind. All of these are complex issues where it will be important, but not exactly easy, to maintain a focus on human rights. The USA was particularly pleased that the initiative regarding the right to democracy was adopted with a very clear majority.

The North-South debate continued along the more technical dividing lines that emerged in 1998, replacing the less productive confrontation of earlier years. There was a marked, but interesting shift in positions during the session itself.

As usual, the Group of Likeminded Countries (the LMG), which comprises countries such as India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Egypt, Cuba, and China, tried to seize the offensive from the start by means of a number of initiatives aimed at weakening the focus on monitoring civil and political rights. However, due to internal friction between the Muslim members and the others (including India) on account of Kosovo and a draft resolution on "defamation of Islam", the Group's actions were gradually less coordinated than before the session started.

During the session, there was a very clear tendency among the countries in the South to gravitate away from the hard line represented by the LMG towards more moderate stances. One of the results of this situation was that the LMG was less dominating during the debates. This was the most promising aspect of the 55th Session: the fact that other delegations from Eastern and Central Europe, from Latin America, to some extent from Africa and even from Asia played a more active, constructive part in the proceedings, and to a greater degree chose to ignore the LMG and their agenda.

The NGOs were also more active than before, but here developments are less encouraging. Under some items of the agenda, NGOs made over 100 submissions, showing little willingness to coordinate their message or avoid repetition. The system is clearly being abused, in that NGOs that do not represent widely held views are making submissions under every single item of the agenda to the growing irritation of all concerned, including the NGOs themselves. This trend gives cause for concern and may trigger initiatives of a restrictive nature on the part of countries that oppose NGO participation.

The UN Commission on Human Rights must be judged by the extent to which it has contributed towards promoting human rights in the UN and UN member countries. As far as Norway's priorities regarding participation in the Commission are concerned, the 55th Session must be said to have produced mixed results.

In relation to Norway's overarching goals, the Commission could have accomplished more in terms of **strengthening efforts to promote human rights**. It did not succeed in making much progress in the efforts to rationalize the Commission's mechanisms during the session. Nonetheless, it is encouraging that a majority of the Commission members were able to agree on good - albeit limited - proposals to strengthen the mechanisms.

The **holistic approach** to human rights may be said to have been strengthened during the session. More nations than ever before took part in the debate on the right to development, and many new proposals were tabled.

As far as the **thematic priorities** are concerned, a satisfactory consensus was reached on such important topics as torture, summary execution and freedom of expression. As regards the various initiatives to promote the right to development and other economic rights, it will be as important as it will be difficult to maintain a human rights focus when addressing topics such as the industrialized countries' obligations in respect of ODA, conditionality in financial transactions, unilateral coercive financial measures, the economic crisis in Asia, globalization, decision-making processes in international economic relations, etc.

Great importance was attached to efforts to combat **racism** and discrimination at the 55th Session. The debate was more down-to-earth than might have been feared, and offered cautious grounds for optimism in the continued preparations for the World Conference against Racism to be held in 2001.

A special session was devoted to efforts to promote **the rights of the child**, in connection with the 10th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Despite the fact that the resolution regarding the rights of the child was more comprehensive than ever, little change could be seen in earlier inflexible stances

The situation in Kosovo made **freedom of religion** a particularly relevant topic. The Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion emphasized the potential role of religious groups in conflict prevention and conflict resolution, and favourable mention was made of the Oslo conference. The draft resolution from the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) regarding defamation of Islam, which was submitted under the agenda item on racism and not on religion, was ultimately formulated in more general terms and a consensus was reached.

The 55th Session reinforced the will to follow up the declaration on **human rights defenders**. Many NGOs and several delegations called for the establishment of a special rapporteur.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

The work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is partly financed from the regular UN budget (1-2% of the total UN budget), and partly by voluntary contributions which cover about half of the OHCHR's expenses. Norway has been one of the largest contributors to the OHCHR. From 1994 up to the end of 1999, Norway provided a total of USD 9.5 million, making it the fifth largest contributor, surpassed only by the UK, the USA, the Netherlands and Sweden. In the past few years, the work of the High Commissioner has grown increasingly dependent on various voluntary contributions, particularly for field operations, making it advisable to maintain the high level of support.



Per K. Lunden/Sorvis

The fight for freedom of expression is a matter which is given priority in Norway's efforts to promote human rights.

Norwegian contributions in the past few years have financed field operations in the Great Lakes area, Angola and Colombia. Funding has also been provided for the UN's voluntary fund for assistance for torture victims, and for the voluntary fund for efforts to promote the rights of indigenous peoples.

Monitoring agencies

The UN Human Rights Committee decided two cases involving complaints by individuals against Norway in 1999. In the first of these, which concerned the right to a fair trial, the Committee found that there was no violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In the other case, the Committee concluded that Norway had not provided sufficient arguments to justify the period of detention in custody and had thus violated Article 6 of the Covenant.

The Council of Europe

The Council of Europe celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1999. Since its creation, the organization has built up a human rights monitoring apparatus to protect the individual human rights of every citizen of its member countries. Each year, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg pronounces a number of judgments against member countries which have violated one of the human rights enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). With its 41 permanent judges, the court has now increased its capacity in order to deal with the rapid growth in the number of complaints. However, there is a large backlog of cases pending judgment, a problem that will pose a considerable challenge in the years ahead. The Norwegian authorities have pointed out the need to give the European Court to Human Rights sufficient resources to enable it to reduce its case backlog and deal with the rapidly increasing number of new complaints received. Through its chairmanship of a special working group under the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Norway has actively sought to ensure that the Court is as well equipped as possible to deal with its escalating caseload. In December 1999, in response to a proposal by this working group, the Committee of Permanent Representatives resolved to increase its allocation for 2000 to the Court by FF 9 million compared with 1999.

Proposition No. 3 (1998-99) to the Odelsting regarding the Act to strengthen the status of human rights in Norwegian law was adopted by the Storting during the spring session of 1999. This Act i.a. makes the European Convention on Human Rights an integral part of Norwegian law and gives it precedence if it should conflict with other statutes. The Government hopes that this will result in greater focus on and awareness of human rights in Norway.

In the past few years, several new monitoring mechanisms have been put in place to supplement the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights in order to deal with future challenges. One example is the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which has unlimited access to prisons, psychiatric clinics and other institutions in which persons are deprived of their liberty in all member countries. Other important instruments are the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Norway ratified the Framework Convention on 17 March 1999 (see above).

The Council of Europe's new Commissioner for Human Rights, who took up his duties in October 1999, is a useful addition to the Council's instruments. The

commissioner will supplement the work of the European Court of Human Rights on a non-judicial basis, by providing advice and information on human rights. Through his efforts in connection with the Chechnya conflict, the commissioner has already proved to be a valuable addition.

The Council of Europe possesses unique expertise as regards long-term efforts to create stable democratic institutions, fundamental standards and judicial instruments. Thus, the Council's activities to promote democracy supplement the work of other international organizations, particularly the OSCE, the EU and the UN. Norway is pleased that in the past year the Council of Europe has demonstrated an ability to reorganize and reorder priorities to meet the major challenges arising from the unrest in the Balkans.

Cooperation between the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) was further strengthened in 1999. Both prior to and during its chairmanship of the OSCE in 1999, Norway made a considerable effort to coordinate the activities of the OSCE and the Council of Europe more closely. Cooperation focuses particularly on democracy and human rights, including minority rights, and on consolidating the rule of law.

The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers has established a special political mechanism to monitor member countries' compliance with their obligations as regards democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Nordic cooperation in connection with the work of the monitoring mechanism continued in 1999 in the form of consultations prior to the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and joint Nordic submissions. The topics on which the monitoring mechanism focused in 1999 were the death penalty and the police and security forces.

In 1999, Norway also made a number of voluntary contributions to human rights activities under the auspices of the Council of Europe. This included support for the Council of Europe's programme to strengthen human rights training in the Turkish police force, projects in Estonia and Latvia aimed at strengthening the integration of the countries' Russian-speaking population, projects to improve conditions for children in Albanian refugee camps during the Kosovo crisis, a project to train judges in Romania, a research project related to the creation of the new European Court of Human Rights and a joint project between the Council of Europe and the OSCE to strengthen the rights of the Roma.

In 1999, the European Court of Human Rights pronounced two judgments in cases in which a complaint had been lodged against Norway. Both judgments dealt with the relationship between freedom of expression and defamation, and in both cases the court found that Norway had violated Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights which protects freedom of expression. The judgments may be found on the home page of the European Court of Human Rights (www.echr.coe.int).

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

During Norway's chairmanship of the OSCE in 1999, considerable importance was attached to the organization's efforts to strengthen the participating States' commitments to respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, creating democratic institutions and developing the rule of law. These goals constitute the OSCE's human dimension and these commitments apply equally to all participating States. It is a fundamental principle that commitments within the human dimension are not to be regarded as part of member countries' domestic affairs.

The OSCE assists states which formerly had totalitarian regimes to adjust to the OSCE's common values.

Emphasis is also placed on protecting minorities. The OSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) plays the main role in these activities.

During its chairmanship, Norway has devoted considerable attention to directing and developing the OSCE's involvement in activities within the human dimension. A two-pronged strategy has been followed. Grave breaches of OSCE obligations were taken up regularly in connection with the trips made by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and in the OSCE's various political fora. The Chairmanship also actively supported the provision of technical advice and development assistance which is channelled through OSCE institutions and delegations. In 1999 Norway contributed NOK 2.5 million to the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and its project-related activities, which mainly targeted member countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus region.

Efforts to promote greater knowledge and understanding of other cultures play an important role in preventing conflicts from developing within the OSCE area. All of the OSCE's 54 participating States have undertaken to protect the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of persons who are members of national minorities. The Norwegian Chairmanship emphasized the need to develop projects to promote the protection of cultural heritage and the cultural rights of minorities. In cooperation with the Icelandic Chairmanship of the Council of Europe, a special seminar on culture and conflict prevention was arranged in Bergen in May 1999, in which 480 representatives from 30 OSCE participating States took part. The primary objective of this work was to focus attention on ways to make better use of culture and cultural instruments in reconciliation and conflict resolution.

As part of these efforts, the Norwegian OSCE Chairmanship also focused on the issue of freedom of religion. Norway took the initiative in reactivating the OSCE's panel of advisory experts on freedom of religion and in prioritizing a review of the panel's future tasks. Norway also provided NOK 250,000 to finance projects run by the panel of experts. Furthermore, a special meeting on freedom of religion was held in Vienna in March, in which more than 150 representatives from OSCE participating States, international organizations and a large number of NGOs took part. A number of specific recommendations for further follow-up were presented. The Chairmanship also hosted a round-table conference on freedom of religion and conflict prevention in Oslo in June 1999.

Special attention was focused on gender equality during the Norwegian Chairmanship. Temporary positions for advisors on gender equality issues were established at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna and in the ODIHR in Warsaw. Norway has also underscored the need to safeguard the gender equality perspective in connection with the OSCE's field operations and project-related activities. A special meeting on gender equality was arranged in Vienna in June 1999, which was attended by close to 180 experts and representatives of various international organizations, NGOs and OSCE participating States. At the Istanbul Summit, particularly as a result of Norwegian pressure, a resolution was adopted to draw up an action plan for gender equality issues within the OSCE.

In several OSCE participating States, the situation of the Roma has grown increasingly difficult. This is a problem which the OSCE has gradually addressed more actively. During the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Oslo in 1998, it was

decided to intensify the OSCE's involvement in Roma/Sinti issues. The OSCE's High Commissioner for National Minorities has also played a key role in these efforts. At Norway's urging, the topic was raised at a special meeting in Vienna in September 1999. The objective was to focus on specific ways in which the OSCE and member countries can contribute towards improving the situation of these vulnerable population groups. Discussions revolved around how efforts can be made within the OSCE to build on the positive experience gained in various participating States, and how the organization can contribute in more acute crises involving the Roma/Sinti as a minority group.

The 1999 Review Conference

The main purpose of review conferences is to carry out a review of all aspects of OSCE activities, with special focus on participating States' observance of the obligations they have undertaken and on possible measures to strengthen the OSCE. Great emphasis is placed on the obligations within the OSCE's human dimension, but other important aspects of OSCE operations are also discussed. Review conferences are held every year in which there is an OSCE Summit.

A broad-based review conference was held during the Norwegian chairmanship in 1999. The first part took place from 20 September to 1 October in Vienna, and the concluding part took place in connection with the Istanbul Summit from 8-10 November. Delegates from the OSCE's 54 participating States, the OSCE's partner countries around the Mediterranean as well as Japan and Korea, representatives of international organizations and a number of NGOs examined central aspects of the OSCE's activities. The Chairmanship underscored the importance of discussions in the form of dialogue. Emphasis was placed mainly on issues related to democratization, human rights and the rule of law. In connection with the conference, special thematic meetings were held on freedom of the media, efforts to eliminate torture, and efforts to combat the sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children in former conflict areas.

The review conference has gradually acquired a different significance from the one originally intended. Previously, this type of meeting, the so-called CSCE follow-up meetings, was the most important instrument at the disposal of the OSCE for inducing participating States to comply with their obligations and for formulating new, supplementary obligations. Today, there is a more continuous dialogue between the delegations of participating States in Vienna regarding the States' follow-up, largely based on the work and reports of OSCE missions and institutions. New resolutions are also adopted by the Permanent Council or by Ministerial Council meetings and Summits. The ODIHR also reports regularly on its activities in the human dimension to the Permanent Council in Vienna, which convenes weekly. Like the implementation meeting for the human dimension, however, the review conference has a clear advantage in that it assembles many organizations, particularly large NGOs, that are interested in cooperating with the OSCE on promoting democracy and human rights.

The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

The post of Commissioner of the CBSS on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, including the rights of minorities, was established in 1994. The Commissioner's current mandate expired on 30 September 2000, and the institution has therefore been evaluated in connection with the elaboration of a new mandate.

Besides taking action on his own initiative, the Commissioner annually receives approximately 200 requests and complaints from individuals and groups which

are assessed and dealt with by the Commissioner and his staff. The number of inquiries from individuals has increased significantly in the past few years, which may necessitate the definition of clearer rules for dealing with such inquiries.

In 1999, the Commissioner has presented a number of reports or "surveys" on various areas relating to democratization and human rights in the member states of the Baltic Sea Council. These are presented to national authorities for implementation.

In 2000, the Commissioner has chosen to concentrate part of his activities on measures to promote and stabilize the development of democracy through the Programme for the Strengthening of Democratic Processes in the Baltic Sea Region. The programme comprises a series of seminars on good law-making in the national parliaments of member states. In connection with the programme, he will also prepare an overview of the status of local democracy in the CBSS member states.

The Barents Cooperation

The Barents Cooperation was established in 1993 as a binding political structure of cooperation between the Nordic countries and Russia. A primary goal of this cooperation is to contribute towards strengthening democracy and safeguarding the rule of law in the Russian part of the Barents region. The political declarations of intent are concretized in the form of cooperation on a wide range of projects across national boundaries in the region. The term "the Barents generation" is heard more and more frequently in Russian. It refers to the hundreds of young Russians who in the past five or six years, by studying and working in Nordic countries, have gained an insight into the way a democratic society is organized and tackles the challenges it faces, and who are now applying their experience in their everyday life in Russia.

In 1999, Norway continued to emphasize the role of the Barents Cooperation in advancing the development of civil society in Russia. Financial assistance has been provided for a large number of "people-to-people" measures. This aspect of the Barents Cooperation, which takes place at the grass-roots level, is bearing fruit in the form of greater communication and confidence between the nations involved. For the many Russians who participate in the projects, this is an object lesson in local democracy and the principles of the rule of law.

Projects carried out in 1999 include:

- **Efforts to promote the rights of indigenous peoples**
The rights of indigenous peoples are a priority area in the Barents Cooperation. Cooperation with the Sami-Russian population of Lovozero continued in 1999. The aims of this cooperation include safeguarding the Sami cultural heritage in the area and developing a sustainable Sami society by means of various humanitarian measures and educational projects. In 1999, the Regional Committee for Indigenous Peoples adopted a special action plan for the indigenous peoples of the Barents Region.
- **Assistance for the establishment of a crisis centre for women in Murmansk**
The centre has helped to focus attention on violence against women as a social problem, and one which is traditionally not discussed in Russia. The centre has discovered that there is severe social distress among older women with alcoholic husbands, and a special day-time centre is currently being established to give these women a place in which to seek refuge in times of trouble. The crisis centre is now being run by members of the local population.

International efforts on behalf of indigenous peoples

In 1993, the UN World Conference on Human Rights proposed the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous peoples. In 1998, the UN Commission on Human Rights established an ad hoc working group which held its second meeting in February 2000. The most recent meeting of the working group was chaired by Norway. It is agreed that the forum should have a broad mandate which, in addition to human rights issues, should also comprise economic, social and cultural issues and issues relating more specifically to the right to development. The forum should be organized directly under ECOSOC.

It is agreed that the forum should consist of an equal number of representatives of governments and indigenous peoples. Opinions still differ as to how the representatives of indigenous peoples should be chosen. A likely solution would be for such representatives to be appointed by the ECOSOC Chairman after consulting with organizations for indigenous peoples. The UN Commission on Human Rights recommended the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous peoples at its session in April 2000, and ECOSOC decided on establishing the forum 27 July 2000.



GUATEMALA G. Flemming/Trip

In 1999, Norway contributed to the carrying out of elections in several countries, for example Guatemala.

PARTICIPANTS IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS

NORDEM

The Norwegian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights (NORDEM) was established in 1993 at the Institute for Human Rights, University of Oslo, with funds provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This institution was created to enable Norway to respond quickly to international requests for assistance within NORDEM's areas of expertise, which are democracy and human rights. NORDEM receives its assignments from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Most of NORDEM's activities are focused on election monitoring and counselling on the electoral process. In this connection, a stand-by force has been established in cooperation with the Norwegian Refugee Council. This force is operative in three main categories of activity: providing assistance in connection with elections, monitoring human rights and investigating serious human rights violations.

In 1999, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributed almost NOK 16 million to various projects run by NORDEM. These projects comprised election monitoring and the provision of election personnel in connection with elections in Armenia, Croatia, Georgia, Guatemala, Macedonia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, and monitoring of the registration of candidates prior to elections in Ethiopia. Assistance was also provided for the secondment of Norwegian participants to the observer corps in East Timor, for the OSCE missions in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Macedonia, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and the former Yugoslavia, and for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the Hague.

The Norwegian Human Rights Fund

The Norwegian Human Rights Fund provides assistance to projects run by local, regional and/or national NGOs in countries outside Europe and North America, which do not fall within the scope of other Norwegian governmental or non-governmental aid schemes. Assistance is largely provided for informational and educational measures in the field of human rights and intended as a supplement

to the aid activities of the fund's member organizations. In 1999, the Human Rights Fund allocated NOK 4.8 million to organizations all over the world. As in previous years, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributed two-thirds of the Fund's ordinary funding, in addition to NOK 500,000 in extraordinary assistance. The following organizations are currently members of the Fund: the Institute for Human Rights, Norwegian Church Aid, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, the Church of Norway Council on Foreign Relations, the Norwegian Red Cross, Norwegian People's Aid and Redd Barna (Save the Children Norway).

The Human Rights House Foundation

The aim of the Human Rights House Foundation is to increase respect for human rights, both in Norway and internationally. The main strategy is to gather active, reputable local human rights organizations under the same roof in order to establish a new, permanent institution which in turn will strengthen civil society and serve as a base for human rights efforts in the country concerned.

At present, there are Human Rights Houses in Bergen, Moscow, Oslo, Sarajevo and Warsaw, and a human rights centre in Tirana. Work is in progress on plans to establish a Human Rights House in Albania, Kenya and Turkey. When new Human Rights Houses are created, the Human Rights House Foundation acts as instigator, midwife and adviser during the initial phase. The foundation also develops a network between the various Houses, particularly with a view to promoting the exchange of information and building expertise.

The foundation receives financial assistance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from Norwegian private individuals for the establishment of new Human Rights Houses internationally.

Support for NGOs

Non-governmental organizations engaged in efforts to promote human rights are important allies for government authorities. It is important to strengthen civil society in order to expose human rights violations, disseminate information and influence authorities. Independent, active NGOs will contribute towards increasing respect for human rights, both in Norway and in other countries. Norwegian human rights organizations provide the authorities with information and provide input for the formulation of Norwegian policy.

Many Norwegian NGOs have partners or sister organizations in countries where human rights are violated. As far as possible, the Norwegian authorities channel assistance to organizations abroad through Norwegian NGOs in order to encourage cooperation and promote transfers of information and experience. Support for local NGOs is also provided through the Norwegian embassy in the country concerned. Norway also gives assistance to international organizations working in certain countries and regions, or which focus on specific issues such as the rights of the child, freedom of expression, etc. Some of the many NGOs which received funding for human rights efforts in 1999 were the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, the Norwegian Forum for Freedom of Expression, the Norwegian Bar Association, the Norwegian Medical Association, the Norwegian Union of Teachers, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, the Oslo Coalition for Freedom of Religion, Article 19, the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, the Minority Rights Group, the Association for the Prevention of Torture, Anti-Slavery International, the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Defence of Children International, the International Federation of Women Lawy-

ers, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, the Norwegian Burma Council, the Tibetan Centre of Human Rights and Democracy and the Release Political Prisoners Group (Kenya).

HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUES

The aim of all Norwegian efforts to promote human rights in other countries is to increase respect for internationally recognized human rights standards. Human rights dialogues are one of several ways in which Norway works to achieve this goal. These dialogues are based on a long-term perspective, and are not expected to produce immediate results. The strength of dialogues lies in the fact that networks are built up between those who participate in the dialogues; politicians, academicians, NGOs and senior government officials. Within these networks, exchanges of information, concerns and criticism take place within a framework of mutual trust that makes it possible to exert influence and promote positive changes over time.

Norway is currently engaged in human rights dialogues with three countries:

China

In the past few years, Norway has made active efforts to engage the Chinese authorities in a structured technical and political dialogue on human rights. One aspect of this dialogue consists of an ongoing Roundtable Conference on the Rule of Law and Human Rights, the third round of which took place in Oslo in June 1999. The Norwegian delegation was headed by the then Foreign Minister Knut Vollebæk and also included the Director General of Public Prosecutions and representatives of the Supreme Court, the Norwegian Bar Association, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, the Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry and the University of Oslo. The main topics discussed at the conference were the rule of law, freedom of religion and expression and labour rights. An open and fruitful discussion was conducted on the human rights situation in China.

In connection with the roundtable conference, bilateral meetings were also held between Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Vollebæk and Mr. Wang Guangya, then Chinese Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, now promoted to Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs. At these meetings, individual matters were taken up and possible joint projects in the field of human rights were discussed.

In March 1999, Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Tang Jiaxuan paid an official visit to Norway, during which he met with the then Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik and Foreign Minister Vollebæk. A number of bilateral issues, including human rights in general and specific cases, were raised during their talks.

China, Canada and Norway jointly hosted a symposium on human rights in Qingdao, China in July 1999. Important human rights issues were discussed with invited observers from most Asian countries.

The human rights dialogue is concretized in several joint projects:

- The Institute for Human Rights works closely with Chinese universities on developing a curriculum and courses for instruction in human rights and on a research project on the rule of law, in addition to which the institute has



CHINA Eric Smith/Trip

In 1999, human rights issues were discussed at meetings with Chinese politicians and in interventions by Norway in the UN.

arranged several seminars on current human rights topics for Chinese government officials and academicians.

- Educational grants have been provided for students in Kunming, Yunnan Province, to promote the right of minorities to higher education, and Chinese students have been invited to attend the University of Oslo's Summer School programme.
- Norway has proposed a project aimed at training medical staff in the police force, prison service and judicial system, to be implemented in cooperation with the Norwegian Medical Association. Norway has funded a Chinese project to promote social, economic and cultural rights in Yunnan Province.

The human rights dialogue neither precludes nor replaces Norway's possibilities of taking up the human rights situation in China in multilateral fora. Norway's interventions on human rights in the UN Commission on Human Rights in spring 1999 contained overt criticism of several aspects of the human rights situation in China.

The human rights situation in Tibet has been a central topic of most political discussions between official Norwegian and Chinese representatives in recent years. The human rights dialogue with China has also given Norway an opportunity to raise issues relating to Tibet at a high level. The situation in Tibet was taken up by Foreign Minister Vollebæk during his meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan during the latter's official visit to Norway in March 1999, and in connection with the Roundtable Conference in Oslo a few months later. For several years, the Norwegian authorities have urged the authorities in Beijing to initiate a dialogue with the Dalai Lama. Norway has also underscored the importance of religious freedom, preservation of cultural traditions and the right of the national population of Tibet to education in their own language. Individual matters are taken up on a regular basis.

Since 1993, Norway has provided substantial and increasing assistance to Tibet. In addition to more conventional projects run by organizations such as Médecins Sans Frontières and the Red Cross, in 1994 Norway entered into a five-year agreement on extensive cooperation between Tibet University and three Norwegian universities. Under the umbrella of this Tibet-Norway Network for University Cooperation, a number of projects are being implemented with particular emphasis on strengthening Tibetan culture. This agreement, which was renewed for a further five-year period in autumn 1999, has also made it possible to bring a relatively large number of Tibetans to Norway to pursue their education and take part in research projects. Norwegian assistance is also channelled to Tibetan refugees in India.

Turkey

Norway's involvement in efforts to promote human rights in respect of Turkey consists of both a bilateral dialogue with the Turkish authorities and assistance for cooperation between NGOs.

A human rights dialogue was established at senior government level following the visit of State Secretary Bjerke to Turkey in April 1997. The dialogue was further developed at the political level on the occasion of the talks between the Norwegian Minister of Human Rights and International Development and Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit in Oslo in autumn 1997 and in subsequent talks between Norwegian and Turkish cabinet members. The head of the Human Rights Commission of the Turkish national assembly, Sema Piskinsüt, had talks

Markku Nyrräjä/Samfoto



Turkey does not recognize the Kurds as a minority and does not consider the situation of the Kurds to be a human rights issue. Norway has focused on the situation of and legal safeguards for the Kurds as a primary issue.

in Oslo in February 1999. The human rights dialogue is to be regarded as part of a broader political dialogue with Turkey and was therefore a key topic during Foreign Minister Vollebæk's official visit to Turkey in August 1999.

The present Government of Turkey is in favour of dialogue. However, their proposals as regards the content of such talks have concerned priorities other than human rights (such as anti-terrorism, law and order, etc.). Turkey does not wish to incorporate contact between NGOs into government-to-government cooperation.

In Norway's view, the increasingly frequent contact between Norwegian and Turkish NGOs is a necessary, valuable part of the human rights dialogue. Turkish NGOs include the Human Rights Foundation, the Human Rights Association and TOSAV (with Norwegian partners such as the Norwegian Forum for Freedom of Expression, the Helsinki Committee, the Norwegian Bar Association and the International Peace Research Institute (PRIO)). A seminar on the treatment of torture victims was arranged in Diyarbakir in autumn 1999 by the Turkish Medical Association in cooperation with the Norwegian Medical Association. The Norwegian Union of Teachers and the Turkish teachers' organizations have implemented joint projects to increase awareness of human rights among Turkish teachers. Work is now in progress on establishing a Human Rights House in Ankara, and the Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry (NHO) is consolidating its contacts with its Turkish counterpart, TÜSIAD, partly with a view to cooperation on the social responsibility of companies and business ethics.

Gender equality issues feature increasingly on the agenda of the human rights dialogue, and in December 1999 the Norwegian Gender Equality Ombud visited Turkey at the invitation of the Turkish Minister of Family Affairs and Gender Equality. The programme included talks and meetings with Turkish authorities, NGOs and the academic community. Norway also provides project funding for several Turkish women's and gender equality organizations. Norwegian solutions and experience constitute useful input for both the authorities and other players who are becoming increasingly active in this field.

The human rights dialogue embraces such topics as freedom of expression, the rule of law, torture and disappearances and the situation of human rights defenders. In talks with the Turkish authorities, special attention has been drawn to the need to implement both adopted and planned reforms. Norway has focused on the situation of and legal safeguards for the Kurds as a primary issue, emphasizing that the cultural rights of the Kurds as a minority must be respected, thereby enabling the Kurdish population to preserve their own identity, for instance by learning and using their own languages. The Turkish authorities do not consider the situation of the Kurds to be a human rights issue, since they do not recognize the Kurds as a minority.

Cuba

Despite certain signs towards liberalization, for example in connection with the visit of the Pope in 1998, Cuba has still made considerably more progress in implementing social, economic and cultural rights than in respecting political and civil rights. Ideological regimentation still gives rise to violations of dissidents' human rights.

The Cuban authorities attempt to ascribe all of Cuba's problems, from its economic difficulties to the limited freedom of expression and human rights violations, to the US boycott of Cuba. Lifting the US boycott would undoubtedly bring about major changes internally in Cuba, both economic and political.

At the 54th UN General Assembly in autumn 1999, Norway voted in favour of a resolution to lift the US embargo against Cuba. In the explanation of this vote, reference is made to the fact that unilateral trade measures are not considered to be the appropriate instrument for solving human rights problems. In March 1999, Norway also voted in favour of a resolution in the UN Commission on Human Rights criticizing the human rights situation in Cuba.

Norway has succeeded in entering into a constructive dialogue with Cuba on human rights. Two seminars took place in 1999, which focused on the judicial system, democracy and human rights. While the Norwegian-Cuban dialogue is regarded as fruitful and candid, there is also room for criticism. The parties involved, both in Cuba and Norway, consider the seminars that have been held to be a good starting point for further dialogue and cooperation, and new seminars are currently being planned. So far, Norway is the only country that has been able to pursue a dialogue with the Cubans on these politically sensitive topics.

The human rights dialogue with Cuba has a long-term perspective. It serves to develop networks between participants at various levels, between politicians, the academic community, NGOs and - not least - between senior officials in various parts of the judicial system. Within these networks, information and criticism are exchanged in a climate of mutual trust and the contact may lead to positive changes over time.

New dialogues

Indonesia

With its historic election of a new national assembly in June 1999, Indonesia is in the process of becoming the world's third largest democracy. The Indonesian government faces major challenges in a great many fields, including democracy and human rights. Human rights issues are a central focus of the new government's efforts to establish a democratic system of government for the entire country, and a special Human Rights Minister has been appointed to head this work.

The country is the site of widespread social unrest due to poverty, ethnic tensions and religious friction. The secession of East Timor has given new impetus to the demands for independence of other provinces, especially in Aceh in northernmost Sumatra. The appointment of national commissions of inquiry in autumn 1999 to investigate alleged violations of human rights by the Indonesian authorities on East Timor and in Aceh has led to calls for those responsible to be brought to justice. The findings of these commissions will be an indication of how much progress has been made in the democratization process in Indonesia. Norway has on several occasions expressed the opinion that the Indonesian authorities themselves should be given the opportunity to pursue and clarify these issues before any action by the international community is considered.

Norway contributed substantial amounts to the UN and NGOs in connection with the elections held in Indonesia in summer 1999 and to the United Nations Transitional Administration (UNTAET) in East Timor. Of total Norwegian development assistance amounting to NOK 72 million in 1999, as much as NOK 52 million was spent on East Timor.

Both Indonesia and Norway wish to cooperate more closely on human rights issues. In the Norwegian Government's Plan of Action for Human Rights, Indonesia was identified as one of the countries with which Norway is interested in



EAST-TIMOR Gustav Engerøth/Phoenix

In 1999, NOK 52 million of Norwegian development assistance was spent on East Timor.

entering into a human rights dialogue. Norway responded affirmatively to an inquiry from the Indonesian authorities in autumn 1999 regarding the initiation of a human rights dialogue between Indonesia and Norway.

In preparing for such a dialogue, Norway has stated that it must be grounded in mutual respect and equality and aim at assisting Indonesia in developing a democratic system of government and a functioning rule of law. The topics to be addressed in the dialogue will be elaborated in close cooperation between the Norwegian and Indonesian authorities, and are expected to be concretized in the course of spring 2000.

Vietnam

The human rights situation in Vietnam reflects to a troubling degree the desire of the governing party and the authorities to ensure stability and the control of the central authorities. Norway has discussed establishing a human rights dialogue with Vietnam. Contact concerning such a dialogue has continued in 1999, for example in connection with the visit of the Vietnamese Prime Minister to Norway in September 1999.

Norway has followed the situation of political prisoners and victims of religious persecution in Vietnam particularly closely. Human rights issues are raised at Norway's annual development assistance consultations with Vietnam, and this was also the case in 1999.

Enhancing the effect of human rights dialogues

In Report No. 21 (1999-2000) to the Storting, plans are outlined for efforts to enhance the effectiveness of and strengthen the human rights dialogues. Systematic efforts in this respect have not yet been initiated. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has entered into discussions with the Institute for Human Rights with a view to exploring the possibilities for such efforts. The Ministry underscored the importance of also involving broader circles in the more formal aspects of the dialogues. Non-governmental human rights organizations are now involved in all dialogues.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The promotion of human rights and development cooperation have traditionally been seen as two separate areas of focus. Today, the international community sees clearer links between the two areas and has recognized the necessity of close interaction between these areas in tackling challenges. Promoting civil and political rights can liberate forces in society which can in turn foster development. Promoting economic, social and cultural rights empowers the population to take part in productive work, thereby also advancing development. In other words, development cooperation is largely a question of assistance in realizing the rights enshrined in the international human rights conventions.

The UN Declaration on the Right to Development, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1986, also establishes important guiding principles for the way states should promote human rights. According to the Declaration, every person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development which makes it possible for them to realize fundamental freedoms and all the established human rights. The process of implementing the Declaration helps us to operationalize the human

rights dimension in development processes, to establish credible cooperation with developing countries that are prepared to take human rights seriously, and to place development issues on the international agenda.

Guidelines

In the guidelines that were drawn up in 1999 and presented in the Plan of Action for Human Rights, emphasis is placed on the importance of employing positive instruments in promoting human rights through development cooperation. This means giving priority to countries and organizations which show a willingness to prepare plans and set specific goals for advancing human rights.

Individuals' possibilities of realizing their human rights differ significantly. The weakest are worst off. In the guidelines, therefore, particular importance is attached to efforts to promote the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities. Emphasis is also placed on ensuring that human rights activities are poverty-oriented.

Development cooperation is intended to strengthen the ability of partner countries to comply with their international human rights obligations. In this context, the guidelines underscore the importance of the long-term development of institutions.

Rights-based development and channels for strengthening the human rights dimension of development cooperation

The guidelines adopted in 1999 call for development cooperation to be based to a greater extent on human rights. Rights-based development implies a holistic economic, social, political and cultural approach aimed at ensuring respect for the rights of poor people, and as such is in keeping with the poverty orientation of Norwegian development cooperation. Active use of the follow-up of international conferences and reporting in connection with international conventions shall be made in development cooperation to create a common framework of reference for the promotion of human rights. The human rights aspect will thus become a cross-cutting dimension of development cooperation, and all relevant activities will be assessed from the standpoint of human rights. There are also plans to provide more systematic assistance for projects related to human rights.

Through development cooperation, more systematic efforts will be made to conduct a dialogue with partner countries on the international human rights treaties to which the countries have acceded, and contribute towards ensuring that the countries report on and clarify their own situation. In this connection, Norway helps to strengthen expertise on international human rights efforts and to increase awareness of the way international human rights instruments can be used in one's own country. Assistance in building up countries' expertise and capacity to deal with national challenges in the field of human rights and to fulfil their international obligations is a core element.

Basing development cooperation to a stronger degree on rights is also a central element of the work Norway does through multilateral development and financial institutions. The UN system plays a key role in promoting human rights, not only by virtue of the UN's function as a standard-setter, but also as a main player in development cooperation.

To strengthen UN efforts to establish a Comprehensive Development Framework, Norway decided in 1999 to support the new programme entitled Human

Rights Strengthening (HURIST). Through HURIST, which is a joint programme between the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), Norway will strengthen the UNDP's ability to incorporate the human rights dimension into its work and test new methods of building national capacity in this field.

The World Bank and the regional development banks are increasingly emphasizing the link between human rights and economic and social development. In 1999, Norway and the other Nordic countries have advocated extending the banks' mandate to include a more holistic approach to development issues. Norway has influenced the work of the development banks through its active participation in the banks' executive boards, through meetings with the banks' management and staff and by co-financing projects. Norway also exerts influence by means of periodical negotiations on increases in the basic capital of the respective institutions. The development banks aim at combating poverty through education, health projects and other activities. These efforts have become particularly relevant in the wake of the crisis in Asia, where there is now stronger focus on the social consequences of the crisis.

In the report entitled "Assessing Aid" (published in 1998), the World Bank concludes that its work is essential to creating favourable framework conditions for human rights. In 1999, the bank's new focus on human rights offered many opportunities for Norwegian input. Norway contributed to the World Bank's work in this field in 1999, both through co-financing and by providing Norwegian expertise.

The Inter-American Development Bank is particularly active in areas that are directly or indirectly related to human rights issues. Norway has supported the bank's involvement in peace processes, efforts to modernize judicial systems, combat corruption and prevent violence, and cooperation between the authorities and civil society. As a result of the financial crisis in Asia, the Asian Development Bank has entered into closer political dialogue with the authorities in the region, where human rights concerns have now been placed on the agenda. In the negotiations on replenishment that commenced in 1999, Norway has helped to ensure that human rights issues are a central topic, including efforts to combat child labour. In 1999, the Asian Development Bank began work on both a new long-term strategy and a poverty strategy. Norway is participating actively in this process. The African Development Bank began work in 1999 on operationalizing its Vision Document on its future areas of involvement. The African Development Bank's policy document on the promotion of good governance, in which respect for human rights is an important dimension, was approved by the bank's Executive Board in 1999.

Details of certain priority areas and examples of measures

The Plan of Action for Human Rights outlines a total of nine areas to which particular importance is to be attached. Some of these have already been key areas of focus in Norwegian development cooperation policy for some time.

1) Good governance and strengthening the rule of law

Good governance is vital to every democracy. However, the necessary expertise and infrastructure is often lacking. In Norway's development cooperation throughout 1999, increased emphasis has been placed on promoting fair and effective administrative practices.

Combating corruption was a key concern in Norwegian development cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral, in 1999. Corruption is an obstacle to development. International aid achieves the best results in terms of reducing poverty, improving the quality of social services and ensuring the equitable distribution of benefits in countries where the public administration is efficient, transparent and fair. Corruption is largely the result of a public sector that functions poorly. Institution-building and public administration reforms are therefore key objectives. In 1999 NORAD began work on a special action plan to combat corruption, and Norway worked in close collaboration with other donor countries and international organizations to establish a common platform for combating corruption. The African Development Bank has designated good governance as a main goal, based on respect for human rights, prevention of corruption and strengthening of popular participation. The Bank plays a special role in this field in relation to other international financial institutions. In 1999 Norway contributed to the preparation of the African Development Bank's policy document on good governance.

2) Education and research

Throughout 1999, Norway actively supported the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Right to Education. The first report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, presented in 1999, identified topics of great significance for the operationalization of the Declaration. Norway continued its work on preparing for the ten-year review of the Declaration, which will take place in 2000 and at which a decision will be made on an action programme for basic education for the next 10-15 years. In 1999 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on education for all, for which Norway was co-sponsor.

Increasing knowledge of human rights issues will improve countries' ability to protect, respect and promote rights. Expertise is a prerequisite for the effective protection of human rights at the national level. Through the programme for co-operation on research between universities in Norway and research institutions in the South (the NUFU programme), Norway continued its efforts in 1999 to strengthen the research expertise of developing countries. Participation in this type of research cooperation gives researchers in the South an opportunity to forge international ties and develop critical, societal research.

Building up local expertise is the focus of cooperation with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH) in Costa Rica. In 1999 Norway provided assistance for a regional programme aimed at strengthening the capacity of government agencies and NGOs in the field of human rights training and education. The project is a regional measure. Norwegian support for the IIDH is part of a coherent effort to promote human rights in a region where many countries have been ravaged by armed conflicts. In 1999, Pakistan and Norway entered into a comprehensive programme of cooperation on human rights training, which comprises a media campaign on human rights issues and measures to introduce human rights as a special subject in school curricula.

3) Freedom of expression and differentiated media

In collaboration with NORAD, NORDEM has established a resource base of media experts. The project report calls for further efforts by Norway to develop differentiated media. Issues such as media legislation and media ethics, media independence, journalistic quality (education), radio journalism and general broadcasting, trade unions, distribution and the media's earnings basis are potential areas of focus. Norway's largest investment in the media sector within the framework of bilateral development cooperation in 1999 was in Zambia. A review of the programme carried out last year concluded that the cooperation

NIGERIA Trip



Education and health are central issues in the work of the development banks in combating poverty.

programme was successful on the whole. The programme encompasses four institutions: the Evelyn Hone College, the Zambia Institute of Mass Communication, the Media Trust Fund and the Zambia Independent Media Association. Norwegian assistance contributes towards strengthening Zambia's own capacity to train journalists and media technicians and to develop media enterprises in an economically sustainable way. Norway also cooperates closely with international agencies. In Mozambique Norway provided assistance for the UNDP programme for independent media, which comprises journalistic training and the establishment of local radio stations. Norway also gave substantial assistance to the work of Worldview International in 1999.

4) Women's rights

Efforts to promote the rights of women through development cooperation are partly based on the Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference on Women. In connection with preparations for the Special Session on the Beijing +5 Review in 2000, Norway emphasized the importance of maintaining the solid platform represented by the Plan of Action and continuing to focus on the issue of rights. Within the framework of bilateral development cooperation, Norway has sought to strengthen women's rights for many years. In 1999, Norway provided funding for the Muleide organization in Mozambique. Muleide helps to increase women's opportunities to engage in lobbying activities in connection with the revision of the country's family legislation. In Ethiopia, Norway supports a project related to the legal rights of women. In collaboration with the Department of Women's Law at the University of Oslo, steps were taken in 1999 to help establish a department of women's law at the University of Peshawar in Pakistan. The Norwegian Department of Women's Law has also collaborated closely on human rights issues with the University of Harare for many years, and this cooperation was further developed in 1999. In other countries, funding was provided in 1999 for the establishment of crisis centres, training aimed at increasing women's participation in society, efforts related to legal policy and legal aid.

5) Children's rights

Norwegian development cooperation relating to children is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, the Plan of Action adopted at the UN Summit on Children in 1990 and the Strategy for Norwegian Development Assistance for Children of 1992. The latter strategy was evaluated in 1998, and in 1999 a working group was appointed to review it. In the period prior to the follow-up conference to the Summit on Children, which is to take place in 2001, this group will draw up a document containing guidelines for Norwegian development assistance for children to serve as a basis for Norwegian efforts in this field in the years ahead. There is a significant need for expertise in development cooperation targeting children. In 1999, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided funding for Childwatch International, a Norwegian-based, international network of researchers. Childwatch identifies current research needs and develops relevant research projects, focusing on topics such as children's rights, environment and health, the impact of political and economic change on children and the significance of modern ICT for children.

6) Indigenous peoples

Within the UN Commission on Human Rights, Norway has participated actively in the elaboration of a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples in 1999. At its session in 1999, the Commission appointed a working group to prepare the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous peoples within the UN. After evaluating the Norwegian Programme for Indigenous Peoples, a follow-up plan was drawn up for development cooperation targeting indigenous peo-



AUSTRALIA Max Moore/Trip

In 1999, Norway participated actively in the elaboration of a UN draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.



TANZANIA Per K. Lundem/Sørvis

In 1999, a plan was drawn up for development cooperation efforts that target persons with disabilities.

ples. This plan calls for Norway, through its participation in the governing bodies of UN development agencies and the development banks, to contribute towards ensuring that policy and practices promote the interests of indigenous peoples. In cooperation with countries designated as priority partners for long-term development cooperation, consideration shall be given to incorporating the situation of indigenous peoples into Norway's poverty orientation and efforts to strengthen human rights. To strengthen the development assistance administration's efforts relating to indigenous peoples, preparations were begun in 1999 for transferring the Norwegian Programme for Indigenous Peoples back to NORAD. A dialogue was also initiated with the University of Tromsø and the Sami Parliament to discuss issues related to development cooperation that targets indigenous peoples.

7) Persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities in developing countries are often among the poorest inhabitants. The poverty orientation of development cooperation will focus attention on the situation of persons with disabilities. In this connection, particular importance is attached to ensuring that disabled persons have access to health services, education and employment and are able to participate in political processes. In autumn 1999, a plan was drawn up for development cooperation efforts that target persons with disabilities. NORAD works closely with the Atlas alliance to improve the living conditions of disabled persons in developing countries. A key objective is to make persons with disabilities more aware of their rights and help them to help themselves.

8) Employment and labour standards

In development cooperation, the right to work is seen in close conjunction with efforts to promote private sector development. The Strategy for Norwegian Support for Private Sector Development, which was finalized in 1999, establishes that Norwegian companies involved in development cooperation must maintain the same high standards as regards human rights in developing countries as they do in Norway. The strategy emphasizes the importance of improving the legal parameters for investments, which will in turn contribute towards strengthening human rights more generally. Human rights considerations are also incorporated into the guidelines for the Norwegian Risk Capital Fund for Developing Countries (NORFUND).

The International Labour Organization plays a very central role in connection with labour rights. During the ILO Conference in summer 1999, a five-year review of the organization's technical cooperation activities was carried out. Integrating these efforts more effectively into the organization's other activities is a clear objective for the ILO. A plan of action for technical cooperation, including detailed guidelines, was adopted in late 1999. This reorganization will enable the ILO to play an even more important part in efforts to promote labour rights through development assistance. Norway has supported this change. The new Director-General of the ILO, who was elected in 1999, has called for strengthening of ILO activities in the field of gender equality and women's issues. Norway finds this very encouraging. For years, Norway has been one of the ILO's largest voluntary contributors and has actively participated in the formulation of ILO policy. Issues relating to child labour, where capacity-building with a view to reducing and preventing child labour is a key objective, have been an important area of cooperation with the ILO in 1999. Norway was a member of the Steering Committee of the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, which receives substantial funding from Norway every year.

9) *The right to adequate food*

The right to adequate food and to freedom from hunger is set out in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In the Plan of Action adopted at the World Food Summit in 1996, states committed themselves to the task of securing their population's right to food and to halving the number of undernourished people in the world by 2015. In 1999, Norway actively promoted the right to adequate food in international fora. Not least, important contributions have been made by Norwegian experts in the field of human rights and nutrition. This was one of the factors that gave rise to a dialogue in 1999 between the Institute for Human Rights and the Institute for Nutritional Research at the University of Oslo and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the establishment of a two-year research project on the right to food as a human right. In the past few years, Norway has put great emphasis on supporting private sector development in the South, including primary industries. Work began in 1999 on reviewing the assistance provided for agricultural projects in development cooperation. Funding for the international agricultural research institutes (the CGIAR centres) was maintained at a high level in 1999, after being increased by 50 per cent from 1997 to 1998. Steps were also taken to establish an arrangement enabling Norwegian researchers to carry out research at the CGIAR centres.



BOLIVA Claes Herlander/Phoenix

In 1999, Norway actively promoted the right to adequate food in its efforts to promote human rights.

Expertise

In order for Norway to be able to play an active role in promoting human rights through development cooperation, expertise is required. Through the Research Council of Norway, funding is provided for a major research programme on globalization and marginalization, in which research on human rights is one of several topics. In 1999, plans were drawn up for incorporating, in the most effective way possible, a human rights perspective into the research that is being funded under this programme. This applies in particular to research on poverty.

Funding for the yearbook on human rights and development was maintained in 1999, and an agreement was entered into regarding the financing of the "millennium edition". In 1999, the Christian Michelsens Institute was responsible for editing the book project. A dialogue was also initiated with experts on ways in which this cooperation can contribute to building up expertise in the South in the field of human rights.

Training in human rights has been an integral part of the training programme of the Norwegian Foreign Service Institute. In cooperation with the Institute for Human Rights, work began in 1999 on developing a broader programme to build up expertise on human rights and democratization. The programme will comprise such key elements as rights-based development, evaluation of the impact of aid projects on the human rights situation in the country concerned, and human rights and the multilateral system.

RIGHTS-BASED HUMANITARIAN AID

Improving the UN agencies' coordination of humanitarian aid is a continuous process. It was not concluded at the end of the 1999 calendar year, but continued to be equally relevant in 2000. Norway always raises the issue of improving UN coordination of humanitarian aid in relevant fora and in the governing bodies of the various specialized agencies.

Just as important as improving coordination of the humanitarian aid provided by UN agencies are the efforts to ensure that the activities of Norway's own NGOs and the international Red Cross system are properly coordinated. One way in which this is achieved is that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to a growing extent allocates budget funds to organizations subject to political guidelines that contain requirements regarding better coordination and closer cooperation with the agency that has been designated by the UN to have overall responsibility for humanitarian aid in the area in question. Special attention was also focused on such vulnerable groups as women, children and persons with disabilities when allocating budget funds for various projects.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The Norwegian private sector is increasingly internationally oriented. Norwegian companies are now financially involved in countries with entirely different legislation, traditions and attitudes to human rights. At the same time, today's consumers and customers are more aware of the conditions in which products are produced. This has raised questions as to which countries companies should invest in, how the private sector can influence respect for human rights in a country and the kind of working conditions they themselves offer their employees. It is incumbent on the authorities to observe international human rights obligations, but companies which establish activities in a country also have a moral responsibility. The scope and substance of this responsibility is a subject of international debate at present. The Norwegian Government wishes to encourage and take part in this debate.

KOMPakt

In summer 1998, the Consultative Body for Human Rights and Norwegian Economic Involvement Abroad (KOMPakt) was established as a special forum for increasing awareness and debate on human rights and the private sector. The members of this body are the Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry, Federation of Norwegian Commercial and Service Enterprises (HSH), the Norwegian Trade Council, the oil companies' organization INTSOK, the Norwegian Shipowners' Association, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, the Confederation of Vocational Unions, Amnesty Norway, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, the Norwegian Forum for Freedom of Expression, the Church of Norway Council on Foreign Relations, Forum for Environment and Development, Redd Barna (Save the Children Norway) (coordinator for the humanitarian organizations in 1999), the Institute for Human Rights, the Christian Michelsen Institute and the Centre for Development and the Environment at the University of Oslo, in addition to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy and the Norwegian Directorate for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

KOMPakt has proved to be a fruitful forum for an open exchange of opinions and furtherance of the debate on the social responsibility of the Norwegian private sector. An interest is also being shown in KOMPakt internationally. Norway is now regarded as a useful participant and partner in the active international debate in this field. Representatives of KOMPakt are invited to attend meetings of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with official representatives of other countries or international organizations when the role of the private sector is being discussed. Thus KOMPakt also serves as an informal channel of information and influence for its member groups.

KOMPakt's activities were carried out by three working groups in 1999, in addition to which plenary sessions were held. The working groups, which examined normative, business-related and political aspects, were coordinated respectively by the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, the Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry and Amnesty (on behalf of the NGO Forum for Human Rights). Each of the groups submitted a report which provided input for the Plan of Action for Human Rights and will serve as a basis for future KOMPakt efforts. Plenary session discussions have focused on such topics as companies' reporting on social responsibility, various systems for independent monitoring and verification, the responsibility of Norwegian shipping companies for working conditions in connection with scrapping of ships in developing countries, relationships with individual countries, administration of the Norwegian Government Petroleum Fund, new environmental protection guidelines for the Norwegian Guarantee Institute for Export Credits (GIEK), possible GIEK guidelines on labour standards, and the ILO's annual labour conference.

An open seminar was held on positive human rights policy instruments, where the role of companies was examined.

KOMPakt has begun to publish a series of papers financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. So far, the reports prepared by the three working groups and a speech by former State Secretary Leiv Lunde have been published in the series.

The OECD's voluntary guidelines for multinational enterprises

The OECD's Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises are recommendations by the governments of the OECD countries as to how enterprises that have established operations in other countries should conduct themselves in relation to legislation and other conditions in those countries. The guidelines are part of the OECD Declaration on International Investments and Multinational Enterprises adopted in 1976.

The guidelines are divided into chapters that cover various areas of the enterprises' operations. The different chapters deal with general political guidelines, publication of information, competition, financing, taxation, employment and employer-employee relations, environmental protection and science and technology.

The guidelines were last revised in 1991 when a new chapter on the environment was included, among other changes. In June 1998, a decision was made to initiate a new revision of the guidelines. The purpose of the revision is to evaluate national and international experience as regards the application and effectiveness of the guidelines, including the role of the National Contact Points.

The OECD's working group on guidelines was re-established with a new mandate to carry out the revision, and collaborates actively with other relevant OECD committees. At national level, the work is coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There has been close cooperation with the ministries concerned, employer and employee organizations and the NGO community represented by Forum for Environment and Development.

The revised guidelines were adopted at the OECD Council of Ministers in June 2000. New elements which were included in the guidelines are:

- Specific reference to human rights in the chapter on general political guidelines.
- An updated chapter on employment which covers the four "core labour standards" set out in the ILO Declaration adopted in 1998.

Labour standards in the ILO and the WTO

The ILO's efforts to promote labour standards

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is responsible for developing international rules for labour relations. Labour standards are an important item on the ILO agenda. Reference is made in this connection to a number of conventions adopted by the ILO over the years, several of which apply to fundamental human rights. However, a number of countries have not ratified the ILO's conventions on labour standards. In this connection, Norway has underscored the necessity of the ILO implementing measures to achieve the necessary ratification and implementation of the conventions.

During the ILO Labour Conference in Geneva in June 1998, a Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work was adopted. With reference to previously adopted ILO conventions on minimum age for admission to employment (abolition of the worst forms of child labour), abolition of forced labour, freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining and non-discrimination at the workplace, agreement was reached on an internationally accepted definition of core labour standards.

The Declaration emphasizes that better labour standards should be promoted by means of positive instruments and not by means of sanctions and institutionalized complaints procedures. The ILO refers to this approach as "promotional" in order to underscore that sanctions are not an appropriate instrument in the fight to achieve labour standards.

Concrete follow-up mechanisms have been adopted in the form of the preparation of reports on each of the topics in the Declaration. The first report is to be discussed at the Labour Conference in summer 2000 and will examine workers' right to freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining. Subsequent reports will deal with forced labour, which will be discussed in 2001, child labour (2002) and discrimination at the workplace (2003). In connection with the ongoing reform process within the ILO, it was decided in 1999 to establish a development aid programme which will focus on promoting the Declaration.

However, a number of countries have never ratified the ILO conventions on labour standards, and it may also be some time before the new convention on core labour standards is ratified.

Labour standards in the WTO's area of responsibility

The WTO's primary function is to ensure that world trade is not based on purely arbitrary factors, but on a set of common rules. The rules cover a wide range of fields, including the main principles for non-discriminatory trade in goods and services, protection of intellectual property rights and the settlement of disputes.

But the multilateral trading system cannot be viewed in isolation from the broader economic and social processes. In recent years, therefore, Norway has sought to initiate a dialogue on labour standards in the WTO. The aim has been to gain acceptance for the view that the WTO member countries' trade regimes must be based to a greater extent on due regard for such fundamental rights. Norway emphasizes the importance of ensuring that trade regimes all over the world not only aim at promoting increased economic prosperity, but also pay greater attention to improving social conditions. Norway plays a proactive international role in these efforts.

INDIA B. Turner/Trip



The ILO develops international rules for fundamental labour standards.

Although labour standards have largely been an ILO concern until now, since the WTO's first Ministerial Conference in Singapore in December 1996 Norway has sought to place the issue on the WTO agenda as well. The Declaration adopted at the conference in Singapore established that WTO members undertake to respect fundamental labour standards.

Norway proposed that fundamental labour standards be mentioned in the Final Declaration adopted by the WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle in December 1999 and that a reference to labour standards be included in the mandate for the new round of negotiations that is planned. The conference ended without reaching agreement on a mandate for a new round of WTO negotiations. While progress was made in several important areas, this did not apply to issues related to the WTO's stance on labour standards in its future work programme.

The discussions in Seattle revealed that developing countries still unanimously and clearly oppose the inclusion of labour standards in the WTO's work programme. Developing countries fear that the industrialized countries' initiative aimed at linking trade and labour standards will limit the developing countries' market access and hamper their social and economic development. They also argue that the debate on labour standards is purely and simply an attempt to introduce concealed protectionist measures against the import of goods from developing countries, and that in reality it is an attempt to divest countries with low-cost production of the comparative advantage inherent in low wages.

Many countries are also sceptical to the introduction of labour standards on the WTO agenda because it is a rule-based system where trade sanctions function as a means of threatening them into compliance. Developing countries fear that the WTO will establish sanctions against factors such as child labour, which would have particularly severe consequences for some of these countries. This fear has been further reinforced following demands by trade unions in certain industrialized countries for the use of import sanctions in respect of countries which do not respect fundamental labour standards.

SPECIAL PRIORITY AREAS

Children

Norwegian development cooperation that targets children is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, the Plan of Action adopted at the World Summit for Children in 1990 and the Norwegian Strategy for Development Assistance for Children adopted in 1992. The Plan of Action from the Children's Summit is to be reviewed at a special session of the UN General Assembly in 2001. The special session will also examine priorities for children in the next decade. In 1999 the General Assembly resolved to establish a preparatory committee in this connection.

The Norwegian Strategy for Development Assistance for Children was evaluated in 1997-98, and it was concluded that it does not focus sufficiently on rights. As a follow-up of this evaluation, a working group was established to discuss the formulation of a document containing guidelines for Norwegian development assistance for children. The working group will also be involved in further efforts to prepare for Norway's participation in the follow-up conference to the World Summit for Children.

UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Norway is one of UNICEF's largest donors. The organization's mandate is to promote the rights of children and women. As a result of a Nordic initiative, the Executive Board of UNICEF resolved in 1998 to base UNICEF's entire programme on a human rights perspective. The majority of Norwegian funding is transferred as general support for UNICEF activities. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also provides earmarked support for UNICEF, for instance for the UNICEF programme to strengthen basic education for girls in Africa. Education is a human right, but it is also crucial to individuals' possibilities of asserting their other rights and enables them to improve their own standards of living. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has provided NOK 150 million for this programme during the period 1996-1999. The programme has proved successful and there are many indications that it has influenced other similar initiatives. For instance, the UN Secretary General recently asked UNICEF to head a ten-year joint UN initiative to educate girls. Norway also supports UNICEF's efforts to abolish child labour (see below) and the agency's information activities in Asia. The overriding goal of these efforts is to improve girls' status and opportunities for development by means of attitude-shaping campaigns.

Child labour

- The ILO

In 1992 the ILO established a special programme to combat child labour. In the past few years, this programme has attracted many major new donors and is now one of the ILO's largest development assistance programmes.

During the Child Labour Conference in Oslo in 1997, NOK 200 million was pledged for measures to combat child labour in the following three-year period. This contribution was channelled through multilateral organizations (primarily the ILO, UNICEF and the World Bank) and bilaterally through NORAD, for instance to NGOs.

In 1998, Norway committed itself to contributing NOK 66 million over a period of three-four years to the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). Norwegian support is focused on building the capacity of employer, employee and teachers' organizations to combat child labour, and to support the ILO's statistical activities. In 1999, the IPEC was reorganized and a new management was appointed after an audit report pointed out a number of deficiencies in the programme. Since its reorganization, the programme appears to have entered a positive phase and voluntary contributions to its work have increased. The new impetus of these efforts is also ascribable to the fact that the ILO Labour Conference in summer 1999 adopted a new Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (see the chapter on negotiation processes). This convention aims at eliminating the worst forms of child labour for all children under the age of 18 and establishes that immediate, targeted action is required. The convention defines the "worst forms of child labour" as slavery or slave-like labour, forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory military recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. Child prostitution and child pornography, the use of children in illegal activities and hazardous labour are also included among the worst forms of child labour. "Hazardous labour" must be defined in national regulations, showing due regard for the international instruments. Explicit reference is made to the Recommendation accompanying the Convention, which contains a detailed list of what is considered to be hazardous labour. The aim is to achieve global ratification of the convention, and ratification by half of the ILO member countries by 2002. Several countries, including the USA, have already ratified the

ERITREA - Rune Listerud/Samfoto



In 1999, the ILO Labour Conference adopted a new convention concerning the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including forced or compulsory military recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.

convention, which is considered to be extremely encouraging since the USA has ratified very few ILO conventions. Several countries have indicated that they will ratify it in the course of 2000, including Sweden, Denmark and Norway. Finland has already ratified the convention.

- UNICEF and the World Bank

UNICEF is one of Norway's main partners in the fight against child labour. This includes UNICEF's global programme to eradicate child labour, which is based on education as a preventive strategy to abolish child labour and under which Norway provides assistance to 25 countries. Norway also funds two research projects, one of which focuses on work carried out in the home by women and children and the other on children's participation in efforts to eliminate child labour. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also supports special programmes to combat child labour in Nicaragua and the Philippines.

Norway works actively to ensure that more attention is devoted to the situation and rights of children in World Bank activities. Besides initiating a major programme to combat child labour, Norway has provided funding for the development of World Bank programmes for pre-school children. In 1999, Norwegian support for these programmes totalled around NOK 6 million.

In October 1999, the ILO, UNICEF and the World Bank drew up a joint proposal for a project consisting of extensive cooperation between the three organizations and aimed at improving the collection and analysis of data, research and expertise on child labour. The proposal was prepared at a joint working meeting in Florence in May 1999 and has since been approved by all three organizations as a joint proposal. This gives new impetus to cooperation between the organizations in this field. Norway has been a strong driving force behind this project and at meetings with the three organizations urged them to cooperate closely. These efforts are now bearing fruit and both the ILO and UNICEF are emphasizing the importance of this type of cooperation. This new model of cooperation was well received at a meeting of donor countries in the Hague in October 1999, when all the donors were in favour of this cooperation between the UN agencies and the World Bank.

Capital punishment

The death penalty was abolished in Norway for ordinary crimes by the General Civil Penal Code of 1902. However, the right to pass the death sentence was retained in the Military Penal Code, but only for the most serious crimes. During World War II, the right to pass the death sentence was expanded by provisional decrees to apply to certain crimes under the Civil Penal Code, i.e. the Code's provisions governing treason and high treason. After the war, forty death sentences for treason were carried out in Norway, the last one in 1948. In 1979, all Norwegian legal provisions allowing capital punishment were repealed.

Capital punishment is not forbidden under the European Convention on Human Rights or the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but a prohibition against capital punishment is laid down in special optional protocols. These optional protocols are only binding on the countries that have acceded to them. Norway is a party to both protocols.

The Government is opposed to all forms of capital punishment and regularly underscores its opposition to the use of such methods of punishment. The Norwegian authorities take up the issue of capital punishment both bilaterally with states in which the death penalty is imposed, and multilaterally in fora such as the

UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe. This also applies to the USA and other countries in the OECD area which practise capital punishment.

Women

For many years, Norway has played a leading role in addressing women's issues in the international arena and has worked actively to improve the situation of women and strengthen gender equality at both national and international level. Important fora for such efforts have been and still are the UN (the General Assembly, the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the UN Commission on Human Rights and UN specialized agencies) and the development banks. Promoting equal rights and opportunities for women and men is a main priority in development cooperation.

In 1999, the Government continued to play an active role in urging countries to ratify the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol adopted in 1999. This issue was raised in submissions on several occasions, most recently during the UN General Assembly. Furthermore, during negotiations on a political declaration to the Special Session of the UN General Assembly to follow up the World Conference on Women in Beijing, Norway played a prominent role in efforts to obtain the inclusion of a reference to the Convention. The human rights of women were a key topic in the negotiations on the final document for the Special Session.

The Government also continued to support efforts to combat female genital mutilation. Multilaterally, substantial funding was provided to UNICEF and the UNFPA, which have programmes targeting the eradication of such practices. Bilaterally, assistance for programmes to combat female genital mutilation was channelled primarily through FOKUS, an umbrella organization for Norwegian women's organizations.

In 1999, NORAD funded a feasibility study on the establishment of a liaison and information centre in Pakistan for women with ties to Norway. A report containing specific proposals will be presented in autumn 2000.

Racism

Norway's involvement in international efforts to combat racism in 1999 was most clearly reflected in the preparations for the European Conference against Racism, which took place in October 2000 under the auspices of the Council of Europe, and for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which is to take place in South Africa in September 2001. The European conference is one of several regional preparatory conferences which are expected to provide input for the World Conference.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is responsible for the preparations for the World Conference against Racism, and a first preparatory meeting took place in May 2000 in Geneva.

Responsibility for the Norwegian preparations for the European Conference has lain with the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, which has appointed representatives of the Directorate of Immigration to represent Norway in the Technical Working Group for the European Conference. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also participated in meetings of the Technical Working Group in 1999.

Freedom of religion or belief

Freedom of religion or belief is mentioned in several international instruments: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief, the European Convention on Human Rights and the first Protocol to this Convention. Freedom of religion or belief is also reflected in a number of final acts and documents adopted at various CSCE/OSCE meetings since the start of this process.

The Government has given priority to efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief. In 1999, financial support was provided for the Oslo Coalition for Freedom of Religion and Belief, the UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance and various projects run by minor NGOs. There has also been focus on promoting the incorporation of the contents of the Oslo Declaration on Freedom of Religion or Belief into UN resolutions on freedom of religion.

Torture

The use of torture is prohibited pursuant to two special conventions elaborated by the UN and the Council of Europe in 1984 and 1987, respectively, but this also follows from the general human rights treaties. The conventions forbid all use of "torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment". Torture is defined as an action whereby "severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person" to obtain information or confessions, punish, intimidate or coerce, or for reasons of discrimination of any kind, when such pain is inflicted by or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. This prohibition is absolute. There can be no question of possible worthy causes, such as averting an act of terrorism. Nor does the existence of a consent to the action give absolution from responsibility.

Torture or "painful interrogation" is prohibited under the Constitution of Norway, and Norway has traditionally made active efforts, both nationally and internationally, to ensure the physical integrity and personal safety of the individual. Despite these efforts, Norway has been criticized by both the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and the UN Committee against Torture for prolonged use of police cells and isolation of remand inmates.

NORWEGIAN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

Sub-Saharan Africa

The human rights situation in **Angola** continues to give cause for concern. Nevertheless, Angola is an example of the fact that it is possible to implement projects in parts of a country at war, and in areas controlled by government forces it is also possible to promote human rights. In 1999, the Angolan government requested that the Human Rights Division of the UN Office in Angola remain in the country, and Norway has found it appropriate to provide funding for this division.

Because of the conflict with Ethiopia, no new agreements were entered into in 1999 regarding development assistance for **Eritrea**, nor were any country pro-

gramme negotiations or programme reviews undertaken. Funding was provided through Norwegian Church Aid for a study of the role of civil society in Eritrea. The Eritrean authorities have expressed a desire for Norwegian aid in order to implement the country's new constitution.

In **Ethiopia**, as in a number of African countries, Norway and likeminded countries participate in working groups to survey human rights conditions and identify important priority areas. Norway is also engaged in an ongoing dialogue with the Ethiopian authorities on human rights issues. In 1999, Norway particularly raised the issue of the deportation of more than 60,000 persons of Eritrean origin, as well as the problems experienced by the Ethiopian opposition during the first phase of the process prior to the elections which are to be held in May 2000.

A broad portfolio of development assistance in the field of human rights in Ethiopia has been built up, which comprises funding for the Ethiopian Human Rights Council, Ethiopian legal societies and interdenominational human rights efforts. Norwegian assistance in 1999 was channelled through both public institutions and NGOs. In cooperation with the UNDP, support was also provided for human resource development for employees and elected representatives of the Ethiopian parliament.

An important objective, both political and humanitarian, of Norwegian efforts in the **Great Lakes** region is to support peace and reconciliation processes that can help create political stability at the regional and national level. Norway provides assistance for several projects aimed at promoting peace and reconciliation, democratization and respect for human rights in the conflict-torn area. Since the human rights violations that are committed in this region are largely associated with ongoing, complex, violent conflicts, much of Norwegian assistance is targeted towards conflict-preventing projects and activities to foster peace and reconciliation.

As part of a strategy to increase African capacity in the field of conflict resolution, reconciliation and peace-keeping activities, Norway has supported the efforts of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to build up capacity and expertise in this field. Funding was also provided for the OAU's Panel of Eminent Personalities's investigation of the Rwandan genocide. To strengthen the peace processes currently in progress in the area, Norway channelled funds for mediation activities in both Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Support was also provided for projects aimed at demobilizing guerrilla soldiers in the Republic of Congo and Uganda, and for the repatriation of refugees. Norwegian aid is targeted towards reducing conflict, thereby improving the human rights situation. In 1999, Norway supported the work of the UN Centre for Human Rights in the region.

In **Rwanda**, Norway provided assistance for various forms of reconciliation and confidence-building measures at both national and local level, partly through the UN system and cooperation with the Red Cross and partly through Norwegian NGOs. Norway actively supported the establishment of the ad hoc International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and follows political developments and the human rights situation in the country closely. This particularly applies to the working conditions of the National Human Rights Commission, established in 1999, and the establishment and activities of the traditional tribunal Gacaca, in efforts to relieve the burden placed on the judicial system by genocide cases. The following support was provided:

- Contributions of funds and personnel to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. For instance, Norway finances a judgeship at the Tribunal that is filled by former Norwegian Appeal Court Judge Erik Møse.
- Funds to build up the judicial system, channelled through the International Red Cross and Norwegian People's Aid
- Assistance for a UNESCO training programme on freedom of the press for Rwandan journalists in 1999.

In **Burundi**, Norway supported regional mediation efforts under the leadership of former Tanzanian President Julius M. Nyerere and former South African President Nelson Mandela. Mr. Mandela was appointed to this task on 1 December 1999 after the death in October 1999 of Mr. Nyerere, who had headed the negotiations for several years. Norway is following the peace process closely. In 1999, funding was provided for projects that included:

- The mediation activities of Communita St.Egidio
- Julius Nyerere's foundation for peace negotiations
- The efforts of Norwegian Church Aid to promote reconciliation, rehabilitation and capacity-building
- The work of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Burundi

The human rights situation in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** is worrying, and has been exacerbated by the ongoing conflict. A rapid, peaceful solution to the conflict is of vital importance for human rights in the Great Lakes area. In 1999, assistance was provided for the following:

- The human rights office in Kinshasa, for its investigation of alleged massacres of Rwandan refugees
- The UN-appointed commission of inquiry (personnel, equipment and financial assistance)
- Mediation between the parties to the conflict, under the leadership of Communita St. Egidio
- The efforts of the Norwegian organization, Christian Relief Network (CRN), to repatriate refugees

Norway continued to provide assistance for the peace and democratization process in **Mali** in 1999 through the expansion of the UNDP programme for reintegrating former civil war soldiers and organizing talks between local communities and groups with a view to preventing and resolving conflicts.

Support was also channelled through the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIDE) for a project that focuses on land rights, decentralization and conflict resolution in the agricultural sector in Mali. Several projects funded through multilateral channels and NGOs particularly target women and girls. An emphasis on women's issues is incorporated into all projects.

Mozambique now has a democratically elected president and a national assembly. In 1999, Norway continued to focus regularly on human rights issues in its ongoing dialogue with the Mozambican authorities.



MALI Trip

Norway has provided assistance for peace and democratization processes in several countries, including Mali.

Assistance was provided to several local organizations that promote human rights and democracy. In cooperation with the UNDP, Norway supported the implementation of Mozambique's second national elections (presidential and national assembly), which were held in December 1999. Support was also provided for pre-election information activities. NORDEM observers participated in the election process.

Nigeria has now put 16 years of changing military regimes and serious breaches of human rights behind it. The installation of a democratically elected president, Olusegun Obasanjo, on 29 May 1999 marked a turning point. The country has yet to resolve a number of major human rights problems, which are exacerbated by local ethnic and religious conflicts.

In 1999, support was provided for human rights and democratization projects and organizations in Nigeria through the Norwegian Human Rights Fund. Norway has participated in UNDP-chaired donor coordination meetings that focused on democracy and good governance. Donors aim to establish a database for support for local human rights organizations.

In **Sudan**, violations of fundamental human rights have largely been related to the civil war, which has been waged since 1983. In 1999, the situation improved slightly compared with the previous year in that the parties declared a cease-fire in some of the areas affected by the war. Norway has continued to provide assistance for both humanitarian aid and the peace process. The Norwegian Minister of International Development and Human Rights visited Sudan in January 1999, and expressed grave concern about the human rights situation to both the Sudanese government and the SPLM/SPLA rebel movement. At a meeting in IGAD Partners Forum in Oslo in March, Norway won support for its proposals to establish a permanent secretariat in Nairobi for the negotiation process and to follow up the peace process with a plan for reconstruction of the country after peace has been concluded.

Norwegian support for human rights efforts in **South Africa** is based on the solidarity projects that were established during the anti-apartheid campaign. In 1999, Norwegian and local NGOs were again used as channels for assistance for strengthening civil society. Funding was provided for preparations for the 1999 parliamentary elections and for training newly elected provincial parliamentarians. The Institute for Human Rights in Oslo is involved in coordination and technical advisory services in connection with Norwegian assistance for strengthening democracy and human rights.

The human rights situation in **Tanzania** is regarded as relatively satisfactory, but rapid, comprehensive changes are required in a number of areas. One such area is the judicial system, where inadequate capacity, corruption and flawed management pose a threat to the rule of law. The authorities have also adopted a more restrictive policy as regards the opposition. On the whole, NGOs are allowed to function freely.

The situation in Zanzibar has given cause for concern since the elections in 1995, during which there were certain irregularities. As a result, Norway has not entered into new development assistance agreements with the authorities in Zanzibar.

Support for political and administrative reforms is the most important tool in efforts to promote human rights and democracy in general in Tanzania. Funding

is also provided for NGOs. Support for several key women's organizations is an important part of this work.

In 1997, Norway and **Zambia** agreed to strengthen cooperation in the field of human rights and democracy, and in December 1997 the two countries signed a framework agreement on support for democratization, human rights and good governance.

Human rights issues are a central focus of public debate in Zambia. The country has numerous active organizations which help to ensure that important issues are placed on the agenda, such as the major problems in the police and prison services. The judicial system is weakened by undercapacity and a lack of resources, which poses a threat to the rule of law. This particularly affects the weakest groups. On the whole, freedom of expression and the press are respected, although there have been a number of cases in which the authorities have attempted to take action against private newspapers. In general, violations of the rights of children and women are serious social problems.

In 1999, a plan of action was drawn up for increased Norwegian support for democratization, good governance and human rights in **Zimbabwe**. Projects that received Norwegian funding in 1999 include:

- The government-appointed constitutional commission and the alternative process through an umbrella organization for NGOs.
- Efforts to secure a land reform in accordance with Zimbabwean legislation.
- Efforts to prevent acts of torture by the police.
- Monitoring of the way government and private media cover politically sensitive issues
- Legal defense of the victims of police violence in connection with the 1998 food riots.
- Local committees for children to prevent child abuse
- A number of women's projects to prevent the abuse of women and promote respect for women's rights.
- The Zimbabwean trade union, ZCTU, which has long opposed the authorities.

In connection with the country programme talks in 1999, human rights and other aspects of the current system were discussed during the political consultations. Zimbabwe was urged to accede to the UN Convention Against Torture.

In several African countries, Norway has provided assistance for the preparation and implementation of elections. One such country is **Uganda**. In cooperation with the UNDP, Norway has contributed towards increasing the capacity of the Ugandan Human Rights Commission.

Light weapons - West Africa

Right from the start, Norway has supported efforts to achieve a moratorium on light weapons in West Africa. The moratorium encompasses Mali, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Gambia and Senegal. Norway was the first country to support a moratorium on light weapons in West Africa under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and has contributed USD 1 million to PCASED, the moratorium's implementation programme. From Norway's point of view, the ECOWAS Moratorium is the most comprehensive international campaign against light weapons to date. Moreover, Norway provided USD 2.5 million for demobilization and rein-

tegration programmes in Mali and supported the weapons destruction project, Flamme de la Paix, in Mali in 1999.

Asia and Oceania

Like other western countries, Norway has condemned the Taliban regime's violations of human rights in **Afghanistan**, including its restrictions on the access of girls and women to education and health care and their opportunities to work outside their home. Reports on the use of child soldiers and the forced relocation of large parts of the population following the major Taliban offensive in July 1999 have also aroused considerable concern. Norwegian authorities have raised the issue of the human rights situation in Afghanistan in special submissions in the UN and by acceding to UN resolutions and EU declarations. Norway has made it very clear that discrimination on the basis of gender, race or religion cannot be accepted. Human rights issues, particularly the problems relating to women, have been a key item on the agenda of the Afghanistan Donor Support Group, in which Norway participates actively, most recently at a meeting in Ottawa in December 1999.

Norway has made it clear to recipients of Norwegian financial aid for projects in Afghanistan that projects comprising measures that discriminate against women must be stopped. Allocated funds will either be transferred back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or applications may be made to have them reallocated for other purposes.

In light of the particularly difficult conditions experienced by women in **Bangladesh**, Norwegian development assistance has concentrated on improving their situation. In 1999 NOK 7.4 million was provided for human rights measures in Bangladesh, which is equivalent to three per cent of bilateral aid. The following projects and initiatives received support:

- Several NGOs which run training programmes and promote and protect the rights of women, for instance in connection with the sale and sexual abuse of and violence against women, and which provide free legal aid
- The efforts of NGOs to disseminate information on democracy and human rights
- A magazine on topics such as human rights and democracy designed for people who have just learned to read
- An organization for persons with disabilities.

In its ongoing dialogue with the Bangladeshi authorities, Norway has expressed its concern about the growing political confrontation. The Norwegian authorities have also pointed out the increasing corruption and lack of law and order, and questioned the apparent lack of political will to implement necessary reforms. Norway has voiced its concern about the human rights situation, with particular emphasis on issues such as freedom of expression, child labour and trafficking in children.

In 1999, Norwegian funding was provided for human rights efforts in **Bhutan** through the Norwegian Human Rights Fund, primarily to promote the rights of minorities.

Reports on serious, systematic violations of human rights bear witness to the fact that the situation in **Burma** has not improved, despite the efforts of the political opposition, Burmese groups in exile and the international community in recent years. The military regime is not willing to engage in a dialogue with the political opposition and ethnic groups, thereby taking the first step towards renewing the democratization process in the country.

AFGHANISTAN E. Parker/Trip



Norway is an active participant in the international Afghanistan Donor Support Group. Human rights issues, particularly problems relating to women, have been a key item on the Group's agenda.

Norway's policy on Burma has comprised explicit criticism of the regime's abuses, political support for the opposition, humanitarian aid for refugees in Thailand, a call on Norwegian companies not to invest in or do business with Burma, exemption from the Generalized System of Preferences, refusing to issue visas to Burmese officials, an arms embargo and a call for a halt in tourist travel. This has largely been in line with the EU's common stance. Norway was a co-mover of the resolution relating to Burma adopted by the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1999, and has acceded to EU declarations on the situation in Burma.

Norway has maintained close contact with the democracy movement in Burma and with the Burmese government-in-exile and associated organizations. The Norwegian authorities have also taken the issue of the situation in Burma up with the authorities of other countries, for instance through enquiries to the authorities in ASEAN capitals, who have been requested to exert their influence in Rangoon to put pressure on the regime to initiate a process of national reconciliation and democratization which would include a dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi.

The situation in Burma is followed closely by the Norwegian public, and a number of NGOs and Burmese living in exile are actively involved in efforts to improve conditions. Norwegian parliamentarians also seek to bring increased political pressure to bear on the military regime by participating in the international network PD Burma.

Norwegian efforts in the **Philippines** have focused on promoting peace and democracy in Mindanao, for instance by supporting a UNDP project aimed at demobilizing and integrating former Muslim guerrilla soldiers into civilian life. Funding was provided in 1999 for a project to disseminate information on human rights. The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions has a range of projects to strengthen trade union rights in the Philippines. Support was also provided to NGOs involved in efforts to improve the living conditions of children.

Norwegian efforts to promote human rights in **India** focused primarily on four major projects to combat child labour. Funding was also provided for various NGOs through the Norwegian Human Rights Fund.

As a result of India's nuclear test explosions in May 1998, a decision was made not to enter into new government-to-government agreements on development assistance projects unless they are poverty-oriented or designed to improve the human rights situation. This stance remained unchanged in 1999.

Support to Tibetans living in exile is channelled through India. For further information, please refer to the section on human rights dialogues: China.

For information regarding Indonesia, please refer to the section on human rights dialogues.

As regards the human rights situation in **Cambodia**, in development cooperation Norway has particularly emphasized efforts to promote democracy, human rights and good governance. Support is provided for UN agencies, Norwegian humanitarian organizations locally and a number of Cambodian NGOs involved in human rights work. Norway also supports a publication that aims at informing the Cambodian people about the efforts to achieve judicial retribution in the wake of the Red Khmer period in the country.

In January 1999, after the formation of the new coalition government, the Norwegian authorities drew up new guidelines for development cooperation with Cambodia in the hope that the country was moving towards a peaceful, more democratic period of reconstruction. The guidelines underscore the importance of measures to strengthen democracy and human rights, humanitarian aid, demining and other mine-related operations. NGOs and multilateral institutions will continue to be the main channel of Norwegian development assistance. State Secretary Lunde visited Cambodia in April 1999 to discuss future Norwegian development cooperation with the country. In autumn 1999, Norway invited the Cambodian Minister of Women's Affairs, primarily as an expression of Norwegian support for the new government's efforts to promote the rights of women and children.

In 1999, the international community placed great emphasis on the necessity of Cambodia implementing a fair, internationally recognized judicial process in respect of the Red Khmer. Norway has expressed its desire to support such a process, both to the Cambodian authorities and in international fora.

For information on China, please refer to the section on human rights dialogues.

In **Laos**, Norway provides assistance for a project to improve the capacity and work situation of the Laotian national assembly. The project comprises important measures designed to promote democratization and institution-building. Laos receives extensive Norwegian development aid, and many of the traditional development projects contribute towards improving the human rights situation in the country.

Norway has urged **Malaysia** to accede to the UN's two key human rights conventions, the 1996 International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). While Norway is not involved in any particular human rights activities or projects in Malaysia, the Norwegian authorities follow political developments closely, specially human rights issues such as freedom of religion, freedom of expression, the situation of women, etc.

Norwegian development aid for **Nepal** has aimed at strengthening local self-government and civil society and promoting gender equality. In 1999 NOK 1.3 million, equivalent to three per cent of total bilateral aid, was spent on measures to advance human rights. Support was provided for the following projects and initiatives:

- Publication of a Nepalese yearbook on the human rights situation in Nepal
- Legal counselling for women and free legal aid

Human rights issues, particularly child labour and trafficking in children, have been raised with the Nepalese authorities on such occasions as the regular consultations with the authorities on Norwegian aid.

In 1999, Norway has provided extensive humanitarian assistance to **North Korea**. In light of the systematic, sweeping violations of human rights in North Korea, Norway has explicitly pointed out that it expects its development aid to be administered in accordance with internationally recognized principles. Norway has also emphasized to the North Korean authorities the need for reforms, including democratization, transparency and respect for human rights.

MALAYSIA William Coupon Liastori/ All over



Norway is closely following the political development in several countries, including Malaysia.

Within the framework of bilateral cooperation between Norway and **Pakistan**, efforts to strengthen human rights are of great importance. The rights of women and children, in particular, are a key focus and Norwegian support is channelled to important national NGOs involved in these fields. Support is also provided for the NGOs' efforts to document human rights violations. In 1999, cooperation was also established with the Pakistani authorities both through multilateral agencies such as the UNDP and the ILO and directly.

In 1999, Norway and Switzerland entered into an agreement with Pakistan on the promotion of human rights in the country. This was the first agreement of its kind that Pakistan has signed. It provides funding for the official Pakistani human rights programme, which also focuses on the rights of women and children and on training for civil servants. Support was also provided for a project under ILO auspices, which aims at building expertise on human rights in public institutions, employee and employers' organizations and a limited number of NGOs. The rights of women and children, including child labour, are also core issues in this project.

Respect for human rights is an integral part of other types of projects, such as those targeting child labour. Norway has also addressed the issue of the situation of Ahmadiyya Muslims in bilateral talks, and has discussed other human rights violations with the Pakistani authorities. Particular attention is paid to the impact on the political situation of the introduction of Sharia law.

As a result of the nuclear test explosions carried out by Pakistan in May 1998, it was decided, until further notice, not to enter into new government-to-government agreements on development aid projects unless they are poverty-oriented or designed to improve the human rights situation. Norway deplored the military coup in autumn 1999 and has called on the regime to transfer power to a democratically elected government as soon as possible.

Sri Lanka is a country that faces major challenges as regards both democratization and human rights. The human rights violations committed in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the state of emergency declared in the country as a result of the current conflict, continuing violations of humanitarian law and the fact that many Sri Lankans have sought asylum in Norway all warrant Norway's close attention. Support for human rights measures are an important element of development cooperation with Sri Lanka which, according to guidelines drawn up in 1998, is gradually to concentrate on projects that contribute to peace, reconciliation and democratization in addition to promoting human rights.

Measures for which Norway provided support in 1999 included:

- A programme to promote national integration and reconciliation between ethnic groups
- Measures to promote a dialogue between the parties
- Measures to ensure national monitoring of the human rights situation
- Measures to develop local government administration and strengthen the capacity of civil society in eastern and northern Sri Lanka
- A programme to monitor media coverage of human rights issues, under the auspices of an independent academic institute.
- A number of NGOs involved in efforts to monitor human rights violations, provide training as regards the judicial system, offer free legal aid and promote children's rights. Support was also provided for local election observers and various women's organizations, whose activities include research, training and the publication of legal works.

A broad range of human rights topics have been raised with the Sri Lankan authorities during the annual bilateral political consultations and on other occasions. Norway has emphasized the need for all parties to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka to respect human rights and comply with humanitarian law. Norway has condemned the use of violence, harassment and killings, and underscored the necessity of meeting the population's fundamental needs.

The human rights situation in **South Korea** has improved significantly in the last decade, but human rights violations still occur. In the course of 1999, issues taken up by Norway with the Korean authorities included the case of a political prisoner, who was later released, and the convention on anti-personnel mines.

In 1997 and 1998, the Norwegian authorities were consulted in connection with the drafting of a new, more democratic constitution in **Thailand**, and to some extent the Norwegian constitution was used as a model. Since 1998, Norway has offered Thailand support for a project to increase the expertise of the public administration as regards human rights legislation and a project to develop democracy at the local level, but due to Thai capacity problems, these projects were not implemented in 1999.

Norway has expressed its support for Thailand's efforts to initiate a more open foreign policy among ASEAN member countries, particularly with a view to the organization's possibility of exerting influence on the situation in Burma and Cambodia. Norway has found no grounds for criticizing the general human rights situation in Thailand.

Norwegian and Thai authorities have maintained close contact in the form of several visits in recent years, as well as through their cooperation on the Lysøen process. The topics discussed included the establishment of a regional mechanism for human rights in Asia and the preparation of the two countries' respective plans of action for human rights. Representatives of institutions and organizations involved in preparations for the establishment of a national human rights commission were invited to Norway in spring 2000.

Norway provided funding for Thai NGOs involved in promoting human rights issues at both the national and regional level. Norway also covered the costs of food and shelter for Burmese and Cambodian refugees in Thailand in 1999. The last Cambodian refugees in the border areas of Thailand returned to their homes in 1999, with funds provided by Norway for their reintegration and establishment in Cambodia. Norway has expressed its satisfaction at the fact that the Thai authorities are now permitting the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to also have easier access to refugees from Burma.

For information regarding Vietnam, please refer to the section on human rights dialogues.

America

The inauguration of President Andrés Pastrana in August 1998 gave new impetus to the debate on a political solution to the internal conflict in Colombia. The current conflict, the origins of which date back 40 years, involves a number of players, the most important of whom are the government, the military, the guerrillas, paramilitary groups and the drug mafia. President Pastrana has succeeded in establishing a dialogue with the largest guerrilla organization, FARC. Possibilities of a dialogue with the second largest guerrilla organization, ELN, are also

expected to open up in the near future.

Norway is participating in efforts to find a solution to the conflict in Colombia. In addition to appointing Jan Egeland UN Special Envoy to Colombia, Norway has developed good direct connections with both the government authorities - both military and civilian - and FARC and ELN. Furthermore, Norway has established contacts with key institutions in civil society with a view to consolidating their role in the peace process. Norway's participation in the peace process is sought after by the parties to the conflict.

In 1999, a total of NOK 42.8 million was disbursed for development aid to Colombia, and Norway provided the same amount of support in 2000. Aid was focused more directly on peace-related measures for 2000, such as funding for the UN Special Envoy to Colombia, efforts to prepare the parties for peace negotiations, support for civil society's participation in the peace process and support for human rights activities, in addition to humanitarian aid.

More than three years after the peace accord in **Guatemala** was signed, the country faces major challenges as regards implementing the peace agreement. Although some progress is discernible, reforms have yet to be carried out in important areas if Guatemala is really to be a state that respects the rights of its indigenous population.

Norway was an important ally in efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the internal conflict in Guatemala. Development assistance was used as an effective instrument in this connection. Since the peace accord was signed, approximately 80% of Norwegian aid, which totals around NOK 100 million per year, has been allocated to measures to promote peace, respect for human rights, democracy and good governance.

Norway has been one of the most important contributors to the work of the Truth Commission, which submitted its report on 25 February 1999. Efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the Guatemalan conflict and support for the Truth Commission's activities must be viewed in conjunction with the efforts to promote the rights of the indigenous population in Guatemala. It was the country's ethnic majority, the Mayans, who paid the highest price in the 36-year-long conflict, which claimed the lives of more than 200,000 people, according to the Truth Commission, and in which the atrocities committed were extremely gruesome.

The peace accords and the recommendations presented in the Truth Commission's report have laid the foundation for a new and democratic Guatemala, where the aim is to achieve the genuine participation of all sectors of the population. Norway is currently focusing on promoting implementation of the peace accords, and has strongly emphasized to the authorities the importance of following up the recommendations of the Truth Commission and expressed its willingness to assist Guatemala in these efforts. In addition to support for human rights activities and reforms of the central government administration, Norwegian-Guatemalan cooperation emphasizes support for the efforts of a number of Mayan institutions and UNICEF in connection with a bilingual development programme. Norway also provides assistance for the UNDP's indigenous peoples' programme in Guatemala.

Nicaragua was established as one of Norway's main partners in development cooperation in 1987. Following democratic elections and a change of government in 1990, Norwegian development assistance was reoriented towards securing



COLOMBIA Carlos Angel/All over

Norway has established good direct connections with military and civil authorities – as well as with the guerrilla organizations FARC and ELN – in Colombia, in connection with our participation in the peace process.

peace, strengthening democracy and human rights and building up the economy, which was weakened by many years of civil war and growing poverty.

Despite a very high level of development aid in the 1990s and sweeping macro-economic reforms resulting in fiscal retrenchment and significantly lower inflation, the economic and social indicators for the majority of the population have scarcely improved. The social and democratic development of the country also gives cause for concern. A number of constitutional amendments adopted at the start of 2000 could undermine democracy. The autonomous state authorities (the Supreme Electoral Council and the Supreme Court) have become dominated by the governing party and the Sandinistas who negotiated a pact in November 1999 on sharing power and benefits. The Office of the Auditor General will be controlled by the same governing party which has shown little will so far to let itself be overseen by independent bodies.

The overarching goal of current development cooperation between Nicaragua and Norway (which has a budget of about NOK 120 million in 1999) is to strengthen the country's capacity for and possibilities of meeting the fundamental needs of the population at large. Poverty alleviation, good governance and transparency are key topics in the dialogue between the Nicaraguan authorities and Norway and other donor countries. The current HIPC process (IMF/World Bank), which offers possibilities of debt relief, has sharpened the focus on rights-based development in Nicaragua. In September 1999, the country was declared eligible, in principle, for assistance under the HIPC, but because of Nicaragua's inability to achieve its targets, the decision has been postponed. Problems are mainly related to the system of government, corruption and inadequate poverty orientation of limited public funds.

In Norway's view, it is unfortunate that the USA reserved the right not to be bound by the article of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), which prohibits capital punishment for persons who were under 18 years of age when the crime was committed. Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik raised this issue at a meeting with President Bill Clinton during his state visit in November 1999.

Europe

Norway has given priority to democracy and human rights issues in the **Baltic States**. Integration of the Russian-speaking population of Estonia and Latvia is an important step in furthering the democratic process and achieving political stability in the Baltic Sea Region. Norway has continued a number of integration projects and training programmes, with particular emphasis on Estonian/Latvian language training for Russian speakers. Active Norwegian assistance for the Latvian enforcement of international standards in human rights and citizenship issues has contributed towards incorporating Latvia into western cooperation structures.

The human rights situation in the **Balkans** deteriorated in 1999, marked by the mass atrocities that took place in **Kosovo**. Up until June 1999, Kosovo-Albanians were the victims of a systematic, carefully planned campaign by the Serbian authorities to drive them out of Kosovo. However, after the deployment of the KFOR force in Kosovo on 10 June, Kosovo-Serbs were subjected to acts of reprisal and violence committed by Kosovo-Albanians, as a result of which over 200,000 Kosovo-Serbs have fled the province. The human rights violations have been documented in detail by the OSCE and others in two voluminous reports

published on 10 December 1999. Norway, which held the Chairmanship of the OSCE, supported the work of the organization in this connection.

As a result of the Kosovo crisis, vast numbers of refugees streamed into neighbouring countries. Approximately one million people were driven from their homes. Meeting the needs of these refugees for protection and assistance was a priority task for the international community, including Norway. Norway provided more than NOK 740 million for humanitarian projects in connection with the Kosovo crisis.

The human rights situation in Kosovo in 1999 was unacceptable and Norway implemented a number of measures to improve conditions. However, the province had been ravaged by the hostilities and particular priority had to be given to the task of physical reconstruction: returning refugees had to be assured of a roof over their heads. The Norwegian Dialogue and Reconciliation Project in Kosovo, which was carried out by the Nansen School in cooperation with the Peace Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO) underwent a difficult period due to the war. Norway will continue to provide assistance for dialogue, reconciliation and cooperation across ethnic divisions, and in autumn 1999 the Nansen School and PRIO started work on re-establishing a Nansen centre in Pristina. Norway also supported the efforts of the Helsinki Committee's Kosovo branch. A total of NOK 341 million was allocated for humanitarian purposes in Kosovo in 1999.

The human rights situation in **Serbia** remained difficult in 1999. Norway provided support for human rights measures, including assistance for independent media, the work of the Serbian Helsinki Committee and humanitarian aid for internally displaced persons and refugees. Norwegian support for the work of the Nansen School and PRIO in Serbia and for contacts with religious communities in the country helped to further the promotion of dialogue and peace.

Norway provided funding for the Helsinki Committee's local branch in **Montenegro**, as well as aid to meet refugee needs.

Human rights activities in **Albania** in 1999 were affected by the Kosovo crisis and the great influx of Kosovo-Albanian refugees. Norway's involvement in 1999 consisted primarily of support for humanitarian measures. Nonetheless, Norway continued to promote reforms and the modernization of the country's judicial system through a variety of measures including transfers of expertise to the Albanian prosecuting authority and support for training programmes for judges. Norway supported the work of the OSCE delegation in the field of human rights, seconding a person to be in charge of the delegation's Human Rights Alert Program office.

The human rights situation in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** in 1999 remained problematic, although steady progress is being made. The reforms currently being implemented in the judicial system and the police force, and the slow build-up of civil society in the country are important steps forward. Norway provided active support in both areas in 1999. Norwegian police officers were seconded to the UN International Police Task Force (IPTF) to help train Bosnian police officers. Assistance for the work of the Helsinki Committee, legal counselling and the development of civil society was channelled through the Human Rights House in Sarajevo. Support was also provided for the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in Bosnia and Herzegovina and for reconciliation projects run by various religious communities in the country. Norway also provided assistance for independent media, and for the human rights activities of



IRAN Ibrahim/Trip

Human rights issues were a key item on the agenda during Norway's visits to Iran in 1999.

the Office of the High Representative, the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

The human rights situation for ethnic minorities in **Croatia** remained unchanged in 1999. Norway took the situation of the Serbian minority up in the course of bilateral talks and OSCE meetings. The Norwegian legal aid project in East Slavonia continued in 1999, in addition to which funding was provided for measures targeting women.

The Kosovo crisis exacerbated ethnic conflicts in **Macedonia**. The country received substantial humanitarian aid in response to the refugee crisis. Funds were also allocated to establish a dialogue and reconciliation project in Skopje run by the Nansen School and PRIO. This project aims at generating increased contact and dialogue between ethnic Slavs and ethnic Albanians in Macedonia, and is an attempt to defuse the ethnic tensions in the country. Norway also provided funding for the human rights work of the OSCE delegation in 1999.

North Africa and the Middle East

The human rights situation in **Algeria** is still unclear and complex. The country's president has initiated radical measures to neutralize Islamic terrorism, and violence has been curtailed. It is still too early to tell whether the results of these efforts will last. International agencies and journalists are still given little opportunity to investigate the situation with regard to human rights. According to the UN Special Rapporteur, a wall of silence has been erected around the violations committed in the country.

Norway has expressed its sympathy with the Algerian people on several occasions, and unequivocally condemned all acts of terrorism perpetrated in the country. The Algerian government has been reminded of its responsibility for protecting the civilian population against terrorist acts within the framework of universally recognized human rights. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also worked closely with various organizations to identify projects of a humanitarian nature.

The Norwegian authorities upheld their request to Norwegian business and industry to exercise restraint with regard to industrial and commercial cooperation with **Libya**.

International human rights organizations are concerned about the situation as regards freedom of expression and human rights in **Tunisia**, and Norway is following developments closely.

In view of the improvement in the situation in **Iran** in the past few years, Norway has withdrawn its unilateral measures in respect of this country. This also offers enhanced opportunities for dialogue with the Iranian authorities on a large number of issues, including human rights. Human rights issues were therefore on the agenda during the visits to Iran that were carried out in 1999, and comprised both general questions and individual cases.

Norway has followed up efforts to promote human rights in Iran in the UN's human rights agencies. Attention has been focused particularly on the situation of the Bahá'í community and certain other religious minorities. Financial assistance was provided for UN cooperation with Iran in the field of human rights.

Norway has repeatedly pointed to the need to increase respect for fundamental

human rights in **Iraq**, and to this end has participated actively in drawing up resolutions addressing this concern in the UN human rights institutions.

Israel's political system is grounded on democratic principles. National legislation provides that the rule of law applies to all citizens, and Israel has signed the most important human rights conventions. The fundamental political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights of Jewish citizens are largely respected in Israel. National legislation also safeguards the rights of the Arab minority in the country to a large extent, but in practice the non-Jewish population is still subjected to systematic discrimination.

The Israeli authorities are also responsible for a number of serious, systematic violations of the human rights of the Palestinian population in the occupied areas and Lebanese inmates in Israeli prisons. The authorities have made extensive use of their powers to hold Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in administrative custody and prison conditions for these inmates often fail to meet international minimum standards. Other serious human rights violations include restrictions on Palestinians' freedom of movement, for instance by confiscating their identification card, the demolition of Palestinian homes and unequal water distribution.

Until recently (September 1999), Israel had a statutory right to use moderate physical pressure (torture) in interview situations. The Supreme Court ruling that prohibits the use of torture, and a reduction in the number of Palestinian prisoners in administrative custody in the past year were encouraging developments. The situation as regards the rights of the non-Jewish population in Israel has also improved gradually in the recent past.

Norway's criticism of Israel is particularly based on the conflict with the Palestinian population. It is also in this connection that the most serious violations of human rights occur. Breaches of human rights committed by the Israeli authorities have been reduced as a result of the Oslo Accords and the peace process. Despite these positive changes, however, Israeli practice in a large number of other areas has not changed.

In international fora, such as the UN General Assembly and the UN Commission on Human Rights, and in bilateral talks, Norway has criticized Israeli human rights violations and urged Israel to observe the conventions that it has signed in this field. Norway has also, within the framework of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC), the international group of donor countries for the Palestinian Area, taken human rights issues up with Israel, such as border closings that hamper Palestinians' freedom of movement. Norway has also made active efforts on behalf of prisoners detained in administrative custody, both by supporting the work of the International Red Cross, and by taking up individual cases.

Norwegian assistance for **the Palestinian Area** aims at supporting the peace process. The development of democracy and safeguarding of human rights principles in the Palestinian society are important development aid objectives. Norway is concerned to ensure that an efficient public administration is established that fully respects fundamental human rights. A large share of development assistance has therefore been allocated to building up institutional capacity in the public sector and to civil society organizations. Support for NGOs that work to secure women's rights and other human rights in Palestinian legislation was maintained. Funding was also provided for both Palestinian and Israeli NGOs involved in monitoring and recording human rights violations in the Palestinian Area. It was also decided that Norway, together with Germany, Denmark,

Sweden and the Netherlands, will jointly finance the development of the Palestinian police academy.

The Palestinian self-governing area is not an independent state and therefore cannot be a party to international legal instruments such as human rights conventions. Nevertheless, Norway expects the Palestinian authorities to comply with international legal custom as regards prisoners, freedom of expression, etc. The Norwegian authorities follow developments in the human rights situation in the area closely. Politically, both as chairman of the AHLC and in bilateral contexts, Norway has continuously expressed its concern regarding the human rights situation in general. Norway initiated a review of assistance for civil society and the judicial system, which will include recommendations for a strategy for future support for the Palestinian Area.



S t ^ t i S t i C S



Support for good governance, human rights, popular participation and democratization by country and region (NOK 1000)

COUNTRY			
Africa	Total		
Africa unspecified	80 095	Mongolia	564
Angola	74 035	Nepal	6 230
Botswana	9 791	Pakistan	12 032
Burkina Faso	68	Palestinian Admin. Areas	39 955
Burundi	2 500	Philippines	1 760
Cameroon	305	Sri Lanka	21 216
Cape Verde	156	Thailand	20
Chad	289	Viet Nam	9 310
Egypt	127	Yemen	2 250
Eritrea	8 141	Asia total	226 031
Etiopia	23 353	Europe	
Ghana	2 399	Albania	12 765
Guinea-Bissau	160	Bosnia and Herzegovina	19 118
Kenya	5 985	Croatia	2 148
Lesotho	986	Former Yugoslavia unspecified	41 532
Madagascar	5 789	Macedonia (FYROM)	14 317
Malawi	9 800	Serbia and Montenegro	15 407
Mali	15 670	Turkey	2 765
Mauritania	1 213	Europe total	108 053
Mauritius	157	Global measures	
Mozambique	82 237	Global unspecified	177 328
Namibia	2 222	Global total	177 328
Niger	800	Latin-America	
Nigeria	4 079	America unspecified	16 704
Rwanda	6 983	Argentina	64
Sierra Leone	300	Bolivia	3 390
South Africa	39 839	Brazil	12 750
Sub-Saharan Africa unspecified	13 790	Central America unspecified	9 663
Sudan	3 235	Chile	3 080
Tanzania	25 782	Colombia	10 016
Tunisia	100	Costa Rica	500
Uganda	22 702	Cuba	3 677
Zambia	30 510	Dominican Republic	2 480
Zimbabwe	31 624	Ecuador	6 018
Africa total	505 224	El Salvador	10 273
Asia		Guatemala	80 441
Afghanistan	1 920	Haiti	4 399
Asia unspecified	16 982	Honduras	4 473
Azerbaijan	700	Jamaica	1 747
Bangladesh	30 100	Mexico	2 978
Burma	3 367	Nicaragua	33 812
Cambodia	6 994	Paraguay	2 436
China	8 694	Peru	5 545
Georgia	2 898	South America unspecified	1469
India	30 528	Uruguay	382
Indonesia	7 059	Latin-America total	216 297
Iran	878	Oceania	
Jordan	137	Papua New Guinea	1 091
Laos	6 543	Oceania total	1 091
Lebanon	840	Totalt	1 234 024
Malaysia	563		
Middle East unspecified	14 492		

BY COUNTRY

Country	Total
Afghanistan	1 920
Africa unspecified	80 095
Albania	12 765
America unspecified	16 704
Angola	74 035
Argentina	64
Asia unspecified	16 982
Azerbaijan	700
Bangladesh	30 100
Bolivia	3 390
Bosnia and Herzegovina	19 118
Botswana	9 791
Brazil	12750
Burkina Faso	68
Burma	3 367
Burundi	2 500
Cambodia	6 994
Cameroon	305
Cape Verde	156
Central America unspecified	9 663
Chad	289
Chile	3 080
China	8 694
Colombia	10 016
Costa Rica	500
Croatia	2 148
Cuba	3 677
Dominican Republic	2 480
Ecuador	6 018
Egypt	127
El Salvador	10 273
Eritrea	8 141
Etiopia	23 353
Former Yugoslavia unspecified	41 532
Georgia	2 898
Ghana	2 399
Global unspecified	177 328
Guatemala	80 441
Guinea-Bissau	160
Haiti	4 399
Honduras	4 473
India	30 528
Indonesia	7 059
Iran	878
Jamaica	1 747
Jordan	137
Kenya	5 985
Laos	6 543
Lebanon	840
Lesotho	986
Madagascar	5 789
Makedonia (FYROM)	14 317
Malawi	9 800
Malaysia	563
Mali	15 670
Mauritania	1 213

Mauritius	157
Mexico	2 978
Middle East unspecified	14 492
Mongolia	564
Mosambique	82 237
Namibia	2 222
Nepal	6 230
Nicaragua	33 812
Niger	800
Nigeria	4 079
Pakistan	12 032
Palestinian Admin. Areas	39 955
Papua New Guinea	1 091
Paraguay	2 436
Peru	5 545
Philippines	1 760
Rwanda	6 983
Serbia and Montenegro	15 407
Sierra Leone	300
South Africa	39 839
South America unspecified	1 469
Sri Lanka	21 216
Sub-Saharan Africa unspecified	13 790
Sudan	3 235
Tanzania	25 782
Thailand	20
Tunisia	100
Turkey	2 765
Uganda	22 702
Uruguay	382
Viet Nam	9 310
Yemen	2 250
Zambia	30 510
Zimbabwe	31 624
Total	1 234 024

COUNTRY	TYPE OF AID		
	Bilateral aid	Multi-bilateral aid	Total
Afghanistan	620	1 300	1 920
Africa unspecified	26 850	53 245	80 095
Albania	10 601	2 164	12 765
America unspecified	6 149	10 555	16 704
Angola	38 861	35 174	74 035
Argentina	64		64
Asia unspecified	5 982	11 000	16 982
Azerbaijan	700		700
Bangladesh	26 100	4 000	30 100
Bolivia	3 390		3 390
Bosnia and Herzegovina	19 118		19 118
Botswana	8 291	1 500	9 791
Brazil	12 750		12 750
Burkina Faso	68		68
Burma	3 367		3 367
Burundi	500	2 000	2 500
Cambodia	4 792	2 202	6 994
Cameroon	305		305
Cape Verde	156		156
Central America unspecified	7 738	1 925	9 663
Chad	289		289
Chile	3 080		3 080
China	8 694		8 694
Colombia	8 416	1 600	10 016
Costa Rica	500		500
Croatia	1 648	500	2 148
Cuba	3 677		3 677
Dominican Republic	2 480		2 480
Ecuador	6 018		6 018
Egypt	127		127
El Salvador	9 523	750	10 273
Eritrea	6 141	2 000	8 141
Etiopia	20 193	3 160	23 353
Former Yugoslavia unspecified	41 532		41 532
Georgia	2 898		2 898
Ghana	2 399		2 399
Global unspecified	102 636	74 692	177 328
Guatemala	48 946	31 495	80 441
Guinea-Bissau	160		160
Haiti	4 399		4 399
Honduras	4 473		4 473
India	26 690	3 838	30 528
Indonesia	3 309	3 750	7 059
Iran	100	778	878
Jamaica	1 747		1 747
Jordan	137		137
Kenya	5 985		5 985
Laos	1 422	5 121	6 543
Lebanon	840		840
Lesotho	986		986
Madagascar	5 789		5 789
Makedonia (FYROM)	14 317		14 317
Malawi	9 800		9 800
Malaysia	563		563
Mali	13 370	2 300	15 670
Mauritania	1 213		1 213

COUNTRY	TYPE OF AID		
	Bilateral aid	Multi-bilateral aid	Total
Mauritius	157		157
Mexico	2 978		2 978
Middle East unspecified	14 492		14 492
Mongolia	564		564
Mosambique	55 782	26 455	82 237
Namibia	2 222		2 222
Nepal	6 153	77	6 230
Nicaragua	29 812	4 000	33 812
Niger	800		800
Nigeria	3 306	773	4 079
Pakistan	11 168	864	12 032
Palestinian Admin. Areas	27 110	12 846	39 955
Papua New Guinea	1 091		1 091
Paraguay	2 436		2 436
Peru	5 545		5 545
Philippines	1 760		1 760
Rwanda	6 983		6 983
Serbia and Montenegro	12 657	2 750	15 407
Sierra Leone	300		300
South Africa	38 239	1 600	39 839
South America unspecified	1 469		1 469
Sri Lanka	20 621	595	21 216
Sub-Saharan Africa unspecified	13 790		13 790
Sudan	3 235		3 235
Tanzania	15 782	10 000	25 782
Thailand	20		20
Tunisia	100		100
Turkey	2 765		2 765
Uganda	19 553	3 150	22 702
Uruguay	382		382
Viet Nam	9 310		9 310
Yemen	2 250		2 250
Zambia	30 510		30 510
Zimbabwe	29 398	2 226	31 624
Total	895 699	338 325	1 234 024

COUNTRY	TYPE OF AID		
	Bilateral	Multi-bilateral aid	Total
Africa			
Africa unspecified	26 850	53 245	80 095
Angola	38 861	35 174	74 035
Botswana	8 291	1 500	9 791
Burkina Faso	68		68
Burundi	500	2 000	2 500
Cameroon	305		305
Cape Verde	156		156
Chad	289		289
Egypt	127		127
Eritrea	6 141	2 000	8 141
Etiopia	20 193	3 160	23 353
Ghana	2 399		2 399
Guinea-Bissau	160		160
Kenya	5 985		5 985
Lesotho	986		986
Madagascar	5 789		5 789
Malawi	9 800		9 800
Mali	13 370	2 300	15 670
Mauritania	1 213		1 213
Mauritius	157		157
Mosambique	55 782	26 455	82 237
Namibia	2 222		2 222
Niger	800		800
Nigeria	3 306	773	4 079
Rwanda	6 983		6 983
Sierra Leone	300		300
South Africa	38 239	1 600	39 839
Sub-Saharan Africa unspecified	13 790		13 790
Sudan	3 235		3 235
Tanzania	15 782	10 000	25 782
Tunisia	100		100
Uganda	19 553	3 150	22 702
Zambia	30 510		30 510
Zimbabwe	29 398	2 226	31 624
Africa total	345 952	159 272	505 224
Asia			
Afghanistan	620	1 300	1 920
Asia unspecified	5 982	11 000	16 982
Azerbaijan	700		700
Bangladesh	26 100	4 000	30 100
Burma	3 367		3 367
Cambodia	4 792	2 202	6 994
China	8 694		8 694
Georgia	2 898		2 898
India	26 690	3 838	30 528
Indonesia	3 309	3 750	7 059
Iran	100	778	878
Jordan	137		137
Laos	1 422	5 121	6 543
Lebanon	840		840
Malaysia	563		563
Middle East unspecified	14 492		14 492
Mongolia	564		564
Nepal	6 153	77	6 230
Pakistan	11 168	864	12 032

COUNTRY	TYPE OF AID		
	Bilateral	Multi-bilateral aid	Total
Asia			
Palestinian Admin. Areas	27 110	12 846	39 955
Philippines	1 760		1 760
Sri Lanka	20 621	595	21 216
Thailand	20		20
Viet Nam	9 310		9 310
Yemen	2 250		2 250
Asia total	177 410	48 621	226 031
Europe			
Albania	10 601	2 164	12 765
Bosnia and Herzegovina	19 118		19 118
Croatia	1 648	500	2 148
Former Yugoslavia unspecified	41 532		41 532
Macedonia (FYROM)	14 317		14 317
Serbia and Montenegro	12 657	2 750	15 407
Turkey	2 765		2 765
Europe total	102 639	5 414	108 053
Global			
Global unspecified	102 636	74 692	177 328
Global total	102 636	74 692	177 328
Latin-America			
America unspecified	6 149	10 555	16 704
Argentina	64		64
Bolivia	3 390		3 390
Brazil	12 750		12 750
Central America unspecified	7 738	1 925	9 663
Chile	3 080		3 080
Colombia	8 416	1 600	10 016
Costa Rica	500		500
Cuba	3 677		3 677
Dominican Republic	2 480		2 480
Ecuador	6 018		6 018
El Salvador	9 523	750	10 273
Guatemala	48 946	31 495	80 441
Haiti	4 399		4 399
Honduras	4 473		4 473
Jamaica	1 747		1 747
Mexico	2 978		2 978
Nicaragua	29 812	4 000	33 812
Paraguay	2 436		2 436
Peru	5 545		5 545
South America unspecified	1 469		1 469
Uruguay	382		382
Latin-America total	165 972	50 325	216 297
Oceania			
Papua New Guinea	1 091		1 091
Oceania total	1 091		1 091
Total	895 699	338 325	1 234 024

COUNTRY

	Non- NGO	Norwegian NGO	Local NGO	Regional NGO	Global NGO	Research Foundation	Total
Africa							
Africa unspecified	62 464	7 526			10 051	54	80 095
Angola	43 687	26 972	3 375				74 035
Botswana	6 612	3 113			66		9 791
Burkina Faso				68			68
Burundi	2 000		500				2 500
Cameroon		305					305
Cape Verde		156					156
Chad		289					289
Egypt		127					127
Eritrea	2 023	6 118					8 141
Etiopia	6 663	13 065	1 730		95	1 801	23 353
Ghana		2 399					2 399
Guinea-Bissau		160					160
Kenya	787	4 923			275		5 985
Lesotho		986					986
Madagascar	5 789						5 789
Malawi	9 800						9 800
Mali	3 194	10 876			1 600		15 670
Mauritania		1 213					1 213
Mauritius		157					157
Mozambique	44 100	32 268	4 370		1 498		82 237
Namibia	35	2 187					2 222
Niger	800						800
Nigeria	818	2 101			1 160		4 079
Rwanda		6 983					6 983
Sierra Leone		300					300
South Africa	7 512	23 617	1 870			6 840	39 839
Sub-Saharan Africa unspecified	3 385	4 350	2 560			3 495	13 790
Sudan	210	3 026					3 235
Tanzania	18 521	4 312	2 949				25 782
Tunisia	100						100
Uganda	6 578	16 124					22 702
Zambia	18 539	2 071	9 630	270			30 510
Zimbabwe	20 622	7 046	3 823		134		31 624
Africa total	264 240	182 771	30 807	338	14 879	12 189	505 224

Asia

Afghanistan	1 300	620					1 920
Asia unspecified	11 085	5 229	70	195	402		16 982
Azerbaijan		700					700
Bangladesh	10 953	5 883	13 264				30 100
Burma	101	466			2 800		3 367
Cambodia	2 535	2 759	1 700				6 994
China	376	901	90			7 327	8 694
Georgia		2 603				295	2 898
India	12 986	4 165	13 376				30 528
Indonesia	4 316	2 384	360				7 059
Iran	778	100					878
Jordan		137					137
Laos	5 121	1 422					6 543
Lebanon		840					840
Malaysia		563					563
Middle East unspecified	4 907					9 585	14 492
Mongolia		564					564
Nepal	792	5 433			5		6 230

COUNTRY

	Non- NGO	Norwegian NGO	Local NGO	Regional NGO	Global NGO	Research Foundation	Total
Asia							
Pakistan	3 235	85	8 712				12 032
Palestinian Admin. Areas	26 482	8 594	2 900			1 980	39 955
Philippines	119	1 641					1 760
Sri Lanka	5 904	8 995	6 317				21 216
Thailand	20						20
Viet Nam	7 780	1 530					9 310
Yemen	2 250						2 250
Asia totalt	101 040	55 613	46 790	195	3 207	19 186	226 031

Europe

Albania	9 200	3 565					12 765
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4 645	13 935	537				19 118
Croatia	1 000	1 148					2 148
Former Yugoslavia							
unspecified	28 945	11 067				1 520	41 532
Macedonia (FYROM)	14 116	201					14 317
Serbia and Montenegro	5 353	7 254				2 800	15 407
Turkey	716	1 460				590	2 765
Europe total	63 976	38 629	537			4 910	108 053

Global measures

Global unspecified	91 857	43 372	80		36 500	5 519	177 328
Global total	91 857	43 372	80		36 500	5 519	177 328

Latin-America

America unspecified	11 155	5 549					16 704
Argentina		64					64
Bolivia		3 390					3 390
Brazil		12 750					12 750
Central America							
unspecified	2 913	1 950		2 200	2 600		9 663
Chile		2 820		260			3 080
Colombia	2 386	6 413		1 216			10 016
Costa Rica		500					500
Cuba	1 666	2 011					3 677
Dominican Republic	657	1 823					2 480
Ecuador		6 018					6 018
El Salvador	5 560	3 528	585	600			10 273
Guatemala	49 689	27 687	1 900	786		379	80 441
Haiti	5	4 394					4 399
Honduras	1 550	2 923					4 473
Jamaica		1 747					1 747
Mexico		2 978					2 978
Nicaragua	12 237	17 616	3 959				33 812
Paraguay		2 436					2 436
Peru		5 395	150				5 545
South America unspecified		1 469					1 469
Uruguay		382					382
Latin-America total	87 817	113 845	6 594	5 062	2 600	379	216 297

Oceania

Papua New Guinea		1 091					1 091
Oceania total		1 091					1 091

Totalt	608 930	435 321	84 807	5 595	57 187	42 184	1 234 024
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Multi-bilateral aid is defined as earmarked support for projects administrated by multilateral agencies.

NGO = Non governmental organization Non-NGO = Public institutions, individuals, companies and multilateral organizations

FURTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The following is a list of some of the NGOs and public institutions that work with human rights issues

Amnesty International

P.O. Box 702 Sentrum
N-0106 OSLO
Tel.: +47 22 40 22 00
Fax: +47 22 42 94 70
E-mail: admin@amnesty.no

Antiracist Centre

Antirasistisk Senter
P.O. Box 244 Sentrum
N-0103 OSLO
Tel.: +47 22 11 60 00
Fax: +47 22 11 61 00
E-mail: nadeem@antirasistisk-senter.no

Centre for Combating Ethnic Discrimination

Senter mot etnisk diskriminering
P.O. Box 677 Sentrum
N-0106 OSLO
Tel.: +47 22 24 69 70
Fax: +47 22 24 69 72
E-mail: smed@smed.no

Christian Michelsen Institute

Chr. Michelsens Institutt
Fantoftveien 38
N-5036 FANTOFT
Tel.: +47 55 57 40 00
Fax: +47 55 57 41 66
E-mail: cmi@cmi.no

Church of Norway Council of Ecumenical and International Relations

Mellomkirkelig Råd for Den norske kirke
P.O. Box 5816 Hegdehaugen
N-0308 OSLO
Tel.: +47 22 93 27 50
Fax: +47 22 93 28 28
E-mail: hans.morten.haugen@kirken.no

Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry

NHO
P.O. Box 5250 Majorstua
N-0303 OSLO
Tel.: +47 23 08 80 00
Fax: +47 23 08 80 01
E-mail: firmapost@nho.no

FOKUS - Forum for Women and Development

Forum for kvinner og utviklingsspørsmål
Storgt. 33 C
N-0184 OSLO
Tel.: +47 23 01 03 00
Fax: +47 23 01 03 01
E-mail: fokuskvinner@online.no

International Romani Union - Norway

Kjelsåsveien 28F
N-0488 OSLO
Tel.: +47 22 89 20 21
Tel./Fax: +47 22 15 77 58

International Society for Health and Human Rights

Urtegata 50
N-0187 OSLO
Tel.: +47 22 68 22 20
Fax: +47 22 57 00 88
E-mail: ishhr@online.no

Latin America Groups in Norway

Latin-Amerikagruppene i Norge
Solidaritetshuset
Osterhausgt. 27
N-0183 OSLO
Tel.: +47 22 98 93 00
Fax: +47 22 98 93 01

MiRA Resource Centre for Black, Immigrant and Refugee Women

MiRA-ressurscenter for innvandrerkvinner
P.O. Box 1749 Vika
N-0212 OSLO
Tel.: +47 22 11 69 20
Fax: +47 22 36 40 19
E-mail: post@mirasenteret.no

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation NORAD

P.O. Box 8034 DEP
N-0030 OSLO
Tel.: +47 22 24 20 30
Fax: +47 22 24 20 31
E-mail: informasjonssenteret@norad.no

Norwegian Church Aid

Kirkens Nødhjelp
P.O. Box 4544 Torshov
N-0404 OSLO
Tel.: +47 22 22 22 99
Fax: +47 22 22 24 20
E-mail: nca-oslo@sn.no

Norwegian Gender Equality OPmbudsman

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Fellesrådet for Afrika

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**Norwegian Federation of
Organizations of Disabled people**

Funksjonshemmedes Fellesorganisasjon

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**Norwegian Forum for
Freedom of Expression**

Norsk Forum for Ytringsfrihet

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Norwegian Helsinki Committee

Den norske Helsingforskomité

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Norwegian Human Rights House

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Norwegian Humanist Association

Human-Etisk Forbund

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**Norwegian Medical Association's
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Norwegian Kven Foundation

Norske Kveners Forbund

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Norwegian People's Aid

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Norwegian Refugee Council**Flyktningerådet**

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OMOD-Organization Against**Public Discrimination****Organisasjonen mot offentlig diskriminering**

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Ombudsman for Children**Barneombudet**

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OTHER RELEVANT SOURCES:

Internet portal on north-south issues,
development cooperation and human rights
www.global.no

Human Rights and the business sector:

World Business Council for
Sustainable Development
www.wbcsd.ch

Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum
www.pwblf.org

The Copenhagen Centre
www.copenhagencentre.org

The UN Global Compact:
www.unglobalcompact.org

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