
Resolution CM/ResCMN(2022)5 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Norway

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 July 2022
at the 1439th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Articles 24 to 26 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as "the Framework Convention"),

Having regard to Resolution CM/Res(2019)49 of 11 December 2019 on the revised monitoring arrangements under Articles 24 to 26 of the Framework Convention;

Having regard to the applicable voting rule;^[1]

Having regard to the instrument of ratification deposited by Norway on 17 March 1999;

Recalling that the Government of Norway transmitted its state report in respect of the fifth monitoring cycle under the Framework Convention on 14 September 2020;

Having examined the Advisory Committee's fifth opinion on Norway adopted on 2 February 2022,

Adopts the following conclusions in respect of Norway:

The authorities are invited to take account of the observations and recommendations contained in the Advisory Committee's fifth opinion. In particular, they should take the following measures to improve further the implementation of the Framework Convention:

Recommendations for immediate action:

1. take active steps to pursue the historic reconciliation process with regard to the Romani/Tater minority, with the effective participation of all parties concerned, in particular to rebuild trust in the collective reparation scheme. The authorities are also urged to take steps to build confidence between the Romani/Tater organisations, persons belonging to the minority and the authorities, with a view to distributing funds from the collective reparation with the full and effective participation of the Romani/Tater minority;
2. elaborate and adopt an action plan to combat antigypsyism, in close co-operation with the Roma^[2] and Romani/Taters, as well as the non-Norwegian Roma where appropriate. The plan should also target anti-nomadism. The authorities should, on this basis, collect data on crimes with an antigypsyist motive and ensure that alleged offences are promptly and effectively investigated, and where appropriate prosecuted and sanctioned. The measures in the action plan should be evaluated periodically in close co-operation with

the minorities concerned. The authorities should also increase the number and strengthen the mandate of Roma community facilitators in the framework of the new police action plan on diversity, dialogue and trust, and to urgently increase training of law enforcement about national minorities, especially the Roma, and to engage with the minorities concerned to ensure co-operation with them and increase awareness of legal remedies;

3. take further steps to ensure equal access to education for Roma children, for example through developing a bilingual kindergarten for Roma, using Romanes and Norwegian as languages of instruction, to enable Roma children to attend preschool and learn Norwegian before starting primary education while still receiving education in their first language;

4. open a dialogue with representatives of national minorities and the Sami on the kind of equality data needed on which to devise targeted measures and to identify together with them appropriate methods of collecting such data;

5. to further co-operate with the Samediggi to ensure a full range of textbooks are available in North Sami for primary and secondary education, which are adapted culturally and to the new curriculum in place since 2020;

Further recommendations:^[3]

6. continue working with the Forest Finns to establish a museum of Forest Finn history and culture, and to involve their organisations and representatives in order for them to effectively participate in the management of such a museum;

7. improve awareness among persons belonging to the Romani/Tater and Roma minorities of the new Child Welfare Act, for example by holding outreach events and establishing Romani/Tater and Roma mediators in the child welfare services personnel. The authorities should continue to raise awareness among child welfare personnel of the rights of national minorities in this respect, to ensure that national minorities' family ties and cultural identities are preserved in the child welfare service's work;

8. periodically review the Action Plan on Antisemitism in co-operation with the Jewish minority, to ensure it continues to respond to current challenges effectively, and in addition, look into further measures to counteract antisemitism;

9. work with Roma representatives and organisations to address gender-based violence against Roma women in a non-stigmatising way; continue working with the Samediggi and Sami to combat gender-based violence against Sami women in a non-stigmatising way;

10. co-operate with the Norwegian Public Broadcaster (NRK), whilst respecting the freedom of the media and NRK's editorial independence and with the effective participation of these minorities, to increase high-quality broadcasting about and for national minorities, especially Roma and Romani/Taters, including potentially in the Romanes and Romani languages;

11. look into the specific language dynamics and preferences within the Kven/Norwegian Finn minority, including in the education system and other areas of public life, and use this as a basis for future language policy;

12. take active steps to increase societal awareness about national minorities and the Sami, for instance by expanding the 'Pathfinders' scheme to other national minorities, while working with national minorities and the Sami, as well as educators and schools, to ensure the existing curricula, plans and resources in place are implemented in practice and to ensure the effectiveness of these initiatives in fostering knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of national minorities and the Sami;

13. provide long-term and structural funding to Kven language kindergartens, to provide incentives – including financial – to continue to learn Kven or Finnish beyond grade 8, and ensure that there are trained teachers able to provide high-quality teaching at kindergarten, primary and secondary levels. The production of teaching materials should also be expanded to ensure there is sufficient, high-quality provision at primary and secondary levels of education;

14. pursue work with national minority organisations to improve the Contact Forum, and to continue to hold bilateral meetings and to maintain an open and ongoing dialogue with each national minority group, respecting the diversity, including diversity of views, of each group in preparation for the annual Contact Forum. Adequate opportunities for persons belonging to national minorities to have their voice heard and have a substantial influence on all decisions and issues affecting them should be ensured in this regard;

15. take an active role in facilitating a regional dialogue on the conclusion of the Nordic Sami Convention, with a view to improving cross-border cooperation between Norway, Finland and Sweden on Sami issues and ensure the protection of the rights of the Sami.

[1] On 17 September 1997, the Committee of Ministers adopted decision CM/Del/Dec(97)601/4.5, which provides: “Decisions pursuant to Articles 24.1 and 25.2 of the Framework Convention shall be considered to be adopted if two-thirds of the representatives of the Contracting Parties casting a vote, including a majority of the representatives of the Contracting Parties entitled to sit on the Committee of Ministers, vote in favour”.

[2] The term “Roma and Travellers” is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term “*Gens du voyage*”, as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.


[3] The recommendations below are listed in the order of the corresponding articles of the Framework Convention.

Related documents

CM/Del/Dec(2022)1439/4.4b

Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities - b. Resolution CM/ResCMN(2022)5 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Norway

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