

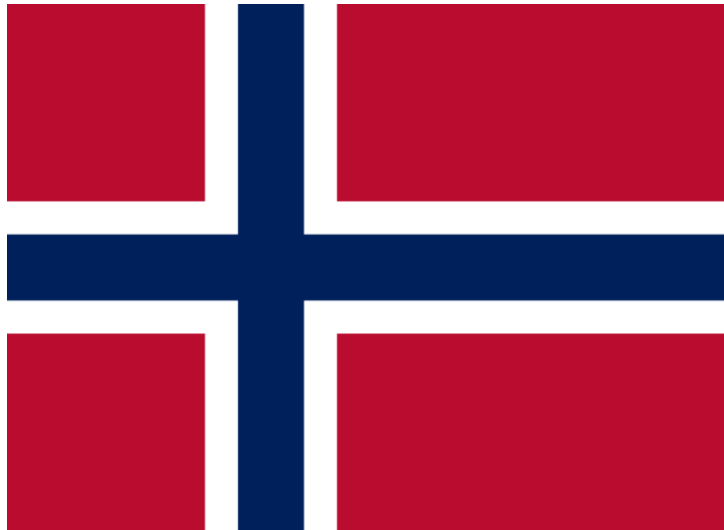


## UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### Adoption of UPR Outcomes

#HRC58 • 24 March 2025

#### Norway



#### STATE UNDER REVIEW

The delegation of **Norway** is pleased to present the Government's response to the 285 recommendations received during its fourth UPR and extends its gratitude to the states that participated in its review for their constructive engagement and to the members of the Troika for their assistance during the process. Norway further expresses its sincere appreciation to the UPR Secretariat for their patient support throughout the entire process, including Norway's addendum. With the increased engagement in the UPR and the increased number of recommendations, Norway acknowledges the increased workload on the UPR Secretariat

During its UPR review, the Norwegian delegation reaffirmed Norway's steadfast and principled commitment to human rights. Norway reiterated how human rights and gender equality are at the core of Norwegian society and our domestic policy, and how, beyond our national context, Norway is convinced that the **human rights focus brings better outcomes in its foreign policy and international development cooperation**. Norway firmly believes that upholding international law is absolutely essential to maintaining effective international relations, and the Norwegian Government remains committed to fulfilling its human rights obligations at home.

Norway firmly believes that the different UN human rights mechanisms, not least the UPR, play an important role in improving states' implementation of their international human rights obligations. The UPR is a peer review mechanism that engages governments in a process of **introspection and reflection**, both within the Government and with civil society. Consulting with civil society and other stakeholders with the aim of advancing human rights in Norway is an integral part of the UPR process.



For this reason, the relevant ministries engaged in a **follow-up meeting with the various civil society stakeholders** to discuss the follow-up and implementation of the recommendations that Norway received prior to the submission of its addendum. Norway thanks all stakeholders for their engagement and input, and looks forward to working together on the implementation of recommendations. Norway is grateful for all the constructive and positive feedback received from participating countries on Norway's commitment to promoting human rights at home and abroad.

At the same time, during its review, it was important for us to underline the fact that Norway does not claim to have a perfect record. No country can. As noted during the review, work on human rights is an ongoing process that requires constant effort. There will always be room for improvement, and we remain dedicated to making further progress, especially as the challenges we face evolve with our societies. So turning to the response to the recommendations, Norway emphasizes it welcomes all the recommendations made during the review. They have all been carefully considered. The recommendations received covered a wide range of human rights, but Norway also saw a significant degree of convergence. **Three key themes** can be highlighted. The first one is the protection of children's rights and the functioning of the children's welfare services. The second one is the protection of women against violence and rape. The third one is implementation of the CRPD into national law.

In total, Norway has **supported 184 of the 285 recommendations, supported in part 20 recommendations, and noted 81**. Many of these were priority areas identified in our national report for this UPR. In general, the recommendations that Norway supports are those where Government's work is already implemented, is ongoing, or planned. For some recommendations, while accepting the spirit behind them, Norway cannot commit to the specifics, and therefore they must be noted. There are also some where Norway, after careful examination, has **reconsidered its position**.

The implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into Human Rights Act is one such example. The Government recently decided to **incorporate the CRPD into the Human Rights Act**. This decision was taken after a thorough assessment conducted by a government-appointed committee of experts and broad public consultation of the [CRPD] Committee's report. The Government aims to present the proposition on the incorporation to the Parliament in the autumn. When the Convention was ratified by Norway in 2013, the government asserted legal harmony between Norwegian law and the Convention. Incorporation now into the Human Rights Act entails that the Convention will have the force of Norwegian law and take precedence in the event of conflict with other legislation. So by incorporating the Convention into Norwegian law, Norway will send a strong signal concerning the importance of the rights of persons with disabilities.

When it comes to another main theme during our UPR process, namely the **protection of children's rights and children's welfare services**, Norway highlights that the Government late last year announced the establishment of a Group of Experts. The latter has been tasked with making a holistic assessment on how children's welfare services are organised and function in order to provide children with the best possible help and necessary services.



When it comes to **sexual violence and rape**, since the UPR session in November 2024, the Government has announced that it will present new legislation to Parliament this spring on what constitutes consent. In other areas, the Government is actively taking steps to address ongoing challenges and remains committed to doing more.

The Parliament has reviewed the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report** and the Government is working on following up on its recommendations. The Government has also launched an action plan against harassment and discrimination of the **Sami people**. On a related note, the Government has also launched newly a new action plan against **anti-Semitism**.

In conclusion, Norway reiterates that it comes out of our fourth review with an even greater conviction that the UPR plays a vital role in taking stock of the national human rights situation and, when it comes to human rights in Norway, of identifying remaining challenges as well as progress with respect to achieving desired results.

### NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

The **Norwegian Human Rights Commission** states that although the Government has endorsed or partly endorsed most recommendations, the Commission notes that certain recommendations were not supported. For instance, the Government did not support the recommendation to allow all inmates a minimum of eight hours a day outside the cell and to limit solitary confinement to exceptional cases. This remains an unresolved issue despite well-documented health risks associated with, for example, solitary confinement. The Parliamentary Ombudsperson has documented extensive de facto solitary confinement in Norwegian prisons that is isolation that is not court-ordered or due to the inmates' own behaviour but due to lack of staff and resources. As early as 2021, the Commission recommended amending the act relating to the execution of sentences in order to address this issue. The Commission now hopes for a stronger commitment to implementing necessary reforms. The Commission welcomes the Government's acceptance of recommendations on key issues such as violence and abuse, discrimination and child welfare services. It also commends the decision by the Government to incorporate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) into the Human Rights Act as recommended by us, as well as many civil society organisations and the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud. This is a crucial step toward ensuring that persons with disabilities can enjoy their human rights on equal terms with others. The Commission now awaits the final decision by Parliament to include the CRPD in the Human Rights Act later this year.

### UNHRC MEMBER AND OBSERVERS STATES

**South Sudan** expresses its gratitude for Norway's consistent, active engagement in the UPR process. South Sudan commends Norway for being a party to a large number of human rights instruments within the framework of the UN and the Council of Europe, and for prioritising child protection through adopting the Child Welfare Act to be precedent to children's best interests, as well as by underscoring significant efforts to advance gender equality. South Sudan thanks and appreciates the Government of Norway for fully accepting 184 recommendations and partially accepting 20 out of 285 recommendations submitted to them during the first UPR review in November 2024, including accepting two recommendations from my country and noting other two recommendations. In conclusion, South Sudan extends its best wishes to Norway for



successful implementation of the UPR recommendation and offers its unwavering support for adoption of its UPR outcome report.

**Venezuela** has taken note of the high degree of cooperation with the UPR mechanism and believes this speaks volumes about its belief that this is voluntary and not imposed mechanisms that reap the best results in terms of human rights. Venezuela notes with some concern that only 64% of the recommendations received have been supported, and urges Norway to assess those recommendations that it did not or only partially accepted with a view to their possible implementation. Venezuela welcomes the fact that three out of the four recommendations made by Venezuela were supported fully and that it partially supported our fourth recommendation related to the application of the principle of the best interest of the child, both in the legislation as well as in judicial and administrative decision-making procedures that impact children. Venezuela wishes Norway every success in implementation of the recommendations accepted at this full cycle, and fully supports adoption of the report.

**Viet Nam** appreciates the delegation of Norway for engaging constructively during its fourth cycle of the UPR process. Once again, it commends the efforts of Norway to combat racism, discrimination and violence against women and children by, among others, adopting the action plan against racism and discrimination on grounds of ethnicity and religion. Viet Nam thanks Norway for accepting its three recommendations on combating discrimination to foster a more inclusive society, ensuring equitable access to justice and domestic violence prevention. Viet Nam takes positive note of initiatives that Norway has taken towards combating exploitation of migrant workers, advancing gender equality, narrowing the gender pay gap, protecting the rights of migrant workers, and improving the quality and affordability of healthcare services. Viet Nam fully supports the adoption by consensus of the UPR outcome of Norway by the UNHRC, and wishes Norway every success in the implementation of all supported recommendations.

**Algeria** welcomes the fact that Norway has supported a large number of the recommendations addressed to them during the fourth UPR cycle, particularly the recommendation made by Algeria pertaining to measures that Norway should take to guarantee equality and to improve the situation and plight of migrants as well as Afro-descendants resident in Norway. It also thanks Norway for also having accepted two further recommendations offered by Algeria. In conclusion, Algeria recommends the adoption of Norway's outcome report by consensus and wishes Norway every success in the implementation.

**Armenia** thanks Norway for its unwavering commitment to the UPR process as well as its ongoing efforts to promote and protect human rights writ large, both at the domestic as well as international level. It also welcomes the clear spirit of cooperation and the constructive spirit that Norway has demonstrated throughout this exercise. Armenia commends Norway for its driving role in defending key values, including its actions to spearhead and bring about gender equality and to uphold the rights of indigenous peoples and human rights defenders and to promote freedom of speech and expression. Armenia welcomes and commends Norway for the progress made in tackling discrimination, hate speech and protecting migrants and refugees. Armenia fully supports the adoption of the report and wishes Norway every success in the implementation.

**Botswana** welcomes the delegation and appreciates the updates provided today. Welcoming Norway's support for one of its recommendations on investigating, prosecuting and ensuring that



those responsible for trafficking in persons are prosecuted, Botswana notes that recommendation on providing multi-sectoral capacity building programmes for the judiciary and law enforcement officials on the strict application of anti-trafficking legislation was partially accepted and hopes that the recommendation will enjoy Norway's full support in future. In conclusion, Botswana supports the adoption of Norway's UPR outcome and wishes success in implementing the accepted recommendation.

**China** has taken note of the UPR outcome report of Norway and welcomes its acceptance of two recommendations by China. However, it regrets that Norway has denied the occurrence of enforced disappearance and did not accept China's recommendations to that effect. The Committee on Enforced Disappearance, when examining Norway's implementation report in 2024, expressed concern of the disappearance of minor asylum seekers and recommended that Norway set up institutions to investigate the practise of forcibly putting children in adoption institutions and foster homes, which might constitute enforced disappearance. China hopes Norway will implement the treaty body's recommendations. China also hopes that the country will take effective measures to implement those accepted UPR recommendations, including fighting against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, hate speech and hate crimes in the field of legislation, administration of justice and law enforcement, continuing to fight against human trafficking and ensure accountability to effectively protect the rights of refugees, migrants, indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities.

**Cuba** pays due tribute to Norway's commitment to cooperating with the UPR process. Cuba is disappointed that Norway only supported two out of the five recommendations that we respectfully offered. However, Cuba does respect Norway's sovereign right to decide for itself on those recommendations it wishes to accept and those that it believes are appropriate to do so without interference or undue pressure. Cuba calls upon Norway to carry out a wholesale review of their national guidelines for the provision of high quality health care and social services and to ensure appropriate levels of treatment for persons deprived of their liberty, particularly those belonging to the most vulnerable groups in society. Cuba urges the country to continue to pay close attention to cases of violence and ill-treatment and abuse of children. It urges the country's authorities to implement the recommendations through an inclusive, holistic and self-critical lens. Cuba wishes Norway every success in the implementation of the recommendations and fully supports the adoption of the related report.

**Egypt** takes note of the report submitted on Norway's response to the recommendations put to them during the UPR. Egypt welcomes the fact that Norway has supported the recommendations made by Egypt on the establishment with the necessary legislation enforcing acts in order to attack racism, hate speech and Islamophobia and xenophobia, as well as to ensure that there are greater guarantees to promote and protect human rights. Egypt also welcomes the fact that Norway accepted to make steps to provide greater support for families and to ensure that all minorities have free access to the labour market, to health care services and education. It wishes Norway every success.

**Gabon** congratulates Norway for the reforms already undertaken at the legal and administrative level intended to tackle racism, discrimination and violence against women and discrimination and violence against children. Gabon welcomes the adoption of a law on the protection of children, which prioritises the best interests of the child. It also commends the measures taken



by Norway to guarantee gender equality and to tackle and eradicate hate crimes and domestic violence. Gabon very much appreciates Norway's full cooperation with the UNHRC and its bodies, as demonstrated by the ratification of several international legal instruments by Norway, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons Against Enforced Disappearances. To conclude, Gabon encourages Norway to continue its efforts towards the promotion and protection of human rights and recommends that the Council adopt the report.

**Ghana** applauds Norway's dedication to the promotion and protection of human rights at both national and international levels. It recognises Norway's constructive participation in this review process, which reflects its firm commitment to the universal periodic review mechanism and the broader human rights agenda. Ghana is particularly pleased that Norway has accepted 184 of the 285 recommendations it received. We also commend Norway for accepting our recommendation on addressing concerns about the prevalence of some forms of institutional racism to effectively advance efforts aimed at ensuring inclusivity and equality. Ghana fully supports the adoption of the UPR report of Norway and wishes the Government success in implementing the accepted recommendations.

**India** warmly welcomes the delegation of Norway for the adoption of the report of the UPR Working Group on its fourth cycle of the UPR held on 4 November 2024. The review saw substantive participation with 99 delegations taking the floor and making a total of 285 recommendations. India appreciates the constructive engagement of the delegation of Norway during the entire review, which reflects their commitment to the UPR process. India appreciates that as many as 184 recommendations have been accepted by Norway, including the five recommendations made by us, and 20 recommendations have been partially accepted. While recommending the adoption of their UPR report, India congratulates the delegation of Norway on a successful review and wish them success in their efforts towards implementing the accepted recommendations.

**Indonesia** commends the constructive engagement of the delegation of Norway in the UPR process. It appreciates Norway's support for all three of Indonesia's recommendations, which focus on promoting gender equality, enhancing inclusive climate adaptation, and strengthening actions against racism and anti-Muslim hatred. Indonesia hopes to see further progress through concrete actions and reparative measures in support of national minorities in Norway. It also highlights the importance of addressing the increasing prevalence of hate speech, which requires robust legal protections and enforcements to safeguard vulnerable communities. Indonesia appreciates Norway's commitment to combating impunity for atrocity crimes and expresses hope that such commitment will also be reflected in addressing human rights concerns in the OPT. Indonesia reiterates its continued support for the promotion and protection of human rights in Norway. It also remains committed to strengthening bilateral cooperation on human rights and hope that the challenges and best practises in Norway's human rights efforts can continue to be shared through the regular human rights dialogue between our two countries. To conclude, Indonesia recommends that the outcome of its UPR be adopted by consensus.

**Iran** expresses concerns over the lack of progress in the implementing key recommendations related to human rights situation in Norway. Iran had previously urged Norway to enhance protection for family unit, limit solitary confinement, improve measures to combat violence against women, and uphold the cultural rights of the Sami people. These critical issues, including



ensuring meaningful participation in renewable energy projects for the Sami, and strengthening protection for vulnerable groups, have yet to see substantial progress. The protection of fundamental rights, particularly for marginalised communities, is of utmost importance. The lack of significant action on these recommendations is deeply disappointing, and Iran urges Norway to take concrete steps to address these concerns.

The **Lao PDR** congratulates Norway for its successful UPR and commends its efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights, which enhance equal rights and opportunities between women and men. It also acknowledges the progress made by Norway to strengthening the legal protection of children by adopting the Child Welfare Act. It appreciates that Norway has accepted the majority recommendations received during the constructive dialogue, including the two recommendations made by the Lao PDR. It wishes Norway success in implementing the accepted recommendations, and encourages the Council to adopt the UPR outcome of Norway by consensus.

**Libya** thanks Norway for its participation in the UPR and acceptance of a certain number of recommendations, including two recommendations offered by Libya. To conclude, Libya recommends that the Council accept and adopt the report on Norway, and wishes Norway every success.

**Malawi** congratulates Norway for undergoing this review and commends the country for taking significant steps in the promotion and protection of human rights. It urges Norway to make all efforts in ensuring effective implementation of the accepted recommendations, and wishes Norway all the best at this review and recommend the adoption of this report.

#### OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

**OIDEL** welcomes Norway's acceptance of several recommendations calling on the delegation to promote and ensure the right to inclusive education for all. However, independent schools in Norway are concerned by Norway's refusal to accept the recommendation made by the Netherlands that asked for a revision of the Independent Schools Act to ensure the right to establish new independent schools. Norway's response to this recommendation is based on the following statement. Norway is not obliged to contribute financially or in any other way to the operation of schools other than public schools. Non-mainstream families have the right to provide their children with cultural, acceptable and adaptable education. Denying public funding to non-public schools puts all their education costs on the shoulders of parents from these groups. Many of them are unable to bear such a financial burden, thus restricting their right to choose their children's schools other than those established by the public authorities. The CESCR states that the covenant requires states to take positive measures that enable and assist individuals and communities to enjoy the right to education. The veto right given to the local authorities in Norway deprives parents of providing their children with education in conformity with their own convictions. The legal framework under which the non-governmental schools can be established and maintained must be based on human rights rather than arbitrary local political majorities. OIDEL therefore calls on the Government of Norway to revise the Independent Schools Act and bring it in line with international human rights law.



**FIAN International** gives the floor to Fian Norway, which is part of FIAN International, a global human rights organisation that advocates for the right to adequate food and nutrition. In 2020, when Norway reported to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee expressed concern that one third of older people in hospitals and nursing homes in Norway were malnourished. Five years later, malnutrition is still a major problem in this group. During the UPR review session last year, Norway received recommendations on this issue from Malaysia and Poland in recommendations 231 and 232. Norway has noted not accepted these recommendations. Norway's comments are that Norway has established national guidelines for systematic nutritional care for individuals in nursing homes, national quality indicators have been developed to measure the extent to which these guidelines are followed, and the National Strategy for Promoting Good Nutrition and Dietary Habits Among Elderly Individuals in Nursing Homes and Those Receiving Home Care was presented in 2021. However, today around one in four older persons who live in nursing homes and who receive home care services are malnourished. In addition, one third of elderly who receive home care services and who live in nursing homes are at risk of malnutrition. At the same time, only one in four older persons who receive home care services and one in two living in nursing homes are screened for malnutrition. Norway must increase its efforts to combat malnutrition among the elderly. The most important measure is to ensure that they are screened for malnutrition, as the screening is crucial to ensuring adequate follow-up and preventing deterioration in nutritional status. Therefore, FIAN Norway is concerned that Norway did not accept recommendations no. 231 and 232, and that it has not given priority to improving the situation.

**Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)** welcomes the Government of Norway's commitment to implementing the numerous recommendations received on preventing the unnecessary separation of children from their parents by the country's child welfare services. While some progress has been made, this practise remains a serious concern. A recent Norwegian study highlighted that placing children outside parental care has a long-term detrimental impact on their educational and health outcomes, also affecting employment prospects in adulthood. As a fundamental group unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members, the family remains the setting where children's emotional, educational and social needs are best met. All over the world, the family unit is facing growing strain due to increased single parenthood, socioeconomic divides and worsening mental health. Compounding these challenges, reports indicate that social workers within Norway's child welfare system interpret financial hardship, poverty and cultural and religious differences in parenting as indicators of inadequate care. This has led to an excessive number of care orders unnecessarily removing children from their homes. International human rights law is clear that separating children from the custody of their parents is a grave interference that is only permissible in the most compelling of circumstances. The principle of subsidiarity, which underpins the rights of the child and family relations, dictates that societal needs should be addressed at the most immediate appropriate level. State intervention should prioritise supporting and empowering parents to fulfil their child rearing responsibilities, with the removal of the child from their custody justified only in exceptional cases. ADF therefore encourages Norway to take decisive action to bolster support for both children and their parents and thus prevent and reduce family separation, including through family-centred early childhood care and education policies and parental capacity building programmes.





The [Institute for NGO Research](#) states that the resurgence of anti-Semitism in Norway, particularly after the October 7 atrocities, is very serious and the Government has failed to protect a very small Jewish minority. According to Rabbi Joachim Melchior from Oslo, there is a wave of anti-Semitism that we have not seen before. This is expressed in the things that people say, both against Israel, both against Zionists, against Jews. The Government admitted that the number of threats against Jewish institutions in Norway has been on the rise. Reports citing anti-Semitism as the motive for hate crime has more than doubled. The new plan was announced, but the necessary measures were not taken. Media platforms reinforced anti-Semitic tropes, such as *Aftenposten*. Public broadcasting company NRK is frequently cited for biased coverage of the conflict, contributing to the demonization. Officials apply blatant double standards and false accusations, such as deliberately killing children, genocide, and starvation. These fuel the attacks against Jews and intimidation. Photos show Norwegian feminists marking International Women's Day by vandalising posters of Israeli hostages, including the murdered Bibas family. NGOs funded by Norway call for Israel's destruction, support discriminatory boycott campaigns, and spread blood libels. Some are linked to terror groups. In July 2024, in Bergen, a portrayal of Anne Frank as a Palestinian was widely displayed. The European Jewish Congress termed this depiction deeply anti-Semitic, adding offensive misrepresentations undermine Holocaust memory. A former ambassador accuses Norwegian people's aid of disgracing the memory of Anne Frank and the Holocaust to collect donations. The Institute urges Norwegian officials and others to act effectively and immediately against all forms of Jew hatred.

[ILGA World](#) gladly welcomes the decision of the Government of Norway to support the two recommendations addressing social attitudes towards and living conditions for LGBTQ+, persons, as well as to compile data on the hate crimes against this population. It regrets, however, that Norway noted the recommendation to adopt a legal framework recognising a non-binary or third gender option. ILGA thanks Iceland, Finland and Sweden for the recommendations made on these topics, and looks forward to working together with the Government in the implementation of these recommendations. Despite positive developments, ILGA notes with concern recent attempts to backtrack the human rights of LGBTQ community in Norway. It is particularly concerned with last year's Parliament proposal that sought to remove teaching about gender identities in schools. While this proposal was rejected, it placed Norway as part of a regressive trend in the same breath as Hungary and Russia in ILGA's Europe's report. It hopes that Norway acts on these recommendations with a genuine investment in the lives and living conditions of LGBTQ plus individuals. In these critical times, it hopes that the Government will step up its efforts to stand up for democratic values and human rights. Support for the LGBTQ+ community must be strengthened, both internationally and nationally. ILGA hopes that these recommendations will ignite concrete changes in political programmes and with allocations of the Government's budget to reach these goals.

On behalf of the President of the Jewish community in Oslo, the [World Jewish Congress](#) states that Norway has had a challenging relationship toward Jews throughout its history. Jews were barred from entering the country by the 1814 constitution, a restriction lifted only in 1851. During the interwar period and World War II, Norwegian Jews faced deportation and discrimination. Today, anti-Semitism persists in various forms, including caricatures, op-eds, and rhetoric containing elements of classical anti-Semitism or sometimes linked to the Israel-Palestine conflict. One example is an illustration published in a Norwegian trade union magazine with a



caption, an eye for 4,000 teeth, a tooth for 4,000 teeth, in connection with the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Since October 7, 2023, acceptance of anti-Semitism has grown, with over half of Norwegians expressing views that could be interpreted as such. At the same time, there is reason to believe that people chanting slogans such as, no Zionists in our streets, may not realise that this can be a form of anti-Semitism. Norwegians, in general, are not anti-Semites, but many have a strongly negative view of Israel. Studies indicate a strong correlation between negative attitudes towards Israel and a negative attitude towards Jews. Despite increased reports of anti-Semitic incidents, police investigations are rare. There is little evidence of anti-Semitism among Norwegian politicians, but they may conflate terms or participate in controversial demonstrations where Israel's actions are compared to those of Nazi Germany. Norwegian Jews remain a small minority of under 2,000 people, but benefit from initiatives like Pathfinders, which educates students about Jewish history and anti-Semitism. Cooperation with authorities is strongly supported by a national action plan against anti-Semitism, though more concrete measures are needed for lasting impact.

**Humanists International** and the Norwegian Humanist Association thank the delegation of Norway for its presentation and for its engagement with the UPR. However, they express their disappointment at Norway's refusal to sign the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR). Potential uncertainty concerning the outcome of individual complaints as expressed in various communications of the Norwegian Government is not a sufficient reason not to adopt a mechanism to ensure minimum standards and rights for all citizens, obliging states to uphold them. In many other areas, Norway is a leader in human rights, making it difficult to comprehend why it cannot join many of its close allies and neighbours who have signed the Optional Protocol. By refusing to sign, Norway not only undermines the human rights of its own citizens as granted by the covenant, but also legitimises the prioritisation of national concerns over international law in general, thereby weakening human rights and international law as a whole. An almost 10-year-old white paper cannot be the continued justification for Norway's refusal to ratify the Optional Protocol. The latter brings into being an effective system that enforces the rights in the ICESCR and allows citizens to lodge complaints with the international human rights body. This is why the Optional Protocol, which entered into force in 2013, is so crucial. They urge Norway to uphold its reputation, secure the economic, social and cultural rights of its citizens, and sign the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR.

**Maat for Peace Development and Human Rights Association** welcomes Norway's positive engagement with the UPR mechanism. However, Maat regrets that the recommendations to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers were not supported. Mast also expresses its concern at the conditions of prisons and detention facilities in Norway, particularly the excessive use of solitary confinement, which in some cases might amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. The high rates of suicide attempts among detainees underscore the urgent need to improve detention conditions and strengthen mental health programmes within these institutions. Furthermore, gender-based violence remains a challenge in Norway, with an estimated one in five women have been raped by force or coercion. Amidst the absence of effective and comprehensive solutions to address these violations and ensure accountability, Maat urges Norway to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers, adopt comprehensive reforms to improve



detention conditions, and promote effective national strategies to combat gender-based violence.

**Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI)** points out that Costa Rica recommended Norway provide for conscientious objection to military service for professional soldiers and reservists in accordance with international human rights standards and process asylum applications from objectors in accordance with UNHCR Guidelines on International Protection No. 10. In reply, Norway partially accepted the recommendation relating to asylum, stating that applications for asylum are handled according to Norway's human rights obligations. The said UNHCR Guidelines are not legally binding, but Norwegian immigration authorities will give due weight to the guidelines in addition to relevant international case law. Why the reluctance to make an explicit commitment to honour well-founded asylum claims from conscientious objectors? Regarding professional soldiers and reservists, it merely noted the recommendation, observing that according to Norwegian law, conscientious objection to military service includes conscripts, reservists. Reservists are almost exclusively conscripted personnel. If professional military personnel become conscientious objectors during their service and thus wish to end their service contract, they are free to terminate their contract based on the regular rules of contract law and labour law. The same applies to reservists under voluntary contract. CTPI urges Norway to ensure that the right of conscientious objection is available at all times to all affected by military service, without any penalties which might otherwise arise from the early termination of contract.

**Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan (RSKS)** commends Norway for its protection of all persons from informed disappearance and its efforts to strengthen gender equality, Norway's dedication to the right of children is also commendable as seen in the enactment of the Child Welfare Act and ongoing reforms to enhance child protection services. It encourages Norway to continue strengthening family reunification policies and ensuring the best interest of the child in all related proceedings. Appreciating Norway's leadership in environmental and climate justice, including its commitment to the human right to clean, healthy and sustainable environment, RSKS encourages continued efforts to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable development, particularly in alignment with indigenous rights and land protection policies. It calls on Norway to enhance protection for Indigenous Peoples, ensuring their free, fair and informed consent in decisions affecting their lands and resources; strengthen anti-discrimination measures to combat racial profiling and hate speech, particularly targeting marginalised communities; improve the accessibility of inclusive education for children with disabilities, migrants and indigenous youth. It commend Norway's openness to constructive dialogue and its proactive approach to human rights challenges. RSKS encourages Norway's continued engagement with international mechanisms and civil society to ensure the effective implementation of the UPR recommendations.

### FACTS & FIGURES ON UPR OUTCOMES

**285** Recommendations Received

**184** Recommendations Supported

**20** Recommendations Partially Supported

**81** Recommendations Noted



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

## FACTS & FIGURES ON PARTICIPATION

**17** State Delegations

**1** National Human Rights Institution

**10** Non-Governmental Organizations