Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Twenty-fourth session
18-29 January 2016

Compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21

Denmark

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in reports of the treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, in reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. For the full texts, please refer to the documents referenced. The report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review, and developments during that period.
I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations

1. International human rights treaties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status during previous cycle</th>
<th>Action after review</th>
<th>Not ratified/not accepted</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ratification, accession or succession</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ICERD (1971)</td>
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<td>ICRMW</td>
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<td>ICESCR (1972)</td>
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<td>ICCPR (1972)</td>
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<td>ICCPR-OP 2 (1994)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEDAW (1983)</td>
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<td>CAT (1987)</td>
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<td>CRC (1991)</td>
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<td>OP-CRC-AC (2002)</td>
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<td>CRPD (2009)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICPPED (signature, 2007)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reservations and/or declarations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ICESCR (reservation: art. 7 (d), 1972)</td>
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<td>ICCPR (modification of reservation made upon ratification: art. 14 (5) and (7), 2014)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICCPR (reservation: arts. 10 (3), 14 (1), (5) and (7), and 20 (1), 1972)</td>
<td></td>
<td>OP-CRPD, art. 6 (reservation: the Optional Protocol shall not apply to Greenland, 2014)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 1 (reservation: art. 5 (2) (a), 1972)</td>
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<td>OP-CRC-IC (territorial reservation with regard to Greenland and the Faroe Islands, 2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRC (reservation: art. 40 (2) (b) (v), 1991)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-AC (declaration: art. 3 (2), age of recruitment 18 years, 2002)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-SC (declaration: art. 2 (c), 2003)</td>
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### Complaints procedures, inquiries and urgent action

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<tr>
<th>Status during previous cycle</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 1 (1972)</td>
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<td>ICPPED (signature, 2007)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OP-CEDAW, art. 8 (2000)</td>
<td></td>
<td>ICRMW, arts. 76-77</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAT, arts. 20-22 (1987)</td>
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### Other main relevant international instruments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status during previous cycle</th>
<th>Action after review</th>
<th>Not ratified</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palermo Protocol⁴</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conventions on refugees and stateless persons⁵</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I, II and III⁶</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO fundamental conventions⁷</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO Convention No. 169⁸</td>
<td></td>
<td>ILO Convention No. 189⁹</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convention against Discrimination in Education</td>
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</table>

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child encouraged Denmark to ratify ICRMW.¹⁰ The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights encouraged Denmark to ratify OP-ICESCR.¹¹


4. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women encouraged Denmark to accept the amendment to article 20 (1) of CEDAW. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Denmark review its reservation to article 7 (d) of ICESCR with a view to withdrawing it. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Denmark withdraw its reservation to article 40 (2) (b) of CRC.

5. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) observed that Denmark maintained one reservation to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees pertaining to article 17 (1) and had pledged to review the need to maintain it. UNHCR recommended that Denmark provide an update on the pledges made at the Ministerial Intergovernmental Event on Refugees and Stateless Persons in 2011.

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

6. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted with appreciation the establishment of an expert committee to examine the incorporation of international human rights instruments. It was concerned that the Supreme Court had stated that non-incorporated treaties did not have direct effect in the domestic legal order. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women raised a similar concern. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Denmark incorporate the conventions into domestic legislation.

7. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination encouraged Denmark to amend its Criminal Code to bring it fully into line with the provisions of ICERD.

8. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Denmark enact a comprehensive law on the prohibition of discrimination and establish institutionalized structures to exchange information among its various anti-discrimination bodies.

9. UNHCR noted that Denmark had opted out of the European Union acquis on asylum and was therefore not bound by the legal framework established by the Union in that area. UNHCR was concerned that amendments to the Aliens Act introduced in 2002 had restricted the rights to family reunification and to permanent residency and had lowered the threshold for expulsion of foreigners. UNHCR noted that refugees experienced barriers to obtaining permanent residence; in addition to the requirement to have lived in Denmark for five years, other requirements concerned employment, self-reliance and language skills. While amendments to the Aliens Act passed in February 2015 had introduced temporary subsidiary protection status for persons originating from countries in conflict and other situations of violence, beneficiaries of that status would not be allowed to initiate family reunification proceedings during their first year in Denmark.

10. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended that Denmark decriminalize defamation and place it within a civil code that was in accordance with international standards.


C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

**Status of national human rights institutions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National human rights institution</th>
<th>Status during previous cycle</th>
<th>Status during present cycle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

11. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted the independent status of the Danish Institute for Human Rights, but regretted that its mandate did not cover the Faroe Islands. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination raised a similar concern. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that the Faroe Islands establish a human rights institution.

12. While noting the operation of the Interministerial Committee of Denmark, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities urged Denmark to designate coordination and independent monitoring mechanisms in the Faroe Islands. It also recommended that the Governments of the Faroe Islands and Greenland adopt dedicated disability policy action plans.

13. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted that the Danish National Council on Children did not fulfil the role of an Ombudsman and welcomed the proposed establishment in Greenland of an independent children’s council. The Committee remained concerned that no measures had been taken in the Faroe Islands to establish an independent mechanism for child rights. It reiterated its recommendation that Denmark ensure that the Ombudsman system established a facility to monitor the implementation of children’s rights empowered to handle individual complaints.

14. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Denmark develop a comprehensive policy and harmonized plan of action for the full implementation of CRC, and draft a rights-based child act encompassing all rights under CRC.


II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies

1. Reporting status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty body</th>
<th>Concluding observations included in previous review</th>
<th>Latest report submitted since previous review</th>
<th>Latest concluding observations</th>
<th>Reporting status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</td>
<td>August 2010</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>May 2015</td>
<td>Combined twenty-second to twenty-fourth reports due in 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
<td>November 2004</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>May 2013</td>
<td>Sixth report due in 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treaty body</td>
<td>Concluding observations included in previous review</td>
<td>Latest report submitted since previous review</td>
<td>Latest concluding observations</td>
<td>Reporting status</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights Committee</td>
<td>October 2008</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Sixth report pending consideration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee against Torture</td>
<td>May 2007</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Combined sixth and seventh reports considered in November 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>Combined second and third reports due in 2019</td>
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</table>

2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

Concluding observations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty body</th>
<th>Due in</th>
<th>Subject matter</th>
<th>Submitted in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Domestic violence; anti-ghettoization law; Board of Equal Treatment; data on prison population</td>
<td>2011; 41 additional information requested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Racist discourse and incidents; employment for minorities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights Committee</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Violence against women; solitary confinement during pretrial detention</td>
<td>2011; 45 follow-up procedure concluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Legal status of CEDAW; violence against women</td>
<td>2011; 49 additional information requested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Violence against women</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Forced hospitalization and treatment of children in psychiatric hospitals</td>
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Views

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty body</th>
<th>Number of views</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights Committee</td>
<td>1³⁴</td>
<td>Additional information requested³⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</td>
<td>1³⁴</td>
<td>Additional information requested³⁴</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee against Torture</td>
<td>2³⁶</td>
<td>Additional information requested³⁶</td>
</tr>
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</table>
16. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination welcomed the decision to produce an annual report that would include the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations treaty bodies in order to facilitate the implementation of those recommendations.58

17. UNESCO reported that Denmark had not submitted reports on its implementation of the Convention against Discrimination in Education for the periods 1994-1999 and 2006-2011. It encouraged Denmark to submit State reports for the periodic consultations of the UNESCO education-related standard-setting instruments.59

B. Cooperation with special procedures60

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status during previous cycle</th>
<th>Current status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standing invitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visits undertaken</td>
<td>Torture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visits agreed to in principle</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visits requested</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals</th>
<th>During the period under review, two communications were sent. The Government replied to both communications.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up reports and missions</td>
<td>Torture61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

18. The High Commissioner visited Denmark in 2013.


III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Equality and non-discrimination

20. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed the appointment in Greenland in 2011 of the Minister of Gender Equality62 and the adoption in 2013 of the Gender Equality Act.63

21. It urged Denmark to assess the gender-neutral approach in legislation and policymaking, focusing on the potentially negative implications of gender-neutral policy for public funding programmes specifically for women.64

22. It noted the inadequacy of support services, including for ensuring non-discrimination, for lesbian, bisexual and transgender women.65

23. It was concerned that older women faced intersecting forms of discrimination.66
24. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned that women from minority groups faced difficulties in accessing education, employment and healthcare. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Denmark eliminate discrimination, including intersecting forms of discrimination, against migrant women.

25. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regretted that Denmark had not adopted comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Denmark prevent multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination.

26. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern at reports that persons belonging to minority groups and non-citizens, particularly non-nationals of European Union countries, faced structural discrimination in Denmark regarding access to employment, housing, health services, quality education and access to justice.

27. Concerned about reports of persistent ethnic profiling, the same Committee recommended that Denmark facilitate the recruitment to the police of persons belonging to minority groups.

28. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned about the increase in xenophobia, political propaganda targeting non-citizens and racist publications in the media. It urged Denmark to remind politicians of their responsibility to build tolerance and intercultural understanding, and to develop a national action plan on racism.

29. It was concerned about the low number of court cases on hate crimes and the lack of an explicit prohibition in the Criminal Code of organizations that promoted racial discrimination. It recommended that Denmark facilitate access to remedies for victims of racial discrimination.

B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

30. In 2012, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment took note of the responses of Denmark to the recommendations from its first review in 2011. He trusted that the definition of torture, as covered by the existing provisions of the Criminal Code, was in full conformity with CAT.

31. He stressed that solitary confinement was a harsh measure that might have serious psychological adverse effects on individuals, regardless of their specific conditions. He encouraged the authorities to ensure that detained persons held in solitary confinement were afforded genuine opportunities to challenge both the nature of their confinement and its underlying justification through the courts of law.

32. He welcomed the implementation by the parliament of Directive 2008/115/EF of the European Parliament and of the Council, which set an absolute limit to the length of detention of foreigners pending deportation, but expressed concern at reports that many asylum seekers continued to remain detained in Ellebæk for long periods of time, in excess of the 6-month period prescribed in the Directive. Many of those individuals, who were victims of trafficking, mentally ill or torture victims, were reportedly subjected to unduly long waiting periods and allegedly held in solitary confinement.

33. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Denmark abolish the use of physical, chemical and other medical non-consensual measures for persons with psychosocial disabilities in institutions. It recommended that Denmark
abolish forced hospitalization and treatment of children in psychiatric hospitals and ensure that no one would be detained in any facility on the basis of actual or perceived disability.\textsuperscript{81}

34. It recommended that Denmark review the procedures used to sanction persons with disabilities when they committed criminal offences.\textsuperscript{82}

35. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination noted that the January 2013 amendment to the Aliens Act allowed foreign spouses and child victims of domestic violence to retain their residence permits regardless of cessation of cohabitation. It recommended that Denmark ensure that receipt of social benefits did not influence the decision on whether to award residence permits to spouses and children who had been victims of domestic violence.\textsuperscript{83}

36. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was concerned at the level of abuse, exploitation and violence to which persons with disabilities were exposed. It recommended that Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland ensure that violence against and abuse of all persons with disabilities were reported and investigated and that the necessary support for victims was available.\textsuperscript{84}

37. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Denmark to ensure that corporal punishment was prohibited in all settings.\textsuperscript{85} It recommended that Denmark ensure that the children’s helpline was open 24 hours a day, every day, and sufficiently resourced.\textsuperscript{86}

38. It noted that Denmark was updating its Plan of Action for Combating Sexual Abuse, but was concerned at reports of trained professionals failing to inform relevant authorities of cases involving child abuse or violence in the Faroe Islands. It recommended that Denmark ensure the expeditious recovery and reintegration of children who had been subject to neglect or abuse.\textsuperscript{87}

39. While welcoming efforts to combat trafficking in children, it noted with concern the absence of a legal framework to facilitate the granting of residence permits to child victims of trafficking. It urged Denmark to ensure that those children were not repatriated except when repatriation was in their best interest.\textsuperscript{88} The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations urged Denmark to intensify its efforts to combat the worst forms of child labour, including trafficking for the purposes of forced labour and prostitution, and requested that it take the necessary measures to ensure that sufficient up-to-date data on the worst forms of child labour was made available.\textsuperscript{89}

40. While welcoming the adoption of the fourth national action plan against human trafficking (2015-2018), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned at the practice of subjecting potential victims of trafficking to confinement by law enforcement authorities for up to 72 hours. It encouraged Denmark to prevent trafficking.\textsuperscript{90}

41. It welcomed the programmes for women wishing to leave prostitution, but was concerned that they did not meet the needs of women who were not nationals of Denmark. It recommended that Denmark prosecute and punish traffickers, strengthen the assistance provided to victims of trafficking and ensure that individuals who had purchased sex from victims of trafficking were prosecuted.\textsuperscript{91}

C. Administration of justice, and the rule of law

42. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern about the unequal quality of interpreters who assisted refugees, immigrants and persons belonging to minority groups in the courts. It encouraged Denmark to ensure that interpretation provided in courts was of sufficient quality.\textsuperscript{92}
43. It was concerned about the low number of complaints received by the Board of Equal Treatment. It reiterated its recommendation that Denmark strengthen the Board’s procedure for lodging complaints by allowing complainants to provide oral testimonies.\textsuperscript{93} The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Denmark ensure effective legal remedies to persons with disabilities, including the possibility of submitting complaints to the Board.\textsuperscript{94}

44. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern about Denmark’s failure to provide compensation to victims who successfully submitted individual complaints to the Committee. It recommended that Denmark ensure that victims of racial discrimination were able to obtain effective legal remedies, including compensation and reparation.\textsuperscript{95}

45. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that the Administration of Justice Act permitted the placement of 14- to 17-year-olds in pretrial detention for up to eight months and solitary confinement for up to four weeks. It urged Denmark to amend the Act and prohibit the placement of persons under the age of 18 in solitary confinement.\textsuperscript{96}

46. It expressed concern regarding the lowering of the age of criminal responsibility from 15 to 14 years. It urged Denmark to consider repealing the amendment to the Criminal Code that removed the upper limit of eight years for prison sentences issued to persons below the age of 18, and to ensure that no child was subjected to imprisonment with adults in the ordinary prison system.\textsuperscript{97}

D. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

47. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Denmark amend the Psychiatric Act to prohibit the transfer of private and confidential information of psychiatric hospital patients to third parties without the patient’s consent.\textsuperscript{98}

48. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned that the 24-year-old age limit for the reunification of migrant spouses might constitute an impediment to the right to family life and recommended that Denmark bring the limit into line with the rules applying to Danish couples.\textsuperscript{99} The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Denmark revise the provision in the Aliens Act that denied family reunification to beneficiaries of temporary subsidiary protection and their family members during the first year, and ensure family reunification for all children under 18.\textsuperscript{100}

49. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that the Act on the Legal Effects of Marriage did not adequately address gender-based economic disparities between spouses. It called upon Denmark to guarantee women living in de facto relationships economic protection.\textsuperscript{101}

50. The Committee on the Rights of the Child continued to be concerned at the large number of children who were placed in care outside their home.\textsuperscript{102} The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Denmark ensure that family-type care rather than institutional care was offered for children deprived of a family environment.\textsuperscript{103}

51. UNHCR was concerned that children above 15 years of age were not entitled to family reunification. It recommended that Denmark ensure family reunification for all beneficiaries of international protection, and increase the age limit for children to be entitled to family reunification from 15 to 18 years.\textsuperscript{104}
E. **Right to participate in public and political life**

52. While welcoming the launch in 2013 of a national strategy for gender mainstreaming for the public sector, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that its impact on assessing new legislation remained limited in practice and that most municipal government authorities had no strategy or plan for gender mainstreaming.\(^{105}\)

53. It remained concerned at the low representation of women in the parliaments of Greenland and the Faroe Islands. It called upon Denmark to take temporary special measures such as statutory quotas or incentives for political parties to include an equal number of women and men in their electoral lists.\(^{106}\)

54. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Denmark amend the relevant laws so that all persons with disabilities could vote and stand for election.\(^{107}\)

F. **Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

55. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Denmark introduce a national minimum wage and ensure that it was periodically reviewed and set at a level sufficient to provide all workers and their families with a decent standard of living.\(^{108}\)

56. It reiterated its concern about the persistent wage gap between women and men, in particular in the Faroe Islands.\(^{109}\) The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Denmark reduce the gender pay gap and provide effective mechanisms for seeking redress and compensation for violations of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.\(^{110}\)

57. It remained concerned at the concentration of women in part-time work and the absence of clearly defined sanctions for companies that failed to meet targets for equal gender representation. It recommended that Denmark eliminate occupational segregation.\(^{111}\)

58. It acknowledged the adoption of the parliamentary bill on the promotion of gender balance on the boards of private and public companies.\(^{112}\) The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights reiterated its concern about the underrepresentation of women in high-ranking posts.\(^{113}\)

59. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities commended the Government of the Faroe Islands for adopting the Act against Discrimination in the Labour Market due to Disability.\(^{114}\) It recommended that Denmark significantly increase the percentage of persons with disabilities working in the open labour market.\(^{115}\) The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights made a similar recommendation.\(^{116}\)

60. The same Committee was concerned that the unemployment benefit period had been reduced from four to two years.\(^{117}\) The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Denmark improve the integration of non-citizens and persons belonging to minorities, including Roma, in the labour market.\(^{118}\)

G. **Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

61. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Denmark introduce a national poverty line and address poverty in remote settlements and villages in Greenland.\(^{119}\)
62. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that a significant number of children were reportedly living in poverty in Denmark. It was concerned at the 300-hours rule, which primarily affected women of ethnic minorities and had serious repercussions for their children. It called upon Denmark to provide support for economically disadvantaged families.\textsuperscript{120}

63. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities commended Denmark for adopting the 2013 Consolidation Act on Social Services.\textsuperscript{121} The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Denmark ensure that social assistance benefits for persons under 25 years of age were sufficient to ensure a decent living and that persons with disabilities under the age of 40 had access to disability pensions.\textsuperscript{122}

64. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern at Denmark’s new immigration laws, given the increased difficulty for non-nationals to receive residency rights, and the foregoing of public benefits. It recommended that Denmark ensure access to social services and State assistance for families in disadvantaged situations, and the enforcement of protective laws.\textsuperscript{123}

65. While noting Denmark’s efforts to eliminate segregation in housing, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned about the potential adverse effects on minority groups and socially disadvantaged people. It recommended that Denmark assess its policy on combating segregation in housing.\textsuperscript{124}

66. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that making municipalities entirely responsible for social services might result in children in some municipalities not enjoying the full range of social services.\textsuperscript{125}

67. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Denmark ensure access to adequate housing for disadvantaged and marginalized groups, including migrants and Roma, and improve the quantity and quality of reception facilities, facilitate social reintegration of homeless persons, and ensure that forcibly evicted persons were provided with alternative accommodation or compensation.\textsuperscript{126}

H. Right to health

68. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted with concern that quota refugees, migrants reunited with their family and undocumented migrants continued to encounter difficulties in gaining access to health-care facilities, goods and services. It recommended that Denmark ensure that all persons belonging to disadvantaged and marginalized groups had access to basic health care.\textsuperscript{127}

69. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Denmark ensure that persons with disabilities had equal access to the highest attainable standard of health.\textsuperscript{128}

70. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Denmark develop a comprehensive mental-health-care system for children and young people.\textsuperscript{129}

71. Concerned at the increase in the prescription of psychostimulants to children diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and attention deficit disorder, it recommended that Denmark provide access to a wider range of measures and treatments.\textsuperscript{130}

72. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women reiterated its concern that most women living with HIV/AIDS in Denmark were foreign-born women from ethnic minorities. It recommended that Denmark ensure that migrant women and girls had access to sexual and reproductive health services.\textsuperscript{131}
I. Right to education

73. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that insufficient resources had been allocated for the realization of the right to education for children in Greenland and the Faroe Islands.132

74. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities urged Denmark to address discrepancies in accomplishment rates between pupils with and without disabilities and to ensure that children with disabilities could submit a complaint to an independent authority if they did not receive adequate educational support.133 The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Denmark implement its planned transition of children with disabilities into elementary schools.134

75. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned that asylum-seeking children were not promptly integrated into mainstream public schools.135 The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination raised similar concerns regarding access to education.136 The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Denmark to ensure that asylum-seeking and refugee children received the same quality of education as children in Danish schools.137

76. The same Committee was concerned that children of European Union or European Economic Area citizens only were entitled to mother-tongue instruction.138 The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Denmark continue its experimental programme on access to mother tongue education for children belonging to minority groups.139

77. The same Committee was concerned about the high dropout rate of children of foreign origin, in particular non-nationals of European Union countries.140

78. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Denmark prevent bullying in schools.141

J. Cultural rights

79. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Denmark ensure that all disadvantaged and marginalized groups and individuals could fully enjoy their right to take part in cultural life.142

80. UNESCO encouraged Denmark to fully implement the relevant provisions of conventions that promoted access to and participation in cultural heritage and creative expressions.143

K. Persons with disabilities

81. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities commended Denmark for initiating programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities.144 It recommended that Denmark review the National Disability Action Plan to ensure the coverage of all rights under CRPD.145

82. Concerned that Denmark did not effectively guarantee provision of information to people with intellectual and mental disabilities,146 it recommended that Denmark ensure all persons with disabilities access to facilities, information and services.147

83. It welcomed the recognition of Danish Sign Language as an official language148 and recommended that the Government of the Faroe Islands recognize Faroese sign language as
an official language. It was concerned that education in Braille was not systematically provided to all blind pupils.

84. Noting that the Legal Incapacity and Guardianship Act allowed for substituted decision-making, it recommended that Denmark review the Act and incorporate into legislation supported decision-making.

85. Concerned that the Act on Gender Equality did not specifically address women and girls with disabilities, it recommended that Denmark ensure that the perspective of gender and disability was encompassed in its laws, policies and sectorial services, and increase opportunities for adequate education and employment for women and girls with disabilities.

86. It recommended that Denmark end the use of State-guaranteed loans to build institution-like residences for persons with disabilities, close existing institution-like residences and prevent the forced relocation of persons with disabilities.

L. Minorities and indigenous peoples

87. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination noted that Denmark maintained its view that the only indigenous people in the Kingdom of Denmark was the Inuit in Greenland. It regretted the lack of consultation on that issue with the Thule Tribe of Greenland, despite its previous recommendations. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Denmark recognize the Thule Tribe as a distinct indigenous community capable of vindicating its traditional rights.

88. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, reiterating recommendations of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, urged Denmark to ensure that Inuit children were able to maintain their identity and use their own language.

89. Taking note of several recommendations made in the first review cycle, UNESCO encouraged Denmark to continue its efforts regarding the inclusion of students from minority groups and especially to further address the dropout rate among those students.

M. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

90. UNHCR welcomed the many positive initiatives aimed at strengthening refugees’ ability to integrate into Danish society, including the proposal to amend several laws relating to their integration. UNHCR was concerned that decisions from the Refugee Appeals Board were final and could not be appealed before the courts.

91. UNHCR noted that Denmark had not supported the recommendation from the first review cycle to review the requirements for migrants and asylum seekers to obtain permanent residence and citizenship. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and UNHCR were concerned that amendments to the Aliens Act in 2012 had placed additional restrictions on obtaining an indefinite residence permit. The Committee recommended that Denmark amend the Aliens Act to ensure that refugees and other beneficiaries of international protection and their families received long-term residence rights either immediately or at the latest following the expiry of the initial permit.

92. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted with appreciation the measures taken to improve living conditions for asylum seekers and other immigrants.
93. The Committee on the Rights of the Child welcomed the high standards of the reception centres for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. It urged Denmark to initiate timely, practical and appropriate measures to prevent the disappearance of such children, especially by investigating the effect of the revocation of residency rights upon reaching 18 years of age.\textsuperscript{162}

94. It urged Denmark to remove the proposed amendment to the Aliens Act that would introduce procedural consequences if a child did not cooperate with the age-determination process.\textsuperscript{163}

95. Concerned that many children of asylum-seeking families had been diagnosed with psychological or psychiatric problems, it urged Denmark to ensure a legal status and a durable solution for children suffering from trauma.\textsuperscript{164}

96. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned that the law on citizenship continued to have an adverse impact on stateless women and girls. It encouraged Denmark to provide for the automatic granting of nationality to all children born in Denmark who would otherwise be stateless.\textsuperscript{165} UNHCR reported that at the end of 2014, an estimated 4,725 stateless persons had been residing in Denmark.\textsuperscript{166} UNHCR considered that the requirement that a child must be lawfully resident in order to be eligible for naturalization was not in line with article 1 (2) (b) of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,\textsuperscript{167} and recommended that Denmark incorporate into the Nationality Act the right to acquire Danish nationality by children born in the country who were otherwise stateless.\textsuperscript{168}

N. Human rights and counter-terrorism

97. The Special Rapporteur on torture noted that the Government had not accepted the first cycle recommendation to assess in an open and transparent manner the consequences of flights conducted over Danish territory. He reiterated his recommendation that Denmark ensure that investigations into alleged Central Intelligence Agency rendition flights using airports in Denmark, including Greenland, were carried out in an inclusive and transparent manner.\textsuperscript{169}

O. Situation in, or in relation to, specific regions or territories

98. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination welcomed the establishment of an anti-discrimination unit in the Ministry of Children, Gender Equality, Integration and Social Affairs in April 2014 to combat discrimination based on ethnicity or disability.\textsuperscript{170} It recommended that Denmark encourage Greenland and the Faroe Islands to adopt relevant legislation on racial discrimination and consider establishing a competent body to deal with complaints.\textsuperscript{171}

99. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed the adoption of the 2014-2017 Strategy and Action Plan against Violence in Greenland.\textsuperscript{172} It remained concerned about the inadequacy of protection for victims in Greenland and the Faroe Islands and recommended that Denmark provide for the protection of women from psychological violence.\textsuperscript{173}

100. It recommended that Denmark reduce the high prevalence of abortion in Greenland. It urged Denmark to review its position on abortion in the Faroe Islands to ensure that women and girls there had the same access to safe and legal abortion services as women and girls in mainland Denmark.\textsuperscript{174}
Notes


2 The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

- ICERD: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- ICESCR: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- OP-ICESCR: Optional Protocol to ICESCR
- ICCPR: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- ICCPR-OP 1: Optional Protocol to ICCPR
- ICCPR-OP 2: Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
- CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- OP-CEDAW: Optional Protocol to CEDAW
- CAT: Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- OP-CAT: Optional Protocol to CAT
- CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child
- OP-CRC-AC: Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
- OP-CRC-SC: Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
- OP-CRC-IC: Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
- ICRMW: International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- CRPD: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- OP-CRPD: Optional Protocol to CRPD
- ICPPED: International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

3 Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and ICPPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; ICPPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; ICPPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: ICPPED, art. 30.


6 Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, www.icrc.org/IHL.

7 International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105); Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949
(No. 98); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111); Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).

ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).


See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, para. 69.

See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 25.

See CRC/C/DNK/CO/1, para. 63.

See CEDAW/C/DNK/CO/8, para. 47.

See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 5.

See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, para. 9.

UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Denmark, pp. 8-9.

See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 3.

Ibid., para. 4.

See CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8, para. 11.


See CRC/C/DNK/CO/5, para. 8.

See CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8, para. 12.

UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Denmark, pp. 1-2.

Ibid., p. 3.

UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Denmark, p. 18.

According to article 5 of the rules of procedure of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Sub-Committee on Accreditation, the classifications for accreditation used by the Sub-Committee are: A: voting member (fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles); B: non-voting member (not fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination); and C: no status (not in compliance with the Paris Principles).


See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 6.

See CERD/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 19.

See CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1, para. 67.

Ibid., paras. 66-67 and para. 6.

Ibid., para. 11.

See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, para. 20 and para. 15.

Ibid., para. 17.

Ibid., para. 13.

See CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8, para. 6.


See CRPD/C/DNK/CO/18-19/Add.1.


See CERD/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 29.

See CCPR/C/DNK/CO/5, para. 15.

65_E.pdf; http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/DNK/INT_CCPR_FUL_DNK_118
64_E.pdf; and http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/DNK/INT_CCPR_FUL_DNK_118
63_E.pdf.
46 A/67/40 (Vol. I), pp. 150-151 and 226-227. See also letter dated 22 November 2011 from the Human
Rights Committee to the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations Office and other
62_E.pdf.
47 See CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/7, para. 48.
48 See CEDAW/C/DNK/CO/8, para. 52.
49 CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/7/Add.1.
50 See letter dated 4 November 2011 from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against
Women to the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations Office and other international
51 See CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1, para. 68.
53 Ibid., para. 9.7.
55 Ibid., para. 11.
58 See CERD/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 4.
59 UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Denmark, pp. 15 and 17.
60 For the titles of special procedure mandate holders, see www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx.
61 A/HRC/19/61/Add.3, pp. 25-47.
62 See CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8, para. 6.
63 Ibid., para. 5.
64 Ibid., para. 40.
65 Ibid., para. 35.
66 Ibid., para. 37.
67 See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 9.
68 See CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8, para. 34.
69 See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 7.
70 See CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1, paras. 17 and 14.
71 See CERD/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 20.
72 Ibid., para. 18.
73 See CERD/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 10.
74 Ibid., para. 9.
75 See A/HRC/19/61/Add.3, para. 12.
76 Ibid., para. 13.
77 Ibid., para. 14.
common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country
nationals.
79 See A/HRC/19/61/Add.3, para. 15.
80 See CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1, para. 39.
81 Ibid., paras. 21 and 37.
82 Ibid., para. 35.
83 See CERD/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 16.
84 See CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1, paras. 40-41.
See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, para. 39. See also E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 14 and CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, para. 40.
See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, para. 64.
Ibid., paras. 59-60.
Ibid., paras. 61-62.
See CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8, paras. 19-20.
Ibid., paras. 21-22.
See CERD/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 18.
Ibid., para. 17.
See CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1, para. 15.
See CRC/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 17.
See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, paras. 65-66.
Ibid., para. 66.
See CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1, para. 51.
See CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/7, para. 40-41.
See CERD/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 11.
See CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8, paras. 41-42.
See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, para. 43.
See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 15.
UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Denmark, p. 6. See also A/HRC/18/4, recommendations 106.116, 106.129 and 106.130 (from Greece, Sweden and Ecuador) and A/HRC/18/4/Add.1.
See CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8, para. 13.
Ibid., paras. 23-24.
See CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1, para. 61.
See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 12.
Ibid., para. 8.
See CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8, para. 30.
Ibid., paras. 29-30.
Ibid., para. 23.
See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 5. See also CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8, para. 15.
See CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1, para. 4.
Ibid., paras. 59 and 22.
See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 11.
Ibid., para. 10.
See CERD/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 15.
See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 16.
See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, paras. 53-54.
See CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1, para. 4.
See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 13.
See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, paras. 31-33.
See CERD/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 13.
See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, para. 21.
See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 17.
Ibid., para. 18.
See CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1, para. 57.
See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, paras. 52 and 21.
Ibid., paras. 51-52.
See CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8, paras. 33-34.
See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, para. 21.
See CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1, paras. 53 and 55. See also CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, para. 45 and E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 20.
See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, para. 46. See also E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 20.
See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 19.
137 See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, para. 58.
138 Ibid., para. 55.
140 Ibid., para. 14.
141 See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, paras. 55-56.
142 See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 22.
143 UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Denmark, p. 18.
144 See CRPD/C/DNK/CO/1, para. 5.
145 Ibid., para. 9.
146 Ibid., para. 48.
147 Ibid., para. 27.
148 Ibid., paras. 6 and 44.
149 Ibid., para. 45.
150 Ibid., para. 46.
151 Ibid., paras. 32-33.
152 Ibid., paras. 18-19.
153 Ibid., para. 43.
154 See CERD/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 21.
155 See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 21.
156 See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, para. 68.
157 UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Denmark, p. 17.
158 UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Denmark, p. 1.
159 Ibid., para. 4.
160 See CERD/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 12, and UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Denmark, p. 16.
161 See E/C.12/DNK/CO/5, para. 3.
162 See CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, paras. 57-58.
163 Ibid., para. 58.
164 Ibid., paras. 57-58.
165 See CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8, paras. 25-26.
166 UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Denmark, p. 1.
167 Ibid., p. 7.
168 Ibid., p. 8.
169 See A/HRC/19/61/Add.3, para. 17.
170 See CERD/C/DNK/CO/20-21, para. 4.
171 Ibid., para. 19.
172 See CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8, para. 6.
173 Ibid., paras. 17-18.
174 Ibid., para. 32. See also CRC/C/DNK/CO/4, paras. 49-50.