

***ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES***

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

GVT/COM/IV(2017)006

Comments of the Government of Norway on the Fourth Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Norway - received on 24 May 2017

Para. 3 and 17

- Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion has changed name to Ministry of Children and Equality.

Para. 17

- Bufdir has an overall task to promote equality and prevent ethnic discrimination. In addition to dialogue with organisations representing national minorities, Bufdir also works to gain new knowledge in this field.

Para. 30

- The forum to collect equality data has been followed up by Bufdir. This is an ongoing project and so far it has, among others, resulted in the report published by Fafo "Indikatorer på diskriminering av innvandrere, urfolk og nasjonale minoriteter" (Indicators on discrimination of immigrants, indigenous people and national minorities).

Para. 39

- The Committee writes: "They also highlighted the need to strengthen organisations representing the community, as well as the need to protect the Romanes language, which is considered to be the characteristic of this minority."

In the Norwegian context the language of the Romani people/Tater is called Romani.

Para. 49

- The strategy against hate speech was launched in November 2016.

Para. 65

- The Committee writes: "Finally, the Advisory Committee notes with regret that only one county out of six in the North of the country has a language centre, the Storfjord Språksenter, which promotes the Kven (and Sami) languages."

There are only three, not six, counties in the North of Norway: Nordland, Troms and Finnmark.

Para. 66

- The Kven Institute, which works with the standardization of Kven language, collective work and new word formation, is still in function.
- The Kven grammar book is published in Kven. A work is being done to translate it into Norwegian. The Kven Institute is working on developing a Kven school grammar.

Para. 70

- Paikannimipalvelus is written in one word.
- The Committee writes: "(...) which all Kven place names are registered along with their Norwegian or Sami equivalents."

Not all Kven place names are registered in the location name database. We therefore propose to change the sentence to:
"(...) which Kven place names are registered..."

Para. 77

- The Committee writes: "The Advisory Committee also notes that the so-called 'path-finders' are young people belonging to national minorities who visit schools around the country in order to spread knowledge about the situation of the Sami and the Jews in Norway."

We would like to suggest the following (more precise) wording:

The Sami path-finders are young Sami who visit schools to spread knowledge about the situation of the Sami. The Jewish path-finders are young Jews who visit schools to inform how it is to be Jew in Norway today.

Kveeninuoret (The Kven Youth Network) also had a "path-finder" project.