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## **National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21\***

**Denmark**

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## **I. Description of the methodology and consultation process for the preparation of the report**

1. The Kingdom of Denmark assigns the very highest priority to the protection of human rights. Denmark is committed to maintaining the standards reached and addressing challenges when they occur.
2. This report is the result of close consultation and co-operation within the Kingdom of Denmark (Denmark, Greenland and the Faroes) under the coordinating leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In preparing the report, public consultations were held throughout the Kingdom. These public consultations offered civil society the opportunity to bring forward their views. People who might not wish to or were unable to give their opinions during the public consultations could send their comments to a dedicated e-mail address. The report was discussed in draft form with representatives of the Danish Institute for Human Rights and other relevant non-governmental organisations, just as the draft was submitted to public consultation.

## **II. Developments since the first review of Denmark, especially with regard to the normative and institutional framework for the protection of human rights**

3. The normative and institutional framework for the protection of human rights stands upon an unchanged solid foundation. Detailed information on this is included in the first national UPR report of Denmark.
4. Since the first review of Denmark, a number of new laws have entered into force or been set in motion, in addition to other steps that have led to improvements of the human rights situation. These include:

### **Children**

- The Government established a special Office for Children in 2012, as part of the Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman Institution, in order to protect and promote children's rights.
- In 2012 legislation was adopted to strengthen the advocacy function of the National Council for Children as part of the effort to promote and protect the rights of children.
- At present the Ombudsman, the National Council for Children and Children's Welfare are required to coordinate their work on the protection of children's rights. A revision of this set-up is ongoing and the results of the follow-up are expected in the autumn of 2015.
- Since 2013 the regulation on the education of teachers has specified that the curriculum must include the rights of the child.
- Since 2011 the regulation on social workers education has included knowledge on vulnerable children and youths, marginalised adults and children and adults with disabilities.
- Since 2014 the regulation of the education of social educators has specified that the curriculum must include and emphasise the question of gender and sexual orientation.

**Vulnerable persons/Persons with disabilities**

- A reform of the Disability Pension and Flexi Job scheme entered into force in 2013. As a result, the most vulnerable persons in the labour market receive additional help to proceed with their daily lives. The flexi job-system is specifically focused on persons with a very limited ability to work.
- As part of a reform of 2014, persons who are hospitalised with a mental disorder have a right to be assigned a “discharge coordinator”. This right applies before, during and after the person has been discharged from hospital. The coordinator will help to restore and support a normal everyday life with home, family, finances, networking and work. In addition, opportunities for mentoring have been strengthened and targeted those unemployed who need it the most.
- In 2014 Parliament passed an amendment to the electoral laws allowing voters with lasting or temporary functional impairment, subject to application, to cast their votes at another polling station than the one they belong to according to the electoral register, thus allowing voters with special needs to choose another polling station where accessibility is better.
- Since 2012 questions have been raised regarding the right to vote for persons, who have been deprived of their legal capacity according to section 6 of the Act on Legal Guardianship. The Ministry of Justice observes that it follows from sections 29 and 30 of the Danish Constitution that persons who have been declared legally incapacitated do not have the right to vote and stand as candidates in Danish Parliamentary elections. Therefore, persons who have been deprived of their legal capacity according to section 6 of the Act on Legal Guardianship, which is the most serious form of legal guardianship under Danish law, do not have the right to vote and stand as candidates in Danish Parliamentary elections. There are no constitutional restrictions on the right for the persons concerned to vote and stand as candidates in Danish local and regional council elections and in European Parliament elections. However, such restrictions follow from the Local and Regional Government Elections Act and the Members of the European Parliament Elections Act, from which it follows that persons who have been deprived of their legal capacity according to section 6 of the Act on Legal Guardianship do not have the right to vote and stand as candidates in Danish local and regional council elections and in European Parliament elections. In this regard, attention is drawn to the fact that – in order to understand the consequences of a possible amendment to the Local and Regional Government Elections Act and the Members of the European Parliament Elections Act – the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior will undertake a study of the institution of legal guardianship and the background to placing persons under legal guardianship. Moreover, it should be noted that persons under less serious forms of legal guardianship have the right to vote and stand as candidates in both Danish Parliamentary elections and in Danish local and regional council elections and in European Parliamentary elections. It is the opinion of the Ministry of Justice that Danish law on the right to vote and stand as candidates in elections is in conformity with Denmark’s international obligations, including the European Convention on Human Rights.
- A reform of the Disability Pension Scheme will benefit persons who have a very limited capacity to work. The objective of the reform is that persons under the age of 40 should only be eligible for disability pension under very narrow circumstances. Instead, they will gain access to a multi-disciplinary rehabilitation team to ensure a coordinated and coherent effort for the purpose of employment, or a so-called flexi-job where the employee’s reduced working capacity is taken into account and the public authorities provide financial support.

### **Refugees and immigrants**

- Denmark continues to emphasise the importance of a fair reception of newly arrived refugees and immigrants within the framework set out by the Danish Integration Act and the integration programme. A 2013 amendment to the Danish Integration Act aims at ensuring a holistic and inclusive approach to the reception by taking relevant individual considerations into account.
- In 2013 the Aliens Act was amended in order to make it possible for asylum-seekers and rejected asylum-seekers who have stayed in Denmark as asylum-seekers for six months and who co-operate regarding their return to work and live outside the asylum centres.
- According to the Danish Aliens Act, victims of trafficking may, upon request, be granted a reflection period of at least 30 days before leaving the country. During the reflection period victims of trafficking are offered extended medical and psychological assistance, financial support and relevant social arrangements in addition to the offers available to all asylum-seekers and illegal migrants. The reflection period may, upon request, be extended if particular reasons make it appropriate or if the foreign national is co-operating concerning a prepared return. In 2013 the Aliens Act was amended to expand the maximum reflection period for victims of human trafficking from a total of 100 days to a total of 120 days.
- The Aliens Act was amended in 2014, revoking the integration potential criterion in relation to quota refugees and establishing that the selection should be based on an assessment of whether resettlement in Denmark is likely to result in a sustainable improvement of the refugee's life situation. Accordingly, the selection will focus on the capacity of the receiving communities and the needs and expectations of the refugee instead of the skills and capacity of the refugee.

### **LGBTI**

- In 2012 the scope of the Marriage Act was amended to make it possible for two persons of the same sex to contract marriage through a church ceremony while allowing the individual vicar of the Established Church (the Lutheran Evangelical Church of Denmark) to choose not to perform such ceremonies.
- In 2013 the Children's Act was amended with rules on co-maternity in situations where the mother has been treated with assisted reproduction and has a female spouse or partner who has agreed to the treatment and to becoming co-mother. The legal position of a co-mother equals that of a father.
- In 2014 the Danish Parliament passed a law regarding transgender citizens. The law enables citizens over the age of 18 to legally change their gender without undergoing sex-reassignment surgery or psychological evaluation. Permission may be granted if the applicant attests that the application is reasoned by a feeling of belonging to the opposite gender and if the application is confirmed after a reflection period of six months.

### **Church affairs**

- In 2013 an amendment regarding the use of the Established Church made it possible for the parish council to allow members of other Christian communities to use a church belonging to the Established Church for wedding ceremonies performed by a clergyman of their own community after obtaining a prior approval from the local bishop.

### **Nationality**

- The Nationality Act was amended in 2014, giving children born in or out of wedlock equal access to acquire Danish citizenship by birth.
- In 2014 the Nationality Act was amended, allowing dual citizenship from 1 September 2015.
- A political agreement was concluded on the conditions for acquiring Danish citizenship by naturalisation in 2013 in the light of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, providing that persons who are diagnosed with a long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment may under certain circumstances be exempted from several requirements.

### **Business**

- In November 2012, a law established a mediation and complaints-handling institution for responsible business conduct. The institution handles cases involving potential breaches of international corporate social responsibility guidelines, including human rights violations, by Danish private or public companies, Danish authorities, Danish private or public organisations and their business associates. The institution has been established in accordance with the international criteria for non-judicial mediation and grievance mechanisms in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as well as the criteria for national contact points as stated in the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

### **Administration**

- Due to new legislation of 2013 about digitisation of processes concerning civil registration, all application processes now start on a public on-line self-service on the internet. Civil registrars in the Established Church examine the applications, but the applicant no longer has to contact the Established Church or any religious activity.

### **Other**

- The Criminal Code was amended a number of times:
  - In 2012, in order to bring the Code in accordance with European Parliament and Council Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims.
  - In 2013, in order to raise the maximum penalty for coercion to participate in a religious marriage ceremony with no legal effect. The maximum penalty was raised from two to four years of imprisonment, which corresponds to the maximum penalty for coercion into a legally binding marriage.
  - In 2014, in order to implement the European Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.
- A Victims Fund was established in 2014, funding projects and activities that provide further knowledge of or support for victims of crimes and road accidents and groups of such victims.
- The Sentence Enforcement Act was amended in 2012 in order to decrease the number of administrative decisions regarding exclusion of prisoners from association with other prisoners. Numbers decreased from 741 in 2011 to 514 in 2014.

- Several legislative and administrative initiatives have been implemented in order to strengthen the alternatives to the enforcement of sentences in prisons, thereby strengthening the overall reintegration into society of convicted persons.
- In 2014 a committee of experts in the human rights field delivered its report on several human rights aspects, which was subsequently submitted to public consultation. After the consultation, the Government decided not to incorporate a number of UN Human Rights Conventions into Danish law since such incorporation, according to the Government, might entail a risk of a shift in the legislative powers conferred upon Parliament to the courts. It was the opinion of the Government that it is important to maintain the elected representatives' responsibility for compliance with our international obligations. As regards Protocol No. 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights, the Government decided not to accede to the Protocol as such accession might also entail a risk of a shift in the powers conferred upon the legislature to decide what could serve as a legitimate basis for differential treatment to the courts and, as a last resort, the European Court of Human Rights.

5. Since the first review, Denmark has ratified or signed **the following international conventions:**

- In September 2014, Denmark acceded to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on Rights for Persons with Disabilities.
- In May 2015, Denmark decided to ratify the third Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- In April 2014, Denmark ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.
- In June 2013, Denmark signed the Marrakech Treaty. The treaty ensures equal access to books and audiobooks for the blind and visually impaired.

### **III. Developments since the first review of Denmark, especially with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights**

#### **Children**

6. Since the first review in 2011, Denmark has worked continuously to promote and protect children's rights. In this regard, several initiatives have been introduced, among which the following can be highlighted:

- The Government has put great emphasis on improving the quality of care and treatment in placement facilities and foster homes. In 2014 a supervision reform entered into force with the aim to improve and align the standards and the quality of care and treatment in placement facilities and foster homes. It is now required by law that the social supervisory authority must have a whistleblower function where staff, residents and relatives to a resident can anonymously provide information about matters of concern in the facility.
- In 2014 an Act on early support for vulnerable children entered into force. It highlights the importance of early, preventive support. A number of initiatives were launched in relation to the Act, including: I) Efforts to strengthen the parental capability of especially vulnerable parents, II) Support for strategic co-operation between municipalities and NGOs, e.g. counseling, networking groups and therapy for vulnerable children and young persons, III) Initiatives to strengthen the early support for vulnerable children in day care, and IV) Efforts to promote the use of

participation in leisure activities such as sports, musical training and scout associations in the municipalities' early preventive support for vulnerable children.

- In 2013 a committee of experts was set up by the Government with the task of reviewing the national legislation concerning the use of forcible measures against children and young persons in out-of-home placements. It was tasked to describe challenges to the use of such measures and to present proposals for a new regulatory framework with the aim of ensuring the rights and integrity of children. The Committee submitted its report to the Government in 2015. The Government will decide which initiatives are necessary to ensure the rights of children and young people in out-of-home placements.
- An initiative of 2013 aimed at strengthening the knowledge and handling in the municipalities of cases concerning abuse. Thus strengthening the knowledge of both children and professionals about the rights of children to be protected from abuse and how to find help as well as initiatives to ensure professional treatment and support to victims of abuse.
- In 2014 a school reform was introduced in Danish public schools. One goal was to lower the significance of social background on academic results, another to strengthen pupils' well-being in schools and reduce bullying. The reform provides a new framework for differentiation in teaching. The common goals of the Public School Act make it mandatory for schools to teach pupils about the rights of children, including rights to protection from physical, psychological and digital attacks based on the Convention of the Rights of the Child. The Universal Declaration on Human Rights continues to be a mandatory part of history classes in elementary schools, where it is put into perspective in relation to human rights in practical terms and in more recent conventions, such as the Convention of the Rights of the Child. Another major change concerned the inclusion of pupils with special needs into the regular school system in accordance with the Salamanca Declaration on special needs education.

### **Vulnerable persons/Persons with disabilities**

7. The Disability Policy Action Plan of 2013 includes a number of long-term visions and goals for the development of disability policies as well as various short-term initiatives. The plan contributes to setting up political and economic priorities for the disability-policy initiatives across policy areas and provides a framework for the continued work of implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The overall aim and vision is to ensure participation and inclusion into the community of all persons with disabilities. A number of initiatives aim at strengthening citizenship and equal participation in community life.

8. During 2015 coping courses for adults with mental disabilities are held by the regions and municipalities. The courses will provide adults with mental disabilities with better opportunities to know and use their rights, make decisions for themselves and exercise their citizenship. The course consists of four topics: 1) Individual rights and possibilities of making decisions for oneself, 2) Communication and dialogue and the possibility of making decisions with others, 3) Communities in society and the possibility of participation, and 4) Democratic processes and possibilities of influence.

9. In 2014 the Government presented a comprehensive long-term action plan for the future development and expansion of the services to people with mental disorders. Psychiatric patients must receive the same attention, have the same rights and receive the same high quality in treatment and rehabilitation as patients with physical illnesses. The objectives are primarily to reduce waiting lists and create the necessary environments for a

reduction in the use of coercive measures. The outcome of the action plan will be monitored. The Government is currently considering a revision of the relevant legislation with a view to improving psychiatric patients' rights still further.

10. Parliament passed an amendment to the Psychiatric Care Act in 2015 for the purpose of ensuring better rights for psychiatric patients subject to detention or coercion. The Act includes measures clarifying the legal status of minors in psychiatric care and seeking advance indications from the patient regarding treatment during the admission interview. The 15-17 year-olds who do not consent to treatment are now covered by the Act on the use of coercion in psychiatry and the ensured procedural safeguards. Furthermore, an obligation to report interventions performed on children under the age of 15, regardless of whether the intervention is done with parental consent or not, has been adopted into the Act.

11. In 2013 the Government presented a number of initiatives to identify and prevent types of discrimination based on ethnic origin as well as disabilities in the labour market and in society as a whole.

### **Refugees and immigrants**

12. New rules on family reunification with children entered into force in 2012. The new rules entail, *inter alia*, that the child's potential for successfully integrating into the Danish society as a requirement for obtaining family reunification is not assessed if the child is younger than eight years old. The best interests of the child are always included in the assessment when deciding whether to allow for family reunification.

13. An amendment of the Aliens Act on the rules on revocation of residence permits, issued on the basis of spousal reunification, entered into force in 2013. A time-limited residence permit obtained on the basis of marriage will – in general – be revoked if the spouses no longer live together. It will, however, be taken into consideration whether the marriage has been dissolved because of domestic violence, notwithstanding how long the foreign national spouse has stayed in Denmark. Moreover, the foreigner's ties with the Danish society will be taken into consideration.

14. A further amendment to the Aliens Act on the rules on revocation of residence permits, issued on the basis of spousal reunification, entered into force in 2014. The amendment aims to ensure that a foreign national spouse living in Denmark does not lose his or her residence permit if the spouse or partner residing in Denmark dies. In order to be allowed to stay in Denmark, the foreign national spouse must have made an effort to integrate into Danish society. As a secondary effect, the rule also applies to the children of such a foreign national spouse.

15. In 2015, an amendment to the Aliens Act introduced a new temporary subsidiary protection status for refugees who are entitled to asylum due to a general situation in the home country. In accordance with the case *Sufi and Elmi v. the United Kingdom*, a residence permit will be granted for an initial period of one year and may be extended by two years if the alien is still in need of protection. Due to the temporary nature of the protection, it is as a starting point not possible to obtain family reunification with a foreigner who is granted residence permit in Denmark on the basis of a temporary need for protection, unless the person receives an extension of the residence permit after one year. Exceptions can be made under certain circumstances, including where Denmark's international obligations so require. The immigration authorities will perform an individual assessment in each case, ensuring observance of Denmark's international obligations, including relevant case law from the European Court of Human Rights. The rules do not apply to foreigners who are granted a residence permit according to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.



16. The above-mentioned amendment to the Aliens Act also introduced a new section similar to Article 33(2)(a) of Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding the inadmissibility of applications for asylum in cases where the alien already has obtained protection in another country that is a party to the Dublin Regulation.

#### **Gender and equality**

17. An annual Action Plan for Gender Equality describes the Government's work for gender equality for the coming year and also presents the results of the work done in the previous year. In 2015 the focus will be on the combat against everyday sexism, harassment, social control, domestic violence and trafficking.

18. A number of initiatives were conducted or introduced in 2014 in order to promote gender equality and human rights. These included: I) A "rights campaign" targeting women from ethnic minority groups in Denmark and informing them of their rights according to family law, II) A survey on living conditions for LGBT persons, III) A nationwide information campaign on human trafficking. A new four-year Action Plan to Fight Trafficking in Human Beings was launched in 2015. The pillars of the 2015-2018 Action Plan are: prevention, identification, support of victims, prosecution of traffickers as well as partnerships and co-ordination.

#### **Other**

19. A survey on hate crimes or bias-motivated crime has been initiated. The survey covers a wide range of bias-motivated crimes including crimes based on sexual orientation, race, religion, political orientation, disability and social marginalisation. A number of key indicators will be generated which will enable the Government to make a baseline for further monitoring of bias-motivated crimes in Denmark. The result of the survey is expected in the autumn of 2015.

20. In 2015 the Director of Public Prosecution concluded in its annual report regarding the use of pre-trial custody that the number of pre-trial solitary confinement has decreased drastically from 553 in 2001 (the year of the first annual report of the Director of Public Prosecution) to 36 in 2014. Furthermore, from 2009 to 2014, only one person under 18 years of age was held in pre-trial solitary confinement.

## **IV. Developments since the first review of Denmark – The implementation of recommendations accepted by Denmark**

21. Over the past four years, Denmark has dedicated itself to the implementation of the recommendations accepted in the first UPR. Below follows an outline of developments mainly since Denmark's mid-term progress report of 2014.

22. Denmark continuously aims to exercise its responsibility to protect and secure high human rights standards in policy and law-making. Therefore, all considerations concerning the possible preparation of new legislation are made within the framework of Denmark's human rights obligations, which thereby determine the options in this regard. Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Justice regarding the examination of legislation prescribe that the international conventions on human rights that Denmark has ratified must be considered during the preparation of legislation. In 2015 the Ministry of Justice has emphasised in its annual official letter concerning legislative matters to all the ministries that if a legislative proposal entails essential considerations regarding the European Convention on Human Rights, the bill must reflect these considerations (**recommendation 27**).

23. In July 2013, an amendment to the Criminal Code, criminalising any person who is complicit in making a person under 18 years of age engage in sexual intercourse with a client for payment or a promise of payment, entered into force. Furthermore, the acts of procuring and human trafficking for the purpose of exploitation in prostitution were also criminalised (**recommendations 90 and 91**).

24. In May 2014, the Danish National Cyber Crime Centre was established. The National Cyber Crime Centre has dedicated an entire section to combating possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material. The section assists the Danish police in pursuing cases related to child sexual abuse material and is also working on victim identification, based on child sexual abuse material. The results of the work with victim identification are often shared with international partners, including Interpol and Europol (**recommendation 94**).

25. Children with special needs who are lawfully staying in Denmark are entitled to support and protection according to the Act on Social Services. This includes children at risk and child victims of sexual abuse, mistreatment or exploitation. In order to offer specialised treatment to children who have suffered abuse, five “Children’s Houses” covering all municipalities in Denmark have been established. In these Houses, social services, police, therapeutic services and health services are gathered to ensure that abused children receive coordinated and professional help in a child-friendly environment.

26. In 2014 Parliament adopted a bill on vocational training setting up a new combined two-year education. This education is for persons under 25 who do not possess the qualifications for completing a vocational or upper secondary education, enhancing employability and further education for young groups at risk. It is expected that this education will benefit vulnerable groups who today face increased risk of dropping out, not least students belonging to ethnic minorities (**recommendation 112**).

27. In 2012, the Director of Public prosecution initiated a number of initiatives to limit long-term pre-trial detention (pre-trial detention for three months or longer). As a consequence, the number of long-term pre-trial detentions decreased from 1764 in 2010 to 1385 in 2014, and during the same period the average duration of long-term pre-trial detentions fell from 6.8 months to 5.9 months (**recommendation 98**).

28. In 2014 the Danish Director of Public Prosecution initiated a revision of the guidelines for the police and prosecution service on the handling of hate crime cases. The revision, *inter alia*, included new paragraphs directed specifically at the police on the circumstances the police must be aware of when investigating hate crimes. Paragraphs discussing the freedom of expression relative to cases concerning hate speech have been inserted in the guidelines. The revised guidelines were published in 2015. Furthermore, case law concerning violations of section 266 b of the Criminal Code is available on the intranet and on the website of the Prosecution Service (Anklagernet and www.anklagemyndigheden.dk) (**recommendations 37, 58, 96 and 101**).

29. Rejected applications for asylum are automatically appealed to the Danish Refugee Appeals Board. The Board is a quasi-judicial body. The members of the Board are independent and may not accept or seek directions from anyone, including the appointing or nominating authority or organisation. The Board is considered to be a court within the meaning of Article 39 of European Council Directive 2005/85/EC on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status concerning the right for asylum seekers to have their case examined by a court or tribunal. Asylum cases are heard by a Board consisting of five members. The chairman must be an appointed judge. It is the Government’s opinion that the final decisions of the Board comply with the right to a fair trial (**recommendation 61**).

30. Denmark regards unaccompanied minors as vulnerable, and the Aliens Act prescribes that a personal representative must be appointed for all unaccompanied children who seek asylum or stay in Denmark without permission. The powers and obligations of a personal representative equal those of a holder of custody. The representative supports and cares for the minor as regards personal issues and attends asylum interviews and other meetings with the authorities (**part 2 of recommendation 119**).

31. The National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (2015-2018) will further develop the activities launched in the previous action plans. To raise awareness, the Danish Centre against Human Trafficking has conducted extensive training for outreach workers and social workers in close co-operation with major municipalities, governmental and non-governmental social organisations, trade unions, the police, the Danish Prison and Probation Service, Immigration Service and asylum centres. The campaign “Stop Human Trafficking” has primarily focused on awareness-raising on trafficking for prostitution and trafficking for forced labour. Protection of children has received increased attention (**recommendations 87, 90, 94 and 95**).

32. Although it is too soon to report on the direct results of the National Strategy against honour-related conflicts, some positive developments can be identified (**recommendation 43**).

33. The 4<sup>th</sup> Danish action plan against violence in the family and in intimate relations (2014-2017) entered into force in 2014 (**recommendation 86**). The action plan aims at strengthening the knowledge about different forms of violence, including male victims of violence in the family, early measures in relation to young people and raising awareness and debate about the consequences of violence in intimate relations.

34. As of 2015, a new national 24-hour hotline for all victims of domestic violence opened. The hotline is supplemented by a counselling service that gives advice on legal and social welfare matters for victims of domestic violence. Since 2015, municipalities are obliged to offer counselling to all women who take residence at a shelter for battered women. Housing, finances and jobs are among the areas included in the counselling with the aim of helping the women establish a new life free of violence (**recommendation 45**).

35. The police are implementing a new tool to evaluate the risk in cases of stalking (**recommendation 83**). Also, an initiative to assist victims of partner stalking will be launched in 2015, combined with the launch of a tender for a pilot project on temporary housing facilities for male perpetrators of domestic violence and a tender for a pilot project on temporary housing for male victims of domestic violence.

36. Regarding the encouragement of women’s high level of participation in the labour market and especially within decision-making (**recommendation 85**), the first indications of the impact of the Act on the number of women in management positions in the private sector and on the number of women in management positions in the public sector were published in 2014.

37. Danish Business Information registrations show that the share of female members on large listed company boards in the private sector has increased from 11% in 2005 to 19% in 2015.

38. During the negotiations of the Bill establishing the Danish Police Complaints Authority, it was agreed that the new system should be evaluated three years after its commencement, *i.e.* in 2015. In 2014, the Police Complaints Authority granted the Faculty of Law at the University of Copenhagen permission to evaluate the Authority. According to the Authority, the evaluation is expected to be completed at the beginning of 2017. Reference is also made to Denmark’s response in 2014 (**recommendations 75, 77 and 78**).

39. By letter of 30 October 2014, the Minister for Justice requested the National Police to introduce individual identity numbers on all police uniforms as soon as possible. The National Police has opened a tender for the production of the individual identity numbers. The National Police expects the first individual identity numbers to be introduced in February 2016. Reference is also made to Denmark's response in 2014 (**recommendation 76**).

40. The Director of Public Prosecution is still monitoring the use of pre-trial custody closely and submits annual reports on the use of pre-trial custody. At the present time, there are no problems with overcrowding in prisons (**recommendation 101**).

41. In 2015 a working group appointed by the Danish Court Administration issued recommendations for the content and the structure of a public database on case law. The development of the database will take place along with the development of a new system for civil cases for the Danish courts expected to be launched from 2016 (**recommendation 97**).

## **V. Description of achievements, “best practices” as well as of challenges in implementing the recommendations accepted by Denmark**

42. The human rights situation in Denmark is addressed on an on-going basis, both at governmental level and throughout civil society, in public debate, including at the annual four-day event “People Meeting” held during the summer recess of Parliament where MPs participate in a “festival of politics” for direct interaction with the people. Also Danish Public Broadcasting focuses on human rights-related issues across the board in a number of high quality programmes touching on immigration, education and discrimination, to mention but a few.

43. As part of the consultation process for this report, a number of public consultations organised in co-operation with the Danish Institute for Human Rights offered the general public the possibility to present their views on the human rights situation in Denmark. The issues brought forward were diverse, including access for people with disabilities in general but also in cyberspace, discrimination due to ethnicity, not least in the labour market, discrimination against young women in the labour market, digital supervision and long pre-trial detention. Two issues, both involving children: custody cases and children with mental challenges (autism etc.) constituted the numeric bulk of examples brought forward. Participants at the consultations pointed to discrepancies between law and implementation at local level. The consultations gave valuable insight to the drafting of the report and in the wider work of the Government on human rights issues.

44. The State Administration (Statsforvaltningen) is a state authority handling tasks in areas where it is considered to be an advantage that administration and contact between authorities and citizens are taken care of at local level. As part of the work on developing the quality of the State Administration's services in the area of family law, the State Administration has been working on developing means aimed at settling conflicts between parents on access and custody.

- In 2014 the State Administration established a telephone line for children – the Children Divorce Phone. The phone is aimed at giving children direct access to qualified guidance and support from a counsellor employed at the State Administration. The counsellor can guide and advise the child and relieve the child in relation to many of the thoughts and concerns the children of divorced parents often have.

- The State Administration is part of a pilot project by the NGO “Children's Welfare” (Børns Vilkår) offering children a companion when they are interviewed by the State Administration during a case on access or custody.
- After having been interviewed by the State Administration in a case on access or custody, the children may be offered follow-up counselling with the child expert they have spoken with if the decision does not meet the child's requests in full.

45. The Government has launched an experimental programme designed to examine the effects of different teaching modules that aim to develop or build on the mother tongue of minority students. When results covering the period 2014-2016 have been collected, the Government will make an assessment of how to make use of this knowledge to activate the mother tongue proficiency of minority students as an asset in schools.

46. In 2014 the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to establish a team of ‘international advisors’ to guide schools on how to bring topics such as the rights of children, global citizenship and education for sustainable development into the curriculum. In order to provide support and inspiration to teachers in fulfilling their curricular obligations to include the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights instruments into their instruction, the Ministry of Education has engaged in co-operation with the Danish Institute for Human Rights to produce examples of teaching modules, teaching activities and other relevant materials on teaching human rights in compulsory schools.

47. To ensure the right to education of children placed in alternative care, the current and the former municipality of residence must co-operate on the education offered to the child in the cases where a child is placed in alternative care in a municipality other than the municipality of residence. The child must receive an educational offer within three weeks, during which time one-on-one education must be offered to the child unless the former municipality of residence can approve another educational offer for the child.

48. The Ministries’ Disability Committee (Ministeriernes Handicapudvalg) acts as a forum for dealing with cross-cutting challenges, networking and knowledge sharing on current disability policy issues, including the continued implementation of the UN Convention on Rights for Persons with Disabilities. The Committee has an ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and actors in civil society regarding the concluding observations received by Denmark from the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

49. Any voter may request the assistance needed to cast their vote. The Danish electoral Acts provide assistance in voting rendered by two polling supervisors or appointed electors. Instead of one of the polling supervisors or appointed electors, the voter may always demand assistance in voting from a person of his/her own choice. If the voter demands assistance in voting, this assistance must thus always be supervised by at least one impartial election official. This is to ensure that assistance in voting would not lead to abuse in the form of undue influence of the voter and to ensure public confidence in the electoral process and its neutrality. If the voter needs assistance to cross off the ballot paper, this assistance may only be rendered when the voter is able to indicate direct and unambiguously to those rendering assistance the party or candidate for which he/she wants to vote. It should be noted that the election officials are subjected to strict confidentiality regarding what they learn about a voter’s choice. Breach of confidentiality is punishable by a fine or up to four months of imprisonment.

50. A number of guidelines and manuals, all designed to raise awareness on human rights in the business world, have been developed, including the following:

- A National Action Plan on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (published in 2014).

- A manual for Strategic Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in small and medium enterprises (published in 2015).
- A CSR Compass – Guidance to companies to comply with international CSR Guidelines in the supply chain targeted at small and medium-sized enterprises (latest update launched in 2014).
- Guidance to public procurers on CSR and CSR Guidelines in tenders and in public procurement (launched 2013).

## **VI. Projects to further improve the human rights situation in Denmark**

51. The special educational offers of municipalities for the inclusion of children with special needs in elementary schools will be evaluated over the next four years in order to monitor the academic achievement in special-needs education and the well-being and development of pupils with special needs. The first results are expected in 2016. This will inform the practice of the educational offers to pupils with special needs and increase the quality of the offers.

52. An experiment with force-free units in psychiatry will run over a four-year period (2014-2017). A Task Force for psychiatry will be following the development of the area in general, including monitoring the goal regarding the 50% reduction of coercive measures.

53. The Danish National Police has decided to intensify the efforts to combat hate crimes. As part of these efforts, a new monitoring system is expected to be established. In this context, the Danish National Police intends to enter into a dialogue with a range of different civil society groups, aimed at establishing closer co-operation and receiving relevant input on future efforts against hate crimes.

54. All Danish institutions of law and justice have access to a list of about 1,700 independent interpreters, presenting a broad scope of languages, including languages from small language groups and languages that are predominant among present refugees and immigrants. Currently, the list is being revised. To secure a high quality of interpretation resources, a committee with participation of relevant law and justice authorities is looking into ways to upgrade the information on education and skills regarding interpreters on the list. The committee is also considering new initiatives in the area of the education of interpreters with a more law and justice-related focus and incentives for interpreters to upgrade their skills regarding tasks of interpretation within the field of law and justice. In addition, the committee is considering the establishing of a formal certification scheme for interpreters on the list. The committee is also making a feasibility study on the possibilities of a more flexible use of interpretation resources, e.g. use of video conferencing facilities, so that resources mostly accessible in larger urban centres are easier to access, also from more distant locations in Denmark.

55. Solitary confinement as a disciplinary measure may only be used towards inmates having committed certain specific offences, such as escape, violence against other inmates or staff, smuggling into the institution of alcohol, drugs or weapons and other violations involving a breach of the order or security of the institution. The duration of the disciplinary measure must be fixed in view of the nature and scope of the offence and cannot exceed four weeks. Placement in a disciplinary cell for more than 14 days is used by the Danish Prison and Probation Service in exceptional cases only. However, since 2001 a definite increase has been observed in the use of disciplinary cells, culminating at 3044 placements in 2011, after which the numbers have decreased slightly (2867 placements in 2014). The authorities are currently working to reduce the use of solitary confinement as a

disciplinary measure, particularly in cases concerning juveniles. In October 2014, the Danish Prison and Probation Service instructed the institutions to exercise particular restraint in the use of disciplinary cells for juveniles. When assessing the need for applying this measure, the institutions were furthermore instructed to always consider whether a suspended measure would be sufficient to achieve the intended purpose. The Danish Prison and Probation Service is aware of the risk of negative effects of solitary confinement as a disciplinary measure. In 2012 a working group was set up for the purpose of reducing the use of disciplinary cells. The working group was suspended in 2014, but the work is being continued on the basis of a partnership model between the regional areas of the Danish Prison and Probation Service and the Department of Prisons and Probation. In connection with the further work under the new partnership strategy, the Danish authorities will thus consider different means of reducing the use of disciplinary cells.

## **VII. Contribution by the Government of Greenland**

### **Human Rights Council of Greenland**

56. On 1 January 2013, the Greenland Human Rights Council was established (Inatsisartut Act No. 23 of 3 December 2012). The mission of the Council is to promote, protect and contribute to the advancement of knowledge and skills of human rights in Greenland. The Council is composed in a way to reflect the views that exist among civil society with specific focus on human rights. It co-operates with the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR), whose mandate was extended to Greenland.

### **Reconciliation Commission**

57. The Reconciliation Commission was established with the desire for reconciliation to take place amongst the population of Greenland. The Reconciliation Commission has initiated various activities to uncover cultural and societal challenges resulting from the colonial heritage that generate tension in the present. A series of public meetings in different settlements are being held by the Commission along with the collection of narrative perspectives as told by the residents of Greenland. The Commission will complete its work by the end of 2017 by presenting the recommendations and conclusions in a final report.

### **The “legally fatherless”**

58. Until 1963 (1974 for North and East Greenland), legislation for Greenland did not contain rules on paternity for children born out of wedlock. Thus, children born out of wedlock had no right to inheritance after their father. The term “legally fatherless” is used when referring to such persons. In 2014 the Danish Parliament passed an Act to improve the legal status of the “legally fatherless” by giving them the possibility to initiate proceedings to legally determine who their biological father is. Paternity established according to these rules has the same legal consequences as ordinary paternity, including normal inheritance rights. However, paternity will not entail the reopening of closed estates. In practice, this means that it is not possible to reopen an estate which has been completed before initiating the paternity case.

59. A number of “legally fatherless” Greenlanders have for many years been in a difficult situation due to not having a legal father. Thus, when passing the Act on the “legally fatherless”, the Danish Parliament called for a number of initiatives to be initiated concerning the “legally fatherless”, including identifying human consequences of having been “legally fatherless” and offering assistance to help them come to terms with having

been “legally fatherless”. A joint working group with participation of Greenlandic and Danish authorities has been established to follow up on these initiatives.

#### **Public consultation regarding human rights in Nuuk, Greenland**

60. The Government of Greenland, Naalakkersuisut, the Greenlandic Council for Human Rights and the DIHR held a public consultation in Nuuk, Greenland, on 17 March 2015 regarding human rights. The main themes highlighted by the participants were:

- Insufficient overview of the appeal system.
- Overburdened judicial system.
- Insufficient access to information and counselling regarding legal rights.

#### **Children and youths**

61. In 2012 the Government of Greenland and the Parliament of Greenland endorsed that the geographical reservation to the optional protocol to the UN Convention the Rights of the Child is to be repealed. The formal procedure to implement this will be performed by the Danish Ministry of Justice.

62. In 2015 the Parliament of Greenland, Inatsisartut, approved a proposal by the Danish Government to extend the scope of the Danish Act on Parental Responsibility to Greenland. The Act strengthens the best interests of the child and the consultation of children in cases of custody and access. The Act also aims at ensuring equal rights for the mother and father in relation to custody and access as well as the child’s right to both parents. Furthermore, it abolishes corporal punishment of children in Greenland. The Danish Parliament is expected to adopt the necessary legislation by 2016.

63. A children’s council and a children’s spokesperson were appointed in 2012 as part of the new Children’s Rights Institution (MIO). All three are politically independent and financially supported by the Government of Greenland. Collectively, their role is both to improve and increase awareness of children’s rights and living conditions in the Greenlandic society. Moreover, they work for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

64. UNICEF Denmark and the Government of Greenland agreed on a project for 2011-15, named “Nakuusa”. The objective of the project is to create the best possible opportunities for growth and development of children throughout Greenland, based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and respecting the culture of Greenland.

#### **Elders**

65. Elders in Greenland have established an NGO called “Kattuffiat Utoqqat Nipaat”. This NGO is an important partner for the municipalities and the government with regard to initiatives regarding elders.

#### **Persons with disabilities**

66. In 2009 the Government of Greenland established IPIS, the national information and counselling centre on disabilities. IPIS is specifically targeted at Greenlandic-speaking persons with disabilities, their families, professionals and institutions. At least five NGOs for persons with disabilities are active in Greenland.

67. In 2012 the Parliament of Greenland decided that Greenland should be subject to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



**Illiteracy**

68. There is no illiteracy in Greenland, as all children of school age receive education. It is estimated, however, that about two to five per cent of the population have reading difficulties, including dyslexia. The Parliament of Greenland has decided to carry out a mapping of children's reading difficulties in primary and secondary school.

**Prohibiting gender-related discrimination**

69. In 2013 the Parliament of Greenland passed an Act on gender equality among women and men which contains provisions prohibiting gender-related discrimination.

70. In 2010 the Parliament of Greenland asked the Danish government for legislation that would allow same-sex marriages. In May 2015, the Parliament of Greenland, Inatsisartut, approved a proposal by the Danish Government to extend the scope of the Danish legislation on same sex marriages to Greenland. The Danish Parliament is expected to adopt the necessary legislation by 2016 and, thereby, allow same-sex marriages in Greenland.

**Human Rights Centre**

71. In 2015 Parliament discussed a motion from a Inatsisartut member to set up a Human Rights Centre, including the establishment of an Equality Board. The decision was postponed to the next meeting. In the autumn of 2015, Parliament will discuss a proposal by the Government of Greenland to evaluate the Parliament Act on Greenland's Human Rights Council.

**Women/gender equality**

72. Equal representation of men and women in public office is actively promoted. Currently, three out of nine Government ministers are women. Likewise, in Parliament 13 out of 31 members are women.

73. In addition to the above section concerning the Act on Gender Equality, promotion of equal representation of men and women on boards and committees is a legal requirement with respect to publicly owned companies and institutions.

**National Strategy and Action Plan against Violence**

74. In 2013 the Parliament of Greenland adopted a National Strategy and Action Plan against Violence 2014-2017, which includes 31 activities primarily targeted at combatting domestic violence. This includes legislative amendments, campaigns, psychosocial reinforcement and more.

**Criminal Code/Law Enforcement**

75. In 2013 the judicial system was reformed, reducing the number of district courts and raising the required level of education needed to be appointed district judge. As a result of the reform, a recruitment problem in the courts has contributed to the emergence of a large number of pending cases awaiting court proceedings.

76. In 2014 a number of amendments were therefore made to the Administration of Justice Act for Greenland. These changes allowed for Danish court jurists to be appointed districts judges in Greenland on a temporary basis.

77. Other initiatives included the transfer of most civil cases from the district courts to the Court of Greenland (a court in Nuuk with jurisdiction over all Greenland, staffed by court jurists) which was deemed better equipped to handle civil disputes. Furthermore, the

possibility of extended use of assistant district judges and temporary appointment of former district judges was prolonged.

78. The initiatives described above are expected to reduce the case backlog and stabilise the case load in the district courts. The current system is to be evaluated in 2017 by a working group under the auspices of the courts.

#### **Video questioning of child witnesses**

79. A trial scheme with video questioning of children in cases involving sexual offences was initiated in 2002. In practice, it follows the provisions of the Danish Administration of Justice Act. In 2014 the Administration of Justice Act for Greenland was amended, allowing for video questioning of children younger than twelve. The amendment requires that a defence lawyer is appointed to be present during the questioning of the child. The Act codifies the practice since 2002.

#### **Pre-trial custody/incarceration/detention**

80. The placements of convicted Greenlanders in the Danish institution Herstedvester under psychiatric management have been criticised several times, both in the press and by the United Nations Committee Against Torture (CAT) in recent years. The main point of the criticism is that the placement of inmates in Denmark several thousand kilometres away from their family and culture could be in violation of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights concerning the right to family life. The reason for placing convicted Greenlanders in Danish institutions is that there is no suitable institution in Greenland for persons sentenced to safe custody. In 2009, as part of the judicial reform, the Danish Parliament therefore decided to build a new prison in Nuuk with the ability to hold the persons who are today sent to Denmark.

### **VIII. Contribution by the Government of the Faroes**

81. The Faroe Islands have chosen to be subject to seven UN treaties and have since 2004 actively engaged in submitting contributions to reports from the Kingdom of Denmark to UN treaty bodies.

82. In preparation for this report, the Foreign Service at the Prime Minister's Office of the Faroes organised a public consultation in the capital Tórshavn on 27 May 2015 with the participation of the Danish Institute for Human Rights. The consultation offered NGOs and the general public the opportunity to present their views on human rights in the Faroe Islands. Citizens and NGOs were also encouraged to send their comments to a dedicated e-mail address. This contribution is addressing some of the issues that arose during consultations with NGOs and the public, while also providing an account of prioritised issues for the Government. Given the limitations in terms of volume, the Government of the Faroes has had to limit the scope of this contribution. However, minutes of the consultation and subsequent comments can be found on the website of the Prime Minister's Office (English version): <http://www.government.fo/>.

#### **The Faroe Islands in brief**

83. The Faroe Islands are a self-governing nation with a population of around 49,000 people within the Kingdom of Denmark with its own democratically elected parliament and executive government.<sup>1</sup> Since the introduction of the Home Rule Act in 1948, Faroese public authorities have taken over legislative and administrative power in most domestic affairs. For areas of jurisdiction governed by the Faroese authorities, legislative power is

vested in the Faroese Parliament, while administrative power is vested in the Faroese Government.

#### **Developments since the first UPR review in 2010**

84. During the first UPR dialogue in 2011, the Faroes received three recommendations. It was recommended that the Faroes should ratify the following international instruments:

- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.
- The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and ensure its application.
- The Faroes were also encouraged to continue their efforts to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence.

85. In May 2013, the Faroese Parliament adopted the resolution on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Faroese authorities have notified the Danish authorities of their adoption of the optional protocol and are now awaiting the withdrawal of the geographical reservation for the Faroe Islands.

86. In order to be subject to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the Faroe Islands must also be subject to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Faroese authorities have therefore requested Danish authorities to examine to what extent legislative amendments would be necessarily to meet the obligations under the Protocol, since part of the relevant legislation is under Danish authority. Denmark has not yet finalised the examination of the need for legislative amendments for the Faroe Islands to meet the obligations under the optional protocol.

87. In an effort to prevent and end domestic violence, the Faroese Government adopted a National Action Plan to Combat Violence in Permanent and Close Relationships in 2011. The scope of the Action Plan extends to women and anyone else experiencing domestic violence. The Action Plan is a five-year plan which defines violence as physical, psychological, sexual, financial and material violence. The plan comprises 18 different initiatives categorised under four headings: 1) Information and prevention, 2) Assistance and support for the victim, 3) Initiatives targeting occupational groups and 4) Treatment options for those who perpetrate violence.

88. Implementation of the Action Plan began in 2012 with the recruitment of a project coordinator to work full time for a period of five years altogether. The project coordinator has launched a number of information campaigns, raised awareness and disseminated information about the issue of violence with a view to breaking the taboo that has surrounded this issue.

#### **Monitoring human rights**

89. UN treaty bodies have raised the issue of establishing a human rights monitoring mechanism for the Faroe Islands. The issue was also raised at the public consultation meeting in May 2015. In connection with the public consultation, Faroese authorities met with the Danish Institute for Human Rights in order to discuss different national monitoring mechanisms that might be suitable for use in the Faroe Islands. The small size of the country naturally limits the economic and administrative means available for monitoring. The objective is therefore to carry out the monitoring obligations in an efficient and feasible manner. The preliminary survey phase has been initiated and the Faroese Government needs further consultations on the issue.

### **Penal Code amendments**

90. Another area that attracted attention during the consultation was the need to amend the Penal Code. The current penalties for certain rape convictions have drawn some criticism, and there have been calls to update the penal code section regarding rape. The Government has included these updates in its agenda for the current term.

### **Rights for persons with disabilities**

91. The Faroe Islands consented to the Convention on Persons with Disabilities in 2009 and to the Optional Protocol to the Convention. Since the adoption of the Convention, the rights of persons with disabilities in the Faroese society have improved significantly.

92. One of the issues raised by NGOs during the public consultation in May was access to information for deaf people and people with impaired hearing. The public service contract of 2010 concluded between the Faroese national radio and TV and the Ministry of Culture provides for sign language interpretation of news broadcasts. It also emphasises that other programmes of significant interest and importance to the public should be captioned or interpreted in sign language.

93. A new on-line real-time streaming of sign language interpretation of news broadcast is available to deaf people. During the election campaigns for the Faroese general election on 1 September 2015, live debate programmes were streamed on-line with real-time sign language interpreting. Furthermore, a number of debate programmes were made available speech-to-text some days later.

94. The sign language interpretation service has extended the service in 2015 with a speech-to-text-interpreter. The speech-to-text-interpreter will assist people with impaired hearing to participate in public and social events, tuitions and for personal use.

### **Children's rights**

95. The Convention on the Rights of the Child has high priority in the Faroes, and the legislature and executive have made a concerted effort to address the issues raised in the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child from 2011.<sup>2</sup>

96. Following the National Action Plan to Combat Violence, Parliament requested the Government to draft a programme concerning sexual abuse as well. The purpose of the "Programme Concerning Sexual Abuse" is to establish what initiatives are required in order to prevent and treat sexual abuse. These initiatives include:

- Treatment offers to those who suffer delayed effects caused by sexual abuse in childhood and treatment offers to those who commit sexual abuse.
- Public information including the obligation to report sexual abuse.
- Child protection policy in institutions/schools and information to parents/children on how to protect children and where to turn for support and guidance.

97. The "Programme Concerning Sexual Abuse" is currently for political consideration and is expected to enter into force on 1 January 2016.

98. A Children's House has been established and is a platform for interdisciplinary co-operation between the child-protection authorities, police and health authorities when dealing with sexual abuse and violence.

99. There have been significant improvements and developments in the statistical basis necessary for addressing living conditions, sexual abuse and violence.

100. In 2014 the Government extended the remit and activities of the Parliamentary Ombudsman to include the role of Children's Ombudsman. The role of Children's Ombudsman is to have oversight of the rights of children and young people and to act as a spokesperson for children, giving them a clearer voice in society.

101. Steps have been taken to ensure an inclusive education system that provides for education for all young persons in the Faroe Islands. The Upper Secondary School Act was amended in 2014, offering upper secondary education for persons within the autism spectrum. In 2015, a new recommendation to the Minister for Education was made on how to ensure an inclusive education system for children and youths with disabilities in primary and secondary school. The aim is to implement parts of the recommendations at the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

102. In the area of health, the Government has reduced waiting times for psychiatric assessment and treatment of children and young people from as long as two and a half years to approximately four months. Children in urgent need of care are guaranteed immediate access to psychiatric treatment.

### **Closing remarks**

103. The Government of the Faroes acknowledges the fact that promoting and ensuring human rights is a dynamic and ongoing process.

104. The Government has pledged to work for a more inclusive society and an increased focus on international conventions. The Government intends to continue to collaborate closely with all relevant authorities, sectors and stakeholders to ensure that both the principles and practice of human rights are widely known and applied in the Faroese society.

### *Notes*

<sup>1</sup> For a description of the Faroese Home Rule arrangement, please see CEDAW/C/DEN/7. pp. 108 concerning the Faroe Islands. In 2005, the Danish Government and the Government of the Faroes agreed to modernise the legislation concerning Faroese Home Rule. A description of this can be found in CCPR/C/DNK/5. pp 6 concerning the Faroe Islands.

<sup>2</sup> Please see CRC/C/DNK/CO/4.

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