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International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

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Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Concluding observations on the twenty-fourth to twenty-sixth periodic reports of Finland*

1. The Committee considered the combined twenty-fourth to twenty-sixth periodic reports of Finland,[1] at its 3237th and 3238th meetings,[2] held on 17 and 18 August 2026. At its 3244th meeting, held on 21 August 2026, it adopted the present concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee welcomes the submission of the combined twenty-fourth to twenty-sixth periodic reports of the State Party, which address several of the concerns raised by the Committee in its concluding observations on the twenty-third periodic report of the State Party.[3] The Committee expresses its appreciation for the open and constructive dialogue with the State Party's delegation and thanks the delegation for the information provided during and after the consideration of the reports.

B. Positive aspects

3. The Committee welcomes the following legislative and institutional measures taken by the State Party:

(a) Adoption of the reformed Act on the Sámi Parliament, in force since 1 August 2025, including revised provisions on the electoral roll and on the obligation to negotiate with the Sámi Parliament;

(b) Amendments to the Non-Discrimination Act, in force since 1 June 2023, which empower the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman to examine individual complaints of discrimination in employment;

(c) Amendments to the Basic Education Act and other legislation, in force since 1 August 2022, which strengthen the protection of pupils against bullying, violence and harassment.

4. The Committee also welcomes the adoption of the following policy measures by the State Party:

(a) Fourth National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights (2024–2027);

(b) Government action plan to combat racism and promote equality (2024–2027), entitled "A New Boost for Equality in Finland";

* Adopted by the Committee at its 118th session (10–25 August 2026).

[1] CERD/C/FIN/24-26.

[2] See CERD/C/SR.3237 and CERD/C/SR.3238.

[3] CERD/C/FIN/CO/23.

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(c) Third National Roma Policy (2023–2030);

(d) Action Plan for the Istanbul Convention (2026–2033);

(e) Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings (2026–2027);

(f) Action Plan for Gender Equality (2024–2027).

5. The Committee welcomes in particular the completion of the work of the truth and reconciliation commission concerning the Sámi people and the submission of its final report to the Government, the Sámi Parliament and the Skolt Sámi Siida Council on 4 December 2025, as well as the appointment of a parliamentary working group to assess the recommendations contained therein.

C. Concerns and recommendations

Statistics

6. The Committee takes note of the demographic information provided by the State Party, which gathers information based on registers, including indicators such as country of birth, mother tongue and country of origin of the parents. It appreciates the information that the implementation of a road map for the development of a national evidence base on equality is under way, and that the Office of the Prime Minister is to launch a research project to improve the compilation of statistics on equality. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned about the lack of comprehensive statistics on the demographic composition of the population, disaggregated by ethnicity, including with regard to persons belonging to ethnic and ethno-religious groups. This lack of disaggregated statistics limits the Committee's ability to properly assess the situation of such groups, including their socioeconomic status, and any progress achieved through the implementation of targeted policies and programmes (arts. 1, 2 and 5). The Committee further reminds the State Party that European Union regulations do not prohibit the gathering of comprehensive data on ethnicity based on the principles of self-identification and anonymity.[4]

7. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 8 (1990) concerning the interpretation and application of article 1 (1) and (4) of the Convention, and its guidelines for reporting under the Convention,[5] the Committee recommends that the State Party develop and enhance its statistical tools, with the meaningful participation of relevant communities, in order to produce reliable, up-to-date and comprehensive statistics on the demographic composition of the population, based on the principles of self-identification and anonymity, including on ethnic and ethno-religious groups, such as the Sámi people, Roma communities, people of African and Asian descent, Muslims and Russian- and Estonian-speakers. The Committee further recommends that the State Party ensure that data protection requirements are not applied in such a manner as to obstruct the fulfilment of its obligations under the Convention, and that adequate funding is ensured for producing such statistics, with a view to creating an empirical basis for assessing the equal enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the Convention.**

National human rights institution and equality bodies

8. The Committee commends the State Party for the numerous bodies working to combat racial discrimination in the State Party, including the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, the National Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal and the national human rights institution, and welcomes the extension of the Ombudsman's mandate to include the investigation of discrimination in employment. The Committee acknowledges the fiscal challenges invoked by the State Party but nonetheless emphasizes the importance of ensuring that such constraints do not result in disproportionate impacts on groups protected under the Convention. The Committee is concerned that:

[4] See European Commission, High Level Group on Non-discrimination, Equality and Diversity, Guidance note on the collection and use of equality data based on racial or ethnic origin.

[5] CERD/C/2007/1.

(a) Despite the rise in cases, the number of complaints and judicial cases concerning racial discrimination remains disproportionately low in comparison with the discrimination that survey respondents report having experienced;

(b) The resources allocated to the national human rights institution and the equality bodies have not kept pace with expanding mandates and increasing caseload, thus affecting their capacity to discharge their functions;

(c) Under the Non-Discrimination Act, the Tribunal lacks competence to examine employment discrimination cases and does not have legally binding authority to order the payment of compensation to victims of discrimination or to impose sanctions, which results in low rates of compliance;

(d) Responsibility for examining complaints of racial discrimination is divided among a range of bodies with differing mandates, procedures and powers, and the various avenues for redress are not accompanied by clear, accessible guidance on which body to approach and how, thus rendering the system difficult to navigate, particularly for persons with limited knowledge of the legal system or of the national languages;

(e) Although the State Party made the declaration under article 14 of the Convention in 1994, it has not indicated a body within its national legal order competent to receive and consider petitions from individuals and groups of individuals claiming to be victims of a violation of any of the rights set forth in the Convention and who have exhausted other available local remedies (art. 14 (2));

(f) There is limited information available on the outcomes of complaints of racial discrimination lodged with the equality bodies and the courts, in particular on the proportion of such complaints, disaggregated by the ground invoked, that resulted in a finding of discrimination or in compensation or another form of remedy, making it challenging to assess the effectiveness in practice of the available remedies in case of violations of the Convention (arts. 2 and 6).

9. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 17 (1993) on the establishment of national institutions to facilitate the implementation of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Ensure that the national human rights institution and equality bodies are provided with resources commensurate with their mandates and increasing caseloads and that budgetary decisions do not undermine their independence or their capacity to discharge their statutory functions;**

(b) **Consider extending the competence of the National Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal under the Non-Discrimination Act to cases of discrimination in employment, and empower it to order, rather than simply recommend, the payment of compensation to victims of discrimination;**

(c) **Ensure the systematic follow-up by all public authorities of the recommendations and decisions of the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman and the National Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal, and collect and publish information on their implementation, including on compliance with recommendations concerning compensation;**

(d) **Establish accessible and coordinated guidance to enable victims of racial discrimination to identify the appropriate avenue for redress, such as a single point of information on all competent bodies and the procedures under their remit, and make it available free of charge in the languages spoken by the persons concerned;**

(e) **Increase the availability of free interpretation and translation services at all stages of complaint proceedings, allocate adequate resources to legal aid and strengthen outreach to groups protected under the Convention regarding the remedies available to them;**

(f) **Ensure that any reorganization or merger of the equality bodies does not result in a reduction of their resources or independence or of the level of protection afforded to groups protected under the Convention and is preceded by consultation with the institutions concerned and with the communities affected;**

(g) **Indicate, in accordance with article 14 (2) of the Convention, a body within its national legal order competent to receive and consider petitions from individuals and groups of individuals within its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation of rights set forth in the Convention.**

Institutional framework for implementing international human rights obligations

10. The Committee welcomes the whole-of-government process for following up on the recommendations, decisions and judgments of international human rights mechanisms and courts, in particular the comprehensive reviews held at plenary sessions of the Government in 2024 and 2025, under the leadership of the Prime Minister. It also commends the Government for the continued work of its network for fundamental and human rights, which brings together focal points from all ministries as well as the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the Chancellor of Justice and the Human Rights Centre, to review and monitor the implementation of recommendations and decisions (art. 2).

11. **The Committee encourages the State Party to maintain and institutionalize this practice on a permanent basis and recommends that it extend the discussion of international human rights recommendations and decisions to the parliament, so as to increase knowledge of them among parliamentarians and reinforce follow-up to their implementation, in cooperation with the national human rights institution and civil society.**

Civil society

12. The Committee notes the important contribution of civil society organizations, including migrant-led organizations, to the prevention of and fight against racism, support for victims of racial discrimination and to the preparation, implementation and monitoring of legislation and public policy. The Committee is concerned that funding disbursed through the Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organizations has been reduced significantly in recent years, leading to financial hardship for many civil society organizations. The Committee is also concerned that the revised funding criteria entering into force on 31 August 2026 will prioritize direct service provision and that organizations whose primary purpose is to influence legislation or public policy may be excluded from such funding, with disproportionate effects anticipated on organizations representing or advocating for groups protected under the Convention, in a context in which private funding and tax incentives for donations are limited (arts. 2 and 7).

13. **The Committee recommends that the State Party ensure an enabling environment for civil society organizations working to combat racism and racial discrimination, including by safeguarding sustainable and predictable funding and ensuring that funding criteria do not disadvantage organizations engaged in advocacy on equality and non-discrimination or those representing groups protected under the Convention. It further recommends that the State Party guarantee meaningful opportunities for such organizations to participate in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of legislation and policies affecting the groups they represent.**

Hate speech, incitement to racial hatred and hate crime

14. The Committee notes the measures taken by the State Party to prevent and address hate speech and hate crime, such as the continued operation of the national discrimination monitoring system and the issuance by the National Police Board of directives on the identification and recording of hate crimes and on the referral of victims to support services. The Committee appreciates the State Party’s provision of statistics on legal action taken

against perpetrators of acts of racial discrimination, including under the Criminal Code provisions on ethnic agitation, in line with its previous recommendations.[6] However, it remains concerned that:

(a) The criminal law framework fails to directly criminalize hatred directed at an individual member of a protected group, rather than at the group as such, and that hate crimes are not in all cases subject to investigation and prosecution without a complaint from the victim;

(b) Although reports of hate crimes have increased substantially, only a minority of suspected hate crimes are referred to the prosecutor and prosecutions and convictions remain low;

(c) Racist hate speech has reached alarming levels in public discourse, in particular online, in sports and in the political sphere, and public figures, elected representatives and members of the parliament have engaged in and disseminated such speech, particularly targeting migrants, Muslims and other groups, with only limited accountability;

(d) The absence of effective sanctions for racist hate speech has contributed to normalizing and legitimizing racism and xenophobia across society, exposing groups protected under the Convention to hostility and violence and undermining their sense of safety and their trust in public institutions (arts. 2, 4 and 6).

15. **Recalling its general recommendations No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech and No. 15 (1993) on article 4 of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Expedite the ongoing reform of the Criminal Code to bring it into full compliance with article 4 of the Convention, ensuring that serious forms of incitement to hatred, violence or discrimination are criminalized, including when they are directed against an individual on the basis of his or her membership of a protected group, while addressing less serious cases by means other than criminal law, taking into account, inter alia, the nature and extent of the impact on targeted persons and groups, and that offences involving racially motivated speech, including defamation, aggravated defamation and illegal threat, may be prosecuted ex officio;**

(b) **Effectively investigate cases of racist hate speech, incitement to racial hatred and racially motivated violence, including online and in sports, and prosecute and sanction those responsible, ensuring that racial motivation is consistently identified, recorded and taken into account as an aggravating circumstance;**

(c) **Ensure that racist hate speech by public officials, elected representatives and members of parliament is publicly, promptly and unequivocally condemned at the highest levels of the State Party;**

(d) **Encourage all political parties to adopt and enforce codes of conduct prohibiting racist hate speech by their members and candidates, provide for appropriate disciplinary and other sanctions for elected representatives who engage in racist hate speech, and provide training on the State Party's obligations under the Convention to public officials, elected representatives and members of parliament.**

Racial profiling

16. The Committee notes various efforts by the State Party to address racial profiling, including through enhanced training in police departments and at the Police University College, the development of a guidebook on police-Roma cooperation and the recruitment of officers from minority backgrounds. It is nonetheless concerned that:

[6] CERD/C/FIN/CO/23, paras. 9 and 11 (d).

(a) Roma, people of African descent, Muslims and other persons perceived to be of foreign background continue to report experiencing racial profiling and racially discriminatory treatment by law enforcement officials, private security guards and other personnel;

(b) No information was provided on the systematic collection and publication of statistics on stops, identity checks, searches and border control operations, disaggregated by ethnic or national origin or perceived origin, which would enable the identification of discriminatory patterns (arts. 2, 4 and 5).

17. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 36 (2020) on preventing and combating racial profiling by law enforcement officials, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Adopt legislation that explicitly prohibits and proportionately punishes racial profiling during police and other law enforcement operations;**

(b) **Take effective measures, including through training, independent oversight and complaint mechanisms, to prevent, investigate and sanction racial profiling and racially motivated misconduct by law enforcement and other officials and to ensure that victims have access to effective remedies;**

(c) **Continue efforts to increase the representation of persons from minority backgrounds within the police;**

(d) **Ensure that racial profiling and discriminatory treatment by private security personnel are effectively prevented, investigated and sanctioned, including by reviewing the licencing, training and supervision requirements applicable to the private security sector and by ensuring that victims have access to effective remedies and adequate reparation;**

(e) **Systematically collect, analyse and publish statistics on stops, identity checks, searches and border control operations, disaggregated by the ethnic or national origin or perceived origin of the persons concerned, on the basis of self-identification and with appropriate data protection safeguards, and use such statistics to identify and remedy discriminatory patterns.**

Situation of the Sámi people

Right to self-determination and electoral rights

18. The Committee welcomes the entry into force, on 1 August 2025, of the reformed Act on the Sámi Parliament, which revises the criteria for inclusion in the electoral roll and strengthens the obligation of the authorities to negotiate with the Sámi Parliament, thereby responding to long-standing recommendations of the Committee[7] and to the opinions adopted by several treaty bodies.[8] It also welcomes the submission, on 4 December 2025, of the final report of the truth and reconciliation commission concerning the Sámi people. The Committee notes that the full implementation of the reformed Act has yet to be demonstrated in practice, particularly in the lead-up to the next elections, and remains concerned that the Act falls short of fully recognizing and guaranteeing the right of the Sámi people to free, prior and informed consent (arts. 2, 5 and 6). Furthermore, it is concerned that no time-bound and adequately resourced plan for implementing the commission's recommendations has yet been adopted. The Committee also notes that the amended legislation may not sufficiently take into account the situation of Forest Sámi.

19. **In line with its general recommendations No. 21 (1996) on the right to self-determination and No. 23 (1997) on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

[7] See CERD/C/FIN/CO/19, CERD/C/FIN/CO/20-22 and CERD/C/FIN/CO/23.

[8] See, for example, *Nuorgam et al. v. Finland* (CERD/C/106/D/59/2016); Human Rights Committee, *Klemetti Käkkäläjärvi et al. v. Finland* (CCPR/C/124/D/2950/2017).

(a) **Ensure the full and effective implementation of the reformed Act on the Sámi Parliament in a manner that gives effect to the right of the Sámi people to self-determination, including their right to determine their own membership;**

(b) **Adopt a time-bound and adequately resourced plan for implementing the recommendations of the truth and reconciliation commission;**

(c) **Ensure that the Sámi people and the Sámi Parliament can genuinely and effectively participate in decision-making processes and that no legislative or administrative measures that may affect the Sámi people are approved without obtaining their free, prior and informed consent, in line with article 19 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;**

(d) **Ensure that all Sámi groups, including Forest Sámi, can equally enjoy the rights referred to above.**

Traditional lands and livelihoods

20. The Committee remains concerned that the rights of the Sámi people in relation to their traditional lands, territories, waters and resources are not adequately recognized and protected, in particular in the context of green-transition projects, including wind power and mining, in and near the Sámi Homeland, and that such projects have proceeded without securing the free, prior and informed consent of the Sámi people or undertaking comprehensive impact assessments. It is further concerned that Sámi traditional livelihoods, including reindeer husbandry, fishing and hunting, are under increasing pressure from competing land use, restrictions such as those affecting fishing in the Teno River and the impacts of climate change (arts. 2 and 5).

21. **Recalling the recommendations in its previous concluding observations,**[9] **its general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Committee urges the State Party to:**

(a) **Fully recognize and protect the rights of the Sámi people to own, develop, control and use the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired;**

(b) **Ensure that projects affecting the traditional lands, territories, waters and resources of the Sámi people, including green-transition, energy and mining projects, are not approved without obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of the Sámi people, and that adequate cultural, environmental, social and human rights impact assessments are conducted in collaboration with the affected communities;**

(c) **Take effective measures, developed together with the Sámi people, to protect and support their traditional livelihoods, including reindeer husbandry, fishing and hunting, from the adverse effects of competing land use and climate change, and ensure that climate adaptation and green-transition policies do not disproportionately affect the Sámi people.**

Sámi languages, healthcare and social services

22. The Committee welcomes the activities of the Sámi language nests and measures taken in the well-being services county of Lapland to expand services in the Sámi languages. However, it remains concerned that the majority of Sámi children live outside the Sámi Homeland, where access to instruction in and of the Sámi languages remains limited. It is also concerned that the number of qualified teachers of the Sámi languages remains insufficient and that healthcare and social services in those languages remain inadequate, with limited providers (arts. 2 and 5).

23. **The Committee recommends that the State Party ensure adequate resourcing of Sámi language nests and language revitalization activities and guarantee access to Sámi-language instruction, including through distance education, for Sámi children**

[9] CERD/C/FIN/CO/23, paras. 16 and 17.

throughout the country, beyond the Sámi Homeland. It also recommends that the State Party expand the training and recruitment of qualified teachers of the Sámi languages. Furthermore, the Committee encourages the State Party to support efforts to revitalize the Kemi Sámi language. Recalling its general recommendation No. 37 (2024) on equality and freedom from racial discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to health, the Committee also encourages the State Party to invest additional resources in the provision of social services and physical and mental healthcare in the Sámi languages.

Roma communities

24. While welcoming the adoption of the third National Roma Policy (2023–2030) and projects to develop culturally sensitive healthcare models for the Roma, the Committee remains concerned that anti-Gypsyism persists in Finland and that Roma continue to face structural discrimination in the enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights, particularly in access to employment, housing, education and healthcare. Furthermore, it is concerned that the Romani language remains seriously endangered and that dropout rates among Roma pupils in upper secondary and higher education are reportedly high (arts. 2 and 5).

25. **Referring to its general recommendations No. 32 (2009) on the meaning and scope of special measures in the Convention and No. 27 (2000) on discrimination against Roma, the Committee recommends that the State Party ensure the effective and adequately resourced implementation of the third National Roma Policy and intensify measures to combat anti-Gypsyism and discrimination against Roma in employment, housing, education and healthcare, including through tailored support and social services. Furthermore, it encourages the State Party to strengthen efforts for the revitalization and teaching of the Romani language, including by making Romani-language courses easily accessible and widely available in schools and higher education institutions, and to ensure targeted support for Roma pupils in order to increase their enrolment and retention in upper secondary and higher education, particularly in the light of the extension of compulsory education to the age of 18.**

People of African and Asian descent, Muslims, Russian- and Estonian-speakers and other groups

26. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the government action plan to combat racism (2024–2027), which is supported by a dedicated budget allocation of 6 million euros, and the involvement of representatives of the communities concerned in the design, implementation and monitoring of the plan. Nonetheless, it is concerned by persistent structural racial discrimination against people of African and Asian descent, Russian- and Estonian-speakers, Muslims and other persons perceived to be of foreign background. It notes with grave concern the findings of discrimination surveys, including recent European Union surveys, indicating that people of African descent and Muslims in Finland experience among the highest levels of racist harassment and discrimination in Europe. In particular, the Committee is concerned that:

(a) Persons perceived to be of foreign background encounter discrimination in recruitment and in the workplace, including on the basis of name, physical appearance, accent and dress, and experience disproportionately high rates of unemployment and of employment below their level of qualification;

(b) Women belonging to the groups concerned are affected by intersecting forms of discrimination based on gender and on ethnic or national origin and are overly concentrated in low-paid sectors;

(c) Discrimination in access to rental and owner-occupied housing remains widespread, and the mechanisms for detecting and sanctioning it are inadequate;

(d) Access to healthcare remains unequal, owing to linguistic barriers and the insufficient availability of qualified interpretation services, differential treatment by health personnel and a lack of cultural sensitivity in service provision;

(e) Public rhetoric, including in the media, portraying Muslims and persons perceived to be of foreign background as a threat to national security or as a burden on public resources contributes to their stigmatization (arts. 2, 5, 6 and 7).

27. **Recalling article 7 of the Convention and its general recommendations No. 32 (2009) on the meaning and scope of special measures, No. 34 (2011) on racial discrimination against people of African descent, No. 25 (2000) on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination and No. 37 (2024) on equality and freedom from racial discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to health, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Take all measures necessary, including regular impact assessments of national action plans, to combat structural racial discrimination in access to employment, housing and healthcare, including through special measures where warranted, and strengthen enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation in the labour and housing markets, including through regular and unannounced inspections and discrimination testing, ensuring that penalties are effective, proportionate and dissuasive;**

(b) **Adopt a gender-responsive approach to the intersecting forms of discrimination experienced by women belonging to groups protected under the Convention, including through targeted employment measures, and collect data disaggregated by both gender and ethnic origin to inform and evaluate such measures;**

(c) **Design, implement and adequately resource sustained public awareness campaigns that address negative stereotypes and misinformation to combat Afrophobia, Islamophobia and other forms of intolerance, with the meaningful participation of the communities concerned;**

(d) **Promote accurate, diverse and non-stereotypical portrayal of the groups concerned in the media, including through regular training for media professionals.**

Non-citizens, including migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees

28. The Committee acknowledges the security challenges faced by the State Party, including the situation at its eastern border and migration-related pressures. Nonetheless, the Committee notes with concern the cumulative effect of recent legislative changes affecting non-citizens, including:

(a) Amendments to the Citizenship Act, in force since 1 October 2024, extending the general residence requirement for naturalization from five to eight years, and further amendments, in force since 17 December 2025, introducing stricter financial resources and integrity requirements;

(b) Act on Temporary Measures to Combat Instrumentalized Migration, in force since July 2024 and extended until 31 December 2026, which may permit the restriction of the reception of applications for international protection at or near the national border;

(c) Amendments to the Aliens Act, in force since 8 January 2026, tightening the conditions for permanent residence permits, including the extension of the required period of residence from four to six years and new language and work-history requirements, and separate amendments, in force since 1 September 2024, restricting changes of status within the country, including by preventing applicants from switching from the asylum procedure to a work- or study-based residence permit;

(d) Additional amendments to the Aliens Act, effective from 1 April 2026, under which persons who receive a negative residence permit decision are no longer entitled to residence-based benefits, such as the child benefit, general housing allowance, reimbursement of medication costs and the national pension, including while an appeal is pending;

(e) Amendments to the Reception Act permitting the restriction of reception services under certain conditions and the reduction of the amount of the reception allowance (arts. 1, 2, 5 and 6).

29. The Committee is further concerned by reports that asylum-seekers continue in some cases to be held in police or border detention facilities and by the barriers faced by asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants, including undocumented migrants, in gaining effective access to affordable and adequate healthcare, employment, family reunification and justice. In particular, it is alarmed by increased restrictions on access to healthcare for undocumented migrants and non-citizens with respect to necessary, non-emergency services (arts. 5 and 6).

30. **In line with its general recommendation No. 30 (2004) on discrimination against non-citizens, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Review recent legislation affecting non-citizens, including the Citizenship Act, the Act on Temporary Measures to Combat Instrumentalized Migration, the Aliens Act and the Reception Act, to ensure that it does not discriminate on purpose or in effect on the grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, and that access to the asylum procedure and the principle of non-refoulement are guaranteed at all times, including at the eastern border;**

(b) **Refrain from depriving asylum-seekers of their liberty solely on account of their status or for the purpose of processing their claims, ensuring that any such measure is exceptional, necessary and proportionate with respect to the individual concerned and of the shortest possible duration, and prioritize non-custodial alternatives;**

(c) **Guarantee effective access for asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants, including undocumented migrants, to affordable and adequate healthcare beyond emergency care and to employment, family reunification and justice;**

(d) **Ensure that non-citizens, including persons whose residence permit or asylum applications are pending appeal, are not deprived of access to social security and social services in a manner that leaves them and their family members, including children, without the means to secure an adequate standard of living.**

Education and child protection

31. The Committee is concerned about the situation of children belonging to groups protected under the Convention in the education and child protection systems, in particular about the fact that:

(a) Racist bullying and harassment directed at children perceived to be of foreign background persist in schools, and teachers and school administrators do not always have sufficient training and tools to identify and address such conduct;

(b) The educational attainment of children from immigrant backgrounds continues to lag behind that of other children, with reports that pupils from such backgrounds are directed, in basic and vocational education, towards a narrow range of low-skilled and low-paid occupations, irrespective of their aptitudes and aspirations;

(c) Statistics on enrolment, attainment and dropout rates, disaggregated by ethnicity, are not available, which prevents disparities from being tracked and remedied;

(d) The national curriculum fails to adequately recognize the history, culture and contribution of the Sámi people, Roma and other groups protected under the Convention, and human rights and anti-discrimination education remains inconsistently implemented;

(e) Oversight of the child protection system is insufficient to identify and address possible discrimination, including disproportionate targeting of children from groups protected under the Convention for child removal proceedings and placement in alternative care (arts. 2 and 5).

32. **Recalling the recommendations in its previous concluding observations,[10] and its general recommendation No. 20 (1996) on article 5 of the Convention, the Committee urges the State Party to:**

(a) **Prevent and address racist bullying and harassment in schools, including by providing mandatory training to teachers and administrators and punishing those responsible;**

(b) **Adopt targeted measures to address the educational attainment gap among children from groups protected under the Convention, including through increased language and remedial support, and ensure that educational and career guidance reflects each pupil's aptitudes and aspirations and is free from ethnic stereotyping;**

(c) **Collect and publish statistics on enrolment, attainment and dropout rates, disaggregated by ethnicity, national origin, gender and level of education, on the basis of voluntary self-identification and with due regard to anonymity and data protection, and use them to design targeted measures;**

(d) **Revise the national core curriculum and teaching materials to reflect accurately the history and culture of the Sámi people, Roma and other groups protected under the Convention, in consultation with the communities concerned;**

(e) **Ensure effective and consistent delivery across all schools of human rights and anti-discrimination education, promoting values of tolerance, diversity and equality, and equip teachers with the requisite training and materials;**

(f) **Strengthen oversight of child protection interventions to identify and address any racial discrimination, including by gathering statistics disaggregated by ethnic and national origin, language and migration status, on the basis of voluntary self-identification and with due regard to anonymity and data protection.**

Gender-based violence against women and girls

33. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Action Plan for the Istanbul Convention (2026–2033), which contains measures relating to Roma and Sámi women and girls, as well as the criminalization of female genital mutilation and increased funding for Victim Support Finland. The Committee remains concerned by reportedly high rates of gender-based violence, including violence committed in the name of so-called honour, experienced by women and girls belonging to groups protected under the Convention, including migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees. The Committee welcomes the amendments to the Criminal Code adopted in December 2024 that explicitly criminalize female genital mutilation and related acts but remains concerned by the barriers that victims and survivors face in accessing protection, support services and justice, including language barriers and lack of trust in the authorities. Furthermore, it regrets the shortage of shelters for domestic violence victims and of support services in the Sámi languages within the Sámi Homeland, reports of gaps in the availability of interpretation services when reporting violence to the police and the absence of disaggregated statistics on gender-based violence (arts. 2, 5 and 6).

34. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 25 (2000) on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination, the Committee recommends that the State Party design, in consultation with women representatives of all groups affected by racial discrimination, including migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, and strengthen measures to prevent and address gender-based violence, ensuring that victims have effective access to protection, culturally and linguistically appropriate support services, shelters and justice. It further recommends that the State Party strengthen training for justice sector personnel, social workers, medical staff and other relevant professionals, designed so as not to reinforce stereotypes or the profiling of any group or community, and collect disaggregated statistics on gender-based violence to better design policy interventions.**

[10] CERD/C/FIN/CO/23, para. 23.

D. Other recommendations

Ratification of other treaties

35. **Bearing in mind the indivisibility of all human rights, the Committee encourages the State Party to consider ratifying those international human rights treaties that it has not yet ratified, in particular treaties with provisions that have direct relevance to communities that may be subjected to racial discrimination, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), of the International Labour Organization.**

Follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

36. **In the light of its general recommendation No. 33 (2009) on follow-up to the Durban Review Conference, the Committee recommends that, when implementing the Convention in its domestic legal order, the State Party give effect to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in September 2001 by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, taking into account the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva in April 2009. The Committee requests that the State Party include in its next periodic report specific information on action plans and other measures taken to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the national level.**

Second International Decade for People of African Descent

37. **In its resolution 79/193, the General Assembly proclaimed 2025–2034 the Second International Decade for People of African Descent. Also in that resolution, the Assembly decided to extend the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent adopted in its resolution 69/16, with a view to ensuring continuing efforts in promoting the respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of people of African descent. In light of this development, the Committee recommends that the State Party implement the programme of activities in collaboration with people of African descent and include in its next periodic report information on the measures adopted in that framework, taking into account the Committee's general recommendation No. 34 (2011) on racial discrimination against people of African descent.**

Consultations with civil society

38. **The Committee recommends that the State Party continue consulting and increasing its dialogue with civil society organizations working in the area of human rights protection, in particular those working to combat racial discrimination, in connection with the preparation of the next periodic report and in follow-up to the present concluding observations.**

Dissemination of information

39. **The Committee recommends that the State Party's reports be made readily available and accessible to the public at the time of their submission and that the concluding observations of the Committee with respect to those reports be similarly publicized in the national languages of the State Party and other languages, including the Sámi and Roma languages, as appropriate.**

Common core document

40. **The Committee encourages the State Party to update its common core document, in accordance with the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, in particular those on the common core document, as adopted at**

the fifth inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies, held in June 2006.[11] **In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee urges the State Party to observe the limit of 42,400 words for such documents.**

Paragraphs of particular importance

41. **The Committee wishes to draw the attention of the State Party to the particular importance of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 15 (hate speech, incitement to racial hatred and hate crime), 17 (racial profiling) and 34 (gender-based violence against women and girls) above and requests the State Party to provide detailed information in its next periodic report on the concrete measures taken to implement those recommendations.**

Follow-up to concluding observations

42. **In accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 74 of its rules of procedure, the Committee requests the State Party to provide, within two years of the adoption of the present concluding observations, information on its implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 21 (b) and (c) (situation of the Sámi people: traditional lands and livelihoods), 25 (Roma communities) and 30 (d) (non-citizens, including migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees) above.**

Preparation of the next periodic report

43. **The Committee recommends that the State Party submit its combined twenty-seventh to thirty-first periodic reports, as a single document, by 13 August 2031, taking into account the reporting guidelines adopted by the Committee during its seventy-first session**[12] **and addressing all the points raised in the present concluding observations. In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee urges the State Party to observe the limit of 21,200 words for periodic reports.**

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[11] HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6, chap. I.

[12] CERD/C/2007/1.