

Norwegian contribution to the progress report on the Global Leaders Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Renewed comprehensive equality act

The Gender Equality Act was enacted in 1978 – the first Norwegian discrimination act. A new Gender Equality Act was adopted in 2013. The Gender Equality Act is enforced by the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud and the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Tribunal..

The Norwegian Government is currently preparing a new and comprehensive Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act. The proposal is to replace the four existing gender equality and anti-discrimination acts with one comprehensive discrimination act, thus giving a less fragmented legal system. The aim is that a common act also will make it easier to see the connections between the different grounds of discrimination and combat multiple discrimination.

Universal welfare schemes and support to women's political participation

Norway has invested in universal welfare schemes designed to make it possible for both mothers and fathers to combine family life and work. A generous parental benefit scheme and full access to good-quality day-care centers for children at an acceptable price are factors that help to ensure that Norway has a high proportion of women in the workforce. A majority of those completing higher education are women. The level of representation of women in the Government, the Storting (the Norwegian Parliament) and in local decision-making bodies is high. The Government supports campaigns to increase the proportion of women leaders and representatives in local government bodies.

White Paper on Gender Equality

In April 2016, the Storting (the Norwegian Parliament) adopted a White Paper on gender equality. The Storting, among other things, requested the Government to give an annual report to the Storting on the status of efforts to promote equality and diversity in all sectors. The Storting also requested the Government to publish an attachment to the state budget that provides a gender assessment of the state budget in its entirety.

The Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir) is working to develop indicators for all grounds of discrimination. Statistics Norway develops statistics on the gender equality situation and developments.

Foreign policy

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are an important priority for Norway in our foreign policy. The new action plan on gender equality and women's rights in Norway's foreign and development policy (2016- 2020) will support the 2030 Agenda's gender dimension and the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The thematic priorities are women's economic and political rights and participation, girl's education, combating violence against women and girls and sexual and reproductive rights and health. The Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2015-2018) are guiding our work for women's effective participation in peace processes and peace building.