

**TARGETED STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION 2023 RULE OF LAW REPORT  
UN HUMAN RIGHTS REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE (OHCHR)**

**FINLAND REVIEW**

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**I. Justice System**

**B. Quality of justice**

*Accessibility of courts (e.g. court fees, legal aid, language)*

In its 2022 concluding observations, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Finland to take immediate action to repeal legislation that permits the sterilization of women with mental disabilities and to provide effective remedies for female victims of forced or involuntary sterilization. In addition, it was recommended to Finland to explicitly criminalize forced marriage in the Criminal Code, and to ensure that all suspected cases of forced marriage are effectively investigated and that those responsible are prosecuted and adequately punished, and that victims receive appropriate care, support and reparations. Moreover, the Committee noted that mediation in cases of intimate partner violence was increasingly used and called on Finland to prioritize prosecution over mediation in cases of intimate partner violence and domestic violence, and to ensure that referral to mediation does not result in the discontinuation of criminal investigation and prosecution in these cases ([CEDAW/C/FIN/CO/8](#), paras 22 and 24).

*Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff)*

In 2022, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its concluding observations recommended Finland to carry out capacity-building and awareness-raising activities for judges, prosecutors and lawyers with the aim of encouraging the invocation of the CEDAW in court proceedings and to provide judges, prosecutors and the police mandatory capacity-building on gender-sensitive interrogation methods and on the strict application of relevant criminal law provisions. In addition, Finland was also recommended to expedite the amendments to the Aliens Act and strengthen the capacity of police officers, prosecutors and the judiciary to apply properly the legally guaranteed principle of non-punishment of victims of trafficking ([CEDAW/C/FIN/CO/8](#), paras 24 and 26).

**C. Efficiency of the justice system**

***Other – please specify***

***Reform of social protection system***

The Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons in her report on her visit to Finland, noted that ongoing reforms of the social protection system represent an opportunity to adjust the legislation in the areas of legal capacity, health, and social care and embrace the paradigm shift to see older persons as rights holders ([A/HRC/51/27/Add.1](#), para. 63).

**IV. Other institutional issues related to checks and balances**

**B. Independent authorities**

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

In 2022, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons in her report on her visit to Finland, recommended Finland to increase the budget of and support for the various monitoring mechanisms, especially the Finnish National Human Rights Institution, to strengthen monitoring and raise awareness of the human rights of older persons in different settings. The Independent Expert furthermore recommended that Finland consider increasing the scope of the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman beyond promoting equality to examining cases of workplace and employment discrimination, including on the basis of age ([A/HRC/51/27/Add.1](#), paras 65 and 71).