



NORWAY

**Introductory Intervention,
to the Examination of Norway's 7th Report by the CEDAW Committee
United Nations**

Check against delivery

STATEMENT

By

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Madam Chairperson, distinguished members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Norwegian government, I am honoured to meet the Committee for a constructive dialogue on Norwegian practises and policies for

periodic examinations by treaty bodies to be a crucial part of international monitoring of legally binding conventions and covenants on human rights.

Gender Equality is not reached overnight. Norway is committed to the Committee

I would like, however, first to draw your attention to the following: When the present cabinet took office, the name of my ministry was changed to the “Ministry of Children and Equality”, underlining the importance of equality issues, and in accordance with Committee remarks from 2003.

And secondly, we are pleased that women’s NGO’s and other stakeholders have contributed to the producing of 7th report in a constructive way, as also noting the fruitfulness of the making of a “shadow report” from the NGO’s as well as their separate meeting with the Committee.

~~Since 2002 and the Committee’s~~
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We have learned that it is necessary to apply a double or even triple approach to combat violence; to focus on treatment of abusive men, strengthen the support to women and children and also investigate in various prophylactic measures on local levels. There is a strong need for the municipalities to coordinate their work better and to train staff in the different sectors – to take action as early as possible when domestic violence is detected.

Moreover, a cross-ministerial group has been appointed to consider a specific law to secure low threshold, free of charge services, to all women who are victims of violence, building upon the existing crisis centres. The group will also consider what type of services and the quality of those, in reasonable proximity to women's homes. Further, five regional centres of competence are set up to help coordinate, guide and support the local work against violence, corresponding with the National Centre of Research on Violence and Traumatic

A new action plan against ECM is in progress and will be issued in 2011.

culture. The arguments of fairness and democracy of course are strong bearing

in mind that the companies involved either have a broad spread of shares
(P.L.C's) or represent the society at large (the state owned companies)

To support the legal reforms, several databases have been set up for women to



This autumn will see elections for the Municipal and County Councils. A series

party lists, and on the top! Such nominations are challenging, since they are not regulated by parity laws. Still only one out of six mayors (431) are women; this is not a good score at all. But campaigning seems to work! After a pre-election campaign in 2005, the Saami Parliament has increased the number of women from 18 to 51 % in the 2005 election.

We certainly do have a quota demand in our Local Government Act; when municipal councils appoints political committees, at least 40 % shall be women. This system has improved the numbers of women in political positions, but still almost 1 out of 3 committees fails to comply. The county governors have the task to control, and they have received strong instructions from the ministries to take actions.

immigrant women. A National Action Plan for integration and inclusion targeting the immigrant population was initiated in 2006 and well funded, one target group being girls and women.

Programmes are set up and networks are being build, to pre-qualify immigrant girls and women for the labour market; as well as the Introduction Programme – focussing on language learning and social studies – mandatory for all refugees and available also to other immigrants.

The nation wide system of Family Counselling Offices has taken up the task of

Quite a score of young immigrant girls are receiving their Masters at our universities; this is a very good trend.

March 8th this year, saw a special celebration for immigrant girls and women,

concerning women on its own footing; as to promote gender equality. The Ombud runs the Norwegian programme within the European Equal Opportunity year, as well as being partner in national and international gender equality projects. Dialogue meetings with my ministry is held 4 times a year, providing statistics and results from the work. The new machinery will be evaluated next year, as asked for by the parliament, when voting upon the new system and the law.

Furthermore, I will underline that the Norwegian tradition of tri-partism and

between the State, Employers and Employees, has been extremely valuable as a political framework for social development. The systematic approach in consultation issues like wage setting processes, work and family life and

We believe that boys and men play a crucial role in reaching gender equality.

We will not be satisfied until we have achieved gender equality in all areas of life.

genders. We are now re-examining White Paper on gender equality. 1. 1. 1. 1.