

THE DANISH
INSTITUTE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

THEME: INFLUENCE ON
POLICY AND LEGISLATION





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THEME

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By Jonas Christoffersen, Executive Director

A NEW BEGINNING FOR THE INSTITUTE

On 5 May 2012 the Danish Institute for Human Rights celebrated its 25th anniversary. Over the past 25 years, the Institute has grown from a small human rights centre into a recognised institution with activities in both Denmark and abroad. The anniversary reminded us that we have a long history on which we can build, and that we must endeavour to develop the institution so that it continues to live up to current expectations and demands.

The year 2012 saw many events on the human rights front, both in Denmark and internationally. Of course, the Institute cannot be everywhere, but as we will describe in this report, the Institute played a role in many places.

In 2012 the Danish Parliament also played a role in developing the Institute as an institution by passing, with a large majority, a new law certifying the Institute as Denmark's National Human Rights Institution. The law, which took effect on 1 January 2013, gives the Institute a new foundation and position in Danish society.

As something new from now on, each year the Institute must submit a report to the Parliament

about our own work and about developments in the Danish human rights situation. This responsibility places new demands on our work, as we now must provide Parliament with a solid foundation for assessing human rights conditions in Denmark.

From 2012 we have, for the first time, begun to map out the Danish human rights situation. Describing the human rights situation is a dynamic process which must take place in a dialogue with our surroundings. In this, our first effort, we have focused on 13 key areas. New ones will be included, and updated annually, so that it can become clear where Denmark can intervene and improve the protection of human rights (read more on pp. 6–7).

Greenland will also come to play an increasing role in our work. The Government of Greenland has decided that the Institute will also function as the national human rights institution for Greenland. From 1 January 2013, the Greenland government has established Greenland's Council for Human Rights, with whom we shall cooperate in carrying out this task.

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Internationally, 2012 has been a year of positive results if we take a look at the Institute's long-running involvement in China, the Middle East and North and West Africa. E.g. in 2012 the Chinese People's Congress approved a new, landmark law which strengthens the rule of law for most of the Chinese people. For more than ten years the Institute has been cooperating with key actors in China around this law. The law particularly strengthens the rights of those suspected or detained for crimes. As something new, the preamble of the law states that it must respect and protect human rights, an important signal and potential break with China's Marxist legal tradition. However, at the same time, the new law also weakens legal security for dissidents and human rights advocates (see more on p. 12).

The connection between human rights and business is an area which we at the Institute have worked with for over ten years, with activities in China and in many other countries.

In 2012 the Institute governing board approved a new strategy for the coming four years. We will strengthen our national and international efforts and we shall maintain a clear focus in our work. The strategy sets up frameworks for the Institute's development and prioritises ten areas of intervention where our main focus will lie in order to be a flexible and well-managed organisation which sets standards and creates change.

The developments of 2012 have equipped us even more strongly to meet a future where human rights must continually be promoted and protected, both in Denmark and abroad.



CITIZENSHIP IN THE SCHOOL

Denmark has a long tradition for citizenship education, and in many ways the foundation of our primary school system is shaped by the idea that the pupils must be formed into democratic citizens. In both Denmark and in many other countries there is an increased focus on teaching anti-discrimination, equal treatment and public participation.

From 2010–2012 the Institute cooperated with the 'Youth Town' and with the Danish Pedagogical University to create a network to promote citizenship instruction in schools.

The project, initiated in connection with the 'Democracy Because' campaign, has included conferences, seminars, online communities and local development activities. The project has promoted the development of methods of working with inclusive leadership, local democracy, pupil participation, secure learning environments and tolerance and respect for difference. It has been supported by the Ministry of Education.



COURSES AND CONFERENCES

For several years, the Institute has carried out teaching at the Danish Police Academy and also arranged several courses, seminars and conferences in both Denmark and abroad for other organisations and authorities. The Institute's Education Department has held courses for staff of the Danish Center for Women's Research (KVINFO) on a human rights-based approach in their programmes and projects and a similar course for the Forum for Rights and Diversity, which brings together a large number of Danish NGOs.

The Institute also conducts courses in teacher training colleges. Globally, the Institute has hosted courses and seminars for collaborative partners on such topics as how the UN assesses nations' protection of human rights, human rights education, working with a human rights-based approach to programmes and projects and extended courses on legal rights for the Zambian legal sector.

Read more about the Institute's training offering at www.humanrights.dk



BRIDGE-BUILDING BETWEEN STATE AND CITIZENS

With the desire for freedom, equality and human dignity, the Arab Spring spread to large parts of North Africa and the Middle East in 2011.

FROM DICTATORSHIP TO DEMOCRACY

In 2012 this desire would be translated into concrete change. The Institute took initiatives in Libya, Tunisia and Egypt to try and ensure that the transition from dictatorship to democracy would be based on human rights, the rule of law and especially popular participation.

LIBYA: POPULAR DIALOGUE

In 2011, in Libya, the Institute had helped establish the civil society network Libyan Centre for the Rule of Law and Democracy, and in 2012 the network published two brochures: one on

the rule of law and the other on citizenship. In 2013 the Institute will focus its efforts on bridging the gap between state and civil society in Libya and the Institute has initiated a cooperation with Libya's national human rights institution.

TUNISIA: DEMOCRATIC PLAYERS

In Tunisia, for the first time in several generations, free elections were held in 2011, and in 2012 the Constitutional Assembly could begin its work. In response to the intense preparation of constitutions in the Middle East and North Africa the Institute, on the basis of dialogue with partners in the region, published a 'brief' on constitutional protection of human rights.



THE MENA REGION

For several years, the Institute has been working on projects and with various partners in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Cooperation with the Ministry for Human Rights as well as civil society in Yemen started in 2006, and the Institute has been an active partner in the Arab–European Human Rights Dialogue between national human rights institutions since 2007. In 2011 the Institute launched a new MENA programme that focuses on Libya, Tunisia and Egypt in addition to the above-mentioned partners.

Tunisians in an election mood. The elections selected 217 MPs to adopt a new constitution.

In Tunisia the Institute gave presentations on human rights with a focus on the roles of various actors in democracy, on rule of law and popular participation.

Furthermore, the Institute has initiated partnerships with the newly established Ministry for Human Rights and Transitional Justice and Tunisia's national human rights institution, the National Council for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The partnerships focus on conceptual understanding of human rights and international human rights standards and mechanisms, fact-based dialogue in connection with the implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations, strategic planning, human rights training, among other areas of cooperation.





HERE ARE OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES

DENMARK NEEDS A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Detention, the use of force and reduction of coercion in psychiatry are some of the Institute's priority areas in the new mapping of human rights in Denmark.

If Denmark is to fully live up to its human rights commitments, it is crucial that there be a new and more systematic approach to the national human rights work. Therefore the Institute has prepared the status report 'Human Rights in Denmark' which, in selected areas, maps out the Danish human rights situation and identifies 13

priority areas where there are challenges. At the same time the Institute has selected a number of strategic priorities for 2013.

The Institute will strengthen efforts in the following areas: detention, use of force, the European Union and human rights and



the human rights situation in Greenland. The Institute will also participate in the Ombudsman's inspections of prisons and detention centres and residential homes for children and the elderly, etc. This effort is part of the Ombudsman's oversight responsibilities under the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

“The goal of the status report is to provide a much needed and qualified overview of the human rights situation in Denmark, on the basis of which we can have a dialogue with politicians and the public”, explains Christopher Badse, the Head of the Institute's Monitoring Department.

Read the full report, which is updated regularly, at www.humanrights/status

The following four areas are highlighted in the Status Report for 2012:

THE AUTHORITIES' RESPONSIBILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Efforts to promote and protect human rights in Denmark take place across a number of ministries and public authorities. These efforts suffer from a lack of coordination and systematic organisation. The report therefore points out that Denmark would benefit from following the UN recommendation and formulating a national action plan for human rights.

DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL TREATMENT

Although Denmark has done and is doing much to ensure equal opportunities and to combat discrimination, specific improvements can still be made in this area. Of key importance is the lack of any review of equal treatment legislation and a general prohibition against discrimination.

DETENTION

Denmark should also work to limit pre-trial detention. Denmark remands more people to prisons and for a longer period than do the other Nordic countries. There is overcrowding in the penal institutions, and there should be limits on the use of solitary confinement as punishment.

RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities points out that people with disabilities should be able to participate in society on an equal basis. There are examples showing that the concept of disability as understood in Danish law is applied too narrowly, which may lead to violations of the Convention. The Institute recommends that a general review of Danish legislation be undertaken so as to ensure better accord with the definition used in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.





THE INSTITUTE'S RESPONSES TO LEGAL BRIEFS

WE ADVISE PARLIAMENT

In 2012 the Institute was asked to comment on 113 government reports, ministerial directives and draft laws. These documents focused on many different subjects, such as housing of tenants through the social welfare system, active employment efforts, the intelligence service and the law covering people's right to interpretation in their native language when dealing with public authorities. Also included were issues of gender quotas, the law on aliens and allowances for the disabled.

Part of the Institute's mandate is to advise parliament. The Institute does this by drafting administrative responses to draft laws. Here are some examples:

MORE WOMEN ON BOARDS AND IN MANAGEMENT POSITIONS

In 2012 the Ministry for Gender Equality followed by the EU Commission proposed rules aimed at increasing the proportion of women sitting on boards and in management positions in private and public companies. The Institute's response assessed that the Ministry for Gender Equality measures moved in the right direction and at the same time pointed out the need to encourage the recruitment of women to senior

positions in the labour market so that there will be a greater number of suitable female candidates for boards.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND TERRORISM

In connection with a proposal for amending the Law on Radio and Television Broadcasting, which included a ban on the promotion of terrorism in programming, the Institute recommended, with regard to freedom of expression and the rule of law, that the term 'promoting terrorism' in the bill and the accompanying remarks be narrowed down and clarified significantly.

AARHUS MUNICIPALITY SEEKS TO REDUCE ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

In November 2012 Aarhus Municipality sought to change its service standards for the so-called 'citizen-run personal assistance' (BPA) scheme. The system is intended to help people with disabilities to remain in their own homes. The municipality has proposed more limited standards for citizens who have already been allocated hours under the BPA scheme. The Institute assessed that the municipality's proposal was questionable in terms of human rights. The municipality then decided to shelve these parts of the proposal.





NEW LAW FOR THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (PET) ON THE AGENDA

After 14 years of work, the committee investigating the Police Intelligence Service (PET) presented a draft of a new law for the Police Intelligence Service. However, the committee presented proposals that would regulate only one aspect of PET's work. The Institute therefore intervened in the debate in order to ensure a modern, democratic control of the intelligence services.

CRITICISM OF STATE WITHIN A STATE

The political goal was clear when the PET Committee was set up in 1998: after decades of criticism about lack of control and insight into PET's work, the goal was to shed light on PET's operations. PET should not be perceived as a closed state within a state.

However, when the committee finally presented its work in 2012 it was clear that the world had changed considerably since the PET committee had been set up. Therefore, the draft does not reflect the challenges now facing PET. In the summer of 2012 the Institute delivered a consultative response which identified some of the gaps that the Institute had identified in the draft law.

One of the shortcomings was that the Ministry of Justice rather than Parliament had been chosen to appoint the members of the board that was to be established for oversight of PET.

Another fundamental shortcoming was that the draft law contained mainly rules for how PET would treat personal data. Rules for PET's general work in the field, including rules for the use of agents, were not included in the draft law.

BETTER CONTROL, BUT NOT ENOUGH

The problem became apparent when a former PET agent, Morten Storm, came forward in the newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* and claimed that as a PET agent he had played a central role in the assassination of al-Qaeda leader Anwar al-Aulaqi. The allegations were not fully consistent with PET's own data, and the case illustrated the need for independent oversight of PET in order to evaluate similar cases and to clear PET in cases of false allegations.

In January 2013 a broad political agreement was reached on improved regulation of the activities and parliamentary control of the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET). The agreement concerns new legislation for PET and a strengthening of the Parliamentary Control Commission. The new legislative agreement for PET essentially corresponds to the draft bill issued in 2012. The Institute commented on the proposal for changes to the legislation on the Control Commission in February 2013. There are still no regulations in place for PET's general work in the field.



PARLIAMENT: WE NEED CHILDREN'S OFFICERS IN DANISH PRISONS

In all prisons and detention centres, there must be designated employees specially trained to improve conditions for children of prisoners. Parliament passed this law in November 2012, after a pilot programme had shown good results.

In November 2012 the parties in Parliament reached a new agreement regarding the Danish Prison and Probation Service. Under this agreement DKK 14 million was allocated to introduce so-called 'children's officers' in all the country's prisons and detention centres. The children's officers are specially trained prison staff with the task of reducing children's traumatic experiences when a parent is imprisoned.

A child talks about visiting his father in prison:

'I have not visited him very often. We need a full day of driving to be there for two hours. And there is nothing for us to do, nothing [...] We just sit and look.'

The decision to introduce children's officers was based on the positive experiences from a pilot project carried out by the Institute and the Prison and Probation Service (Kriminalforsorgen) conducted in 2010 - 11 with support from Ole Kirk's Fund, the Danish Care Society (Forsorgsselskab) and the Egmont Foundation. The project was a success and was therefore extended to the end of 2012.

STRENGTHENING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The children's officer system has led to a number of improvements for those children who have parents in the participating prisons and detention centres. For example, the prisons now have child-friendly visiting rooms, and the staff have generally become more aware of how children can be received in a more appropriate manner in a prison.

CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

About three per cent of all Danish children have had one of their parents imprisoned.

At any given time, approximately 4,500 Danish children have a parent in prison.

In 2010 up to 14,500 children had experienced a parent who was imprisoned.

Conversation groups have been established for imprisoned parents, with a focus on parenting and children's rights, and their needs are now considered to a greater degree than previously in connection with a range of other initiatives.

"By making the system nationwide, a very important step has been taken towards strengthening the rights of children and helping a group of especially vulnerable children. Several thousand children each year will benefit from these measures", says Peter Scharff Smith, senior researcher at the Institute.

Amalie, aged 7 years talks about one of the staff members in the prison:

'One of them spoke with me, so I could be better at getting the courage to talk to my father. I was a little worried about how it would go.'



LANDMARK LAW IN CHINA

In 2012 the Chinese People's Congress adopted a law that will increase rule of law for the majority. The revised criminal procedure code has been underway for ten years and the text of the law is a compromise between supporters of reform and its opponents, such as the Ministry for Public Security.

TORTURE IS OUTLAWED

Since 2006 the Institute has assisted in the revision of the Chinese criminal procedure code, in close collaboration with Chinese research institutions. Several of the Institute's recommendations are reflected in the revised law. This demonstrates that long-term, institutional cooperation can make a difference. The Institute's recommendations, for example, have helped to strengthen lawyers' ability to present evidence and to call and cross-examine witnesses during a trial. Formerly the prosecutor read out written testimony without the defence attorney having the opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses.

Similarly, the Institute and partners have helped to ensure that the revised law contains a prohibition on the use of torture as well as a requirement that the courts dismiss confessions and evidence obtained under torture.

BAD FOR DISSIDENTS

While the rights of the majority of 'ordinary' suspects' have been strengthened by the revised law, the situation is the opposite for dissidents and human rights advocates. This creates a two-track criminal justice system without equality before the law. There is one set of rules for the vast majority, and another for the small minority which the system believes constitute a threat to the state and to the Communist Party's monopoly on power.



14 YEARS IN CHINA

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs first offered support for the Institute's work in China in 1999. Since 2005 the ministry has continuously supported the Institute's work with its Chinese partners.



DEBATE ON THE DISEMPOWERING LAW

Guardianship is a support measure where a guardian with greater or lesser powers is appointed to help and protect citizens who cannot manage on their own. Most of those persons over 18 who have a guardian have a disability.

The current law on guardianship came up for debate in 2012 following the publication of a new study on guardianship in Denmark by the Institute.

The current guardianship system does not sufficiently protect the individual's right to self-determination. Among other things, it excludes a number of people with disabilities from being able to vote and thereby participate in democratic life.

In Denmark the number of the most restrictive guardianships (so-called Section 6 guardianship) has increased. In 1997, 48 such

NO RIGHT TO VOTE: A man with a diagnosis of schizophrenia who has lost the right to vote:

'I'm not a non-voter. I have always been interested in politics. I think that it is a civil right to vote. In fact, not only a right but also a duty.'

guardianships were initiated, while in 2011 the number of Section 6 guardianships had reached 194.

It is a contravention of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the European Human Rights Convention to deprive people of the right to vote simply because they are under guardianship due to compulsive gambling or spending addictions says the study.

NEED FOR TIME LIMIT ON GUARDIANSHIP

The political reactions to the Institute's investigation were uniform: personal financial problems should not lead to the loss of the right to vote. A majority of the political parties had this view, but at the time of publication of this annual report, measures have not been taken to ensure this group the right to vote.

The study contains several recommendations. Among other things, it sets out rules for time limits and review, which means that guardianship is not indefinite, but should be as limited in duration as possible, and that the need for a guardian should be periodically re-evaluated.

SECTION 6

The Guardianship Act of 2007 states that one's legal capacity to act can be withdrawn if it is necessary to prevent the individual from subjecting his assets, income or other economic interests to a point where these risk declining significantly, or in order to prevent financial exploitation by others.



EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING

The Institute has been working in Zimbabwe since 2011. The project in Zimbabwe draws on a wide range of the Institute's skills in the international human rights area.

STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO

FOCUS ON THE JUDICIARY

An important aspect of the Institute's work is that of improving the Zimbabwean legal system. The Institute has supported the judiciary's administrative authority to develop a strategy for 2012–2016 is now engaging its expertise in helping to educate the staff. The project is funded by the Danish International Development Agency (Danida).

ASSISTANCE TO A NEW HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

The Institute also cooperates with Zimbabwe's Human Rights Commission. The Commission was established in 2009 and began its work in 2012. The Commission has developed knowledge, systems and routines in order to function as an effective NHRI. This implies government counselling, educating the public



JUSTICE AND GRASSROOTS

and providing citizens with the opportunity to respond to violations of their rights.

PLATFORM FOR GRASSROOTS

An important step on the road to democratic reform in Zimbabwe is to enable citizens to take part in the country's decision making processes. Therefore, the Institute is working together with the Zimbabwe National Association of NGOs to help the country's

grassroots organisations exchange information and plan joint activities.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

Finally, the Institute is working together with the environmental organisation ZELA to promote the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The project is part of the 'Pillars in Practice' programme, described on page 27.



By Charlotte Flindt Pedersen, Deputy Director

CATALYST FOR CHANGE

The international efforts of the Danish Institute for Human Rights range from development work with ministries, the police, the legal system and NGOs in Africa, Asia and the Middle East to participation in a joint European human rights office in Brussels, Belgium. Common to all our efforts is a focus on good partnerships.

For the past 20 years, the Institute has collaborated with local partners on our international projects. We have been in more than 60 countries and been involved in more than 100 different projects around the world.

Our objective is not as broad an involvement as possible. Quite the contrary, we prefer those projects where we can work in partnership with selected authorities, companies and organisations as a catalyst for lasting improvements. Our point of departure is the specialist competencies and the knowledge that we have developed on how human rights can be embedded locally. However, our efforts vary greatly and depend on the legitimacy and capacity of the states.

WEST AFRICA: FRAGILE STATES

The security situation in the Institute's long-standing countries of cooperation – Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria – has deteriorated in recent years. All three are 'fragile states', meaning that the state has weak control over the country. Thus, in January 2013, the international community intervened to help the Malian government in connection with a rebellion by Islamist groups.

In collaboration with the Danish Embassy in Burkina Faso we decided, in 2011, to initiate a study of the security situation in the northern region of the country. Coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, the study was completed in 2012. It was carried out by Burkinabe researchers in close collaboration with relevant ministries and national civil society organisations.

The study in Burkina Faso emphasised the serious need to strengthen the state's presence in the country's thinly populated areas and to secure the development of the country in order to prevent threats to the state and its inhabitants. The study now forms the basis for a broad-based national effort to increase security and development efforts in northern Burkina Faso.

PARALLEL LEGAL SYSTEMS

In some of the Institute's partner countries the situation is stable but the legal system is weak. Traditional customary law and conflict resolution models operate alongside national legal systems, which are typically founded on antiquated versions of the judicial systems and conceptions of law and justice of former colonial powers. In many places traditional, local or religious councils supplement the countries' usual courts of law.



At the UN General Assembly in September 2012, three UN organisations presented a study conducted and written by the Danish Institute for Human Rights on human rights issues in the relationship between formal and informal legal systems. The study has a global focus and comprises studies of three countries in Africa, two in Asia and one in Latin America. We carried out the project in collaboration with local organisations and researchers. The study has been called pioneering because it is the first time informal systems have been systematically analysed in relation to the international standards for human rights, including the rights of women and children. The study provides a number of guidelines on working with and analysing informal legal systems in relation to recognised legal principles. In Zambia, the Institute and the local traditional courts of law are working together on this issue.

FOCUS ON EUROPE

Much of the Institute's international collaboration takes place outside Europe in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. But there is also a need to work with human rights in Europe. This is why we participate as board members in the European group of the international network of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). The European group has established a secretariat in Brussels to strengthen collaboration between the European NHRIs and to better interact with EU institutions on the European Union's protection of human rights.

The Institute considers it important to unite the national and international aspects in the development of theories, tools and action plans, and to work in partnership to translate theory into practice.

GLOBAL COOPERATION WITH SISTER ORGANISATIONS

The Institute is part of a network of approx. 100 similar organisations, the International Committee for the Coordination (ICC) of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI).

IMPORTANT PARTNER FOR THE UN AND THE EU

Global cooperation within the ICC network is becoming continually stronger. At the same time, the network is experiencing increasing recognition as an important partner for the UN and the EU. In 2012 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution recognising the importance of national human rights institutions, and the UN human rights system is attempting to strengthen both the ICC network and the role of the NHRIs.

REQUIRES COOPERATION

In February 2012 NHRIs and parliaments from around the world met at a conference in Serbia to discuss cooperation between the national human rights institutions and national parliaments. If a national human rights institution is to effectively monitor the human rights situation in a country, a good working relationship with parliament is required. The conference resulted in a series of recommendations for cooperation between parliaments and national human rights institutions. In Denmark, the Danish Parliament took the recommendations into account by including them in the new law on the Institute for Human Rights by ensuring that the Institute submit an annual report to parliament. Thus, the stage is set for closer cooperation between Parliament and the Institute.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

In June 2012 the European Group of NHRIs adopted a number of recommendations for how countries can draw up national action plans for human rights and business.

The European group followed up its recommendations to the states with an action plan for the NHRIs' own work in this field. The action plan clarifies the NHRIs' mandate and commitment in their efforts to address the human rights violations that occur within the business sector.

THE BELFAST DECLARATION

In July the ICC approved a statement on reform of the UN human rights system known as the Treaty Body System, to ensure that the international appeal bodies not only obtain information from governments and NGOs, but also from independent human rights institutions.

THE BELGRADE PRINCIPLES

Contain recommendations regarding the parliaments' role in the establishment of and cooperation with national human rights institutions. Among other things, the recommendations clarify the NHRIs' independence, legislative processes, training and promotion of knowledge about human rights.

THE BERLIN ACTION PLAN

The plan sets out key actions of European NHRIs on business and human rights at a European level, including addressing the impacts of the financial crisis and austerity measures on vulnerable groups. The action plan further supports the involvement of NHRIs in the efforts of European states in developing national action plans for business and human rights.



THE LONG STRUGGLE TOWARD DEMOCRACY

After the fall of the Taliban the Institute was among the first human rights organisations to travel to Afghanistan to assess the situation in the country. The Institute began to collaborate with Afghan partners in 2002.

“We are working work to ensure that Afghanistan can become a society based on democracy and the rule of law in accordance with human rights”, says Malek Sitez, the Institute’s project manager. He hopes that the Afghans will become more aware of their rights in relation to the state.

In Afghanistan the Institute has worked closely with the Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN), since its founding in 2004, and Denmark is one of the supporting donors for this network. Since then, the CSHRN has evolved to become a strong platform for the promotion of human rights, with nearly 105 member organisations in 26 provinces in Afghanistan. CSHRN’s objective is to strengthen the rule of law and respect for human rights. Today, the Institute has an advisory role for the CSHRN.

STRENGTHENING WOMEN’S RIGHTS

The new phase of the cooperation is focused on supporting women’s rights and promoting the role of women in peace and security, based on UN resolutions. Furthermore, the goal is to ensure monitoring of the human rights situation for the UN and help build knowledge and systems for civil society organisations in the field of international humanitarian law.

PRESENTLY, WE ARE INVOLVED IN:

- monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation and providing recommendations;
- strategic development of women’s rights and organisations;
- establishment of civil society organisations that can work with international humanitarian law and international agreements on human rights;
- the creation of increased knowledge of civil society and relevant state organs in relation to international conventions and forums on human rights.

FRAGILE RULE OF LAW IN DANGER

For 17 years, Mali has organised something special on the 10th of December to commemorate the United Nations Universal Declaration: 'Espace d'Interpellation Démocratique'. The event gives individuals and human rights organisations the opportunity to make government officials accountable for some specific violations that have occurred in the past year. Everyone can speak freely, and a number of complaints are presented publicly. In 2012 it was the Ombudsman who organised this day, and human rights activists took the opportunity to point out many unpunished violations that had taken place after the coup in March, and the risk of lawlessness.

Following the coup in the spring of 2012, many human rights violations took place in the northern regions as well as in southern Mali. The Institute has facilitated a process to establish a network of human rights organisations and key institutions, such as Mali's National Human Rights Commission.

STRUCTURAL SUPPORT

The Institute provided technical assistance to Mali's National Commission on Human Rights in drafting the first two reports in 2010 and 2011. The Institute has supported the Commission by developing complaint procedures for citizens

as well as building a documentation centre. The Institute has also worked together with the African network of national human rights institutions to advise the commission. The Danish Embassy has provided financial support to Mali's national human rights commission since after the coup, in March 2012.

The Institute also works directly with local NGOs, especially DEME SO, which works for a better enjoyment of human rights by vulnerable groups, especially in the field of access to justice.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL RESEARCH AND POLICE

The Institute is also supporting a group of academics researching family law issues in Mali. The group is investigating the circumstances of dissolution of marriages and the application of a new family law which conflicts with the UN Women's Convention, a convention that Mali has ratified.

The Institute has worked with the police in Niger and, in light of this, the Malian police have asked the Institute to help develop teaching materials and integrate the teaching into their training.



The Institute's staff member in Mali, Monique Alexis, has been living in the capital, Bamako, since September 2011.

LETTER FROM BAMAKO

CHALLENGES OF FIGHTING FOR RIGHTS IN MALI



Being stationed in Mali was very different than I had imagined when I planned my residence in the country, once regarded as one of West Africa's most democratic states.

As regional coordinator for the Institute's West Africa programme, focusing on the three Sahel countries Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, I was to develop our activities in Mali. When I arrived in the capital Bamako in early September 2011, Gaddafi's regime had just fallen in Libya. It did not take me long to realise that Mali was on a dangerous path. There were several signs: growing unrest and lack of security in northern Mali, radical religious forces that put pressure on the government. For example, the President withdrew a well-prepared family law that had just been passed by the National Assembly. The media began to practice self-censorship in a country otherwise known for its relatively free press. And angry, frustrated young people were always ready to take to the streets and smash anything in the capital at the slightest provocation.

MY HOUSE RANSACKED BY SOLDIERS

After the coup in March 2012 and the failed counter-coup on May 1st, we observed

persecution of those who were critical of the military junta: arbitrary arrests and detentions, kidnappings and beatings. And one evening in May, my own house – like others in the neighbourhood – was searched by a group of armed soldiers. Leading figures from the deposed regime and journalists are particularly subject to these searches.

The events of the coup and the many human rights violations naturally affected our activities in the country. Our movements have been drastically reduced to Bamako and vicinity for security reasons. Many international organisations have sent their staff home, and the embassies limit their staff to the minimum required. But the Institute has so far decided to remain: it would send a bad signal if we were to leave the country right now, when the human rights actors need the most support.

The task now is to support them so that they can investigate and inform objectively about the violations. My posting will continue in 2013. One thing is certain: the human rights actors in Mali are still badly in need of help and support.

Monique Alexis



REGISTER HATE CRIMES!

You walk on the street on a Friday night. Suddenly you are knocked down from behind. When you hit the pavement, they are kicking you in the face. They mock you for who you are. Humiliate you while they smash your teeth. You don't know them. They don't know you.

'This is what it's like to be the victim of a hate crime. An entirely unreasonable assault that affects you because of your race, religion or sexual orientation. You are attacked or insulted because you are yourself,' says Lumi Zuleta, responsible for the institute's campaign "Stop it now".

The 'Stop it now' ('Sigfranu') campaign involves registering incidents of hate crimes and discrimination. Since November 2011, anyone can report both hate crimes and experiences of discrimination. The records also indicate where people experience discrimination, e.g. on the job.

'Hate crimes are often arbitrary crimes to which you are victimized without any prior contact. They can take the form of a verbal assault, violence, vandalism, theft or robbery,' explains Lumi Zuleta. 'We will use the data collected to make an annual report on the extent of discrimination in Denmark.'

THE MIA PRIZE SPREADS GOOD PRACTICES



'The prize has encouraged initiatives that provide innovation and ensures equal treatment of women, people from ethnic minorities or the disabled,' says department head Susanne Nour Magnusson.

'Susanne Nour Magnusson, what do you want to achieve with the price?'

'We would like to show that equal treatment is a prerequisite for diversity by documenting and spreading the many good examples of diversity in work life. For many companies, diversity is good business and a source of innovation. The challenge is to achieve diversity. The companies that have been nominated for the MIA prize show that it requires a willingness to change and to work actively with the often invisible barriers that may exist within an organisation.'

DISCRIMINATED? GET ADVICE ABOUT COMPLAINT POSSIBILITIES



SAY 'NO' TO DISCRIMINATION

The leaflets, printed in English, Danish, Greenlandic, French, Urdu, Turkish, Arabic and Somali, can be seen on www.menneskeret.dk, and can be obtained free of charge by contacting the Institute equal treatment advice: ligebehandling@humanrights.dk or by phone at +45 32 69 86 66.

In the Institute's view, there are still many people who have suffered discrimination but who are not aware of their rights and their possibilities to obtain advice or present a complaint.

Therefore, in 2012, the Institute initiated a public awareness campaign to inform people how they can deal with discrimination due to gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or age. The material is available in eight languages and has been distributed to all the citizen service offices in Denmark's municipalities and to various associations.

'It is important to emphasize that one can feel that one has been or is being discriminated

against, without it being legally defined as discrimination. This does not make the experience any less serious, but it means that it must be addressed in a different way than the actual/legal discrimination,' explains team leader, Nanna Margaret Krusaa.

She encourages people to contact the Institute equal treatment counselling if they feel that they have been victims of discrimination on the basis of gender, race or ethnic origin. People can obtain advice on how to proceed with a possible complaint.



From 2004 to 2012, the Institute has awarded an annual MIA prize for diversity in the workplace.

'If diversity is a resource for the company, why is there not more diversity in Danish workplaces?'

'It is rarely a conscious rejection. But it is hard to see those who are not there, and we seldom wonder why our colleagues are so much like us. One might think that discrimination concerns ill will, but most often it is institutional barriers, force of habit and unconscious reaction patterns that lead to discrimination.'

'What has MIA prize achieved?'

'The MIA prize has been a benchmarking tool for companies working actively with equal treatment and diversity. The positive experiences have been gathered, evaluated and shared through the website: miapris.dk. This has meant that new companies dare to start putting diversity and equality on the agenda because they could see that other companies benefited from focusing on these.'

PRIVACY AND SURVEILLANCE

Technology and digital spaces allow for comprehensive surveillance of all of us, and increase the need for protection.

Rights on the Internet have been a theme over the past ten years, but in the last few years, interest and attention have increased significantly. This applies to governments, but also to researchers, organisations and others in civil society, both in Denmark and in other countries.

In June 2011, 'freedom of expression on the Internet' was placed on the agenda for the first time at a meeting of the UN Human Rights Council. This was based on a report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, which was subsequently supported by a declaration of more than 40 states. In addition, in July 2012 the UN Human Rights Council approved the first resolution on the promotion and protection of freedom of expression on the Internet.

The Council of Europe has also focused on rights in the digital world and in recent years has issued a number of recommendations in this area, forming a committee of experts



on the rights of Internet users. The institute's Human Rights senior advisor and researcher Rikke Frank Jørgensen is a member of this committee.

The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), which has been called the 'Internet Bill of Rights', sparked a number of major demonstrations in Denmark and the rest of Europe. Would ACTA reduce freedom of expression and strengthen surveillance? The issue of surveillance has regularly appeared in the public debate, including in relation to social media, video surveillance in public spaces, telecommunications providers' logging of Internet traffic and the exchange of private digital information between public authorities.

The Institute therefore chose to enter the discussion on the rights of citizens to protect their data and communications. The Institute report on 'Human Rights in Denmark', discusses data rights on pages 6–7.



how the actors use the Internet as a resource, focusing especially on self-determination and participation in public life.

Rikke Frank Jørgensen explains: “The problem is that there are many different metaphors at work on the Internet. For example, it is referred to as ‘a public space where you debate and create political opposition’. Or as ‘a technical infrastructure that enables communication and information at the global level’. Or as ‘an open medium where everyone can broadcast themselves’. We also talk about the Internet as ‘a cultural practice’ where new knowledge is created and shared in virtual communities.”

Rikke Frank Jørgensen emphasises that the existence of many metaphors is not a problem in itself. The problem occurs only when the various metaphors are mixed together.

“This is a problem because there are strong political and economic interests associated with the various aspects of the Internet. If we do not have control over this, we run the risk that users’ rights and protection from monitoring, registration or censorship of content can be undermined. Although the Internet is not new, its regulation is complex. Parts of it should be regulated as a media outlet, parts as a public space, and other aspects regulated in line with public infrastructure. If our rights and freedoms are to be protected on the Internet as they are in the physical world, we must be better at understanding and challenging the political discourses that define the rules of the game on the Internet”, explains Rikke Frank Jørgensen.

POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY THREATENS INTERNET USERS

A global infrastructure. A public space. A new media. A new cultural practice. Although the Internet has gradually become part of people’s everyday life and work over the course of two decades, there is still disagreement about what the Internet is.

Senior Advisor Rikke Frank Jørgensen was awarded a Ph.D in 2012 for her dissertation ‘Framing the Net – How Discourse Shapes Law and Culture’. The thesis poses two questions. First, how can the Internet be used as a tool for social change? Second, how does Internet legislation affect our way of talking about the Internet?

The dissertation focuses on two case studies: a network of women’s organisations in Uganda (Wougnet) and the German Wikipedia. Based on these cases, Rikke Frank Jørgensen examines

THE POLICE WANT TO STRENGTHEN THE WORK WITH DIVERSITY



In November 2012 the Institute published a study on ethnic diversity in the police. The study identifies a number of areas where police can improve equal treatment within their own ranks.

The study highlights a number of challenges faced by ethnic minority police officers on the job, including the jargon and humour used in the everyday work of the police.

CODE OF ETHICS ON THE WAY

The recommendations include launching initiatives to avoid the use of offensive language by the police; making courses on equal treatment – including the harassment provision – part of leadership training; paying greater attention within the police force to special challenges of both an internal and an external nature associated with being a police

officer with an ethnic minority background; and improving diversity in recruitment with focus on ensuring equal treatment in connection with staff promotion.

The Danish National Police and the police officers' trade union (Politiforbundet) have welcomed the study and have declared that the police are about to draft a code of ethics that will be distributed to employees. The code provides guidelines for appropriate 'tone' at the workplace.

“We can be hard on each other, but we should not bully each other, and if someone of another ethnic origin experiences this as a problem, it is a problem for all of us”, said Peter Ibsen, chairman of the police officers' trade union, to the Danish newspaper Politiken.



THEORY INTO PRACTICE ON THREE CONTINENTS

In 2012 the Institute was awarded a US State Department grant for 'Pillars in Practice'. The Programme seeks to build the capacity of civil society organisations in Bangladesh, Nicaragua and Zimbabwe, to engage with and train in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (GPs).

This programme will target three industrial sectors over an 18-month period: agriculture in Nicaragua, garment manufacturing in Bangladesh and mining in Zimbabwe. The activities are implemented by a consortium of international and local organisations.

To meet its goal, the 'Pillars in Practice' programme has six key objectives:

- 1) Customisation of training materials on the Guiding Principles to meet the purposes of capacity building for relevant stakeholders;
- 2) Training local partner trainers on the Guiding Principles;
- 3) Implementation of the Guiding Principles in each country through targeted multi-stakeholder initiatives;

- 4) Generation of multi-stakeholder dialogue forums where companies, government and civil society identify, assess and address main human rights and business challenges;
- 5) Publication of three best practice case studies on the process of implementation of the Guiding Principles; and
- 6) Knowledge sharing with the UN working group on human rights and business, charged with disseminating the Guiding Principles globally.

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights—unanimously adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011—rest on three pillars: the duty of states to protect against human rights abuses by companies both at home and abroad; the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, whereby companies must act with due diligence to avoid negative human rights impacts; and the right of victims to access remedy.

LOCAL COURTS IN ZAMBIA

A large part of the Zambian population lives in the countryside, hundreds of kilometres from the major cities' courts, and local courts therefore form the backbone of the civil justice system in Zambia. These courts handle at least 100,000 cases a year.

NEED FOR EFFECTIVE LEGAL REMEDIES

In addition to the Local courts, there are other sources of legal assistance and conflict resolution that are relevant to the poor: Barefoot Lawyers, who help local people through counselling, mediation and contact with authorities. And traditional courts presided over by, village elders who typically base their decisions on local customary law.

'In their work, the Local Courts must also apply local customary law as long as this does not conflict with the country's legislation. This

is easier in theory than in practice,' explains Fergus Kerrigan, the Institute expert in the field.

Kerrigan continues: 'There can be a difficult balance between, on the one hand, the legitimacy and acceptance by the local population that comes with customary law, and on the other hand respect for the country's written laws.'

The Institute's project in Zambia is working to strengthen cooperation between these providers of justice, and to improve the Local Courts' ability to serve citizens. The project in Zambia focuses on local people's need to access effective legal remedies in everyday affairs, such as resolving a dispute with a neighbour, petitioning for divorce as a result of domestic violence, or ensuring a fair distribution of property when a family member dies.



The Institute, in close cooperation with local partners, has been working with local courts in eastern and southern Zambia since the beginning of 2012. The project is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Danida.

UN INCREASES ITS FOCUS ON INFORMAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS

In 2012, the Institute drafted a UN report on strengthening the protection of rights.

Much of the world's population does not have effective access to formal, state legal systems. Instead, they utilise the conflict resolution mechanisms that are rooted in family, clan, religion or other types of communities. It is important that these institutions also respect human rights.

“The report has a number of recommendations on how informal justice systems and mechanisms may contribute to greater, not less, protection of human rights”, explains Fergus Kerrigan, head of the Institute access to justice program.

Fergus Kerrigan explains: “Mutual understanding is needed to reduce the historical distance that has arisen between the judicial mechanisms that exist in many countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia



before the colonial period and the modern systems based on the state. It is very complex, because an understanding is needed of local values, cultural rights and religious freedom, while at the same time the individual rights of women and children must be respected.”

The full report, entitled ‘Charting a Course for Human Rights-Based Engagement’ can be read and downloaded here: www.undp.org

DENMARK

NEW MEDIATION AND COMPLAINTS-HANDLING INSTITUTION FOR RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT

In November 2012 the government launched a new mediation and complaints institution to ensure responsible business conduct and corporate social responsibility. The institution will consider cases where Danish companies or their business partners are alleged to have breached the OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises. The violations could involve harmful environmental impacts, human rights violations or corruption. The institution is composed of representatives of business, civil society and labour participants, with the Institute's director Jonas Christoffersen acting as expert member. The former chairman of the Danish Council on Corporate Social Responsibility, Mads Øvlisen, is chairman of the institution.

INVESTMENTS IN MYANMAR WORKING FOR DEMOCRACY

Since Myanmar's military junta released the world famous politician Aung San Suu Kyi in 2010, the country has slowly but surely moved away from the consistent isolation policy for which Myanmar was long known.

Under the Danish EU Presidency in 2012, the EU's 27 member states agreed to lift sanctions against Myanmar with the exception of the arms embargo. However, the EU foreign ministers declared, lifting the sanctions was to be accompanied by clear guidelines for investment and commercial activities in the country.

The investments were not intended to prop up the military junta's stagnant economy, but should instead go hand in hand with

environmental concerns and development towards democracy and human rights.

Therefore, in the declaration on the lifting of sanctions, it was added that future investments should follow the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

ADVICE FOR BUSINESSES

The Institute and the British Institute for Human Rights and Business joined forces to ensure that the demand to follow the UN Business and Human Rights Guiding Principles became a precondition for the lifting of sanctions. This goal was also backed by the Danish Government.

“Now that we are moving from a policy of isolation towards one of investment in Myanmar, we must work to ensure that our economic and commercial engagement is an active force for change, also for progressive democratic change, which would give influence to the people of Myanmar and to help the country realise its full potential”, declared Pia Olsen Dyhr, the Danish Minister of Trade and Investment.

The Institute and the Institute for Human Rights and Business have since worked to obtain funding for a resource centre in Myanmar. The aim of this effort is that, in 2013, the centre can begin to offer advice to companies and ultimately to civil society organisations on how to conduct socially responsible activities, and how to meet some of the challenges facing the country, such as issues around child labour.



DEBATE AT SCHOOLS IN NINE COUNTRIES OF EUROPE

NEW SUBJECTS AT SCHOOL

From 2010 to 2012 the Institute coordinated an EU funded project 'It Takes All Kinds - Fighting Homophobia in Schools'. The project aims to educate and raise awareness among teachers and pupils in the EU on issues of equal treatment, discrimination and human rights with a focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (the LGBT community). The project was carried out in collaboration with LGBT organisations in nine European countries.

The project has resulted in three websites: a portal for students, a portal with educational materials and guidance for teachers and school principals, as well as a closed forum for activists, journalists, and others working with human rights for LGBT persons. Each of the websites has been translated into the languages of the nine participating countries. Along the way, clear differences emerged



between the countries in their recognition of human rights for LGBT people. In the East European countries it is often difficult to even be allowed to discuss homosexuality. In countries such as Denmark and Ireland the challenge has been that pupils have already heard a lot about sexuality and discrimination against LGBT persons and are therefore not so receptive to additional input.

– But there is still a need to focus on the human rights challenges for LGBT people; “although several countries have come a long way in protecting LGBT persons against discrimination, there is still a way to go before we can talk about real equality”, says the Institute’s project manager Evguenia Jane Klementieva.

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

LGBT Denmark (Denmark), RFSL (Sweden), GLEN (Ireland) Campaign against Homophobia (Poland), Mozaika (Latvia), Bilitis (Bulgaria), ACCEPT (Romania), ILGA-Portugal (Portugal), FELGBT (Spain)

Find the project website at:
www.ittakesallkinds.eu

EQUAL PAY – A DANISH AND EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE



There is still a gender pay gap between women and men in the European labour market. During the Danish EU presidency, the Institute organised a conference on wage equality supported by the Danish Ministry of Employment.

The European countries have implemented the equal pay principle differently, they have different systems to enforce it, and they can learn from each other. Therefore, in May 2012, the Institute held a conference entitled 'Equal Pay - How Do We Strengthen Access to Justice?'

As Kirsten Precht, the Institute's specialist in equal opportunity matters explains, "It's about both legal and non-legal interventions. There must be the necessary rules, and there must be legal means that are easy and possible

to achieve. Furthermore, people who have a case need to get the necessary support and counselling". At the conference the Institute's equal treatment department leader, Susanne Nour Magnusson, presented preliminary results from the Institute's Danish study of difficulties and opportunities in the area of wage equality.

NEW EQUAL PAY ASSESSMENT IN THE MAKING

The Institute is engaged in a study of how the rules for equal pay are being enforced. The survey is based on interviews with people who have demanded equal pay and those who have contributed to the case process in general. The aim is to look for ways to improve case management and case process and to focus on ensuring that plaintiffs get through the case successfully. The study is to be completed in early 2014.

OTHER INSTITUTE EVENTS HELD DURING THE DANISH EU PRESIDENCY IN 2012

12.03.2012/THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS was based on a report prepared by the Institute with recommendations for the protection of human rights while fighting terrorism.

15.03-16.03.2012/SEMINAR ON THE EUROPEAN UNION'S CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, with the participation of officials from Member States, the Commission, the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice, and the Institute.

08.05.2012/CONSULTATION ON INITIATIVES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS IN BURMA-MYANMAR, held in conjunction with the Human Rights and Business conference in Copenhagen. This was followed by workshops in Myanmar.

07.-08.06.2012/CONFERENCE ON SELF-DETERMINATION AND INCLUSION/Rights of persons with mental disabilities and persons with mental illnesses.

07.06.2012/PRESENTATION OF REPORT ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN NORTHERN BURKINA FASO The report was coordinated by the Burkina Faso Justice Ministry in cooperation with the police and civil society, and it focuses on security threats in the Sahel area (Al-Qaida, etc.) and the EU strategy in this region.

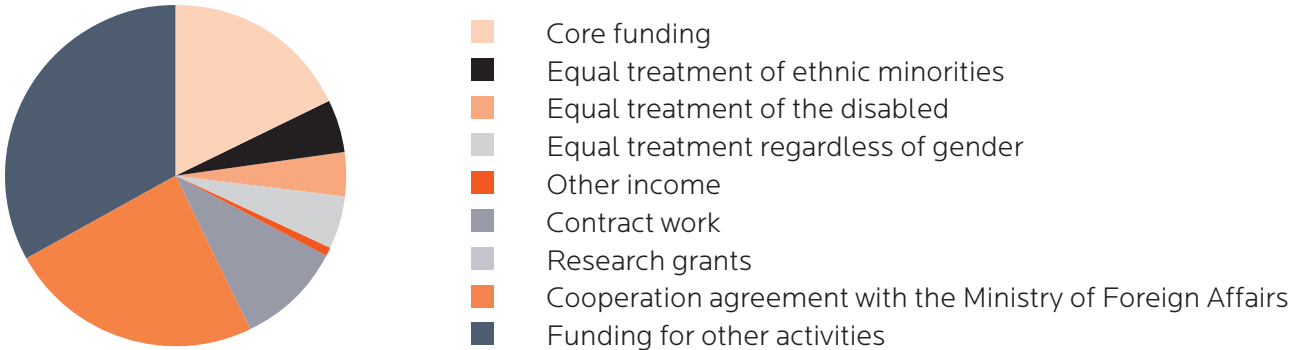
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2012 INCOME OF DIHR BROKEN DOWN BY SEGMENT

1,000 KR	BUDGET TOTAL	TOTAL INCOME	% OF TOTAL INCOME
DONOR	2012	2012	2012
Core funding	21,700	21,700	18%
Equal treatment irrespective of ethnicity	6,000	6,000	5%
Equal treatment irrespective of disability	4,400	4,400	4%
Equal treatment irrespective of gender	6,000	6,000	5%
Other income	0	838	1%
Commercial activities	8,476	12,465	10%
Subsidised research*	0	0	0%
Cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	29,189	28,591	24%
Other subsidised activities*	47,002	39,420	33%
Total	122,768	119,414	100%

* The variation between the budget and accounts of other grant-funded activities is mainly due to a more precise categorisation, but also a lower level of activity. Revenue from commercial activities is due to the change in categorisation.

TOTAL INCOME 2012



Of DIHR's total income for 2012, DKK 38.1 million came from the state budget allocation (covering both core funding and the funding for equal opportunity for ethnic minorities, the disabled and gender). An additional 28.6 million came from a block grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 39.4 million was received for other subsidised activities and 12.5 million was external income from contracts with partners/clients. Of the funds received from the state budget, 16.4 million was allocated to equal opportunity work for gender, ethnic minorities and the disabled. Of the 39.4 million in additional subsidised activities for projects, 26.0 million were a grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The DIHR's total income for 2012 increased by DKK 5.8 million compared to 2011, due largely to an increase in the state budget allocation of DKK 10 million.

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1987-2012

PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT

The Institute's 25th anniversary

The Danish Institute for Human Rights was established in 1987 by decision of the Danish parliament. To mark its 25th anniversary in 2012, the Institute collaborated with the municipalities of Aarhus, Aalborg and Copenhagen in the 'People are Different' campaign. The Institute's goal in the campaign was to bring human rights closer to the public and to focus on how important it is to continue to promote and strengthen human rights and equal treatment. The Institute organised a series of events to engage with the public, including street activities, panel discussions and an art exhibition. During the urban festivals held in the three cities people could 'be a politician for a day', test their knowledge in quizzes and discuss human rights dilemmas with staff from the Institute.

The Aalborg museum of art 'Kunsten', Aarhus City Hall and Copenhagen's Nørrebro Library

exhibited work by Danish contemporary artists Kenneth Balfelt, Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen, Hessel & Mejlvang, Jens Haaning, John Kørner and Dan Svarre. The works were very varied but all challenged potential prejudices, norms and stereotyped images, and encouraged questions and reflection among participants.

Schoolchildren were also introduced to human rights. A total of 500 children in eight schools were visited by the Institute's staff and listened, played and discussed towards a better understanding of human rights.

The anniversary was also marked on 11 May 2012 by a festive reception for the Institute's personnel, cooperating partners and organisations.



INSTITUT FOR
MÆNNEKES
RETTIGHEDER

AARHUS
KOMMUNE

KUNSTUDSTILLINGEN

FORSKEL PÅ FOLK

19. - 30. SEPTEMBER 2012. FRI ENTRE
MANDAG - LØRDAG 8:00-16:00, SØNDAG LUKKET

AARHUS RÅDHUS

RÅDHUSPLADSEN 2, 8000 AARHUS C

VÆRKER AF: LILLIBETH CUENCA RASMUSSEN
JOHN KØRNER / DANIEL SVARRE / JENS HAANING
KENNETH BALFELT / HESSELHOLDT & MEJLVANG

