



2002



The Danish Centre for Human Rights

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In every way 2002 was a remarkable year to the Danish Centre for Human Rights, a year all of us will remember with mixed feelings. At the beginning of the year there was great uncertainty about the continued existence of the Centre, but the outcome was a merger between the Centre and four other institutions. This meant that the Danish human rights work could continue under the aegis of the Danish Institute for Human Rights from 1 January 2003 and in close cooperation with the Institute for International Studies.

We also look back at the year with great joy, since in the midst of the crisis we reaped the fruits of many years of collaboration with our national and international partners and felt their unequivocal support to the Centre and our work. There is no doubt that they greatly influenced the decision to retain a national and independent human rights institute.

This debate about the status of the Centre influenced the human rights work and several tasks had to be put on hold for most of the year. Still we managed to carry out focus area research on the refugee and asylum issue, and the economic, social and cultural rights and be involved in connection with the Danish EU Presidency. The Centre also continued its involvement in the European Master's Degree programme and organised a European Youth Conference on Human Rights and Democracy.

One of the major events for the Centre was to host the Sixth International Conference for National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights last April. Our partners from all parts of the world came to Copenhagen to discuss how national human rights institutions can more efficiently promote equality and combat discrimination. The Conference was follow-up on the Durban Declaration agreed at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban the year before. The outcome of the Conference was the Copenhagen Declaration, which will form the basis of the work of national institutions for many years to come.

We also continued our involvement in the EU-China dialogue and started a dialogue with Iran too. The first session of the Denmark-Iran dialogue was held in Teheran in October. At this session we debated special penal sanctions, rights of women, freedom of expression and other subjects. The Danish-Iranian dialogue acted as inspiration to the EU, which initiated a corresponding dialogue in December 2002. The Danish Centre for Human Rights was asked to function as the secretariat of the EU-Iran dialogue.

The political situation in Iran is very unstable and may have a negative impact on the success of the dialogue and thereby the possibilities of improving the domestic human rights situation. We are aware of that, but our positive experience from the China dialogue leaves us both realistic and optimistic. There has also been made room for a novelty at the Centre: We commenced the work for a national secretariat to strengthen the work of protecting and promoting human rights and equality in Denmark. There are vulnerable groups, such as children, the chronically ill and the disabled, who need special attention. We therefore find that greater focus on the national human rights work is a natural ramification of our work on the annual status reports on the human rights situation in Denmark. We now want to visualise and concretise subjects of relevance both to individuals of vulnerable groups and all Danish citizens.

According to an evaluation in 2002, our international activities are successful. The capacity assessment was ordered by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and included a number of interesting recommendations, which we are in the process of implementing. We aim at further professionalisation of our projects to the benefit of our partners. The education and information activities of the Centre were aimed at the public both in Denmark and internationally. More than 1,000 persons attended the various courses offered by the Centre, we produced 41 publications, and one of our websites was awarded the prize as Top of the Web by the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. Despite the concern about the future existence of the Centre, its staff gave 157 lectures all over the country and held 46 conferences and seminars both in Denmark and abroad. By the end of 2002 we can look back on 15 fruitful years with human rights. From being a small Centre in 1987, which was only known by the inner circle of experts, the Centre has developed into a recognised institute with many results and a comprehensive international network. Today Denmark is strong in the human rights field, and I would like to thank the great number of Danish and international supporters and partners that we have had throughout the years. This also applies to the authorities, organisations and individuals who have given us inspiration and made positive use of our services. We hope to be able to retain these excellent relations and improve the quality of our contribution to human rights and democracy even more in future.

Morten Kjærum
Executive Director

RESEARCH

Human rights theories

Research efforts covered 22 projects on human rights standards, human rights in the development of society and capacity building, human rights and the protection of vulnerable groups and human rights in social and cultural practice. The year was also characterised by the publication of a number of significant research publications that contributed to marking the Centre as a visible research institution. One focus area was the refugee and asylum issue, another was the EU in order to back up the Danish EU Presidency.

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Not a single day without training

Over a period of 39 weeks, 49 long courses were held for more than a thousand participants. From lower secondary school to university level, in Denmark and in Asia, from NGOs to police officers. The Centre also prepared teaching materials and launched educational programmes for more than 15 countries.

The cooperation between the Centre and the Danish police has led to the establishment of a European platform where police forces and human rights organisations meet and share their experiences. The Council of Europe and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights are some of the partners.

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INFORMATION

European youth in action

Communication about human rights was directed both at Denmark and Europe in 2002. The www.menneskeret.dk website of the Centre was benchmarked as 'Top of the Web', and we produced a series of humorous television spots shown on Danish television channels.

100 young people from all European countries contributed to the realisation of a comprehensive network, which resulted in an action plan for promoting democracy and human rights. This initiative started in Denmark, but is now being transformed into a baton of information to go around Europe. Moreover 41 publications were produced.

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NATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Increased efforts in Danish matters

The Centre has taken the pulse of human rights in Denmark since 1999. The International Human Rights Day on 10 December also marked the publication of the status report 'Human Rights in Denmark'. In 2002 the Centre took initiatives to put human rights on the agenda all the other days of the year too. In future, the new national secretariat will strengthen its work of protecting and promoting human rights and equality in Denmark. In 2002 the spotlight was aimed at vulnerable groups such as the chronically ill, children and the disabled. But all other citizens will be in focus too when it comes to further development and implementation of human rights in Denmark.

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INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Evaluation and praise of project work

Danish human rights experts assist in projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and the Balkans. 52 projects in 28 countries. Five main fields: Management and administration; reform of law and state; access to justice; civil society; and support to universities and research institutions. The international activities of the Centre were also evaluated in 2002. They proved successful. And new activities are on their way, one of them being a human rights dialogue between Denmark and Iran. The China dialogue funded by the EU will continue, as will also the Centre's involvement in the Danish Council for International Development Cooperation (Rådet for Internationalt Udviklingssamarbejde).

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DOCUMENTATION

Now we got book No. 10,000

Denmark is one of the few countries with a comprehensive human rights library. Several thousand users contact the library every year to widen their horizon through the several thousand books and journals of the library. The library is linked to several networks, which ensures optimum service to the library users. The Centre also trains students and researchers in information searches, no matter whether they are from the University of Aarhus in Denmark or from institutions in Cameroon or Uzbekistan. The Centre also assists in building up library collections in Africa and Asia.

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FINANCES

Increasing support to the Centre

Since 1987 the Centre has expanded its staff from about a dozen to nearly one hundred. They are involved in the activities of the Centre as either permanent staff, guest researchers, students or interns. More and more want to support the work of the Centre and become part of its backing. They back up as sponsors, as members of the Board and Council of the Centre, and as project partners.

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RESEARCH

The researchers of the Centre represent various professional backgrounds and research traditions that complement and challenge each other in the investigation of human rights. A central element is the jurisprudential research on the Conventions and other human rights instruments, but the Centre is also doing broad social science and cultural anthropology research concerning the history, fundamental values and practical implementation of human rights.

A characteristic of human rights is that they are normative and value-laden. It makes heavy demands on scholarship that the research must have an approach of critical analysis to a field that is often considered universally applicable, positive and complete. Critical analysis is, however, a prerequisite for ensuring that human rights do not become fixed, static perceptions, but can be upheld and developed further as meaningful standards of law and a living comment on both local, regional and global development.

Research efforts focus on the four areas of competency described in the Centre's strategic plan:

1. Human rights standards
 2. Human rights in the development of society and capacity building
 3. Human rights and protection of vulnerable groups
 4. Human rights in social and cultural practice
- These are very broad areas, each of them potentially a subject for interdisciplinary study.

All the areas of competency reach out to the work of the other departments of the Centre, and after 1 January 2003 an additional objective will be to seek as much integration as possible with the research of the Institute for International Studies.

In 2002 the research was highly affected by the uncertainty about the future of the Centre. Research potential was consequently not utilised in the optimum way, and moreover, in that situation no decisions could be made about filling vacant researcher positions. 2002 was nonetheless characterised by the publication of a number of significant research publications that contributed to marking the Centre as a research institution. Moreover, the internal debate about the tasks, conditions and pitfalls involved in human rights research – which followed naturally in the wake of the political debate about the work of the Centre – created a new platform for the future research.

This debate as well as the clarification about the future of the Centre made the research of the Centre better equipped at the end of 2002 to meet forthcoming challenges within the human rights research field.

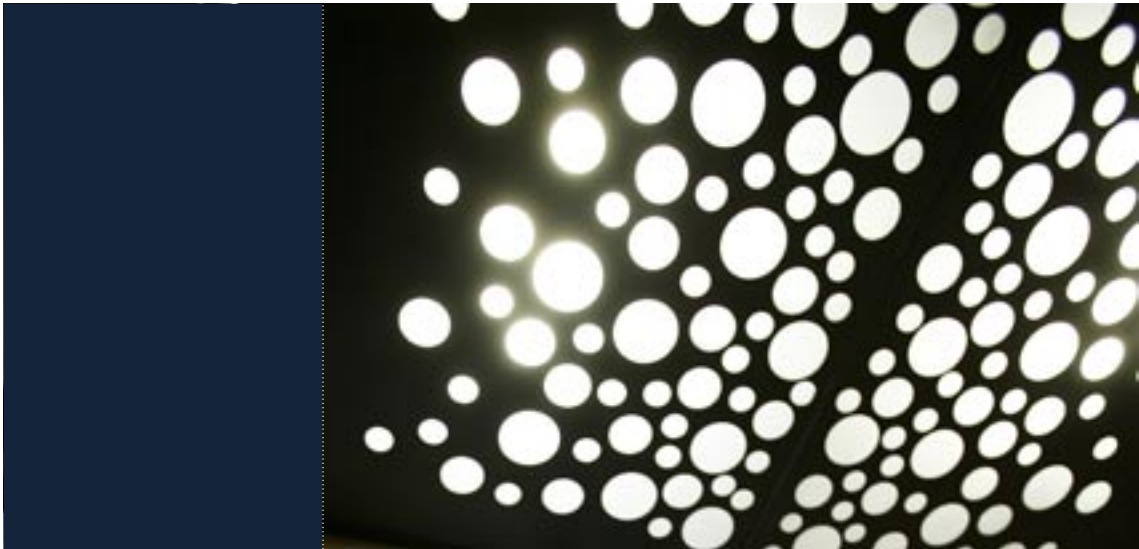
Focus areas in 2002

One of the themes given attention was the refugee and asylum issue. The emphasis on this theme was related to external grants because both the UNHCR and the EU granted research funds for projects related to the refugee and asylum issue. In April and August 2002, seminars financed by the UNHCR and the EU about asylum applications lodged through embassies were held. In October the research and development analysis carried out for the European Commission was completed, and on 10 December the report 'Study on the Feasibility of Processing Asylum Claims outside the EU' was presented at a meeting in Brussels. The report is now available on the Commission website, and will presumably be published in 2003.

In December 2002 the Nordic refugee seminar 'Asylum at Crossroads' was held as an element of the ongoing Nordic research on the refugee policy. The seminar was one of the activities organised under the Danish EU Presidency and was funded by the Danish Ministry of Integration. Another focus area was the economic, social and cultural rights. It was decided last spring to write a Danish anthology about social rights targeted at the Danish public.

A third focus area was the preparations for the European Union Human Rights Discussion Forum in connection with the Danish Presidency. The Centre contributed partly by seconding an employee to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, partly by preparing the presentations for two of the four workshops, which formed a significant element of the Forum. The Forum was held in December 2002.

In the spring of 2002, the Centre hosted five post-graduate students enrolled in the continued European collaboration on the European Master's Degree programme in human rights and democratisation (E.MA). One of the offers for these post-graduate students was a series of public seminars on human rights, counterterrorism and the infinity of justice. The involvement in the E.MA course takes place in collaboration with the University of Southern Denmark. The theme of the seminars held by the Centre itself in the autumn of 2002 was 'Theoretical Perspectives on Human Rights'.



Education and external activities

In addition to their involvement in the European Master's Degree programme in human rights and democratisation, the researchers of the Centre have also given regular lectures at the Centre's semi-annual internal courses on human rights. Universities and other educational institutions, human rights institutions, authorities and organisations in Denmark and abroad have also regularly used the researchers of the Centre as teachers or lecturers within their individual fields of expertise. This indicates that the Centre is deemed a significant supplier of academic expertise in the human rights field. Senior researchers are also involved in teaching and tutoring MA and LL.M. students from various universities and counselling Ph.D. students who contact the Centre for guidance. In 2002 an initiative was also taken to set up collaboration between the Centre and two Danish universities on two Ph.D. research projects. Finally several of the senior researchers at the Centre function as external examiners at universities and other educational institutions.

The preparation of consultation responses to Danish bills and to EU and international initiatives involving human rights is still an essential element of the research work. The preparation of consultation responses is based to a great extent on the research capacity and is intended as input for the preparatory work and a contribution to a well-informed debate about concrete Danish legislative initiatives. The political parties and

the parliamentary committees also sometimes request the lawyers of the Centre to elaborate on their consultation responses in connection with expert consultations on special legislative initiatives. As usual, all consultation responses can be found on the website of the Centre.

Finally the researchers of the Centre take part in the ongoing debate about human rights in Danish and international media, and some researchers have been actively involved in the EU-China dialogue and since 2002 also in the EU-Iran dialogue.

An objective of the Danish Centre for Human rights is "to establish independent Danish research efforts in the area of human rights law".

From the Statute of the Danish Centre for Human Rights.

Five guest researchers in the autumn of 2002

Adékoniyé Arsène Joël Adeloui, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

Wang Sixin, Pan Zhi Hua College, China

Dan Kuwali, Malawi Defence Force, Malawi

Dan Wei, Supreme People's Procuratorate of P.R.China, China

Yubaraj Sangroula, Kathmandu School of Law, Nepal

Areas of competency

Human rights standards

- Interaction between economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights – the concept of indivisibility of human rights
Ida Elisabeth Koch, LL.M. (cand.jur.), Ph.D., acting Head of Research Department
- Judicial power and protection of fundamental rights
Ida Elisabeth Koch, LL.M. (cand.jur.), Ph.D., acting Head of Research Department. In collaboration with Jens Vedsted-Hansen, Professor, LL.D. (dr.jur.), University of Aarhus, and others
- International law, human rights and nationality
Eva Ersbøll, LL.M. (cand.jur.)
- IT and human rights
Birgitte Kofod Olsen, LL.M. (cand.jur.), Ph.D.
- Business and human rights
Birgitte Kofod Olsen, LL.M. (cand.jur.), Ph.D.
- Suffrage rights and their roots in mixed legal traditions. Denmark and Western Europe from about 1790 to 1920
Anette Faye Jacobsen, MA (cand.phil.)
- The European Convention on Human Rights
Isi Foighel, Professor, LL.D. (dr.jur.), former judge of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg

Human rights in the development of society and capacity building

- Social reform in China
Hatla Thelle, MA (cand.mag.), Ph.D. in History and Chinese
- Human rights & business
Margaret Jungk, Ph.D. in Political Science, M.Phil. in International Relations

Human rights and protection of vulnerable groups

- Safe avenues to asylum? – The actual and potential role of EU diplomatic representations in processing asylum requests
Gregor Noll, LL.D. (dr.jur.), Deputy Director and Head of Research Department
- Theoretical foundations and current practices of refugee law in Europe

Gregor Noll, LL.D. (dr.jur.), Deputy Director and Head of Research Department

- Refugees in Denmark
Kim U Kjær, LL.M. (cand.jur.), Ph.D.
- Protection of family life
Stéphanie Lagoutte, DEA de droit public et comparé, DEA de droit pénal et politique criminelle en Europe, Ph.D.

Human rights in social and cultural practice

- NOÖ-Ethics (NOÖ = mind, conscience. Development of educational programme)
Zelim Skurbaty, LL.D. in International Law of Human Rights, Ph.D. in Social Anthropology
- Human rights history and the relationship between religious traditions and human rights
Eva Maria Lassen, MA (mag.art.) and Ph.D. in History

Research and Development Analyses

- Human rights and post-traditional/local norms and practices
Lone Lindholt, LL.M. (cand.jur.), Ph.D.
- National human rights institutions
Lone Lindholt, LL.M. (cand.jur.), Ph.D.
- Updating of Human Rights Indicators 2000. Country Data
Hans-Otto Sano, MA (cand.phil.), Ph.D. in Social Science, acting Head of Research Department
- Evaluation of police training in Uganda
Hans-Otto Sano, MA (cand.phil.), Ph.D. in Social Science, in collaboration with Chris Gale, International Department
- Manual for project indicators, monitoring and evaluation
Hans-Otto Sano, M.A. (cand.phil.), ph.d. in social science.
- Human rights and good governance
Hans-Otto Sano, MA (cand.phil.), Ph.D. in Social Science
- Democracy and poverty in southern Africa
Hans-Otto Sano, MA (cand.phil.), Ph.D. in Social Science, and Karin Poulsen, MSc, Head of Programme, International Department

Research Partnership Programme

The Research Partnership Programme is the guest researcher programme of the Centre. The programme enables the Centre to invite up to five guest researchers from developing countries to Denmark for periods ranging from three months to one year. Guest researchers form an integral part of the Centre's research staff and participate in the department's events. The Research Partnership Programme is intended to enable guest researchers to draft articles and the like in a research environment which promotes their activities. This means that the guest researchers work within the Research Department's areas of priority and that a researcher is attached to each guest researcher. The programme is accomplished in collaboration with the Danida Fellowship Centre, which is in charge of all practical and social initiatives in connection with the guest researchers' stays. The programme is financed through the cooperation agreement with Danida.



NATIONAL DEPARTMENT

The national secretariat was established as a secretariat unit in July 2002 to strengthen the work of protecting and promoting human rights and equality in Denmark. The activities focused on and launched in 2002 dealt with subjects:

- of relevance to all citizens
- of relevance to individuals of vulnerable groups

Private life, freedom of expression and access to information

It is essential to all citizens to open the debate about the limits of the individual's freedom in connection with the continued development of the information society. This applies both to private life and to freedom of expression and access to information. To contribute to this debate, the secretariat launched a book project on publication of an anthology about the concept of private life and started the preparations for a consensus conference on freedom of expression. The secretariat has also been involved in the Danish preparations for the UN World Summit on the Information Society to be held in December 2003.

Vulnerable groups

Persons who are vulnerable due to their ethnic origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or other causes often need greater focus on their legal and actual possibilities of enjoying their human rights. It has been necessary due to the coming implementation of two new EU Anti-discrimination Directives to prepare analytical and educational activities about the Directives, particularly about equal treatment and anti-discrimination. One of the activities launched by the secretariat is a diversity project developing principles of diversity management in public and private enterprises.

The chronically ill

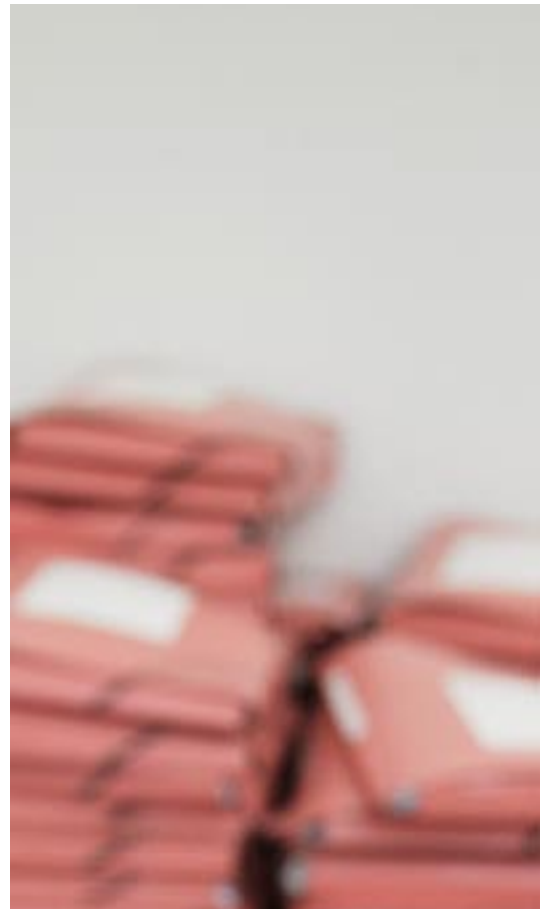
The legal position of the chronically ill in Denmark is a field that has been much discussed for many years. To contribute to the study and elucidation of the problem, the secretariat has prepared a legal analysis of the legal position of the chronically ill and held a round table with patient organisations and other stakeholders. This legal analysis will form the basis of a human rights research and development analysis in 2003.

Rights of children in Denmark

As regards the rights of children, the secretariat has launched a project about the development of indicators of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child to follow up on the work previously carried out by the Danish Centre for Human Rights. The objective of the project is to provide a better basis for assessing the living conditions and rights of children in Denmark as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in its latest evaluation of Denmark.

Rights of the disabled

The secretariat and the disability organisations have together started a debate about the legal position of the disabled with a view to completing a major research and development project, which will cover the legal position of disabled people under Danish law and function as input to the Danish contribution to an international disability convention.





Human Rights in Denmark – the annual status report

The secretariat is in charge of the annual status report 'Human Rights in Denmark', which was published on 10 December 2002. The intention of the report is to substantiate the implementation of human rights in Danish law and practice. The report also describes Danish legislative and Government initiatives, Danish court decisions, opinions of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, judgments and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and general opinions of the Council of Europe and the UN monitoring bodies and the opinions of these committees in concrete cases against Denmark.

Status 2002

Status reports have been published since 1999 and have also been translated into English. Both the Danish and the English versions are available for DKK 50 each, or they can be downloaded free of charge from: www.humanrights.dk

International bodies

The secretariat has also replied to a number of calls from UN bodies, including the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, and from the Council of Europe and the EU about protection of human rights in Denmark.

Other partners

In collaboration with the Danish Court Administration (Domstolsstyrelsen) and the German University of Trier, the secretariat also held a European conference on the defendant's rights in the autumn of 2002.

The ongoing collaboration with external players is an important contribution to the projects in which the secretariat is involved. Non-governmental organisations, ministries, researchers and others having hands-on or other special knowledge or experience with the subjects in which the secretariat is engaged are involved in the activities as sparring partners, reference groups, contributors or project partners.

Staff

The national secretariat has had two academic employees, two students and two part time principals from the Danish Ministry of Justice attached throughout the period. Since 1 November 2002 also a project manager and an additional student have worked for the unit.

An objective of the Danish Centre for Human rights is "to give advice to the Danish Parliament and ministries on Denmark's human rights obligations", and "based on an interdisciplinary approach, contribute independently to the further development and implementation of human rights, both nationally and internationally".

From the Statute of the Danish Centre for Human Rights.

INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

In 2002 the Department for Partnership Programmes was renamed into International Department. The international activities of the Centre were also subject to a capacity assessment. The evaluation was commissioned by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and conducted by T&B Consult. It was commenced at the end of 2001 and continued through April 2002. To scrutinise the international dimension, the survey was based partly on field studies in Malawi and Niger. The report was published in April 2002.

An important tool for evaluation of the international activities is the indicators relating to various aspects of the work of the Centre, which field is still given high priority.

The strengthening of the Centre's inter-departmental collaboration processes, particularly with the Research Department, is also one of the fields that have been expanded. This will be taken into consideration in future in the efforts of the Centre to consolidate the various fields and the competency development. Two researchers are already being funded under the Danish International Development Assistance programme (Danida) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and several researchers are used as consultants for partnership programmes, thereby constituting a link between the Research Department and the International Department. We will continue the work for a clear and unambiguous profile of the international activities, the Centre appearing as one and the same partner with few thematic programme areas rather than projects fragmented in several departments. This also includes the cooperation with our donors, among others the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including Danida and FRESTA, the Programme for Peace and Stability in South East Europe), the World Bank, the British Council, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the European Union.

In connection with the partnership concept, the book 'Partners in Progress' was published in 2002. It is based on interviews with partners about their opinions of their partnership with the Centre. See page 25. A follow-up publication, 'Partners in Progress II', is anticipated in 2003.

The future

The international work is organised in four main operating fields working with thematic programmes: reform of law and state; access to justice; civil society; and universities and research institutions. In addition to these main fields, a broad, inter-departmental collaboration exists between the Research, Education and Documentation Departments, the work on a

common theme being carried out by teams, such as the China Unit.

Due to the merger resulting in the Danish Centre for International Studies and Human Rights, the organisation was expanded with a Management Secretariat that was set up to work with international programme and project management. As from 2003 the Management Secretariat will launch a more systematic budgetary control in relation to projects. This will be effected through the implementation of an activity and resource management system.

Cooperation with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

EU Presidency

2002 was also the year when the Danish EU Presidency had top priority on the political agenda. The Centre contributed expertise in the human rights field to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The European Union Human Rights Discussion Forum

In December 2002 the Centre organised an EU conference, the *European Union Human Rights Discussion Forum*, on behalf of the European Commission and the Danish Presidency. The European Union Human Rights Discussion Forum, which was established in 1998 at the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is intended to strengthen the human rights dialogue between the EU and civil society, including NGOs.

About 150 persons from the civil society of EU Member and Applicant States, official representatives from Member States, international organisations and various European institutions, including the European Parliament, attended the 2002 Forum. The discussion focused mainly on the EU human rights policy, and the participants discussed the following themes in four different thematic working groups: Human rights clauses and measures in cooperation agreements with third countries; EU guidelines on the death penalty and torture; Evaluation and steps ahead; Transparency in EU human rights policy; and Cooperation with third countries: Policies relating to political means and external assistance programmes.

This Forum presented a wide range of specific recommendations. The preliminary version of the recommendations of the working groups can be found by using the Forum link on the website of the Centre, www.humanrights.dk.

International Conference for National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Ever more countries in the world get a national human rights institution based on the same fundamental principles as the Danish Centre for Human Rights, the so-called Paris Principles. In April 2002 the Sixth International Conference for National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights was held in Copenhagen and Lund, the purpose being to share experiences. The theme of the Conference was the role of national human rights institutions in combating racism and racial discrimination and was also follow-up on the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban in August and September 2001.

Council for International Development Cooperation

The Centre is also represented in the Danish Council for International Development Cooperation, whose task is to advise and counsel the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Council set up three working groups in 2002, one of which is to consider human rights issues in relation to 'global public goods'. Birgit Lindsnæs, Head of International Department, is the chairperson of this working group. The objective is to prepare a number of presentations for the Council in May 2003, which will presumably be published in a report shortly.

Human Rights Officers and Advisers Programme

The Centre continued its post-graduate programme Human Rights Officers in 2002. The programme is aimed at graduates who have obtained their university degree within the last four years. Human Rights Officers (HROs) are usually employed for a one-year period, one month of which is for an introduction course. Then the graduates are

seconded for about nine months to a human rights institution working with developing countries. Such HROs are attached to projects and partners of the Centre. Most HROs have several years of experience in securing qualified support to the projects. In 2001 it was also decided to hire *Human Rights Advisers* to assist our partner organisations. *Human Rights Advisers* differ from HROs by having specific knowledge in the field required by the partner organisation and the project, such as law, case processing and coaching, and thereby they can also function as counsellors to the Centre.

Experts/advisors seconded in 2002:

- The local office of the Danish Centre for Human Rights in Kigali, Rwanda
- Association Nigérienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (ANDDH) and University of Niamey, Faculty of Law, Niger
- Ministry of Interior in Cambodia
- International Service for Human Rights
- Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre in Lilongwe
- The Executive Secretariat of the Coordinating Instance for the Justice Sector in Guatemala City, Guatemala

The graduate programme is part of the Danida Cooperation Agreement



Iran dialogue

Since 2001, the Islamic Human Rights Commission in Iran (IHRC) and the Centre have together set up a framework for a joint human rights dialogue. The dialogue was started when Niels Helveg Petersen, the former Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited Iran in April 2000. During this visit it was agreed to establish cooperation between Danish and Iranian human rights institutions. So far two joint conferences on essential human rights aspects, including rights of women and freedom of expression, have been held. Moreover Morten Kjærum, Executive Director of the Danish Centre for Human Rights, visited the IHRC in 2001, and the Centre also hosted an Iranian delegation in the summer of 2002. Education, training and research activities have also been material elements. The project is funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In September 2002 European experts and officials visited Teheran for the purpose of assessing whether a human rights dialogue between the EU and Iran was feasible. The launch of a formal dialogue was recommended by both Iranians and the EU, and an EU-Iran Human Rights Secretariat has been set up at the Centre. The main purpose of the dialogue is to bring about concrete improvements of the human rights situation in Iran. Two dialogues have been planned for representatives of parliament, the judicial system, academics and civil society. The first dialogue was held in Teheran in December 2002, and the second dialogue will presumably be held in the spring of 2003.

Cambodia

The work of the Centre carried out in Cambodia has several human rights approaches. One element is an information campaign on the rule of law together with civil society partners. Another focus area is a reform of legislation and government institutions, which work has several elements:

One project is aimed at the elaboration of a shared vision for the justice sector of Cambodia, our partner being the Office of the Council of Ministers of Cambodia, Council for Legal and Judicial Reform. The purpose is to contribute to a reform of the justice sector of Cambodia relative to the Cambodian Constitution and international human rights standards. This cooperation with the justice sector was commenced at the end of 2001 when the Centre assisted the Cambodian Ministry of Interior in drafting the Bill for the country's Criminal Procedure Code. Part of the assistance was a strengthening of the Centre for Legal Drafting and Research of the Ministry. Subsequently an agreement has been concluded with the Cambodian Council of Ministers aiming at the preparation of a visionary document about a thorough reform of the entire justice sector.

This work continues in 2003.

The collaboration with the Cambodian Ministry of Interior has been difficult. The Centre for Legal Drafting and Research was fairly isolated relative to the top management of the Ministry, for which reason it had restricted impact. Moreover, the work on the Criminal Procedure Bill in Cambodia is done in a very nontransparent way.

The work is supervised by France, the former colonial power, and most of the work turned out to be carried out outside the borders of the country – in France. The capacity of the Centre for Legal Drafting and Research has, however, been strengthened in a number of important fields, and the involvement of the Ministry in the drafting of the Criminal Procedure Bill will be continued in 2003 in collaboration with Cambodian Defenders Project (CDP), one of the most prominent human rights NGOs in the country. A working group has been set up by the CDP and includes representatives of the Ministry of Interior. The working group is to draft comments to the Criminal Procedure Bill and identify loopholes and weaknesses of the Bill in the Cambodian context and is also, in relation to the Bill, to draft solutions in accordance with international legal doctrines. The Bill will be distributed to legislators, judicial authorities and the civil society for consultation. The outcome will be described in a report in Khmer and English together with the revised provisions. The Criminal Procedure Code revision was started in December 2002. The working group has now been formed and meets at regular intervals. The work is expected to finish in September 2003.

The work of the Council of Ministers has not, however, faced any barriers. The first draft value document – constitutional values to be used as the basis of the justice sector – was ready by the end of December as planned. The work will be continued in 2003.



Strategic coordination among case handling institutions in Malawi

By the adoption of the Malawian Constitution in 1994, several independent and specialised case handling institutions were established. These institutions all had authority to consider complaints of the public administration concerning alleged encroachments and infringements. Within the framework of this common, broad authority, the 13 participating institutions regulate specific areas such as alleged human rights infringements, poor administrative practices, corruption, election irregularities and infringement of labour rights, including disciplinary inquiries involving public officials.

The project led to the creation of the Body of Case Handling Institutions, whose objective is to build up capacity in the individual institutions and to enhance coordination between the case handling institutions. The Centre functions as the secretariat of this Body. The intention was to equip the individual member institutions with a tool to strengthen their internal case handling mechanisms as a prerequisite of being able to further develop the joint activities of the Body while strengthening the external inter-institutional case handling.

Today the external case handling mechanisms are in focus. A number of focus areas of the Body have been worded following a study of the priorities of the strategic plan of the individual institution. This method is intended to make sure that the Body focuses on the most relevant common needs and problems faced by its members.

In addition to publication of and follow-up on the individual strategic plans, the following focus areas of the Body have been defined: Implementation of a training programme on good case handling practices, including human rights and constitutional standards of case handling and specific methods such as mediation; development of a best practices case handling manual; development of a case handling system as a tool for the members; development of a strategic plan for the Body, that is, wording of a shared vision for case handling in Malawi; development of procedures and criteria for referral of cases between the members; and input to the current law reform of the framework legislation governing the institutions in collaboration with the relevant authorities, including the Public Service Act.



Examples of projects

Reform of law and state

- Scoping for Institutional Support to the Bosnian Ministry of Justice
- Elaboration of a Shared Vision for the Justice Sector of Cambodia
- Legal and Judicial Reform: Revision of the Criminal Procedure Code in relation to the Cambodian Police
- Strategic Planning for the Justice Sector of Guatemala
- Access to Justice, South Africa
- Juvenile Justice Platform
- Support to Justice Reform in Serbia
- Technical Assistance in relation to the Justice Sector's Planning Activities, Mozambique
- Strategic Planning for the Parliamentary Services of the National Parliament of South Africa
- Strategic Planning for the South African Ministry of Justice
- Technical Assistance to the Tanzanian Judiciary

Access to justice

- Support to the Secretariat of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Evaluation of the Paralegal Advisory Service in Malawi
- Strategic Coordination among Case Handling Institutions in Malawi
- Institutional and Organisational Capacity Building of the Malawi Office of the Ombudsman
- In-service Training and Deployment of Judicial Defenders in Rwanda
- Capacity Building of the Corps of Judicial Defenders in Rwanda
- Support to the Faculty of Law at the National University of Rwanda
- Establishment of a Secretariat for the Preparation of a Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice in Tanzania
- Legal Aid Consolidation in Nepal
- Capacity Development of the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal
- Legal Aid for Torture Victims, Sri Lanka
- Vietnam Legal Aid
- Evaluation of the Civil Rights Project in the Former Yugoslavia
- EU-Latin American/Caribbean Conference on the Work and Cooperation of Ombudsman Institutions
- The Sixth International Conference for National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
- Advancement of Litigation as a Key Component for Promoting Women's Rights (EU Daphne Project)
- Identification Mission concerning the Possible Cooperation between the Danish Centre for Human Rights and Vietnam Lawyers' Association

Civil society

- Strengthening of Human Rights NGOs in Malawi
- The Malawi Human Rights Resource Center (HRRC)
- Strengthening of Civil Society Network for the Promotion and Consolidation of Democratic Principles in Malawi
- Programme for Human Rights Capacity Building Measures in Mozambique
- Strengthening of Human Rights Activities in Niger
- Police training, Tanzania
- Identification Mission concerning Civil Society Cooperation in Afghanistan
- Media Campaign on Rule of Law, Cambodia
- Abused Women Support Group, China
- In-Service Training about Forced Child Labour, Nepal

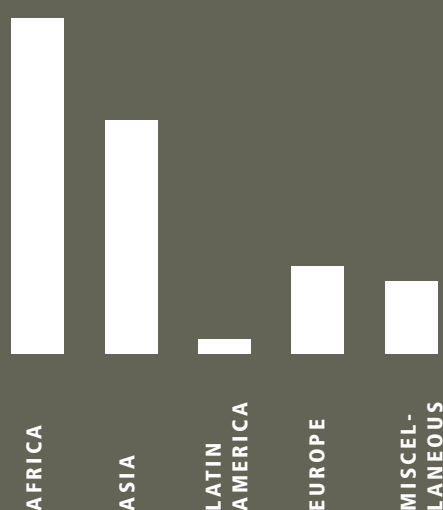
- Juvenile Justice, Vietnam
- Regional NGO Cooperation concerning Human Rights in Central Asia: Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan
- Human Rights Training of the Police in Albania
- Balkan Human Rights Network involving about 30 human rights organisations
- Targeted Public Awareness Campaigns in the Balkans concerning Legislative Reforms relating to Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

Research and universities

- Legal and Judicial Cooperation Programme in China
- EU Human Rights Discussion Forum, Copenhagen
- Evaluation of Project of Implementation of Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Malaysia and India
- Action Research Project on HIV, Gender and Human Rights in Seven Countries in Southern Africa
- Strengthening of Universities and Research Institutions of Southern Africa
- Cooperation with the UNESCO Chair about Administration and Documentation Unit in Benin
- Support to Master of Arts in Human Rights Programme, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda
- Cooperation with Post-Graduate University Human Rights Education Network in the East African and Great Lake Region

Facts about international activities

In 2002 the international activities of the Centre included involvement in 51 projects in Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia. Most of them are long-term projects. Furthermore there were specific activities such as conferences and seminars. 23 of the projects were in Africa, 16 in Asia, one in Latin America, six in Europe and five were miscellaneous projects. Project themes span from educational programmes to strategic planning, institution building, legal aid, network building and capacity building.



"The Centre shall, based on an interdisciplinary approach, contribute independently to the further development of human rights, both nationally and internationally."

From the Statute of the Danish Centre for Human Rights.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The human rights education of the Centre has two focus areas, both nationally and internally: ‘general issues’ aimed at human rights professionals and ‘thematic aspects’ aimed at representatives of the justice sector. The work involves the organising of courses, development of material and curricula, implementation and evaluation of the effect.

The Danish activities include:

- Lower secondary school, involving cooperation with the National Innovative Centre (Statens Pædagogisk Forsøgscenter)
- The Danish National Police College, the Centre being in charge of the basic human rights training
- The Danish Emergency Management Agency (Beredskabsstyrelsen), focus being on international humanitarian law interface cases
- Basic courses for Danish NGOs, officials and organisation employees
- Theme courses for Danish organisations
- Lecturing at educational institutions and with organisations

The international activities include:

- Development of teaching material for the police in 15 countries about policing and human rights
- Training of prosecutors, defence lawyers and judges, particularly in China and Vietnam
- Basic courses for representatives of the Centre’s partner organisations
- Theme courses for international NGOs

International networks

The Centre seeks to support the sharing of experiences on human rights teaching through the establishment of international networks.

Democracy and diversity

To strengthen the human rights education of the lower secondary schools, the Centre and the British Council in Denmark have established the network ‘Democracy and Diversity’, which is aimed at anchoring the human rights concept in the European ‘citizen education’ initiatives. This network is intended for teachers and educational

planners working with citizenship education and comprises Denmark, Great Britain, South Africa, Lithuania and Rumania at present.

European Platform for Policing and Human Rights

The Centre has been active in connection with the initiatives of the Council of Europe concerning ‘police and human rights’ since 1998. So far this work has resulted in the development of educational material which has been distributed by the Council of Europe to its Member States in their national languages.

In collaboration with the Danish Police, the Centre has launched an initiative for setting up a European platform, the European Platform for Policing and Human Rights, where police forces and human rights organisations meet and share experiences.

The Platform is connected to the police project of the Council of Europe ‘Police and Human Rights Beyond 2000’, whose director is also the chairperson of the Platform coordination group. Various subgroups of the Platform focus on special topics, such as ‘Policing in a Democratic Society’, ‘Multicultural Policing’ and ‘Human Rights of Police Officers’.

To support the Platform, the Centre and the Danish Police have together set up a secretariat at the Centre to coordinate the activities of the Platform, gather information about relevant material and manage the Platform website www.epphr.dk.

Human rights education

The Centre organises both national and international courses about various human rights topics. In 2002, courses were held and lectures given in Denmark at both lower and upper secondary schools and universities and for ministerial officials and organisations.

Each year the Centre organises two international 15-day courses for human rights activists and officials working with this subject in countries having cooperation projects with the Centre.

One example is the adult educational basic courses for non-trained teachers involved in teaching human rights standards and values to their own professional groups. Such courses have been held in China, Albania and Niger.

Moreover the Centre has taught the Danish Emergency Management Agency and police officers in Denmark and in a number of countries such as Mozambique, Uganda, Malawi and Albania.

More than 1,000 students

This year 1,060 Danish and foreign students attended 49 long courses held over 39 weeks. To this comes the audience at many lectures and visits.

National Courses

Education for lower and upper secondary pupils

The Centre has held ten courses for lower secondary pupils (8th to 10th form) about the rights of children based on the teaching material 'Game of Coincidences' (Tilfældighedernes Spil). A preparatory course for the class teachers has also been held. All courses are organised in collaboration with the National Innovative Centre in Denmark.

Lectures have also been given at upper secondary schools all over Denmark.

Education for university students

The Centre has had several visits from Danish university students. In connection with these visits, the Centre has given a general introduction to human rights and to its work. As an example, law students from the Universities in Aarhus and Copenhagen have received presentations on law reforms in third world countries.

Courses for Danish institutions and organisations

Two courses for Danish officials, organisation employees and others were held in 2002. The courses introduced the essential human rights instruments and mechanisms as well as central subjects, such as human rights and development. The two courses had a total of 50 participants.

Course for Democracy Fund students

In connection with the fellowship programme of the Democracy Fund (Demokratifonden) under the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, five persons from China, Namibia, Liberia and Zambia visited Denmark for 8 to 12 weeks. During this programme, the five persons attended a one-week course in May on 'Democracy and Human Rights', which was organised by the Danish Centre for Human Rights as an external consultant.

Courses for the Danish Emergency Management Agency and the Royal Danish Defence College

The Centre has made presentations about the interface between human rights and international humanitarian law at four courses held by the Emergency Management Agency and at in-service training courses at the Royal Danish Defence College (Forsvarsakademiet).

Course for DanChurchAid in Denmark

Introductory course on human rights and the political situation in the Middle East for observers in Palestine/Israel sent out by DanChurchAid (Folkekirkens Nødhjælp) and the World Council of Churches.

For more about coming courses see www.humanrights.dk

International Courses

Human rights course

The two annual human rights courses give an introduction to the most important international and regional human rights instruments. Moreover a number of theme days are held, focusing on subjects such as human rights of women, prevention of torture, rights of refugees, teaching of human rights and national implementation.

Approximately 35-40 persons attended each of the two courses.

Adult training methodology

The Centre has provided lecturers for the adult educational basic courses for non-trained teachers involved in teaching human rights standards and values to their own professional groups. Such courses were held in China, Albania and Niger.

Evaluation of educational programmes

The Centre held two evaluation technique courses, particularly for the purpose of assessing the effect of the human rights education. The courses were based on the participants' own experiences from police training in Mozambique, Uganda, Malawi and Albania.

UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

In collaboration with the organisation Anti-Racism Information Service (ARIS), the Centre held a course for Central and East European organisations regarding the preparation of alternative reports for the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The course was intended to enhance the participants' capacity to write alternative reports that can be used by the Committee for its assessment of reports from States Parties. The course was held in close cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Justice sector education

National courses

Police College courses

The Centre contributes to a course for third-year students of the basic training at the Danish National Police College. The basic training course comprises six lessons and is incorporated in the general curriculum of the Police College. The course is based on teaching material prepared specifically for the Police College by the Education Department of the Centre.

Seminar for senior police and public officials in Denmark

For the Police College seminar for senior police and public officials, the Centre provided a lecture on the subject 'Human Rights and the Danish Police'.

International courses

Development of police manual

In connection with the development of manuals on policing and human rights, seminars have been held in Niger, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro and Croatia.

EU-China courses

These courses are elements of the comprehensive training programme for Chinese prosecutors and lawyers 'EU-China Legal and Judicial Programme'. The courses are funded by the EU and are one element of the cooperation between the British Council and the Centre.

Vietnam course

Together with the Director of Public Prosecutions in Denmark and the Danish National Police College, the Centre has come to an agreement in connection with the Danida legal reform project in Vietnam, the Joint Project Support Office, on a three-week course for Vietnamese prosecutors in Denmark.

"An objective of the Danish Centre for Human rights is to arrange and promote human rights education at all levels, including general education."

From the Statute of the Danish Centre for Human Rights.





INFORMATION

Youth for Human Rights is a European youth network established at the initiative of the Centre in 2001 in collaboration with the Danish Youth Council (Dansk Ungdoms Fællesråd), the Danish Crown Prince Frederik and Walter Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe being the protectors. The network comprises about 100 young people – a young man and a young woman from every Member State of the Council of Europe. The young people were to attend an Internet debate on the conception of a European Plan of Action describing how the young people can contribute to promoting democracy and human rights in Europe.

The culmination of the Internet debate was a conference in Copenhagen in November 2002 where the young people adopted and signed the Plan of Action. During the Conference in Copenhagen the young participants handed over the Plan of Action to Per Stig Møller, the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs in his capacity as EU President, as the contribution of young people to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Conference received financial support from the Democracy Fund (Demokratifonden) of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish Board for EU Enlightenment (Nævnet vedrørende EU-oplysning). The Plan of Action can be found on the website www.youthhumanrights.net, which is still the pivot of information dissemination and debate about the Youth for Human Rights initiative.

Publications

2002 was a productive year in which the Centre sent 41 publications on the market: 15 books, ten reports, five brochures and journals, a CD-ROM and ten news updates. Employees of the Centre also wrote a total of 71 articles for books published by others.

IT and human rights

In 2002 the Centre was the project manager of six national and international websites. Furthermore, in collaboration with a number of Danish humanitarian organisations the Centre was involved in the construction of the IT network, ERFA, intended for sharing experiences concerning information technology.

Six web sites

The Centre's own website www.humanrights.dk has both a Danish and an English version. It provides information on the Centre's fields of work, publications and other activities. Detailed information about most of the information given in this Annual Report can also be found on the website, which also lists all staff, country projects, research fields and statements and consultation responses from the Centre related to Danish legislation.

At the end of 2000 the Centre launched a comprehensive multimedia website in collaboration

with seven other Danish organisations. Some of the possibilities on www.menneskeret.dk are access to information and news on themes and conventions, and some interactive features. Danish newspapers and the DR, the Danish Broadcasting Corporation, contribute daily news within the human rights field.

www.menneskeret.dk has received financial support from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. In 2002 www.menneskeret.dk dealt with 12 different themes, publishing for each theme an electronic journal with a mix of articles, radio interviews, television broadcasts, quizzes, chat and other on-line activities. Some of the themes were 'Crimes against Humanity', 'Married – out of Desire or for Fear', 'Terror', 'Public Service' and 'Music and Censorship'. When Status 2002 about the human rights situation in Denmark was published on 10 December, the Centre set up a novelty, an on-line service for citizens wanting to ask questions about Status 2002. A Danish sit-com 'Dagens menneskeret' (the daily human right) starring famous Danish actors was also broadcast on Danish television channels in December. www.menneskeret.dk was awarded the prize as Top of the Web at a competition in 2002 held by the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

www.nordichumanrights.net is a cooperation project between the Nordic human rights institutes supported financially by the Nordic Council of Ministers. It is an Internet portal with information on major events, book publications, debate forum and various themes, which in 2002 were education and human rights, human rights in Europe, and economic, social and cultural rights.

The fourth Internet project is www.youthhuman-right.net, which is a debate forum for over 100 young people from all Member States of the Council of Europe. Their task is to draft a Plan of Action for human rights and democracy in Europe on the basis of the European Convention on Human Rights and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The fifth website is www.humanrights.dk/human-rightsbusiness which supports a comprehensive research project on human rights and business carried out in collaboration with the Confederation of Danish Industries (Dansk Industri) and the Industrialization Fund for Developing Countries (Industrialiseringsfonden for Udviklingslandene).

The sixth large website is the project on development of a website for the National Human Rights Institutions Forum. This project is funded by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and commenced in 2001 in collaboration between its National Institutions Team and the Danish Centre for Human Rights, the primary aim being to establish a web portal, www.nhri.net, for the national human rights institutions, and also to assist the national human rights institutions in setting up national websites.

www.humanrights.dk

Website of the Danish Centre for Human Rights. Both a Danish and an English version are available. More than 95,000 visits in 2002.

www.menneskeret.dk

Comprehensive website about human rights in Denmark and Europe. More than 220,000 visits in 2002. Supported financially by the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

www.youthhumanrights.net

Debate forum for 100 young Europeans about a plan of action for human rights and democracy in Europe.

www.nordichumanrights.net

An IT cooperation project between the five Nordic human rights institutes in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland. Supported financially by the Nordic Council of Ministers. More than 25,000 visits in 2002.

www.nhri.net

Official website of 50 national human rights institutions. Supported financially by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

www.humanrights.dk/humanrightsbusiness

Research project on human rights and business.

Human Rights and Good Governance

Editors: Hans-Otto Sano and Gudmundur Alfredsson in collaboration with Robin Clapp

Through 12 authors' contributions, this book aims at illustrating cohesion or conflicts between good governance and human rights. The subject is seen from both a legal and a wider socio-scientific view. One general argument of the book is that good governance is a standard just like human rights, which applies to governments and rulers in both the South and the North. Another argument is that there is a real risk of conflict between good governance and human rights when good governance is defined in the narrowest sense as administration of the public sector.

Martinus Nijhoff Publishers

261 pages, 2002. DKK 350.00

ISBN 90-411-1777-6

The Sixth International Conference for National Human Rights Institutions

Preparation: Lisbeth Garly Andersen

Following up on the Sixth International Conference for National Human Rights Institutions, held in Copenhagen and Lund on 10 to 13 April 2002, a publication about the Conference has been made. It reproduces addresses to and minutes of the various working groups and plenary presentations. The publication also brings the results of a questionnaire study carried out by the Danish Institute for Human Rights during the Conference. The overall theme of the Conference, at which 61 countries were represented, was the role of national human rights institutions in combating racial discrimination. In this way the Conference followed up on the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban in August and September 2001.

The Danish Centre for Human Rights

198 pages, 2002. Free

ISBN 87-90744-55-1

Partners in Progress

Editors: Birgit Lindsnæs and Tomas Martin

This book presents a selection of the partners and projects of the Danish Centre for Human Rights, such as a training project alleviating the lack of defenders in Rwanda, police reform in Cambodia and capacity building support to NGOs in Estonia.

The Danish Centre for Human Rights

92 pages, 2002. DKK 50.00

ISBN 87-90744-44-6

Menneskerettens udfordring – ideologi eller videnskab? (Human Rights Challenge – Ideology or Science?)

Editor: Kirsten Hastrup

This book gives an overview of the history of international legal instruments and a thorough discussion of the status of human rights as an international source of law and a universal ethical standard. The book is written by various researchers in fields like anthropology, jurisprudence and international health and can be read as a contribution to an open and critical debate on the validity and potential of human rights.

Akademisk Forlag

213 pages, 2002. DKK 268.00

ISBN 87-500-3691-2

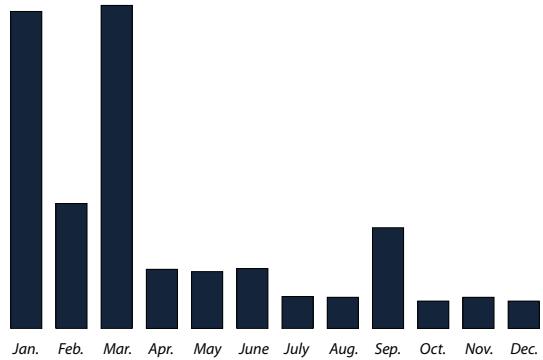


The public debate

There is a steadily increasing human rights debate in both Danish and foreign media. The Centre does not register every single reference in Denmark, but as an example more than 400 selected news items were contributed by the four dailies which provide articles to the website www.menneskeret.dk.

The Danish Centre for Human Rights was mentioned 1,581 times in the written press, which covers Danish dailies, magazines and journals. Five of these were feature articles written by Centre staff. The Centre was mentioned 276 times in the new web media.

46 public meetings, seminars and conferences were held and organised by the Centre. In addition Centre staff gave 157 lectures on various human rights subjects in other organisations and at schools and other institutions. Finally, 58 statements and opinions were written by researchers of the Centre concerning Danish human rights issues in connection with bills and the like.



Dailies 710

Magazines 54

Local newspapers 54

WWW 276

Press Coverage Statistics for 2002:
References to the Centre in Danish media



National Human Rights Institutions Forum

www.nhri.net, the National Human Rights Institutions Forum, is a venture between the National Institutions Team of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Danish Centre for Human Rights, the primary aim being to set up a web portal for the national human rights institutions. The national institutions welcomed the outcome with great satisfaction. In 2002 the web portal grew to comprise more than 200 documents from global, regional and national sources and links to the 50-odd national institutions. The web portal expands and supports the global network between the national institutions and the global and regional forums and contributes therefore to stronger ties between the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the national human rights institutions.

The primary user group comprises the national institutions, and in each of the first months the portal had around 800 users. After the Sixth International Conference for National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (April 2002) when the portal was introduced to all the national human rights institutions and linked to the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, this figure increased to about 3,500 each month. Since August the monthly number of users has increased to more than 5,000 from more than 90 different countries.

For building up the capacity of the websites of the national institutions, assistance was provided to the Malawi Human Rights Commission, the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal, the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia and the Rwanda National Human Rights Commission. All these four commissions received a ready-made Content Management System with an individual design and training in use of the system and in web management in general. The Mongolian and Nepalese websites are in operation, and the other two are expected to be ready in the first half of 2003.

The project is funded by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Queries to 'Kloge Åge' (the bright boy)

On the Danish website www.menneskeret.dk everybody can ask questions about human rights to the Centre staff. The Centre received about 450 different inquiries from the Danish public in 2002. This gives an average of about nine queries each week.

See www.menneskeret.dk/menneskeretieuropa/klogeage

"The information work of the Centre is to ensure external information and support internal communication. The overall objective is to communicate knowledge of the Centre's research achievements and other activities, including in general to communicate knowledge on human rights."

From the Strategic Plan of the Centre

Lectures by Subject

157 lectures were given in 2002. All subjects presented less than three times are listed under miscellaneous.

Human rights in general	55
Terrorism and human rights	11
The European human rights system	10
Rule of law	9
The Danish Centre for Human Rights	8
Democracy and development	9
Refugee law	7
Economic, social and cultural rights	5
Implementation of human rights	5
Methodical research in human rights	5
Religion and human rights	4
Rights of women	4
Discrimination	4
Miscellaneous	21
Total	157

Conferences and seminars

Below is a list of 45 conferences, seminars and events organised by the Centre alone or together with others in 2002.

February

- Public series of lectures: Human Rights, Counterterrorism and the Infinity of Justice. Introduction by Gregor Noll.
- Public series of lectures: Human Rights, Counterterrorism and the Infinity of Justice. Morten Kjærum: 'Which side are you on? Counterterrorism as a Challenge for the Human Rights Movement.'
- Public series of lectures: Human Rights, Counterterrorism and the Infinity of Justice. Fergus Kerrigan: 'Choices and Strategies for Prosecution: the ICC, Military Tribunals and the Right to a Fair Trial.'

March

- Semi-annual three-week human rights course for representatives from international partner organisations.
- EU-China – Lawyers I: Course for Chinese lawyers. Human rights course for voluntary observers from the World Council of Churches in collaboration with DanChurchAid.
- Public series of lectures: Human Rights, Counterterrorism and the Infinity of Justice. Birgitte Kofod Olsen: 'Counterterrorist Legal Proposals in Danish and EU Law.'
- Public series of lectures: Human Rights, Counterterrorism and the Infinity of Justice. Isi Foighel: 'Terrorism in the Case Law of the ECtHR.'

April

- EU-China – Lawyers II: Course for Chinese lawyers.
- Course on democracy and human rights for students with a Danida scholarship from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Public series of lectures: Human Rights, Counterterrorism and the Infinity of Justice. George Ulrich: 'The Ethics of Armed Political Struggle – Delimiting the Concept of Terrorism.'
- The Sixth International Conference for National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights: The role of national human rights institutions in combating racial discrimination. The participants were 61 national human rights institutions from all over the world. Brian Burdekin of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Per Stig Møller, Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs, were among the lecturers. Held in collaboration with the Swedish Ombudsman Against Ethnic Discrimination.
- International seminar: Autonomist and Integrationist Approaches to Minority Protection. Joint UN Working Group on Minorities.
- Public series of lectures: Human Rights, Counterterrorism and the Infinity of Justice. Jens Vedsted-Hansen: 'The Limits of the Political? Extradition of Citizens and Exclusion from Asylum in the Light of the Counterterrorist Debate.'

May

- Human rights course for Danish institutions and organisations.
- Public series of lectures: Human Rights, Counterterrorism and the Infinity of Justice. One-day seminar: 'Challenges to Democracy.' With Susan Marks, Cambridge University, Andreas Paulus, Munich University, and Ida Elisabeth Koch and Hans-Otto Sano, the Centre.
- Seminar in Bulgaria for representatives from the Bulgarian police and NGOs in connection with the Balkan Police Manual Project. In collaboration with the funding programme FRESTA.

June

- Legal aid course for representatives of the Chinese legal system.
- Course on evaluation of training projects held in Denmark and Mozambique for representatives of international partner organisations.
- Leading police officers from Albania visited Copenhagen in

connection with the project on teaching of human rights to the Albanian police.

- Meetings with delegation from the Iranian Human Rights Commission in connection with the dialogue between the Centre and the Islamic Human Rights Commission.
- Danish book seminar about the publication of 'Menneskerettens Udfordring' (The Challenge of Human Rights).
- Presentation of the Danish version of the UNHCR Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status.
- Seminar on the role of national human rights institutions in implementing the economic, social and cultural rights. Held in Beijing in connection with the EU-China dialogue.

August

- Seminar in Niger for representatives from the Nigerien police and NGOs in connection with the Nigerien Police Manual Project.
- Human rights course for voluntary observers from the World Council of Churches in collaboration with DanChurchAid.
- Course on adult training methodology held in Niger for activists from the ANDDH.

September

- Semi-annual three-week human rights course for representatives from international partner organisations.
- EU-China Prosecutors: Course for Chinese public prosecutors.
- Training session in Dak Lak, Vietnam, for Vietnamese Legal Aid lawyers. Presentation by Basil Fernando from the Asian Human Rights Commission. In collaboration with the National Legal Aid Agency, Vietnam.

October

- Conference in Teheran in connection with the dialogue between the Centre and the Islamic Human Rights Commission.
- Seminar on national human rights institutions in connection with the EU-China dialogue.
- Human rights course at the National Innovative Centre in Denmark for lower secondary school teachers and pupils.

November

- Human rights course for Danish institutions and organisations.
- Human rights course for Vietnamese prosecutors.
- Test course on diversity management for teachers, educationalists and social workers. In collaboration with the Danish Board for Ethnic Equality (Nævnet for Etnisk Ligestilling).
- Seminar on diversity in education for representatives of the educational system in Great Britain, Lithuania, Rumania and Denmark. In collaboration with the British Council.
- European Youth Conference with 20 participants from both Eastern and Western Europe from the Youth for Human Rights network. In collaboration with the Danish Youth Council.

December

- Course on shadow reporting in Geneva for NGO representatives.
- Seminar: Asylum at Crossroads attended by officials, researchers and lawyers.
- Nordic Refugee Seminar 2002. In collaboration with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Course on evaluation of training projects held in Denmark and Mozambique for representatives of international partner organisations.
- Training session in Hanoi, Vietnam, for Vietnamese Legal Aid lawyers. Presentation by Basil Fernando from the Asian Human Rights Commission. In collaboration with the National Legal Aid Agency, Vietnam.
- Workshop for the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal on national legislation compared to international human rights standards. In collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal.
- EU Human Rights Forum. The opening address was given by Morten Kjærum. Organised in collaboration with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For further details on each event see www.humanrights.dk

DOCUMENTATION

The documentation work of the Centre must ensure that knowledge on human rights, nationally and internationally, is available in the most efficient way to both internal and external users. The documentation work is to be performed, e.g., by the means made available by information technology.

Denmark's human rights library

The library is the only special library in Denmark within the human rights field. The library collection includes descriptions of the human rights situation in other countries and works of a legal, philosophical, political and developmental nature. In 2002 the library completed 2,823 lending transactions. Please note that the total number of user visits is considerably larger, as the library only records the inquiries for which the library staff provides assistance.

Documentation network

The Centre participates in the European network, the European Coordination Committee on Human Rights Documentation (ECCHRD), and was represented at its annual meeting in Geneva last May. The Centre also participates in the working group 'Information Management' under another European network named the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI). The Centre was also represented at its annual meeting in Ljubljana last September. Moreover, as in previous years, the Centre has been represented on the Board of the international human rights documentation network HURIDOCS (Human Rights Information and Documentation System). The library uses the HURIDOCS standard format for bibliographical references for recording library stock in the database of the library.

Opening hours: The library is open all weekdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for external users.

Courses

The Centre held a two-week course on human rights documentation in October 2002. The participants came from Albania, Cameroon, Malawi, Germany and Uzbekistan. A course has also been held on electronic information searches for research partners of the Centre, and document searching has been taught at the international human rights course of the Centre. To this comes a number of library introduction sessions held for law students from the University of Aarhus in Denmark and for guests from China, Nigeria and other countries.

Other activities

Consultancy assistance has been provided to the projects of the International Department in Malawi and Nepal in the form of education, preparation of purchase lists, preparation of classification systems and advice concerning hardware and software.

An objective of the Danish Centre for Human rights is "to secure up-to-date public library and documentation facilities".

From the Statute of the Danish Centre for Human Rights.

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE LIBRARY

<i>Inquiries:</i>	2,823
<i>Books::</i>	10,750
<i>Journal articles:</i>	2,307
<i>Journals:</i>	300
<i>Annual reports:</i>	200

The book database of the library can be searched on www.humanrights.dk





Foundations and Contributors

In 2002 individual projects and activities received support from the following institutions and foundations, which the Centre would like to thank for their kind contributions:

British Council

Danida (Danish International Development Assistance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Democracy Fund (Demokratifonden)

German Institute for Human Rights

UK Department for International

Development (DFID)

European Union

DanChurchAid (Folkekirkens Nødhjælp)

Danish Research Councils (Forskningsrådene)

FRESTA (Programme for Peace and Stability in South East

Europe, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

International Rehabilitation Council for

Torture Victims (IRCT)

Nordic Council of Ministers

Board for EU Enlightenment (Nævnet

vedrørende EU-oplysning)

Norwegian Agency for Development

Cooperation (NORAD)

Office of the High Commissioner for

Human Rights (OHCHR)

Organisation for Security and Co-

operation in Europe (OSCE)

Penal Reform International

Shell

SIDA (Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs)

Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

UNHCHR

DaneAge Association, Denmark (Ældresagen)

"The work on finances, human resources and internal logistics must ensure dynamic support of the Centre's strategies at centre, department and personal level. At the same time it is essential to serve the partners of the Centre rapidly and at a high professional level."

From the Strategic Plan of the Centre

FINANCES

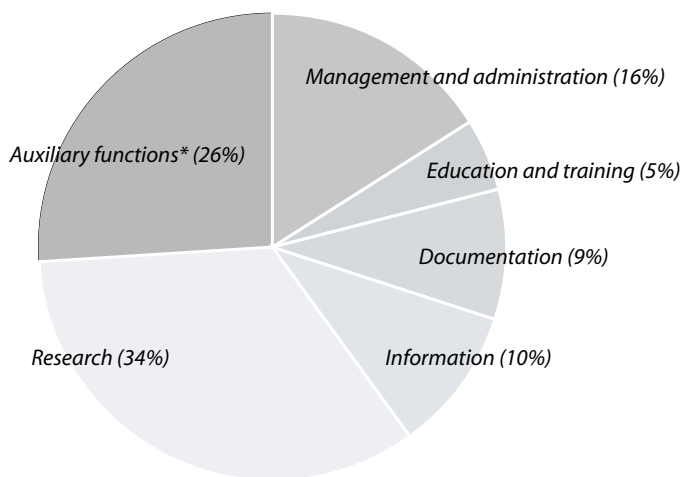
The Centre had a total turnover (receipts less savings) of DKK 85.6 million in 2002 against DKK 87.6 million in 2001. The Danish Finance Act appropriation was reduced by DKK 5 million compared with 2001, mainly due to the fact that in 2001 the Centre was granted a supplementary appropriation to cover relocation costs. In 2002 more project activities were financed externally than in 2001, which corresponded to an increase of DKK 2.3 million.

The ratio between ordinary activities (23% of the expenditure) and the externally financed activities (77%) is almost unchanged from the last two years. Most of the external funding (70%) came from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The following model shows the Finance Act appropriation broken down into categories.

Expenditure in 2002

Ordinary activities

Finance Act appropriation broken down into categories



* Covers expenses for rent, cleaning, IT, telephony, stamps and fixtures and fittings

In 2002 the Centre defrayed expenses over external accounts for DKK 65.4 million, exclusive of commercial activities. The financial highlights of the Centre compared with the three former years are reproduced on the next page.

Financial statements, Finance Act	1999 DKK	2000 DKK	2001 DKK	2002 DKK
Receipts				
Finance Act	10,900,000	13,500,000	18,200,000	13,200,000
From external grants *	3,348,900	4,624,741	6,250,796	7,032,590
Sales of goods and services	122,873	114,250	89,376	226,735
Brought forward from last year	548,515	203,926	334,673	122,095
Total	<u>14,920,288</u>	<u>18,442,917</u>	<u>24,874,845</u>	<u>20,581,420</u>
Expenditure				
Salaries	9.109,600	10.422,358	11.701,257	10.709,778
Purchase of goods and services	2.794,486	4.701,061	6.080,904	3.458,944
Acquisition of materials	812,030	754,713	1.600,319	852,945
Rent, maintenance, etc.	1.983,053	2.030,212	5.356,635	4.883,495
Sundry operating expenses	<u>17,193</u>	<u>199,900</u>	<u>13,635</u>	<u>24,090</u>
Total	<u>14.716,362</u>	<u>18.108,244</u>	<u>24.752,750</u>	<u>19.929,252</u>
Carried forward	203,926	334,673	122,095	652,168

Financial statements, external grants	1999 DKK	2000 DKK	2001 DKK	2002 DKK
Receipts				
Appropriations	39,150,646	44,458,415	63,056,175	65,146,807
Brought forward from last year**	2,949,774	2,780,412	241,405	241,405
Total	<u>42,100,420</u>	<u>47,238,827</u>	<u>63,297,580</u>	<u>65,388,212</u>
Expenditure				
Salaries	9,540,478	11,562,763	15,805,538	17,830,626
Purchase of goods and services	9,890,356	12,485,271	19,471,145	21,535,804
Acquisition of materials	300,564	315,234	369,009	157,839
Rent, maintenance, etc.	123,490	300,135	167,950	300,158
Sundry operating expenses	<u>16.116,220</u>	<u>17,708,578</u>	<u>20,991,737</u>	<u>18,531,195</u>
Internal transfers *	3,348,900	4,624,741	6,250,796	7,032,590
Total	<u>39,320,008</u>	<u>46,997,422</u>	<u>65,056,175</u>	<u>65,388,212</u>
Carried forward **	2,780,412	241,405	241,405	0

* Internal state transfers.

** Rules for carrying forward external grants were amended as from 2000.

THE CENTRE IN BRIEF

The Centre's multidisciplinary access to human rights is reflected in the comprehensive expertise of the staff. The staff, which numbered 78 employees in 2002 as well as temporarily attached students, interns and guest researchers, has professionals from a large range of disciplines: lawyers, anthropologists, teachers, economists, journalists, librarians and others. Centre employees were represented in 71 national and international working groups, committees and delegations.

The day-to-day management is performed by the Executive Director, and in his absence by the Deputy Director.

Management of the Centre is performed by a board, which draws up the overall guidelines for the Centre in respect of budgets, action programmes and employment of academic staff. The Board has 12 members, elected for three years at a time. Six members are appointed by Danish universities and six by the Council of the Centre.

The Council gives advice and guidance in relation to the general activities of the Centre. The Council is composed of representatives of just over 60 Danish humanitarian organisations, all political parties of the Danish Parliament, labour market organisations, the General Council of the Bar in Denmark (Advokatrådet), Danish ministries and individuals and groups. The Council is an advisory

body and can thus make proposals to the Board. The Centre also houses three independent partners: the secretariat of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), the International Media Support and Freemuse, which is an international organisation working with music and censorship.

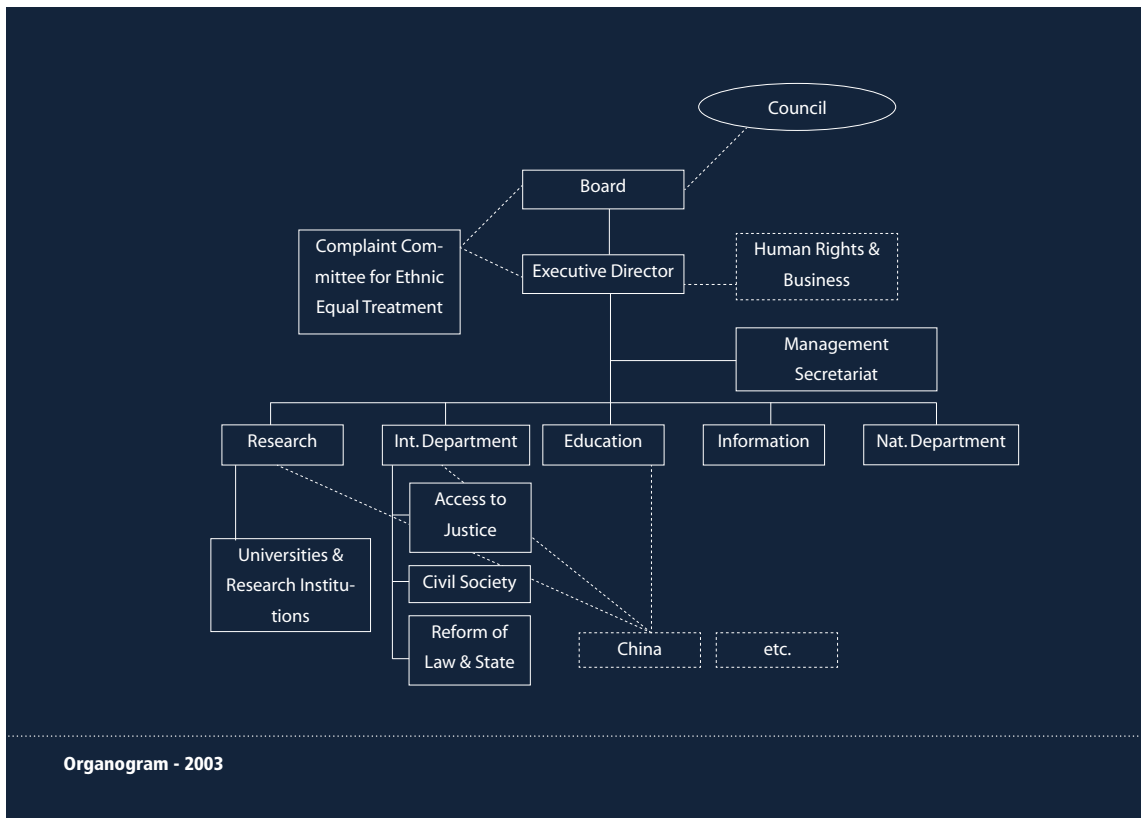
For further information on staff, management, departments, the Statute and the Strategic Plan see www.humanrights.dk

Management of the Centre

The Chairperson of the Board is professor Claus Haagen Jensen, Aalborg University (Denmark). The Chairperson of the Council is Bjørn Elmquist, attorney, and the Vice-chairperson is Ebba Strange. The Executive Director of the Centre is Morten Kjærum.

Heads of Department

Administration: Ole K Nielsen
 Documentation: Agnethe Olesen
 Research: Gregor Noll
 Information: Klaus Slavensky
 International Department: Birgit Lindsnæs
 National Department: Birgitte Kofod Olsen
 Education: Diego Bang



External groups, committees and delegations

Centre employees were represented in more than 70 national and international networks.

Treatment centres

The Board of OASIS

The Board of the Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims (Rehabiliterings- og Forskningscentret for Torturofre) and its Scientific Committee (RCT's Videnskabelige Udvalg)

The Board of CEPAR, the Danish Center for Psycho-Social Assistance to Refugees and Immigrants (Center for psykosocialt arbejde med flygtninge og indvandrere)

Chairperson of the Board of the Supportive Danish support centre against incest (Støttecenter mod incest i Danmark)

Rights of children

The Cooperation Group on the Rights of Children (Samarbejdsgruppe om børns rettigheder), set up by NGOs working with the rights of children
The Cooperation Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Samarbejdsgruppen om FN's Børnekonvention)

Documentation

The Board of the international human rights documentation network HURIDOCs (Human Rights Information and Documentation System)

The working group 'Information Management' under the European network 'European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes' (EADI)

Ethnic minorities

The Danish Board for Ethnic Equality (Nævnet for Etnisk Ligestilling)

The Danish Equal Treatment Committee (Ligebehandlingsudvalget)

The Special Committee for Asylum and Immigration Coordination (Specialudvalget for Asyl- og Indvandringssamarbejdet)

The NGO Coordination Group under the Danish Ministry of Integration

The Danish Refugee Board (Flygtningenævnet)

Research

National Focal Point (NFP), a consortium under RAXEN-NFP

International Directorships

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Chairperson of the European Coordination Group of National Human Rights Institutions

The Executive Committee of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network

The Advisory Boards of the Human Rights Institute of the University of Latvia, the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, Austria, and the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights

Society for International Development, the Hague, the international think tank concerning the future of asylum and migration

Jury member of the Bruno Kreisky Stiftung für Verdienste um de Menschenrechte

Member of the High Level Joint Expert Advisory Group on Human Rights and Democratisation in Turkey, Council of Europe/EU

The Board of the International Service for Human Rights in Geneva, the Board of Directors of the Baltic Media Centre and the Board of International Media Service

The Steering Group for the Balkans under KPMG/DFID and the Steering Group for the police programme in Albania

The International Board of the Kurdish Human Rights Project

The Executive Committee of Freemuse

List of staff 2002

Management and administration

[Redacted]

Documentation

[Redacted]

Research

[Redacted]

Information

[Redacted]

International Department

[Redacted]

National Department

[Redacted]

Education

[Redacted]

Individuals sent out on the post-graduate programme Human Rights Officers

[Redacted]

Participation in the European Master's Degree programme in Human Rights and Democratisation.

[Redacted]

External consultants for partnership programmes and consultancy

[Redacted]

International Delegations

58th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva

Member of the Danish delegation at the 57th session of the UN General Assembly in New York

Cultural Rights

The Council of the Danish Center for Culture and Development (Center for Kultursamarbejde med Udviklingslandene), one of its activities being to organise the Images festivals about Africa and Asia in Denmark

Rights of Women

The Danish association Gender & Rights (Foreningen Køn og Rettigheder)

Chairperson of the Board of the independent institution for the prevention and resistance against prostitution and trafficking, the PRO-Centre

Human Rights and Developing Countries

The MS in the South Committee of the Danish Association for International Co-operation (Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke), which is the advisory body for the activities of the Danish Association for International Co-operation in the South
Project advising for CARE Denmark
The Executive Committee of NGO Forum (Fagligt Forum), which is a collaboration body for about 40 humanitarian organisations in Denmark concerning communication of issues related to developing countries

Nordic cooperation

The working group on the joint Nordic Internet portal www.nordichumanrights.net

Police and legal cooperation

The Special Committee on Police and Legal Cooperation (Specialudvalget for politimæssigt og retligt samarbejde) set up by the Danish Ministry of Justice
European Platform for Policing and Human Rights Secretariat of the European Platform for Policing and Human Rights of the Council of Europe
The Jurisdiction Committee (Jurisdiktionsudvalget) of the Danish Ministry of Justice

Editorial Boards

The Editorial Board of the Yearbook of Human Rights in Developing Countries

The Editorial Board of the Danish journal 'EU-ret & menneskeret' (EU Law & Human Rights)

The Editorial Board of the joint Nordic journal 'Mennesker og Rettigheder' (People and Rights), published in collaboration with the other Nordic human rights centres

The Advisory Board of the Nordic Journal of International Law

The Editorial Board of Human Rights in

Development, Kluwer Law International

The Editorial Advisory Board of the magazine 'Entre Nous', published by the Reproductive Health and Research Programme, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Education and Training

Commission for Education, UNESCO

The Danish UNESCO following group for the Associated School Project

Human Rights Education Working Group – Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network

Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Human Rights Contact Group of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Member of the Danish Council for International Development Cooperation

Chairperson of the committee set up by the Danish Council for International Development Cooperation under the theme of 'Global Public Goods and Human Rights'

Member of the Humanitarian Contact Group
The working group for an official Danish Auschwitz Day

Other Offices

The Danish Committee on Openness (Offentlighedskommissionen)

Humanitarian experience sharing group

The Board of the Danish Peace Foundation (Fredsfonden)

The Board of the Danish Association of Free Progressive Schools (Sammenslutningen af Frie Skoler)

The Board of Representatives of the Danish Board of Technology (Teknologirådet)

Jury of Big Brother Award in Denmark

FLASHES OF THE PAST YEAR

Human Rights & Business

The Human Rights & Business project was established at the Danish Centre for Human Rights in 1999, the purpose being to help enterprises to translate objectives into good human rights practices. The project activities focus on three main fields:

1. To carry out research aiming to develop practical business tools which companies can rapidly implement in their management systems to successfully maintain good human rights practices.
2. To develop suitable training courses to assist business people in identifying and handling human rights issues in a business context.
3. To offer advisory services and confidential guidance to enterprises regarding specific human rights issues. When performing these activities, the project makes use of the expertise available at the other departments of the Centre. The Education Department contributes to internal business courses with its educational skills, the links of the International Department contributes to a dialogue with companies doing business in developing countries, and the Research Department ensures that innovative business tools are based of the newest knowledge within the fields in question.

The project has a hybrid structure, since it is deeply rooted both in the human rights environment and the business environment. Even though the project is placed at the Centre and consequently with the human rights expertise, the project is still fully aware of commercial needs and realities by virtue of its direct partnership with business organisations. All research and other activities are assessed on a regular basis by an advisory committee composed of representatives of the Industrialization Fund for the Developing Countries in Denmark (Industriliseringsfonden for Udviklingslandene, IFU), the Confederation of Danish Industries (Dansk Industri) and the Centre, but the individual researchers collaborate directly with a group of Danish companies on the development and testing of the tools. This project is a forum uniting Danish business and the Danish Centre for Human Rights in work for a common goal. Therefore this project has a unique position in both environments.

Activities this year

1. Pilot research project on the establishment of an international complaints commission

This project was carried out together with researchers of Princeton University (USA). Research and field work in India was commenced to examine

the possibilities of developing an independent forum that will be able to investigate and determine specific cases when a Danish enterprise with activities abroad is accused of human rights violations.

2. Introductory test of Human Rights Compliance Assessment (HRCA)

This project is very comprehensive and has been developed over more than three years. The HRCA tool is a diagnostic test that enterprises can use to ensure that a business practice complies with human rights. When the tool is ready for use, the HRCA will be the first and only tool of its kind. It has more than 1,000 human rights indicators and 300 questions based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the primary ILO conventions and more than 80 other human rights declarations and conventions.

3. Third year of the Joint-Internship Programme

This is the first international internship programme run as a joint venture between business and human rights organisations. The intention is to create future business and NGO leaders who are fully grounded both in key human rights issues and also aware of the business context in which these issues are applied.



Copenhagen hosted the Sixth International Conference for National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

On 10 to 13 April 2002 the Sixth International Conference for National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights was held in Copenhagen and Lund. Representatives of 61 national human rights institutions from all over the world attended. The national human rights institutions are intended to monitor, promote and protect human rights in collaboration with both governments and the civil societies. As a prerequisite for being able to perform this task, the national human rights institutions must both be state recognised and be independent and autonomous at one and the same time.

This Conference was organised by the Danish Centre for Human Rights and the Swedish Ombudsman Against Ethnic Discrimination in collaboration with the International Coordination Committee for National Human Rights Institutions and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The theme of the Conference was the role of the national human rights institutions in promoting human rights, particularly in relation to the combating of racial discrimination and ethnic discrimination which the national human rights institutions are under a special duty to deal with, cf. the 1991 Paris Principles, which form the basis of the work of the national human rights institutions. The Conference was follow-up on the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

THE THREE CONFERENCE THEMES

Based on the World Conference, this Conference debated three themes and agreed on a declaration: the Copenhagen Declaration.

- The first theme concerned remedial functions providing victims of racism and racial discrimination with appropriate and just remedies and recourses, including that the national human rights institutions must be competent, consistent with the Paris Principles, to hear complaints and petitions or work to ensure that they can be brought forward to another competent authority, that they may use alternative dispute resolution such as conciliation, mediation or arbitration, and that they may launch complaints, investigations or inquiries on their own initiative.
- The second theme concerned the crucial role of the national human rights institutions in monitoring and reporting human rights violations, including by developing indicators (a kind of check list) as a tool to monitor and report on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and by working to ensure the promulgation, reform and strengthening of national legislation and monitoring its implementation and consistency with domestic and international human rights laws.
- The third theme concerned the key role of the national human rights institutions in defending human rights and disseminating information on them to authorities and civil society.

Morten Kjærøum elected member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2002

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other very important UN human rights conventions have a pertaining committee of independent experts who monitor how the States Parties live up to their obligations. In 2002, Morten Kjærøum, Executive Director of the Centre, was elected as one of the 18 experts on the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

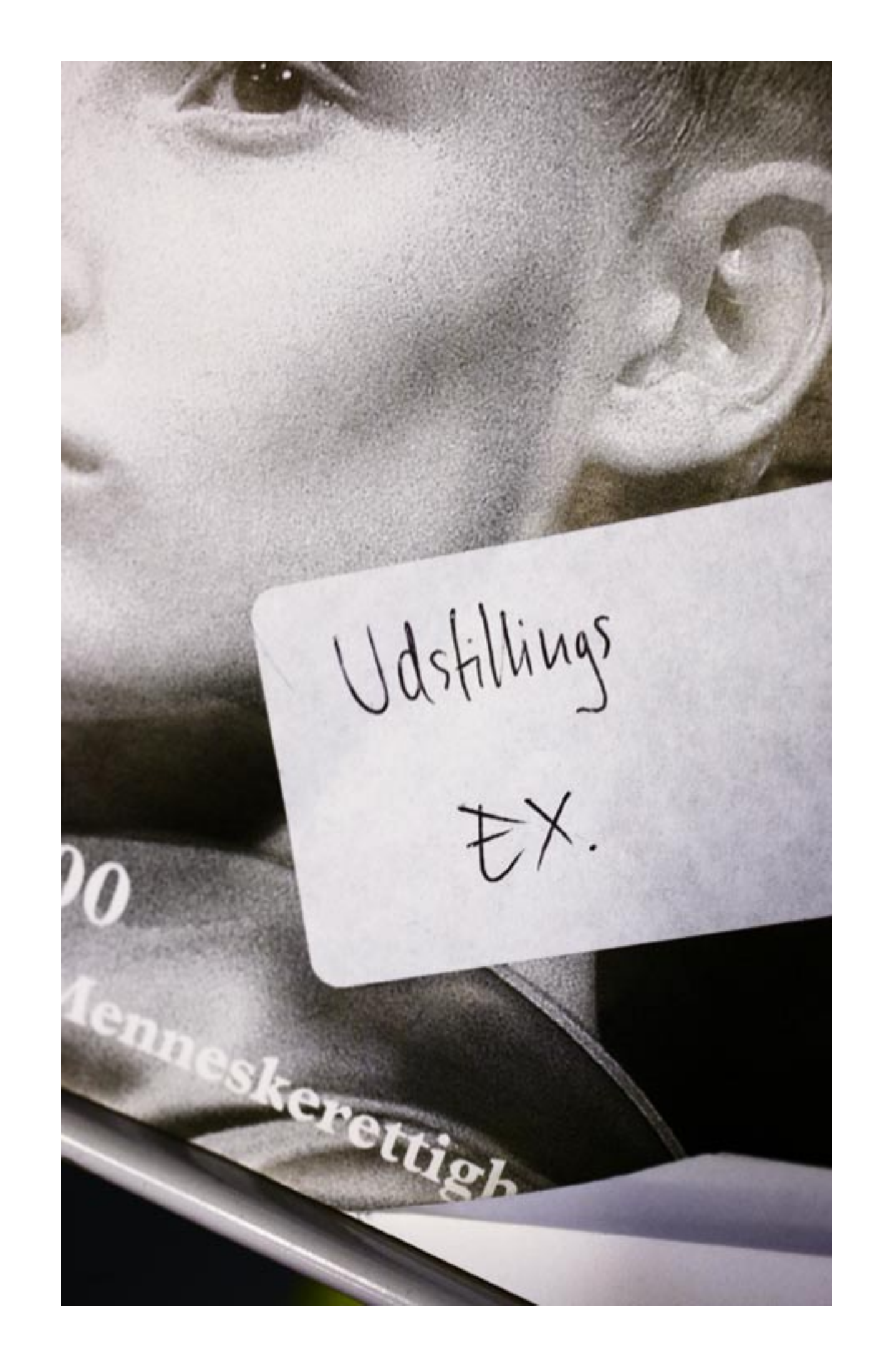
The experts sit on the Committee for four years – by virtue of their personal qualifications, not as state representatives. The main task of the CERD is to assist the states in combating racial discrimination and promoting equality. The states have to prepare a report to the CERD every two years about their efforts to observe the provisions of the Convention. The CERD discusses the report with the relevant state and expresses its recognition of the progress made since the former report and concern of areas in which the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination is (still) not observed, and the CERD suggests possible improvements (concluding observations).

The CERD also hears claims from individuals or groups of individuals of the states who have recognised such complaints procedure. The CERD decides on communications, but has no legally binding authority to impose sanctions. In addition to commenting on the reports of the individual country, the CERD

also publishes an annual report on the convention status (whether the States Parties in fact comply with its provisions). On the basis of the information gathered by the CERD from country reports and communications, it also publishes general comments or general recommendations about particular provisions of the Convention or about general themes falling within the scope of the Convention.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, 2002 IN BRIEF

In 2002 the CERD met twice (as usual), in March and August. At the March meeting Denmark had a dialogue with the CERD about its 15th periodic report. In 2002 the CERD adopted a General Recommendation on the Follow-up on the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and a General Recommendation on Descent-Based Discrimination. By August 2002 162 countries had ratified the Convention, and 41 countries (including Denmark) had recognised the authority of Committee to hear complaints from citizens. At each of the two meetings in 2002 the CERD considered a communication, both concerning complaints against Denmark.



Udstillings

EX.

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Menneskerettigh

The Danish Centre for Human Rights was established by a parliamentary decision on 5 May 1987. The Centre is the principal organisation in Denmark for the collection of knowledge on human rights, nationally, regionally and internationally.

The work of the Danish Centre for Human Rights includes research, information, education, project activities and documentation relating to Danish, European, and international human rights conditions. The staff have a broad range of professional backgrounds such as law, anthropology, sociology, economics, humanities, journalism and administration.

The Centre cooperates with NGOs and public authorities in Denmark and abroad. It also cooperates with intergovernmental organisations, such as the Nordic Council, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the European Union, and the United Nations.

In 2003 the Centre changed its status by Act No. 411 Establishing the Danish Centre for International Studies and Human Rights. As from 1 January 2003 the work described above was continued under the aegis of the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

Annual Report 2002

Danish Institute for Human Rights

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Design: Simon de Tusch-Lec, www.tusch.dk

Photographer: Stig Stasig, www.stasig.dk

Translation: Dialog Translatørservice

Production: Handy-Print A/S

Opening hours

The Centre is open Monday-Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

The library is open on weekdays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

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www.humanrights.dk

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All photo motives show the Institute and its surroundings

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