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In terms of the realization of human rights, we have achieved more than most people dare to dream of. However, it appears that fewer and fewer today believe in the human rights project as something unambiguously positive."

From the book *Kampen om menneskerettigheder* (The struggle over Human Rights), March 2016.

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The Danish Institute for Human Rights is Denmark’s National Human Rights Institution. We promote and protect human rights and the public and directly advise 30 people.

In the past year, we have, among other things:

- Responded to at least 314 inquiries from the public and directly advised 30 people.
- Undertaken activities to promote unique treatment and discrimination based on, for example, ethnicity and/or gender.
- Worked internationally through partnerships with ministries, authorities and international human rights institutions to ensure robust and sustainable results.
- Contributed to more than 3,700 news items.
- Published more than 40 articles and contributions in books.
- In books. In the media, we have published 144,949.

**FINANCES**

**INCOME IN 2015 BY SECTOR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income-generating activities</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subsidy-financed research activities</td>
<td>4,439</td>
<td>4,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>29,200</td>
<td>29,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other subsidy-financed activities</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME FOR 2015</strong></td>
<td><strong>154,224</strong></td>
<td><strong>154,307</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL INCOME FOR 2015**

The deviation between budget and the accounts for income-generating activities and other subsidy-financed research activities is due mainly to the fact that all projects were identified at the time when the budget was being prepared.

The accounts show the actual categorisation and the actual level of activity for the year, while the budget refers to the Danish Institute for Human Rights’ best estimate of the relative size of the externally funded projects.

The institute’s total income for 2015 comes from DKK 30.6 million allocation from the national budget (human rights, general management and administration), National Human Rights Institution and equal treatment body; DKK 2.6 million from the cooperative agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; DKK 54.0 million is other subsidy-financed activities, DKK 3.6 million is income-generating activities, DKK 2.9 million is subsidy-financed research activities; and DKK 0.4 million is other income. Of the total funds granted from the state budget, DKK 10.3 million are for equal treatment activities in the areas of gender and disability.

The institute’s total income in 2015 was an increase of DKK 12.6 million relative to 2014. This was partly due to an increase of DKK 5.4 million in other subsidy-financed activities, offset by a decrease of DKK 2.8 million in income-generating activities.
Human rights are at a crossroad. On the one hand, the human-rights situation in Denmark is generally good: actually one of the best in the world. Moreover, as you can read in this report, progress is being made all the time. However, on the other hand, whether Denmark should continue to follow conventions and international agreements is being questioned as never before. The large numbers of refugees who have reached Denmark and are seeking asylum have sharpened the views that Denmark should not allow policies to be dictated by international agreements.

In 2015 and 2016, the Danish Institute for Human Rights has reacted strongly to a number of the restrictions implemented in asylum legislation. However, we also consider it as a healthy sign of democracy that politicians are starting to take an active position on human rights. Those elected by the people should take responsibility for specific priorities and ensure that popular and democratic ownership does not flounder. This does not imply that we support dropping out of conventions when they are difficult or disagreeable, but we do support debate on human rights, and that the state and civil society take active positions on human rights and also comply with relevant rights.

These are also key points for the institute’s work outside Denmark. Over the past year we have supported change in a number of areas through our international work. I.a. addressing root causes of terror in West Africa, facilitating human rights dialogues in Belarus, promoting access to justice in Myanmar and teaming up with companies to conduct human rights impact assessments.

2015 also gave us what we consider to be a potentially important driver for human rights by the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. These new global goals aim to reduce inequality in both rich and poor countries. The institute has worked nationally and especially internationally to establish links between the global goals and human rights.

The first half of this report contains a summary of developments in human rights in Denmark over the past year. Read more at menneskeret.dk/status. The second half gives some examples of results from our international work. Read more at humanrights.dk

Happy reading!

Jonas Christoffersen  Dorthe Elise Svinth
Executive Director  Chairperson of the Board
In January 2016, the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kristian Jensen, met the members of the United Nations Human Rights Council and representatives from UN member states for a review of Denmark’s efforts to improve human rights. One by one, the members of the council and the representatives both praised and criticized Denmark’s human rights record. The minister returned to Denmark with 199 recommendations on how Denmark can improve in this area.

The review was the culmination of a year of preparations in which the Danish Institute for Human Rights played a pivotal part as the National Human Rights Institution of Denmark. In early 2015, the institute conducted four rounds of public hearings in Denmark in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. In 2015, public hearings were also arranged in Greenland and on the Faroe Islands.

“Most people probably do not think of their human rights as they go about their daily lives. However, human rights are of great importance to our lives. The hearings demonstrated that there are people in Denmark with human rights issues, and furthermore the hearings affirmed that Denmark also face challenges in relation to human rights,” said Louise Holck, Deputy Director of the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

A lack of complaint processes in child cases, surveillance of citizens on social security and discrimination against women in the job market, fathers and persons with disabilities. That was some of the many topics raised during four public hearings in Denmark’s four biggest cities leading up to the UN review of Denmark’s human rights record.
THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)
The UPR is a mechanism which examines the human rights record of individual UN member states. The primary objective of the review is to improve human rights in practice. Denmark’s efforts to improve human rights were reviewed for the first time in 2011.

THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
The objective of the United Nations Human Rights Council is to advance and protect human rights for everyone, and the council is to address and examine violations of these rights.

The council has 47 members, of whom 13 are from Africa, 13 are from Asia, six are from Europe, eight are from Latin America and the Caribbean Islands and seven are from Western Europe.

The institute has identified 10 recommendations put forward during the examination to which the Danish Government should pay particular attention.

1. National action plan comprising a systematic and detailed approach to promote and protect human rights.
2. Legislation that protect minors from solitary confinement and imprisonment in prisons for adults.
3. The right to family reunification for all refugees – especially children.
4. Evidence-based evaluation of Danish anti-terror legislation.
5. Ban on discrimination on all grounds – also outside the labour market.
6. Legislation that ensures all people with disabilities equal opportunities to vote and run for general election.
7. National action plan to combat hate crimes.
8. Upgrade of municipal competences in Greenland to manage violence against children and to help families with alcohol and drug abuse.
10. New legislation on the Faroe Islands with a definition of rape that is in compliance with international standards, recognition of rape in all situations, and criminalisation of rape within marriage.

In light of the public hearings and other work by the institute, the institute has submitted two reports to the United Nations Human Rights Council. With the support of the institute, a group of civil society organisations have also reported to the council. The objective was to prepare the members of the Human Rights Council for their examination of Denmark.

“Both the institute and civil society have identified weak spots that the Danish Government has not necessarily highlighted in its report. Therefore it is essential that the United Nations Human Rights Council also receives knowledge, counselling and recommendations from us in the run up to their review,” said Louise Holck.

The Danish Government has recently informed the council that Denmark accepts 120 recommendations in full while it partially accepts 14 recommendations. The remaining 65 recommendations were not accepted.
THE LEGAL SYSTEM AND THE POLICE

CHALLENGES FOR THE POLICE AND THE SYSTEM OF JUSTICE

Interpretation is faltering in many criminal cases, and this is very unfortunate for the rule of law. Lawyers, prosecutors and judges have experienced interpreters who do not have adequate linguistic competencies, nor are they familiar with legal concepts and they do not exercise professional behaviour. The institute has documented this in a report issued in January 2016. We call for an interpreter training programme and a certification scheme; a need supported by the Association of Danish Judges. In 2013, the Danish Ministry of Justice set up a committee to analyse the interpreter area, and the committee is to complete its work in mid-2016.

TERRORISM HAS LED TO MORE SURVEILLANCE

On 14 February 2015, Copenhagen experienced a terrorist attack. First, a man participating in a debate event on freedom of speech was killed outside the venue Krudttønden, and subsequently a guard was killed outside the synagogue in the city centre. The attacks have lead to the postponement of a planned evaluation of Danish anti-terrorism legislation, while several political initiatives to strengthen the anti-terror response measures have been carried out. Among other things, the initiatives have included legislation on confiscating passports, penalties for so-called foreign fighters, prevention of radicalization in Danish prisons and increased surveillance of Danish citizens. We have pointed out that the legislation introduced could be misused, as it is imprecise and it makes very low requirements to justify suspicion.

NEW REGISTRATION OF HATE CRIMES

A survey published by the Ministry of Immigration, Integration and Housing in January 2016 demonstrated that hate crime is more widespread than previously assumed. According to the survey, 2.9 percent of Danish citizens are exposed to a crime they believe to be a hate crime in a year. In 2015, the National Police assumed executive responsibility for the hate crime area from the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET). The Danish National Police has subsequently initiated a new monitoring scheme. We hope this will intensify efforts against hate crimes and lead to more correct registration of hate crimes.

INCREASED FOCUS ON PEPPER SPRAY

In the recent years, the institute has focused on the use of pepper spray in prisons, pre-trial detention facilities and in the police force. As a result of a report by the institute in 2014, the Danish Prison and Probation Service has improved its reporting of use of pepper spray by its personnel, and also stressed that pepper spray is only to be used if less invasive interventions are inadequate. At the same time, the Danish Prison and Probation Service has stressed that its personnel must be cautious when using pepper spray in closed rooms.

Since we published our report on the use of pepper spray in the police force in October 2015, the Danish National Police has communicated that they will investigate possibilities to elaborate and clarify the rules for use of force.
UN CRITICIZES DISSOLUTION OF THE IRAQ COMMISSION

In 2015, the UN Committee against Torture looked closer at Denmark’s efforts to comply with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. As a result, Denmark received more than 30 recommendations on how it can improve in the future. The committee was especially critical of the decision to dissolve the Iraq and Afghanistan Commission, as the committee did not believe that Denmark had adequately investigated whether the Danish forces had honoured international conventions during the two military operations. We believe that the internal inquiry initiated in 2010 by the Ministry of Defence must be completed.

On 14 February 2015, Copenhagen experienced a terrorist attack. The Danish Institute for Human Rights have pointed out that the legislation introduced as a reaction to the attack could be misused, as it is imprecise and it makes very low requirements to justify suspicion.
CONTINUOUS EXTENSIVE USE OF ISOLATION
The Committee against Torture also pointed to the problem of frequent use of isolation in Danish prisons. Among other things, the committee recommended that Denmark ceases putting children into isolation, and that isolation as a disciplinary punishment is abolished. The committee also urged Denmark to ensure that all forms of imprisonment in isolation are only employed for a maximum of 15 days at a time. We have highlighted the problem of isolation in our status reports for several years. Solitary confinement as disciplinary punishment should be used less frequently in Danish prisons and pre-trial detention facilities, and children should never be subject to isolation.

POSITIVE CHANGES IN PRISONS AND PRE-TRIAL DETENTION FACILITIES
There are, however, also positive trends in Danish prisons and pre-trial detention facilities. In recent years, there has been a noticeable reduction in the occupancy rate and this development continued in 2015. Moreover, there were fewer in custody in 2015 than in 2014, and the use of isolation during remand detention is historically low. In 2015, the rights of the children of imprisoned parents were improved, as it became possible for children to receive subsidies for transport to visit an imprisoned parent. Additionally, a special programme for imprisoned parents was established.

SETBACKS
• The Danish Defence Intelligence Service (FE) has acquired extended authority to monitor and wiretap Danish nationals residing abroad.
• The Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET) has acquired authority from the Central Customs and Tax Administration (SKAT) to collect information from airline passengers.
• Udbetaling Danmark (the authority that disburses pensions and social benefits) has acquired new areas of authority, and its access to data cross-tabulations of registers has again been extended.
• Officers at pre-trial detention facilities have acquired extended access to carry pepper spray.
• The commission investigating the Danish involvement in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has been dissolved.
INCREASING USE OF PREVENTIVE DETENTION

Police use of administrative detention is an area that causes concern. According to a survey, there has been a striking increase in the number of preventive detentions. The total number of administrative detentions has increased from 1,001 in 2005 to 3,623 for just Q1-Q3 in 2015.

NO INITIATIVES TO PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

In January 2015, a working group in the Danish Parliament drew up a number of recommendations concerning protection of personal information. The recommendations are ambitious and could improve the protection of personal information, however unfortunately there were no initiatives to implement these recommendations in 2015.

The United Nations Committee against Torture has criticized Denmark for confining inmates in isolation too often.
As a reaction to the increasing number of asylum-seekers in Denmark, a number of legislative amendments were rushed through the Danish Parliament without the usual consultation process. These amendments have affected basic principles in Danish law and there are doubts as to whether they comply with human rights.

DETENTION AND JUDICIAL REVIEW
In autumn 2015, the Danish Parliament adopted legislation that authorise detention of foreigners on arrival in Denmark. The act contains no limit of the length of detention, but it allows for the usual time limit of 72 hours before appearing for judicial review to be exceeded. The institute has stressed that there are limits for how long a person can be detained, and for how long a judicial review can be postponed.

POSTPONEMENT OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION
In January, the Danish Parliament enacted that refugees with temporary protection status generically have to wait three years, before they can apply for family reunification. We assess that a three-year waiting period for family reunification conflicts with refugees’ right to a family life. Refugees that want to challenge the legality of the new law can therefore rely on support from the institute in potential legal proceedings.

LOW INTEGRATION BENEFITS
In the summer of 2015, a new integration benefit was introduced, and the group of people entitled to receive this lower benefit was expanded in March 2016. Combined with the new ceiling on social benefits, the low integration benefit may lead to violations of the constitutional requirement that secures a subsistence income for people on public support. The new benefit especially affects people of other ethnic origin than Danish.

UNITED NATIONS SEEKS MEASURES AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
In 2015, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) took a closer look at Denmark’s initiatives for combating discrimination. The committee has subsequently presented Denmark with a number of recommendations for improvements. Among other things, the committee encouraged Denmark to do more to combat structural discrimination. Structural discrimination implies that people of non-Western origin experience more difficulties in obtaining jobs, housing and education than ethnic Danes.

In 2015, several other UN committees criticised the Danish human rights record on immigration and integration. In late 2015, the UN committees expressed criticism in eight out of a total of 15 cases from the Danish Refugee Appeals Board. In comparison, the UN committees expressed criticism in four out of 15 cases from 2004 to the first half of 2015.
### PROGRESS

- Dual citizenship entered into force on 1 September 2015.
- Children are exempted from paying fees on citizenship applications.
- In a harassment case between two tenants, the Board of Equal Treatment has reaffirmed that housing associations are required to handle complaints of discrimination by ethnic origin.

### SETBACKS

- As a rule, people with temporary protection status will have to wait three years for family reunification.
- Foreigners can be placed in detention upon arrival in Denmark with no statutory time limit.
- The Minister for Immigration, Integration and Housing can suspend the 72 hours time limit for judicial review of detention of foreigners, and no time limit is stipulated in the act.
- A lower integration benefit has been introduced for people who have not resided in Denmark for seven of the last eight years.
- Fees for applications for family reunification have been reinstated.
- New demands can exclude foreigners with shorter or no schooling as well as foreigners with a loose affiliation with the labour market from obtaining Danish citizenship.
- Children of refugees and immigrants who are born and raised in Denmark again have to meet the same requirements for obtaining citizenship as applicants from other countries.
- Foreigners without legal residence are to be kept in detention to the extent possible.
- Rejected asylum-seekers and other foreigners without legal residence who do not leave Denmark voluntarily will generally be required to stay in a departure centre and report regularly to the police.
- The amount of state pension, child allowance and child subsidy paid to foreigners again depends on the length of their stay in Denmark.

At Copenhagen Central Station, volunteers are distributing clothes and food to refugees arriving to Denmark.
During the general election in 2015, the Danish election law once again excluded a group of Danes from voting. This affects a total of almost 2,000 Danes under the so-called section 6 guardianship. People under this guardianship often experience difficulties in managing their own finances, and in particular people with disabilities are subject to the guardianship. Four people under section 6 guardianship have brought legal action against the state, because they were denied their voting rights during the general election of 2015. The institute supports this action.

Following the general election, the new government presented a bill that grants voting rights for people under section 6 guardianship. The voting rights apply to local and regional elections and elections to the European Parliament. However, the institute believes that they should also be granted voting rights in general elections.

CHALLENGES PERSIST DESPITE STRENGTHENED EFFORTS FOR CHILDREN

In 2015, the 2013 “child-abuse package” (overgrebspakken) was evaluated. The objective with the package is to enhance how municipalities deal with reports they receive about children. The government agency for appeals (Ankestyrelsen) concludes in its evaluation that municipalities, daycare centres, the police and health services are satisfied with the initiatives. The perception is that vulnerable children are better protected today.

However, errors are still seen in the way municipalities manage cases involving assaults on children. Ankestyrelsen has reviewed a random sample of approximately 100 cases. Half of these cases did not live up to the statutory requirements with regard to significant aspects.

Around 2,000 Danish citizens were not allowed to vote at the general election in June 2015 because they are subject to the so-called section 6 guardianship. The institute believes that people subject to guardianship should have voting rights for all elections.
IMPROVED REGULATIONS UNDERWAY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLACED IN CARE

In 2015, the government agreed with a majority of the Danish Parliament to enact new rules for the use of force against children and young people placed in care outside the home. This was established as a result of a recommendation by a committee looking into this area (Magtanvendelsesudvalget). Subsequently, the committee prepared a bill on adult responsibility for children and young people placed in care. We believe that the legislation contains considerable improvements with regard to the legal situation of children and young people placed in care, as it is now clear when it is allowed to use force. It will also be confirmed that placement facilities have a responsibility and a duty of care for the children and young people in their care. However, additional measures are still required, such as more training programmes and guidelines for both personnel and foster families.

CLEAR OBLIGATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH LOSS OF HEARING

In 2015, progress was also seen with regard to the rights of children with hearing impairment. In the spring of 2015, we published a report documenting that many parents of children with impaired hearing are struggling to gain the support their children need. It is therefore pleasing that the National Board of Social Services in 2015 published a process description for municipalities that emphasises municipalities’ obligations for children with loss of hearing.

FORCED ADOPTION CAN LEAD TO VIOLATION OF RIGHTS

In 2015, it became easier for municipalities to forcibly put children up for adoption against the will of their biological parents. The new legislation opens for forced adoptions from parents with disabilities, even though the parents play a positive part in relation to the child. We are concerned that forced adoptions may violate the right to family life for both children of persons with disabilities and their parents.

SETBACKS

• The adoption of the social-benefits ceiling and the requirement of 225 hours regular work annually to obtain full benefit can lead to more evictions and more homeless people. Homelessness has increased steadily since 2009, and the number of homeless youths has almost doubled in the same period.

PROGRESS

• Denmark has accepted the right to complain about Denmark to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.
• The age limit for when a child must consent in cases involving placement has been reduced from 15 to 12 years of age.
• The Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior has updated all relevant guidelines under the Social Services Act, so that parents with disabilities receive support with regard to being a parent.
• A new process description leads to more options for parents with children who suffer from hearing impairment, so that they can freely choose between sign language and a cochlear implant.
• It has now become easier for municipalities to grant exemption for citizens from public sector digitisation.
GENDER EQUALITY

POLITICAL SETBACKS FOR EQUAL PAY AND PARENTAL LEAVE

In 2015, Denmark celebrated the centenary of women’s right to vote, however, Denmark still faces many challenges with regard to gender equality. Unfortunately, there have been several setbacks over the past year.

- The government has chosen to roll back the gender-based wage statistics for companies with fewer than 35 employees. The institute assesses that this legislation undermines efforts to achieve equal pay and combat discrimination in Denmark. At the same time, the government has cancelled the parental-leave scheme for self-employed individuals. We urge the government to secure a new type of compensation, so that women do not opt out of either having children or pursuing a career as self-employed.

- The requirement for gender-based wage statistics for companies with fewer than 35 employees has been withdrawn.

- The parental-leave scheme for self-employed individuals has also been cancelled.

The institute has documented that, since 2008, 45 percent of women and 23 percent of men who have become parents have experienced discrimination at their workplace in connection with pregnancy, maternal leave and parental leave. We recommend that the social partners and the government cooperate in solving this problem.

- In 2015, the collective agreement between the state and the Danish Central Federation of State Employees’ Organisations (Centralorganisationernes Fællesudvalg) and the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations (Akademikerne) introduced one additional week of parental leave with full pay for fathers.

- An amendment to the Social Services Act ensures that all women in women’s shelters – and no longer only women with children – will be offered counselling in the future.
HEALTH

INTERPRETATION AND PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Following a report from the institute, the Ministry of Health has changed the rules for the use of minors as interpreters in the health-care system. Consequently, doctors may now only legally ask children under the age of 15 to interpret in acute and life-threatening situations. We recommend for the ban to be extended to all children under the age of 18.

For a number of years, the institute has recommended a ban on the use of physical restraint using belts for more than 48 hours. Unfortunately, the recommendation was not followed when the Mental Health Act was amended in 2015. The proportion of people exposed to prolonged restraint for more than 48 hours has declined slightly in 2015, but the proportion of adults who are subjected to coercion in psychiatry remains unchanged at more than 22 percent. Furthermore, the legal status of minors was worsened as a result of the amendment.

ONLY MOTHERS RECEIVE PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

Two of our studies reveal that, in most cases, it is only mothers who receive information from the municipality or the hospital concerning their children. A number of municipalities have stated that they will change their practice and will contact both parents in the future. We recommend that the responsible ministries make it clear that both parents have an equal right to information regarding their child.

In September 2015, we asked the spokes-persons for gender equality from the political parties the Alternative, the Danish Social Democrats, the Red-Green Alliance and Venstre about the current status of gender equality in Denmark. The banqueting hall at the Workers’ museum was filled up at the event. Editor-in-chief of the national newspaper Politiken Anne Mette Svane, activist Emma Holten and researcher Anton Grau Larsen framed the debate.

PROGRESS

• A ban on the use of children as interpreters in the health-care system entered into force 1 May 2015.

• Similar to the Capital Region of Denmark, the Central Denmark Region has formulated guidelines on how health-care personnel are to identify and manage signs of assault on patients.
**EDUCATION**

**REFORMS DO NOT SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS**

Denmark is facing a number of challenges in terms of securing the right to education and in terms of providing education in human rights. However, four out of seven institutions offering teaching training are preparing to offer a module on human rights for student teachers. The reform of primary and lower secondary schools in 2014 and the efforts to increase inclusion are positive. However, the changes pose several practical challenges.

In upper secondary education, the high dropout level among ethnic-minority boys in vocational education persists.

In 2015, the Ombudsman affirmed after a number of inspections that children enrolled at internal schools at municipal placement centres have the same right to receive education in all subjects taught at public primary and lower secondary schools.

**BUSINESS**

**NEW PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE TAKES OVER AFTER COUNCIL**

According to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, Denmark is obliged to protect its citizens from negative influences that Danish companies either create themselves or contribute to within or outside Danish borders.

The institute has conducted its first survey of the human rights situation in the Danish industry. Among other things, this survey reveals that there is a need to strengthen, improve and prioritise the institutional framework for human rights in the industry.

Since 2012, Denmark has worked systematically with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Danish Council for Corporate Responsibility, which advised the government on the corporate social responsibility of authorities and companies, has been a catalyst in this work and has ensured extensive participation and support for the UN principles. The council was dissolved in November 2015 in favour of a new platform for dialogue on social responsibility and growth.
GREENLAND

VIOLATIONS OF CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

In March 2015, it was revealed that two municipalities in Greenland had failed to react on matters of negligence concerning children and young people. This is extremely problematic. In August, the spokesperson for children in Greenland reported inadequate efforts for children after visiting two settlements. The spokesperson assessed that there were gross violations of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The institute cooperates with the Greenlandic children’s rights institution, MIO. Also, the institute has initiated cooperation with University of Greenland to strengthen human rights education with a special focus on children’s rights in the teacher-training programme. In 2015, the institute and MIO trained student teachers on the 1st and 4th years of the programme.

FOCUS ON DETENTION

In autumn 2013, the Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman and the institute visited a detention centre without permanent staffing. Those confined to detention were unable to call in staff, get food or water or to use the toilet when the local police authority was not present. As a result, the Ombudsman has increased its focus on improving conditions in Greenlandic detention centres in 2015.

PROGRESS

• A new two-year long education programme is to improve the case handling of Greenlandic first-instance judges.

• The Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Human Rights Council of Greenland have been authorised to monitor Greenland’s efforts to live up to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

GREENLAND IN THE UNITED NATIONS

The conditions in Greenland are included in the institute’s ongoing reporting to the UN committees. In 2015, the institute reported to the UN Committee against Torture, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Leading up to the review of Denmark’s human rights efforts by the United Nations Human Rights Council in early 2016, the Government of Greenland, the Human Rights Council of Greenland and the institute held a public hearing in Nuuk in March 2015 with focus on rule of law.
Refugee and asylum policy was yet again the hot political issue in 2015. The number of asylum-seekers in Denmark has increased from 14,792 in 2014 to 21,225 in 2015. The flow of refugees to Europe has expanded due to the civil war in Syria coupled with large numbers of refugees from especially Afghanistan and Iraq. A large number of the people who come to Europe and Denmark are fleeing from violations of human rights. They have fled from war and oppression in their home countries and from refugee camps in their regions of origin that do not meet basic human rights.

The huge numbers of refugees are putting pressure on the European countries and this is affecting their willingness to protect human rights. Like many other countries, the Danish Government and a political majority in Denmark have tried to reduce the number of asylum-seekers. This has led to a degradation of the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers Denmark.

ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE RIGHT TO A FAMILY LIFE
In February 2015, the previous government introduced a new group of refugees, who were granted temporary protection status. At the same time, it was decided that this group as a rule had to wait a year before they could obtain family reunification. In January this year, the present government gained support from the Danish Parliament to extend the waiting period to three years. The government has acknowledged that there is a certain risk that this rule will run counter to the right to a family life in the European Convention on Human Rights, however, this is a “procedural risk” that the government is willing to take.

DETENTION ON UNREASONABLE TERMS
The three-year waiting period for family reunification came in the wake of a rapidly introduced legislative package in November 2015. Among other things, the package broke with principles of judicial review of detention. This legislation allows the Minister for Integration to suspend the requirement of judicial review of detention of foreigners within 72 hours.

The situation in the closed-down state prison in the Copenhagen area of Vridsløselille exemplifies the implications of the November
legislative package, which also paved the way for more extended use of confinement of foreigners. In Vridsløselille, asylum-seekers and foreigners without legal residence in Denmark are held in the prison. Together with the Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman and DIGNITY – Danish Institute Against Torture, the institute made an unannounced visit to the prison in February 2016. After the visit, the Ombudsman expressed grave concerns regarding the conditions for the detained refugees. Among other things, concerns arose from refugees being locked inside single inmate cells almost day and night.

With the recent tightening of the immigration and integration legislation, the government and the Danish Parliament have taken hitherto unseen measures. There is simply not the same respect for basic principles of rule of law for foreigners as there is for Danes.”

Jonas Christoffersen, Executive Director

A historically high number of refugees has arrived in Denmark the past year. In Denmark, 21,225 people requested asylum in the course of 2015.
17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the UN in September 2015. The goals set the course for a more equal world in 2030. The SDGs will not only be applied in developing countries. The SDGs are universal, thus also apply to Denmark.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights has made an initial attempt to link human rights monitoring with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Based on our 2014-15 Status Report, the institute has concretely mapped where our recommendations relate to specific SDGs and targets. Thereby, we identify priority areas for Denmark in the national implementation of SDGs.

COMBINING RIGHTS AND THE SDGS
The Danish Institute for Human Rights is at the forefront of incorporating human rights and the SDGs.

The institute has conducted an analysis of the indicators connected to the global goals and targets to determine whether data generated by these indicators will be relevant for the monitoring of human rights. The analysis underlines that there is significant potential for synergies between SDGs and human rights monitoring to be explored in building Follow-Up and Review processes at all levels.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights have also pushed and supported that having a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) has

"The sustainable development goals and human rights reinforce each other. The SDGs are voluntary and based on broad political commitment, whereas human rights is a legal framework that we can use to demand action from political leaders, businesses and investors."

Eva Grambye, Deputy Executive Director, Head of the international division

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
- consists of 17 goals and 169 targets
- are universal
- are based on political commitment
- are to be achieved by 2030
been recognized as an indicator under goal number 16 regarding ‘peace and justice’.

NHRIs help develop peaceful and inclusive societies by advising governments and holding them accountable for their actions and by monitoring the human rights situation in each country.

The SDGs are ambitious, but they have given the world a chance to improve itself massively by 2030. Human rights could be an essential driver in the process.

GUIDE LINKS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TO HUMAN RIGHTS
The Danish Institute for Human Rights have developed an online guide with concrete links between human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The guide uncovers the human rights anchorage of all 17 goals and 169 targets, as well as the adequacy of the global indicators. The guide enables actors to use human rights as a driver for realizing the SDGs — and to use the SDGs to realize human rights.

HOW THE GUIDE WORKS
The guide is built as a searchable database available in five different languages, where you can identify the human rights implications of a given goal, target or indicator.

The guide provides useful insights for governments, UN agencies, National Human Rights Institutions, business and NGOs. Rights-holders directly addressed in the SDGs e.g. women, persons with disabilities, youth, workers and indigenous people will also find helpful insights.

THE GUIDE HELPS:
• States develop human rights compliant national action plans
• Support the work on the SDGs with a legally binding human rights framework
• To choose the right indicators for the SDG targets at all levels (international, regional and national)
• To influence implementation strategies and Follow-Up and Review processes at all levels.
• Build capacity of states, rights-holders National Human Rights Institutions, major groups, business and others to lead a human rights-based approach to the realization of the SDGs.

Find the Human Rights Guide to the SDGs at: sdg.humanrights.dk
In January 2015, the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) entered into a strategic partnership on human rights responses to terrorism.

One of the great threats currently facing the countries of the Sahel, such as Niger and Burkina Faso, is terrorism. This affects most human rights, not only the right to life, as it is e.g. difficult to provide basic services to the population in the face of gross insecurity. Widespread terrorism also stifles development and is one of the root causes for internal displacement and migration.

But there is a risk that a too heavy handed approach with respect to counterterrorism can lead to even more insecurity and instability; therefore it is of key importance that counterterrorism efforts takes place within the framework set by international human rights norms.

The partnership between the Danish Institute for Human Rights and UNODC shall be seen in this light. It gives the police services of West Africa the opportunity to benefit not only from UNODC’s professionalism to deliver training and capacity building on human rights and criminal justice responses to violent extremism, but also to make use of the Danish Institute for Human Rights’ methodology on human rights training and its partnership concept and approach in its work in mainly West Africa. The institute also brings much added value by ensuring the involvement of key experts from the region in the collaboration which help ensure the necessary anchoring in the national and regional context.

In June 2015, a workshop took place within the framework of this partnership, organised together with the National Police School of Niger, a long-term partner of the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

25 law enforcement officers, the chief of Niger’s counter-terrorism police unit and the

“...The collaboration with UNODC is a real feather in the cap for us. It shows the value of our long engagement with the national police services. We secure that both human rights principles and the experiences on the ground are taken into account in UNODC’s struggle against terrorism.”

Ulrik Spliid, Programme Manager for Africa
country’s chief counter-terrorism prosecutor were among the attendees.

The workshop focused mainly on issues such as detention of terrorism suspects, preventing recruitment for violent extremism in detention, rights of detainees, fair trial rights and rights of detained children.

A similar workshop, this time focused on children allegedly involved with terrorist groups, took place in Dakar 12-15 October 2015.

Since 2003, the Danish Institute for Human Rights has been providing technical assistance to criminal justice and law enforcement officers in Niger, later also in Burkina Faso and Mali.

The partnership with UNODC aims at securing that efforts to counter terrorism take place within the framework of the international human rights norms. UNODC and the institute have agreed to explore the possibility of expanding the partnership beyond the originally agreed Sahel region, initially to the MENA region.

THE WEST AFRICAN PLATFORM ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLICING
The first regional conference gathering high ranking law enforcement officers from the respective National Police Schools from Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger was held in November 2013 in Ougadougou, Burkina Faso.

The representatives of each country were invited to exchange and share respective normative framework, experiences, concerns and best practices on human rights and policing.

The regional conference led to the creation of the West-African Platform on Human Rights and Policing.
There are about eighty thousand multinationals in the world, but according to a survey, less than four hundred of them have a human rights policy. However, in a globalised world, human rights are no longer a subject exclusively for states. Many companies have the size and ability to spur human rights change fast and efficiently. That is why a key part of the Danish Institute for Human Rights’ work is partnering with companies, teaming up to improve the human rights’ impact of business around the globe.

One of our longest running and most successful partnerships is the collaboration with Swiss food-conglomerate Nestlé S.A., which started in 2010. With more than 335,000 employees and operations in 197 countries, Nestlé has vowed to take a lead working on human rights.

We have conducted 11 human rights impact assessments (HRIA) in countries where Nestlé operates. Such impact assessments, conducted in high-risk countries of operation,

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Our work with the Danish Institute for Human Rights has helped us build a recognised breakthrough Human Rights Due Diligence Programme that has enhanced our human rights policies and performance across our operations.”

Christian Frutiger, Public Affairs, Nestlé

Nestlé milk collection centre, Sri Lanka. The human rights impact assessment team observed an opportunity for increased economic activity for dairy farming families in various parts of Sri Lanka, including in former North-Eastern conflict areas.
WHERE WE WORK

We have conducted human rights impact assessments (HRIA) with Nestlé in Angola, China, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Russia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

We also work on human rights impact assessments with a number of companies in the extractive industry. Based on this work with companies in different sectors and contexts, the Danish Institute for Human Rights is currently developing a HRIA Toolbox which aims to provide guidance on how to conduct such studies.

Human rights impact assessments are followed up every few months to measure what progress has been made.

identify potential or actual negative human rights impacts in Nestlé’s operations or in its supply chain. Each assessment is conducted through field work, where the institute conducts between 50 and 100 interviews with internal and external stakeholders, such as company management, employees and its suppliers, local government, NGOs, IGOs, academics, etc.

After the first seven HRIAs, Nestlé and the Danish Institute for Human Rights decided to share their experience in conducting HRIAs. The white paper ‘Talking the Human Rights Walk’ describes the steps that Nestlé and the institute have undertaken to assess and address its actual and potential human rights impacts. It describes the methodology that was applied to the overall HRIA process and presents the aggregated findings and the actions taken by Nestlé at the country and corporate levels to address them. The white paper aims to have other companies learn from Nestlé’s experiences.

The human rights impact assessments are intended to be part of a process for continuous improvement. Every three months, follow-ups to the HRIA action plans are conducted in order to evaluate the progress made in addressing the challenges identified in the assessments, and more importantly, the gaps yet to tackle.

As of today, HRIA reporting and follow-up are conducted internally. In the future, the Danish Institute for Human Rights hopes to include external stakeholders, and in particular potentially affected rights-holders.
The European Union committed itself to a new, four-year action plan on human rights and democracy in 2015. The action plan recognises the crucial role of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) as independent institutions and affirm the EU commitment to support and engage with well-functioning institutions. Another key part of the EU’s focus on NHRIs is to strengthen the capacities of the institutions. The Danish Institute for Human Rights is spearheading this pledge. In November 2015, the institute initiated, with the support of the EU, an innovative education project to develop digital education to promote human rights globally – the NHRI.EU project. The EU contributed 5 million euro to finance the project ending in 2018.

The project targets national human rights institutions in all parts of the world. These are sister organisations to the institute, established to promote human rights. They will now be able to receive assistance to fulfil their role within a number of human rights areas.

During the last decade, the number of national human rights institutions has increased and there is now over a 100 institutions globally. The UN and civil society movements are calling for coordinated NHRI responses to address human rights violations. These demands for increasing international engagement, require NRHIs to coordinate more closely and to raise the quality of their activities and organisations, so that NRHIs have the capacity to fulfil their role and ultimately to secure prevention and remediation of human rights violations of individuals and groups.

This is the reason why the Danish Institute for Human Rights is now in the process of developing accessible educational products for these organisations.

The purpose of the project is to further the promotion and protection of human rights by NHRI within the areas of human rights education, monitoring and reporting, business and human rights and economic, social and cultural rights. By the end of the project, all targeted NHRI are to better fulfil their mandates in these areas. Furthermore, the project is to support the regional networks of NHRI and the global alliance of NHRI to improve efficiency of their organisations.

**THE NHRI.EU CAPACITY PROJECT**

The EU has provided €5 million to the project. Partners include Asia Pacific Forum, the Network of African NHRI, the European Network of NHRI, the Bolivian Ombudsman and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

The project runs until the end of 2018.
In March 2016, NHRIs from the entire world met in Geneva to discuss the future of the global alliance of NHRIs including the role of the capacity development of NHRIs project (NHRI.EU) managed by the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

We are happy and proud that the EU have seen such a big potential in our project. We are working hard to capacity-build the National Human Rights Institutions.”

Kristine Yigen, Programme Manager
INTERNATIONAL: MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

DURING CONFLICT, HUMAN RIGHTS MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN

Working with human rights in the Middle East and North Africa is challenging. After the initial optimism in the aftermath of the Arab Spring in 2011, the space for human rights work across the region has become smaller and smaller. However, a few lights provide hope for the region.

Tunisia, where the Danish Institute for Human Rights supported the process of drafting the new constitution, is a case for optimism: the constitution is based on human rights principles and respect for the genders, and the Tunisian Quartet was awarded the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts in the democratisation of the country.

Also in 2015, in December, Tunisia launched its permanent National Committee for the Coordination of Human Rights. The committee will coordinate the country’s efforts in drafting and follow-up of human rights reports. This mainly involves ministries, but the committee can decide to include other human rights actors such as the national human rights institution and civil society. The process of reporting is an excellent opportunity for the Tunisian government to engage society in a human rights dialogue. This can ensure a focus on human rights, help monitor developments, and inspire human rights policy. The Danish Institute for Human Rights looks forward to assisting this committee as an important human rights actor in Tunisia.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights has been working in Tunisia since 2011, and its work is supported by the Danish Arab Partnership Programme.

In Egypt, the post-revolution reality is challenging human rights work on a number of levels. The Danish Institute for Human Rights is working with the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights, formalising cooperation in July 2015. The Council hopes to provide human rights training to police academies and police forces on how to control peaceful demonstrations in the future.

In the two other countries where the institute has worked this year, the situation is bleaker. Libya is on the brink of chaos with a quasi-civil war raging. However, despite being faced with great difficulties, the will and determination of our Libyan partners to create the foundation for a new country is remarkable. This has led to a concrete draft constitution being published in 2016.

In Yemen, we have for the last eight years been working with both civil society and government. The past 12 months have been very challenging.

A CROSSCUTTING FOCUS

The Danish Institute for Human Rights concentrates its work in the MENA region in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen, but also has a regional crosscutting focus.

Our work includes human rights training at national level and regional human rights courses.

Our work is supported by the Danish Arab Partnership Programme.
due to the security situation, but our partners in the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Ministry of Human Rights are still determined to prepare Yemen for a better tomorrow.

The institute does not have concrete activities in Syria, but here the death toll has long past 200,000 and millions of refugees have fled. This has affected every country in the region as shown during the institute’s two public debates in Copenhagen in December 2015 on the refugee challenge. Because of these difficult circumstances, human rights work is as important as ever. Both debates focused on the state of affairs in the Middle East.

As another example of activities, in 2015 the Danish Institute for Human Rights conducted a course on human rights during conflict. Present were 23 participants from both the institute’s partners from across the region as well as human rights defenders from Syria and Jordan and Lebanon. The course tackled concrete issues as how to monitor human rights violations, how to eliminate false evidence, and how to make sure that violations are recorded but not recorded twice.

People tell me it is not worth it to document the atrocities during the war. But I believe, it is essential for future generations to know what happened.”

Maarouf Touameh, Syrian human rights activist and course participant

Mr. Abdessatar Ben Moussa, Nobel Prize laureate and Head of the Arab Human Rights League, Tunisia, and Ms. Amal Al-Basha, Chairperson of the Sisters’ Arab Forum for Human Rights, Yemen, at our debate on whether human rights and democracy or stability and security is the best way forward for the Middle East in December 2015
Belarus is often called “the last dictatorship in Europe”, and human rights have been under pressure since the country’s independence in 1991. The Danish Institute for Human Rights has been working in the country for more than seven years, experiencing both ups and downs. Most significantly, our partner organisations’ leader and the Politiken Freedom’s prize recipient, Ales Bialiatski, was imprisoned in 2011. Ales was sentenced for concealment of income of a large scale – however, the international community regarded Mr. Bialiatski as a prisoner of conscience.

Mr. Bialiatski was finally released in 2014, 20 months before time, in the run-up to presidential elections in the country. Lately, we have observed more signs of openness and political will to engage in human rights dialogue. The Danish Institute for Human Rights and our partners welcome this openness, and work towards conducting a constructive dialogue between state and non-state actors on human rights, in order to secure a better environment for strengthening human rights protection, promotion and fulfilment in Belarus.

Our work in Belarus is long-term and ambitious. During the past time we have observed an opening towards more dialogue around human rights and a political will to commit to human rights promotion and protection. It remains to be seen whether this political will has come to stay.”

Evguenia Klementieva, Programme Manager, Eurasia
MAKING HUMAN RIGHTS RELEVANT

Over the years, we have been focusing on raising awareness efforts in order to make sure that human rights remain on the agenda in Belarus, and are not perceived as alien to Belarusian culture and way of life. This entails close collaboration with civil society organisations, as they are main drivers of change in terms of human rights work in the country. In the light of recent events, the institute and its partners are looking into openings for dialogue with relevant state bodies and initiating dialogue on human rights based approach to public administration. Also, we are focusing on human rights and business as a new platform for dialogue with state authorities.

Finally, yet importantly, the institute became engaged in the process of establishment of a national human rights institution in Belarus. These steps forward do not imply that Belarus is on a one-way track to human rights compliance. However, they show that, with long-standing, dedicated work, human rights progress is achievable in the most difficult contexts.

IN BELARUS SINCE 2007

We are working towards constructive fact-based dialogue on human rights between all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, state authorities and business.

We support efforts aimed at establishing a national human rights institution in Belarus, assuming that political will is there for such an institution to be established.
In 2015, Myanmar held its first general election since a nominally civilian government was introduced in 2011. While the country is poised at an important juncture in its history, it is not just through the ballot box that Myanmar is experiencing change.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights is part of a new programme devoted to furthering access to justice for the poor and marginalised across Myanmar. ‘My Justice’ is a four-year 20 million euro programme funded by the European Union and implemented by the British Council. The institute provides technical expertise to justice centres in six regions in Myanmar, including the training of lawyers and mobile paralegals who will service the centres and provide outreach to communities.

**Strict Regime Hindered Justice**
For several decades, Myanmar has experienced diminished rule of law and access to justice under a strict military regime. The deliberate undermining of the legal profession during this period has been an important contributing factor of hindering access to justice in the country. As a result, the country currently lacks a judiciary capable of delivering justice to the people. The poor and the marginalised are particularly affected by the gap that exists between their justice needs and access to the formal justice system. It is this gap that the ‘My Justice’ programme seeks to address.

The programme adopts a community-driven and locally-led approach to empower communities to find solutions to the justice challenges they face. It will make legal services available in rural communities as well as increase the capacity of communities to resolve disputes and conflicts themselves through mediation and community paralegals. The programme runs until 2019.

Myanmar has been under military rule for decades. In 2011, the country transitioned to a military-backed civilian government. The national elections in November 2015 saw the National League for Democracy (NLD) headed by Aung San Suu Kyi winning nearly 80 percent of contested seats in parliament.
“By better understanding and addressing dispute resolution needs from a grassroots level while simultaneous improving the capacity of lawyers and justice actors in Myanmar, this programme has the potential to make a significant and positive difference to the lived justice context in the country.”

Lise Dahl, Senior Adviser
The Danish Institute for Human Rights has developed a guidance and practical tool for National Human Rights Institutions on how to engage in the water sector.

National Human Rights Institutions have a unique role to play in regards to right to water, but many need to build their capacity to serve this role. The new online manual on right to water was developed in response to this need.

The manual on right to water provides tools, practices and activities that support the institutions in exploring and consolidating their role in the agenda, at national and international level.

“The Human Rights Council reaffirmed the right to water in 2010, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation has been established, and water is increasingly conceived in human rights terms, with Sustainable Development Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation as a prominent example”, says Mads Holst Jensen, Senior Advisor.

Waterlex launched an online training platform together with the manual in Geneva on World Water Day the 22 March 2016. At the launch, WaterLex and its partners shared how to use the manual and what materials are included.

The right to water agenda is gaining traction.”

Mads Holst Jensen, Senior Adviser
The Danish Institute for Human Rights is Denmark’s national Human Rights Institution. We promote and protect human rights and equality in Denmark and internationally. We want to set standards and create change. We also act as the national equality body for matters of ethnic and gender origin and as Denmark’s official body in the UN Equal Treatment Convention. We concentrate our work in the following areas: 

• Disability. UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We promote and monitor implementation of the Convention and aim to set standards and create change.

• Gender. We work internally through partnerships with ministries, authorities and national and international organisations to ensure robust and sustainable results. We continuously evaluate our work in the following countries: 

   - Africa: Burkina Faso, Namibia, and South Africa. With ministries, authorities and national organisations, we aim to strengthen the protection of women and girls.

   - East Asia: China, Japan, Nepal and the Philippines. We work with national organisations to strengthen the protection of women and girls.

   - North Africa: Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Yemen. With the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we work with national leaders and national organisations to strengthen the protection of women and girls.

   - Russia, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe. We work with national leaders and authorities to strengthen the protection of women and girls.

The deviation between budget and the actual amounts is due primarily to the fact that not all projects were identified at the time when the budget was being prepared. The accounts show the actual categorisation and the actual level of activity for the year, while the deviation indicates that not all the planned income-generating activities were realised.

The institute’s total income for 2015 comes from DKK 39.0 million allocated from the national budget (services functions, general management and administration), DKK 14.6 million for equal treatment body; DKK 29.2 million from the cooperative agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; DKK 11.3 million is subsidy-financed activities; and DKK 0.4 million is other income. Of the total funds granted from the state budget, DKK 10.3 million are for equal treatment activities in the areas of gender and disability.

The institute’s total income for 2015 was an increase of DKK 2.8 million relative to 2014. This was primarily due to an increase of DKK 5.4 million in other subsidy-financed activities, offset by a decrease of DKK 2.6 million in income-generating activities.
In March 2016, the Danish Institute for Human Rights was part of the Danish delegation at the UN Conference on the Status of Women (CSW). New York. CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The theme of the session in 2016 was “Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development”.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights supports an innovative project at the Subordinate Court in Lusaka, Zambia, that provides legal aid to people accused of crimes. More than 1,200 vulnerable and indigent people accused of crimes are assisted each year by the Legal Service Unit (LSU). The Court hopes to replicate the project throughout Zambia.

In terms of the realization of human rights, we have achieved more than most people dare to dream of. However, it appears that fewer and fewer today believe in the human rights project as something unambiguously positive. “

From the book Kampen om menneskerettigheder (The struggle over Human Rights), March 2016.
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