

Ombudsman for Minorities – Finland

Brief profile

Contact details

- **Postal address:** PO Box 26, FIN-00023 GOVERNMENT, Finland
- **Website:** www.ofm.fi
- **General email address:** ofm@ofm.fi
- **Helpline and telephone number:** + 358 (0) 71 88 87 666
- **For media inquiries:** + 358 (0) 87 88 673

Overview

The Ombudsman for Minorities is an authority with the basic task of advancing the status and legal protection of ethnic minorities and foreigners as well as equality, non-discrimination and good ethnic relations in Finland. The Ombudsman also acts as the national rapporteur on trafficking of human beings.

Type of equality body

The *Ombudsman for Minorities* is a predominantly promotion-type and legal support body¹.

Grounds and fields of discrimination covered

Grounds	Fields	
	Employment	Beyond employment (education, goods & services, housing, etc.)
Gender		
Race and ethnic origin	◆	◆
Age		
Disability		
Sexual orientation		
Religion and belief		

¹ According to a [European Commission study on Equality Bodies](#), predominantly promotion-type equality bodies “spend the bulk of their time and resources on a broader mix of activities that include supporting good practice in organisations, raising awareness of rights, developing a knowledge base on equality and non-discrimination, and providing legal advice and assistance to individual victims of discrimination” (page 44).

Detailed profile

Brief history

The Office of the Ombudsman for Minorities is an independent authority established by the Ombudsman for Minorities Act [660/2001], which entered into force on September 1st, 2001.

Mandate

- **Powers:** the Ombudsman for Minorities is a predominantly promotion-type and legal support body;
- **Litigation powers:**
 - Representing in front of courts (giving assistance in some cases);
 - Bringing proceedings in own name;
 - Formally deciding on complaints (decision or recommendation) – *not legally binding*.

Grounds and fields of discrimination covered

Grounds	Fields				
	Employment	Education	Housing	Social protection	Goods and Services
Gender					
Race and ethnic origin	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Age					
Disability					
Sexual orientation					
Religion and belief					

Activities

- Promotional activities aimed at duty bearers (by way of trainings, guidance material, etc.);
- Promotional activities aimed at potential victims (trainings, awareness raising, etc.);
- Communication activities;
- Publications and research projects;
- National rapporteur on trafficking of human beings;
- Number of inquiries / complaints lodged and cases handled per year: **850**.

Structure

1. Management structure

- Type: single headed equality body (led by director or ombudsman/commissioner);

2. Institutional structure

- Type: the organisation is part of a ministry/government body;

3. Nomination of senior staff and board:

[TBC]

4. Number of staff: 9

Operating budget (for the parts of the organization dealing with equality issues)

850.000 €

Accountability (reporting to)

The organisation is accountable to the Ministry of the Interior.

Contact details (address, key contact person, website)

Address:

The Ombudsman for Minorities

PO Box 26, FIN-00023 GOVERNMENT, Finland

Tel.: + 358 (0) 71 88 87 666

E-mail: ofm@ofm.fi

Main contact persons:

Mrs. Eva Biaudet (Ombudsman)

Tel.: +358 (0)71 8788 660

Email: eva.biaudet@ofm.fi

Mr. Rainer Hiltunen (Head of Office)

Tel.: +358 (0)71 87 88 661

Email: rainer.hiltunen@ofm.fi

Website: www.ofm.fi