Brief profile

Contact details

- **Postal address:** PO Box 26, FIN-00023 GOVERNMENT, Finland
- **Website:** [www.ofm.fi](http://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 body.

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<tr>
<th>Grounds</th>
<th>Fields</th>
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<td>Employment</td>
<td>Beyond employment</td>
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<td>Beyond employment</td>
<td>(education, goods &amp; services, housing, etc.)</td>
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<td>Gender</td>
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<td>Race and ethnic origin</td>
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<td>Religion and belief</td>
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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).
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grounds</th>
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<th>Education</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Social protection</th>
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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:**
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