



OMBUDSMAN FOR MINORITIES

The Finnish National Rapporteur for THB

Senior Officer, LL.M Venla Roth

Office of the Ombudsman for Minorities

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Ombudsman for Minorities as a NR

- Supervises and promotes the position and rights of ethnic minorities and promotes equal treatment in general in cooperation with other officials.
- The Ombudsman for Minorities is administratively situated in the Ministry of the Interior but is an independent actor.
- The Ombudsman has served as a National Rapporteur (NR) for THB since Jan 2009.
- The proposal to establish a post of a NR was initiated through a Governmental Action Plan on THB adopted in June 2008.
- The NR participates in the national coordinating committee as an observer (coordination vs. monitoring).
- So far the Government has had a positive attitude towards the new function.



Ombudsman for Minorities as a NR

- The tasks of the NR include:
 - To follow phenomena related to THB (the situation, trends and possible threads), as well as to monitor the implementation of international obligations and national legislation on trafficking in human beings.
 - To issue recommendations, guidelines, opinions and advice ("soft instruments", the first recommendation on legal aid).
 - To keep in contact with international organisations.
 - To give legal counselling and legal aid to potential trafficking victims.
 - To report regularly to the Government and Parliament.
- The mandate includes also phenomena related to trafficking, such as pandering, arrangement of illegal immigration (smuggling of migrants) and work discrimination.
- The NR has a right to receive all, including classified, information needed from authorities and also, with some restrictions, from NGOs involved in activities against THB.



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Office of the Ombudsman for Minorities

Street address Mikonkatu 25 - Helsinki

Mailing address P.O. Box 26
00023 Government

Customer Service +358 9 160 43481

Fax +358 9 160 43464

Exchange +358 9 160 01

Website <http://www.ofm.fi>

E-mail venla.roth@ofm.fi