

# ANTIRASISTISK SENER

Norwegian Center Against Racism's (Antirasistisk Senter) input for the 2023 report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Norway's implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent

The Norwegian State has taken no particular measures towards the implementation of the programme of activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent. Past legacies of enslavement, the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans, colonialism, apartheid and genocide have not been addressed by the State or public actors, but has been shed light on in academia and by antiracist activists as well as artists during the last years. Several books and articles have brought a debate on the extent of Norwegian, and Norwegians, involvement in this(1). Artists from playwrights and authors to filmmakers and visual artists has brought light both to Norwegian involvement and the International legacy.

The Norwegian government has not taken measures as public apology and acknowledgement, memorialization measures of the like.

The Norwegian government on both state and municipal level has however performed surveys on experienced discrimination and racism(2). A new governmental action-plan against racism and discrimination particularly aimed at the job-market with the subtitle; In and up, is to be finalized the fall of 2023.

The legal remedies against racism and discrimination are not effective, as the code against hate-speech are practiced arbitrarily with seemingly similar cases being treated differently(3), and the majority of convicted are persons impaired either by mental illness or intoxication.

The newly established Discrimination board has thus far been impotent and inaccessible, finding discrimination in as few as 4 percent of complaints, with a high threshold of juridical competence needed on the plaintiffs side. This is illustrated with cases involving lawyers as plaintiffs, explaining how they themselves found it troublesome navigating the process.

In a recent case a lawyer where told in a job interview that the job would entail some “negerarbeid” (best translated to “n-word labour”), the plaintiff, himself a lawyer, found the process difficult, and the Discrimination Board did not find this to be discrimination, as it was not directed at the plaintiff as a person, but more general a group of people. This illustrates the lack of competence within the Board.(4)

The Norwegian government has done nothing towards promoting the United Nations International Decade of People of African Descent, or following up on the program. The Decade has gone unnoticed nationally and the few private initiatives addressing the past legacies of enslavement, the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans, colonialism, apartheid and genocide have not been in connection to, or been connected with, the Decade.

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(1)

Nordmenn i slavefart - og andre historier fra det danske koloniriket -  
Per Ivar Hjeldsbakken Engevold

Den norske slavehandelen - Anders Totland

Slaveskipet Fredensborg - og den dansk-norske slavehandel på 1700  
tallet - Leif Svalesen

(2)

<https://www.ssb.no/sosiale-forhold-og-kriminalitet/levekar/artikler/en-av-fem-opplever-diskriminering>

<https://www.kifo.no/ny-kifo-rapport-kartlegging-av-rasisme-og-diskriminering-i-mote-med-oslo-kommune/>

<https://www.kifo.no/ny-kifo-rapport-om-strukturell-rasisme-i-bergen/>

(3)

<https://www.nettavisen.no/livsstil/bernt-hulsker-bryter-tausheten-etter-rasismedommen/s/5-95-705404>

<https://www.tv2.no/nyheter/innenriks/antonsen-klage-henlagt-pa-nytt/15406205/>

(4)

<https://www.nrk.no/osloogviken/antirasistisk-senter-har-sluttet-a-sende-saker-til-diskrimineringsnemnda-1.16273957>

<https://www.nrk.no/osloogviken/finans-norge-brukte-negerarbeid-i-et-jobbintervju.-diskrimineringsnemnda-mener-det-ikke-er-rasisme-1.16358045>