

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/95, paras. 22, 24)

The report notes that the Evidence Amendment Act 1989 underlines that the specific procedures followed in child sexual abuse cases do not diminish the inquisitorial powers of the judge. The report further notes that the law in New Zealand provides for sanctions of criminal acts committed by New Zealand citizens against children abroad, as well as the promotion and organization of child sex tours in the country.

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly (A/52/482, para. 109) notes that, in December 1996, the Internet Society of New Zealand and the Internal Affairs Department set up a joint working group to address the problem of pornography on the Internet. The decision to establish the working group followed several high-profile raids and monitoring exercises by the authorities. The report notes that the Society is also developing a code of practice for Internet service providers.

Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/19, para. 41)

The report refers to practices in the first half of 1993 in which waste traders from a number of countries, including New Zealand, shipped more than 16,000 tonnes of battery scrap to the Philippines. The report states that the practice violated the Filipino Republic Act No. 6969 banning such toxic waste imports. The New Zealand government responded to the report of the Special Rapporteur (SR), noting that the exports were neither "illicit traffic" nor "dumping" which form the two key elements of the mandate of the SR. The government further observed that violations of Filipino law are matters for the government of the Philippines to take up and not that of New Zealand. The government stated that delivery of battery scrap to the Philippines was a commercial transaction and not "dumping" in either the trade or wastes contexts because the scrap was not intended for disposal but recycling. And, finally, the government questioned whether issues related to industrial processing fall within the mandate of the SR. [This information was included in a photocopy of some governments' responses to the SR's report, generally available at the 1997 Commission.]

Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/47, Section III.D)

In the section dealing with rape and sexual violence against women, the report notes that the Victims of Offences Act of 1987 in New Zealand instructs prosecutors, judicial officers, counsel and others working with victims to treat them with courtesy, compassion and respect for their personal dignity and privacy.

Other Reports

HIV/AIDS, Report of the Secretary-General to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/37, Appendix)

The report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights (Geneva, September 1996) notes that law reform in New Zealand has led to the development of general anti-discrimination legislation at national and local levels which defines disability

broadly and sensitively enough to explicitly include HIV/AIDS.

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, Report of the HCHR: (E/CN.4/1997/101, para. 9)

The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights notes that New Zealand has contributed to the Voluntary Fund for the Decade.

National institutions, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/41, paras. 15-16, 38)

The report of the Secretary-General summarizes the views of New Zealand related to the manner and means of participation by national institutions in the work of the Commission on Human Rights. The government stated that the promotion of national institutions in meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary bodies was an important way of translating international human rights commitments into practical implementation at the domestic level, and national institutions were well placed to contribute to the consideration by states of the ratification of human rights instruments and to support the process of country reporting. For these and other reasons, the government supported continuing efforts to facilitate the participation of national institutions in the work of the Commission. The government suggested regularizing the current ad hoc practice of allowing national institutions to speak from country desks in their own right while continuing discussions on a permanent arrangement and ensuring that participation by national institutions was achieved in a way that enhanced the overall effective functioning of these meetings. The report noted that New Zealand is a member of the Coordinating Committee of National Institutions.

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NORWAY

Date of admission to UN: 27 November 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Norway has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 20 March 1968; ratified: 13 September 1972.

Norway's fourth periodic report is due 30 June 1999.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 (d) of article 8.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 20 March 1968; ratified: 13 September 1972.

Norway's fourth periodic report (CCPR/C/115/Add.2) has been submitted but is not yet scheduled for consideration by the Committee; the fifth periodic report is due 1 August 2001.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraphs 2 (b) and 3 of article 10; paragraphs 5 and 7 of article 14; paragraph 1 of article 20; declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Signed: 20 March 1968; ratified: 13 September 1972.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 2 of article 5.