



VALTIONEUVOSTO
STATSRÅDET

Government statement to Parliament on promoting equality, gender equality and non-discrimination

Press conference 31 August 2023

Preparation of the statement

- Working group made up of state secretaries and permanent secretaries.
- Over a hundred consultations.
- Specifications to policies and entries in the Government Programme.
- Main focus on combating racism.
- Work to continue: Prime Minister to lead drafting of continuation of An Equal Finland action plan based on the Government Programme.

Contents

- Framework and Government policies
 - Finnish legislation at a good level overall
 - Finland to continue its long-term policies in the EU and internationally
 - Government policy and the Government Programme
 - Government to use Equal Finland action plan in its efforts
- Government actions

Key policies

- The Government is committed to promoting equality between groups and individuals on a broad front. Discrimination is unacceptable. There should be no room for racism in Finland.
- The Government will make every effort to advance equality and non-discrimination in accordance with the principles set out in the Government Programme.
- As stated in the Government Programme, the employment of all population groups will be raised by reforming the labour market and removing incentive traps. Work is a part of successful integration.

Government action – five headings



1. **Social atmosphere and debate, increasing awareness, good relations between population groups**

Examples: Annual discussion led by the Prime Minister on promoting equality and non-discrimination.

Work of the Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations to be supported.

2. **Education system and culture, sports, physical activity and youth policy**

Examples: The Government will raise the participation rate of children with an immigrant background in early childhood education and care as stated in the Government Programme.

3. **Equality and non-discrimination at work**

Examples: The transition of female immigrants into the labour market will be promoted.

The ability of organisations to support the workplace

wellbeing of employees facing discrimination and racism will be improved.

4. **Legislative projects and studies**

Examples: Acts motivated by hate against Jews, Muslims, Christians and other religious groups will be prevented. Holocaust denial will be criminalised.

The punishments for exploitation of employees will be made more severe and supervision will be improved.

5. **Internal measures taken in Government and administration**

Examples: The Government will annually review the decisions, conclusions and recommendations issued to Finland by international bodies monitoring human rights and decide on measures to be taken.

Diversity will be made a factor in government recruiting.