



Statement by

SOS Against Racism, Denmark

DACoRD: Documentary and Advisory Centre on Racial Discrimination

ENAR Denmark: European Network Against Racism

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II Focus on three issues

1. Denmark should respect **human rights of refugees and asylum seekers**

106.27, 106.61, 106.102 - 106.104, 106.111, 106.114, 106.16, 106.119, 106.120, 106.123, 106.125, 106.127, 106.128, 106.130, 106.131

2. Denmark should enhance the **combat against discrimination, racism, and hate crimes**

106.37, 106.54 - 106.72, A - 106.96, 106.107 - 106.111, 106.113

3. Denmark should **not introduce an age limit to non-therapeutic male circumcision**

III UPR, government & immigration policies

	UPR cycle	Government - all minority governments	Immigration policies
2011	UPR 02.05.2011: 135 recommendations Denmark accepted the 84 and rejected 51	27.11.2001 – 3.10.2011 Liberal – Conservative	Discriminating laws Stricter asylum policy
2014	24.06.2014: Mid-term report: Some recommendations split: 107 accepted, 21 rejected, 12 pending	3.10.2011 – 28.06.2015 Center – Left	Softening of harsh immigration and asylum laws Antidiscrimination Measures on a small scale
2015	Brief national report for UPR UPR Pre-session, 2. cycle	From 28.06.2015 Liberal	Stricter asylum laws Harsh asylum and migration laws Repealing of softer laws and antidiscrimination measures

IV Delay of family reunification for refugees with temporary protected status

3.02.2015 (Law):

New refugee status: Temporary protected status: Aims: Don't seek asylum here!

Only residence permit for 1 year. The refugee has no right to family reunification in Denmark during the first year.

Extended if the refugee cannot be returned after a year, if so right to family reunification. Fewer guarantees as to the situation in the home country at time of return

13.11.2015 (Law proposal):

No right to family reunification during first 3 years, if temporary status

Recommendations: Repeal the laws and respect the right to family life

V Impoverishing and discriminating laws

26.08.2015. **Aim: that fewer refugees will seek asylum in Denmark**

- Social benefits will be reduced by up to 50 percent for newly arrived refugees and other persons who have lived less than 7 out of the past 8 years in Denmark. Restrictions on housing benefits
- Having passed a test in Danish language level 2 or Danish exam from compulsory school means a benefit of 200 dollars/month
- If earning wages, most of them will be deducted from the benefits
- Full child benefits only after 2 years of residence
- Refugees will only be entitled to old age pension proportional to the length of their stay in Denmark

VI New harsh asylum laws and signal policy



VII Asylum seekers, other recommendations:

- 20.11.2015: Asylum seekers may be detained for an **unlimited period of time** in order to establish identity and asylum grounds and for registration. The case will only be taken to court if so requested by the asylum seeker, there is no time limit for when it will be heard by a court.
Recommendations: Denmark should revoke this and other legislation not in accordance with human rights and continue to be a society based upon the rule of law
- No tents for accommodation!
- Asylum seekers should be treated with dignity!
- Children in the asylum system should have a right to attend government schools
- Asylum seekers should have the right to get an electronically taped record of the first asylum interview with the Immigration Service in order to guard against errors from interpreters

VIII Recommendations on combating discrimination, racism, and hate crimes

- Anti-discrimination campaigns,
- Funds for anti-racist organisations
- Legislation on the use and monitoring and prompt action on hate speech in social media
- Registration of hate crimes based on the perception of the victim
- Public prosecution of hate speech and hate crimes
- Court registration of hate crimes

IX Non-therapeutical circumcision of boys

- An aggressive campaign for a ban on non-therapeutic male circumcision below the age of 18
- A ban will clash with the children's and parents' right to exercise their religion
- **Recommendation: No age limit to male circumcision**