

To: Economic and Social Council

Shadow report on Norway's report on gender equality and the empowerment of Women. Hearing 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010, New York

Form Legal Aid for Women/Juridisk rådgivning for kvinner (JURK)

***Legal Advice for Women – JURK – is an independent charity working to improve the legal position and status of women.***

*Female law students from the University of Oslo run JURK. We offer free legal advice within most areas of the law.*

*Women all over the country, regardless of income, may use our free legal advice.*

*JURK also addresses political issues concerning women, and are trying to better women's position within the law.*

JURK would firstly like to thank the council for the opportunity to speak and be heard in this matter.

JURK has some comments to Norway's report on gender equality and the empowerment of Women we would like to address:

1. Legal framework and the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud.
  - a. JURK is concerned that the new Anti discrimination law sat in motion, is weakening the women's protection against discrimination and weakening the focus on discrimination of women. JURK institutes a research for and evaluation of benefits/advantages and disadvantages/drawbacks for women's position and protection against discrimination in Norway.
  - b. JURK is also concerned that the government's duty to fulfill the anti-discrimination act is prohibited by its low activity towards the population. JURK recognizes among our clients that there is very little knowledge about the Anti discrimination act and the Anti-Discrimination Ombud. JURK has published a report on this subject in collaboration with the Faculty of Law in Oslo. "Kvinnerettslig skriftserie nr.83/2010." Link:  
[http://www.jus.uio.no/ior/forskning/omrader/kvinnerett/publikasjoner/skriftserien/83\\_nordstrom.html](http://www.jus.uio.no/ior/forskning/omrader/kvinnerett/publikasjoner/skriftserien/83_nordstrom.html)
  - c. JURK also recognizes information about women's legal right as a human right. JURK is concerned about the little effort and small amount of money that is given to this work. JURK has been a topic of a master theses concerning this matter: "Kvinnerettslig skrifserie nr.81/2009." Link:

[http://www.jus.uio.no/ior/forskning/omrader/kvinnerett/publikasjoner/skriftserien/81\\_Nordstroem.html](http://www.jus.uio.no/ior/forskning/omrader/kvinnerett/publikasjoner/skriftserien/81_Nordstroem.html)

2. JURK is grateful that the struggle for equality now also concerns men, but remains worried that the equality is less about women and that the women's perspective is vanishing. JURK notes that more and more policies, strategies and grants are directed towards men and men's roles instead of both men and women.
3. Combining family and work life
  - a. JURK notes that we still have a number of cases concerning discrimination of women because of pregnancy. JURK had 27 cases in 2009. "Årsrapport JURK 2009."
  - b. JURK also sees a tendency of discrimination against women because of motherhood.
  - c. JURK notes that the paid parental leave is still only obtained through the women's labour. This means that in families where the father works while the mother is at home, the father has no rights of paid parental leave.
4. Women's economic right
  - a. JURK is concerned about the amount of involuntary part time work women have to do. JURK wants clear strategies from the State on how to combat the involuntary part time work.
  - b. JURK notes that most women in Norway still have poor knowledge about marriage law and law concerning cohabitation without contract. JURK has many cases where the economic result for women after separation is miserable, often cause by lack of knowledge and steps for precaution.
5. Gender based violence
  - a. JURK notes that women who have been abused in a relationship still have to collaborate and share parental responsibilities for common children with the abusive husband or man. For example there are issues concerning the delivery of children according to the parental agreement. JURK has many clients who struggle with this arrangement, and needs peace after leaving an abusive home.
  - b. JURK calls for more information on legal rights and how to organize life after the abuse. In JURK's opinion, this falls under the responsibility of the State and should be directed towards women who have experienced violence in close relations.
  - c. JURK is concerned about the high rate of men killing their girlfriends or wives, or former partners.
  - d. JURK is worried about the police's priorities in cases concerning domestic violence or sexual abuse. JURK notes that these cases are often dropped. We have experiences police officers who advice woman against pressing charges because investigation rarely leads to the case being solved and that these cases therefore are not prioritized for budget reasons. This is a direct treat to women's legal protection.
  - e. JURK is concerned that action taken against Female Genital Mutilation discriminate and disaggregate minority women especially from Somalia. JURK hopes for more statistics from the Norwegian Government on how many women and children suffer from genital mutilation.
6. Governmental grants directed to gender-focused work
  - a. JURK is grateful that grants earmarked for women's rights and gender equality in international development are at NOK 600 million and that gender-focused bilateral aid has increased to NOK 5.2 billion.

- b. JURK addresses concern about the amount of aid and grants given to Norwegian gender-focused work. Information about the precise amount of such aids and grants is nowhere to be found. There are also significant difficulties obtaining sufficient grants for organizations like JURK. These experiences are similar for our collaborative organizations.

JURK is apologizing for the poor language and keywords based report. This is because JURK has no money for translation and this report was given very short notice.

Best regards

JURK

Gunhild Vehusheia  
Manager

Tina Storsletten Nordstrøm  
Project manager

Ida Thorsrud  
Case worker