



## CONFERENCE REPORT

*From Lund to Ljubljana: Promoting the Participation of National Minorities as a Pathway to the Integration of Diverse Societies*

Lund, Sweden – 14 November 2019



## **Introduction**

The effective participation of national minorities in public life leads to better integration in culturally diverse societies and as such reduces the likelihood of interethnic crises and conflicts. In 1999, at the request of the then OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), a group of international experts in the field of national minority issues developed *The Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life*. Over the 20 years since the launch of these 24 recommendations, the HCNM has worked closely with the OSCE participating States to help them develop laws, policies and measures to increase and achieve a more effective representation by, and participation of, national minorities in public life. HCNM has also collaborated with the OSCE participating States to identify good practices and lessons learned in this field that might have a broader application within the OSCE area.

On 14 November 2019, 20 years after the Lund Recommendations were first published, the HCNM, in collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and with the support of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, organized an international anniversary conference in Lund to promote the continued relevance of *The Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life*, to encourage an exchange of relevant policy practices and lessons learned among participating States, and to identify needs and opportunities for HCNM's thematic work in the future. The conference brought together some 100 participants, including representatives from the OSCE participating States, national minority communities, civil society, and academia. During the day, government representatives and international experts presented practices and lessons in promoting effective minority participation from 11 participating States, including Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Moldova, Latvia, North Macedonia, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The following section summarizes challenges and general lessons identified during the debates in four conference panels.

## **Challenges, good practices and lessons learned**

**Panel 1A:** *Opportunities for and barriers to the participation of minority women in public life* reviewed both possibilities for and impediments to the effective participation of women in political and public life:

- Barriers to the participation of women in political life are prevalent regardless of specific national contexts.
- A range of circumstances negatively affects women, and especially national minority women: gender-based violence; patriarchal norms in society; gender-based discrimination and double standards in requirements for a certain position between men and women.
- Measures that have proven to contribute to increased participation of women in political life include: comprehensive implementation of relevant international standards into national legislation; establishing and maintaining gender parity throughout the entire process of public policy-making; quotas for minority women in political parties, parliaments and cabinets.

- Since multiple gender-based discrimination occurs on many grounds, relevant international actors should continue to integrate a gender perspective in their work on effective participation.

**Panel 1B:** *Minority Participation – Focus on Sweden* explored the potential contribution of the Lund Recommendations to strengthening the effective participation of Swedish national minorities (i.e. Roma, Jews, Sami and Finns) in public life:

- The central and local governments have adopted legislation giving national minorities opportunities to influence decision-making on issues that concern minorities and have established some consultative mechanisms.
- The discussions identified challenges and good practices, as well as the need to increase the knowledge of the authorities about specific needs of national minorities and to adopt additional measures for shared ownership of decision-making.

**Panel 2A:** *Effective participation of national minorities in social and economic life* discussed how higher levels of participation by national minorities in political, economic and social life at the local and regional level generate economic growth in regions where national minorities reside, both within and across borders:

- National minorities can contribute to regional socio-economic development, if they are included in the design and implementation of development initiatives.
- Active participation of national minorities in socio-economic development supports and sustains integration of culturally diverse societies.
- Different forms of participation of minorities (e.g. political, socio-economic and cultural) are inter-connected.
- Cases of regional development (south-western Ukraine, southern Moldova, the western Balkans and the UK) provide examples of successes and challenges in increasing the effectiveness of socio-economic participation of national minorities.

**Panel 2B:** *Advancing the meaningful participation of national minorities in political life: good practices* reviewed different State policies and measures that create incentives for increased and more effective participation of national minorities in public life. Recommendations in this context include:

- Building partnerships within participating States; for example, State and private partnerships in support of minority inclusion: coalition building, people-to-people exchange of representatives from different communities. Other practices include provisions in national legislations on the inclusion of national minorities in a proportional way compared to the size of the population.
- Building partnerships and coalitions between participating States. *The Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations* can assist in advancing the participation of national minorities in this area of political life.

### **Conclusion and follow-up**

- The HCNM raised awareness among the participants, including governmental representatives from the OSCE participating States, about the enduring relevance of the Lund Recommendations.
- Efforts to include the integration of a gender perspective in future work on the effective participation of national minorities in public life should remain a specific focus for the HCNM.
- The topic of social-economic integration could be considered for future thematic engagement.

### **Attachments**

Conference programme

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

### **From Lund to Ljubljana: *Promoting Participation of National Minorities as a Pathway to Integration of Diverse Societies*** **Lund, Sweden, 14 November 2019**

**Venue:** Grand Hotel, Bantorget 1, 222 29 Lund, Sweden

**Master of Ceremonies:** Christophe Kamp, Director, HCNM

09.00–09.30 **Registration and coffee**

09.30–10.15 **High level introductory panel**

**Room: Stora Salen**

- H.E. Lamberto Zannier, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
- H.E. Annika Ben David, Ambassador for Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden
- H.E. László Bukovszky, Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities, Representative of the 2019 OSCE Chairmanship
- H.E. Roberto Montella, Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Director, OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
- Morten Kjaerum, Director, Raoul Wallenberg Institute

10.15–10.45 **Keynote speech**

**Room: Stora Salen**

H.E. Tarja Halonen, Former President of Finland

10.45–11.15 **Coffee break**

11.15–12.30 **Panel 1A “Opportunities for and barriers to the participation of minority women in public life”**

**Room: Stora Salen**

This panel will review both possibilities for and impediments to the effective participation of women in all aspects of political and public life. In particular, it will highlight good practices within the 57 OSCE participating States that promote the representation of women in political parties, assemblies and other public offices at all levels of decision-making.

**Panel Experts:**

- H.E. Ketevan Tsikhelashvili, State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality
- H.E. Enikő Katalin Lacziko, Secretary of State, Department for Interethnic Relations, Government of Romania
- H.E. Henrik Villadsen, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
- Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Director, OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

*Moderator:* Besa Arifi, Vice-Rector for Research and International Relations, South East European University, North Macedonia

**11.15–12.30 Panel 1B “Minority participation: focus on Sweden”**

**Room: Sten Broman**

This panel will address and explore the potential contribution of the Lund Recommendations in strengthening and framing the effective participation of Swedish national minorities in public life. Representatives of four national minorities (i.e. Roma, Jews, Sami and Finns) will reflect and share their experiences regarding the effective involvement of Swedish minorities in public life and, in particular, at the local level.

**Panel Experts:**

- Julia Sällström and Olga Friberg Jonsson, Roma Information and Knowledge Center, Malmö Municipality, Sweden
- Lars Miguel Utsi, Vice President and Chairman of the Language Committee, Sami Parliament, Sweden
- Jarmo Lainio, Professor of Finnish, Stockholm University, Sweden
- Isak Reichel, Secretary General, Judiska Församlingen i Stockholm, Sweden
- Marie B. Hagsgård, Second Vice President of the Advisory Committee for the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities

*Moderator:* Ilze Brands Kehris, Member of the UN Human Rights Committee; Affiliated Mandate-Holder, Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI)

**12.30–14.00 Lunch co-hosted with the City of Lund**

**Room: Grands Matsal**

Welcome remarks by Lars V Andersson, Deputy Mayor/Deputy Chairman of the City Council, City of Lund

**14.00–14.15 Screening of film on HCNM participation project in Georgia**

**Room: Stora Salen**

**14.15-14.30 Book launch**

**Room: Stora Salen**

Book Editors: William Romans and Anton Thomsen

*Moderator:* Christophe Kamp, Director, HCNM

**14.30–16.00 Panel 2A “Effective participation in social and economic life: the role of national minorities in regional development”**

**Room: Stora Salen**

This panel will discuss how higher levels of participation by national minorities in political, economic and social life at the local and regional level can generate economic growth in regions where national minorities reside, both within and across borders. It will present lessons learned from cases of regional development in areas where national minorities have settled in the border regions of Europe and explore the reasons behind their economic success.

**Panel Experts:**

- Ana Nikolov, Head of the Association for European Border Regions Balkan Office
- Mihail Shalvir, Director of the Centre for Regional Initiatives, Gagauzia, Moldova
- Yulia Tyshchenko, Head of the Board of the Ukrainian Centre for Independent Political Research
- Omar Khan, Director, Runnymede Trust

*Moderator:* Tove H. Malloy, Professor, Europa-Universität Flensburg

**14.30–16.00 Panel 2B “Advancing the meaningful participation of national minorities in political life: good practices”**

**Room: Sten Broman**

This panel will review different State policies and measures that create incentives for increased and more effective participation of national minorities in public life. It will identify good practices by the OSCE participating States that ensure not only nominal but also substantive and enduring representation of national minorities in political parties, parliaments and other public offices which translate into influence in the decision-making process.

**Panel Experts:**

- Kristina Kallas, Research Fellow, Tartu University
- Ružica Jakešević, Faculty of Political Science, Zagreb University
- Alex T. Johnson, Chief of Staff, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, U.S. Helsinki Commission

*Moderator:* Gaetano Pentassuglia, Professor, University of Liverpool

**16.00–16.30 Coffee break**

**16:30–17:15 Closing panel “Next steps in promoting public participation of national minorities”**

**Room: Stora Salen**

In the closing panel, the moderators of the four parallel sessions will present the conclusions and recommendations from discussions in their respective panels to further advance the meaningful and sustainable participation of national minorities in the governance of multi-ethnic States in the OSCE region.

Besa Arifi, Ilze Brands Kehris, Tove Malloy, Gaetano Pentassuglia

*Moderator:* Morten Kjaerum, Director, Raoul Wallenberg Institute

**Questions & Answers**

**17.15–18.00 Closing remarks**

**Room: Stora Salen**

- H.E. Rolf Ekéus, Former OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

- Mr. Fernand de Varennnes United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
- H.E. Lamberto Zannier, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

18.00–19.00 **Reception**