



UN CED

ohchr-ced@un.org
albane.prophette@un.org

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Addendum:

Report from Norway's NHRI to the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) in relation to the List of Issues to Norway to be adopted at the 24th session, 20-31 Mar 2023

The Norwegian National Human Rights Institution hereby provides an addendum to its inputs of 9.12.2022 to the Committee in preparing its List of Issues to Norway.

The issue of possible illegal intercountry adoption has come to our attention after recent developments in the public realm and a recent meeting with victims of wrongful adoption. We apologize for the late notice but given the gravity of the issue, we see the need to raise the issue with the Committee. We much appreciate the Committee's exceptional extension of the deadline to allow this submission.

Potential illegal intercountry adoptions

The Committee on Enforced Disappearances, with several others, issued a joint statement on illegal intercountry adoptions in 2022.¹ The statement refers to States' obligations to prevent, criminalise, investigate, and provide remedies for illegal intercountry adoptions.

This obligation also pertains to Norway, where intercountry adoption also takes place.² In the wake of several media inquiries into potential illegal intercountry adoptions to Norway, the Ministry of Children and Families has stated that they will establish an external commission of inquiry into these allegations.³

Suggested questions to Norway:

- What measures has the State Party adopted in Norwegian law, policy, and practice to prevent illegal intercountry adoption?

¹ https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/ced/2022-09-29/JointstatementICA_HR_28September2022.pdf

² In accordance with Act relating to adoption (LOV-2017-06-16-48) Chapter 4.

³ <https://www.tv2.no/nyheter/innenriks/toppe-til-alle-som-har-blitt-rammet-jeg-beklager/15440352/>

- What steps is the State Party taking to remedy potential illegal intercountry adoptions, when will the external commission of inquiry start, what will be its mandate and how will the victims' views be heard and respected in the process?

Please feel free to contact us at info@nhri.no in case of questions.

Best regards
Norwegian National Human Rights Institution

Adele Matheson Mestad
Director

Kristin Høgdahl
Senior Policy Advisor