



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF CHILDREN AND EQUALITY

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human
Rights
CH 1211 Geneva

Your ref

Our ref

Date:

17/308-

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Report of the OHCHR on ways to bridge the gender digital divide from a human rights perspective - Norway's answer to questions

We have received your questionnaire concerning ways to bridge the gender digital divide from a human rights perspective. Under follows our answers to the 7 questions:

- 1) Among non-western immigrants, women may experience barriers related to cultural norms and skills. Other than that, we are not aware of any obstacles or barriers to access the Internet faced by women in particular in our country.
- 2) Statistics Norway collects disaggregated data on the basis of sex, regarding Internet access. These data are available here:
<https://www.ssb.no/statistikkbanken/SelectTable/hovedtabellHjem.asp?KortNavnWeb=iikthus&CMSSubjectArea=teknologi-og-innovasjon&StatVariant=&PLanguage=1&checked=true>

The Government uses data from a number of sources to monitor progress in the ICT-sector. See for example these pages (in Norwegian):

<https://www.difi.no/rapporter-og-statistikk/nokkeltall-og-statistikk>

- 3) Digidel 2017 (www.digidel.no) is a national programme run by the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation. The programme aids in the training of groups that do not use ICT as part of their everyday life to help them acquire the skills needed to master these technologies. Special focus groups include elderly people and non-western immigrants, women in particular. An NGO called LIN and the

Norwegian Red Cross conduct dedicated introduction courses aimed at female immigrants.

- 4) The main challenge to bridge the digital divide is the lack of basic help and training assistance in rural parts of Norway. Norway generally has very good access to Internet and ICT-equipment is relatively affordable compared to basic income.

The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) and the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation cooperate with the purpose of developing local training services in digital competence in all municipalities. The goal of these local training services is to help citizens with low digital skills to acquire basic digital skills. All municipalities in Norway have library services, and several of them already offer different kinds of digital guidance and training to their citizens.

- 5) Our national Internet policy is an integrated part of the national ICT policy. The latest white paper describing the national ICT policy can be found here:
<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/digital-agenda-for-norway-in-brief/id2499897/>
- 6) Except for among non-western immigrants, there are no significant gender disparities in digital literacy in Norway, but see reply to question 3 above.
- 7) The Government's strategy against hate speech 2016-2020 was launched in October 2016. The Government will facilitate a good public discussion based on mutual respect for each other. Hate speech is an obstacle to this. This strategy will help to prevent and combat hate speech. The Government will help to create good meeting places along with all the actors who can contribute knowledge and experience. Meeting places for children and youth will be particularly important, including the Internet.

Yours sincerely,

Hege Nygård
Director General

Georg Hilmar Antonsen
Senior Adviser

The document is approved electronically, as such no handwritten signatures are required.

Copy: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

