

Civil society sector in Norway.

By Enver Djuliman
Norwegian Helsinki Committee

Civil society may be defined

- as the realm of institutions, organisations, networks and individuals (and their values), which occupies the space in between family, state and market, interconnected by a number of shared civic rules, where individuals form voluntary associations for the purpose of advocating common interests“.

Civil society in protecting HR and in post-conflict societies

- Civil society is the key promoter of activities aimed at exercising and protecting human rights and maintaining democracy. It plays a special role in post-conflict societies.
- Civil society organisations enable citizens to be actively involved in peace-building and to influence political processes. This influences the quality of democratic institutions and efficiency of government

- The key issue is to create a positive interrelation between solidarity, trust and participation.
- In the post-war period, once peace agreements are signed, the role of civil society organisations is to monitor the implementation of the agreements. It is these organisations that create the space for trust-building and reconciliation.

They are expected to:

- a) demand that the process of bringing the war criminals to justice is implemented,
- b) demand and participate in the activities of researching, fact finding and informing the public about the events that took place during the conflict,
- c) take part in rehabilitation and resocialisation of victims and perpetrators alike,
- d) undertake activities aimed at trust.

Civil society networks can work on:

- reducing social distance and building trust as social capital,
- connecting people, ideas and activities,
- facilitating exchange of services, participating in joint activities and conducting campaigns;
- opening communication channels, producing information and facilitating information exchange.
- developing solidarity, providing protection to the network members and building „collective courage“,

Overview of Norwegian NGO sector – recent trends

- The NGO sector – voluntarism and professionalism combined
- 115 000 NGOs
- 80 % of are members of an NGO
- 50% participate in voluntary work annually
- Professional staff + active members
- *Norway would probably not have had the world's most developed and open democracy without the voluntary sector - Former PM Stoltenberg, 2006.*

Tendencies 1.

- Decrease in the overall number of local organizations
- Increase in the number of organizations with national outreach
- Possible reason: better registries for organizations, social media and internet based outreach

Tendencies 2.

- The national and local level are more or less independent of each other
- Local organizations arrange activities for their own members
- National outreach organizations organize activities for a wider target group

Tendencies 3.

- Membership in organizations is in slight decline (service provision for public and volunteers have become more important than membership)
- Increase in amount of volunteering (over 142 000 man years in 2014 from about 115 000 in 2009).

Funding:

- 63% from membership fees and sales
- 23% from central or local government
- 7% from donations
- 7% sponsorships

Funding

Use of the funds

- 21% administration and rent
- 34% salaries and management
- 36% activities and allowences
- 8% information and materials

Government, institutions and civil society

- Norwegian organizations who work abroad are the channels through which Norway supports respect for human rights and peace building.
- support,
- dialogue,
- trust

Norwegian National Human Rights Institution.

The primary function of the Norwegian National Human Rights Institution is to promote and protect human rights in accordance with the Constitution, the Human Rights Act and other legislation, international treaties and other international law.

- http://www.nhri.no/?lang=en_GB

The Norwegian Helsinki Committee

- Monitoring, reporting, human rights education and democracy support
- Work in Europe, Central Asia, former Soviet Union and the West Balkans
- 40 year anniversary in 2017

www.nhc.no

Amnesti International

- Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who take injustice personally. We are campaigning for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.
- Funded by members and people like you. We are independent of any political ideology, economic interest or religion.
- <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/europe-and-central-asia/norway/>

Norwegian organisation for Asylum Seekers (NOAS)

- is an independent membership organisation working to protect the rights of asylum seekers in Norway.
- NOAS' main activities are to give information and legal aid to asylum seekers, and advocacy.

<http://www.noas.no/en/>

The Norwegian Centre against Racism

- Main objective is to fight racism and discrimination.
- Works to:
 - document and prevent racism
 - raise awareness about racism
 - mobilize the minority population

<http://www.antirasistisk-senter.no/english/>

FRI Norge

- FRI - The association for gender and sexuality diversity working for equality and diversity, and against discrimination in Norway and in the rest of the world.

<https://foreningenfri.no/>

Norwegian association of Jurnalists

National level:

International level:

Russian Federation, Cina, Filipine,
Polen, Tyrkia, Ukreine, Belarus.

<https://www.nj.no/no/English/>

• THANK YOU!