



NEWS REPORT

Date: 4 May 2014
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Title: Growth in the number of questions about discrimination, number of opinions delivered by the NIHR drops again
Country: The Netherlands
Context
Issue at stake: The NIHR's Annual Report shows growing amount of questions about discrimination; less opinions delivered.
Ground of discrimination: All grounds
Source: National equality body
Field: All fields

Content

Political development: Recently, the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (NIHR) has published its Annual Report on 2013. According to the report, there has been 'explosive growth' in the number of questions about discrimination in the Netherlands over the past year. In total, the NIHR received 2,006 questions on equal treatment in 2013, a rise of no less than 75% as compared to the year 2012. Many questions concerned pregnancy-related discrimination, which may be caused by the campaign 'Pregnant and Work' started by the NIHR in May 2013.

The number of opinions given by the quasi-judicial body did however drop for the second year in a row. The Institute was asked to render a (non-binding) opinion in almost 500 cases and delivered 183 opinions in 2013, which is considerably less than in 2011 (221 opinions) and 2012 (212 opinions). The discrepancy between the rising number of questions asked and the declining number of opinions delivered can, according to the NIHR, partially be explained by the more effective approach used by the Institute's front office in assessing whether the problems can be solved without requesting the NIHR for an opinion.

Many questions and cases concern (access to) employment. 'Exclusion takes place from the first steps at the labour market onwards,' the NIHR states in the press release accompanying the annual report. 'In 2013 again, the Institute received indications that companies refuse interns because of their skin colour or because they wear a headscarf.' This is in line with the Annual Integration Report on 2013 published earlier this year by Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP), in which it was concluded that discrimination undoubtedly plays a role in the problems encountered by some groups of migrants on the labour market.

The following tables contain the data published by the NIHR in its Annual Report on 2013.

Number of requests to render an opinion	
Year	Number
2010	423
2011	719
2012	634
2013	485

Number of opinions given by the NIHR	2011		2012		2013	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Gender	38	17	44	21	40	22
Race	22	10	27	13	27	15
Nationality	4	2	12	6	14	8
Religion	17	8	16	8	18	10
Sexual Orientation	1	0	2	1	0	0
Civil status	1	0	3	1	2	1
Political beliefs	6	3	8	4	3	2
Philosophy of life	1	0	1	0	0	0
Working hours	7	3	14	7	5	3
Temp/perm. Employment	4	2	0	0	0	0
Disability/Chronic Illness	37	17	39	18	31	17
Age	53	24	34	16	32	17
Multiple grounds	30	14	11	5	11	6
No ground	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	221	100	212	100	183	100

Source: NIHR Annual Report 2013, annex 7.

Internet link source:

An Dutch language version of the NIHR's annual report may be retrieved at <http://www.mensenrechten.nl/berichten/jaarverslag-college-voor-de-rechten-van-de-mens> (last accessed 2 May 2014).