

Contribution report to UCLG City of Nuremberg

1. What human rights challenges is your municipality currently facing? What are your main thematic priorities?

The city of Nuremberg is a diverse metropolis and home to more than 500.000 people. Forty-five percent of them have a migration background with various origin, which is the reason for many stakeholder organizations connecting people based on their cultural background. One main challenge for the local government is the resocialization in social processes and reintegration in labour market of long-term unemployed people. In background of high poverty risk and tight housing market, municipality of Nuremberg initiated many measures and provides assistance service to reduce bureaucratic and financial barriers to access to affordable housing for disadvantaged and marginalized groups. The human rights governance is mainly focusing on implementing equal opportunities for all residents including every type of vulnerable population groups. Realizing equal opportunities assumes a dualism in local human rights government between undertaking measures and programs to ensuring participation in social, cultural and political processes on the one hand and institutionalizing advisory offices as well as offering intercultural and educational programs. Furthermore, in awareness of the high importance of the city of Nuremberg whilst the national socialist regime in Germany the local government accept its responsibility to engage in enlightenment of the crimes in the past. Creating a culture of remembrance for the victims of the national socialistic regime and human rights education in terms raising public awareness for human rights problem enjoys high priority in the city of Nuremberg. The centre of promotion human rights is the "Way of Human Rights" in Nuremberg. It is a large, interactive artwork created by Dani Karavan and built in 1993. In the Way of Human Rights 27 Pillars and three base plates were installed each bearing an article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights each written in German and one other language as a manifest of the universality meaning of human rights. This great masterpiece of art is a symbol of the Nuremberg's transformation from the city of Nazi Party Rally Grounds and the Nuremberg Laws into a city of peace and human rights.

Another programmatic highlight of human rights promotion is the presentation of the Nuremberg International Human Rights Award. Every two years a high-ranking international jury decides between many different human rights activists who are fighting for human rights in danger of their own lives. By raising international attention to single activists or human rights groups the city of Nuremberg is striving to protect their lives that they are able to continue their work without having to fear violence and intimidation. The last award winner was a Syrian group called "Caesar" they documented torture in Syria by taking photos and published them secretly. The next award winner will be Rodrigo Mundaca who is fighting for free and universal access to clean and drinkable water in Chile. In order to raise international and public awareness on human rights challenges on access to water the city of Nuremberg is planning to install wells in Nuremberg and Chile to promote the universal right to water and sanitation. Those wells are going to be created by Dani Karavan and be focus

attention on Rodrigo Mundaca who faces the threat of death and on Chilean situation of water supply that excludes marginalized and disadvantaged people.

Securing human rights in the city of Nuremberg means also to prevent every kind of extremism. Especially right wing and religious fundamental extremism are challenging the daily life of members of vulnerable groups, who are offended by those extremist groups. The human right government developed different methods and approaches to deal with the problems of polarization and fragmentation of society. On the one hand, victims of racist or anti-Semitic attacks have the opportunities to contact official offices, which are trained to give legal and psychological advice. On the other hand, there are several programs focusing on young people at high risk of radicalization. The aim of those programs is to reduce factors, which are likely leading to a radicalization process, and to prevent that extremist groups are able to mobilize young people to join their groups. Therefore, Anti-discrimination work is an interdisciplinary process between intervention and prevention, in which many different offices and stakeholder organizations are involved.

2. What laws, policies and programmes have you developed to promote and protect human rights? How is human rights governance structured inside your municipality?

Since the early 80's the city of Nuremberg has given human rights work high priority. As the commitment in human rights work had increased, the human rights office was established in 1997. Today the human rights office is still unique in Germany and is located under the Lord Mayor's business division, which empowers the office members to various privileges and to access to every single data base of the city of Nuremberg.

Since 2015 human rights office and office of the women's commissioner have been combined to one organization unit. The reason for this fusion was the perception that equal treatment policies and local anti-discrimination strategies require concentrated personal power and interdisciplinary structures and knowledge. The office consists of twelve members with several task areas like discrimination issues, supervision of projects "MotherSchools" (a program to teach mothers with children at high risk of radicalization) and "Demokratie leben!" (a federal program to financially support local projects), organization of the alliance against right-wing extremism. The Discrimination Bureau is also a central part of local human rights government in Nuremberg. It is main contact point for people who are affected by discrimination in their everyday life or at working place and coordinates various mediation programs, which are trying to resolve conflicts in a harmonious, extrajudicial and long-term way. Furthermore, the human rights office has right and duty to present its work and findings to the City Council, what is strong instrument to exercise influence on local government.

The city of Nuremberg developed several policies to promote and protect human rights. In 2001, the City Council decided on a concept of guiding principles and committed themselves to promote the realization of human rights actively. In 2004, the City Council approved the "European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City" as basement for local human rights government and municipal administration to improve the collective use of public space and to guarantee human rights for all. In addition, the City Council decided on guidelines for strategies for integration of migrants, which were actualized and

supplemented in 2018 by the City Council, and the Lord Mayor created in cooperation with UNESCO the “10 Points Action Plan against Racism” and signed it in 2004. Five years later the city of Nuremberg was co-founder of the “Alliance against right wing extremism in the Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg” and overtook the role of organization and coordination between more than 300 members, which include over 100 municipalities, almost 200 stakeholder, and civil society organizations. The alliance against right wing extremism is a network, which connects different human rights players to support and advise each other. By signing the Charta of Diversity, the city of Nuremberg committed itself to solidarity with social diversity and to engagement on removal of discriminatory barriers in working placements. Those six documents are the fundamental, normative basement of local human right government in Nuremberg.

3. What methods does your municipality pursue to enhance cooperation with civil society and promote citizen participation in human rights governance?

Over the years, human rights office developed various permanent dialogue formats, in which all relevant stakeholder groups have the opportunity to report about problems that are affecting them and to exchange with human rights office about new ideas for events, projects and policies. The inclusion of civil society organizations and stakeholder groups in local human rights governments enjoys high priority in Nuremberg. Nuremberg is a city with strong and solidary civil society, many charities and voluntary workers inclusive who support disadvantaged and marginalized fellow citizens.

The “roundtable for human rights issues” is an independent working group, which has existed since 1997. The roundtable’s members are representatives from churches and self-sufficient, non-governmental human rights organizations as well as city officials. It aims to advocate the dissemination of human rights principles in Nuremberg and to sensitize the population to human rights issues. It proved to be a very effective medium for the development of long-term and diverse human rights work strategies involving as many people as possible.

A second important forum to enhance cooperation with civil society and stakeholder groups is the “curatorium for integration and human rights”. Including the most important civil society groups actively in local human rights government is the purpose of this committee. This committee is happening two times a year, and the Lord Mayor is the head of it. The challenge of the members is to monitor the implementation of the integration plan and human rights work critically. They have the opportunity to actively participate in policy-making through statements and proposals.

Furthermore, the city of Nuremberg initiates campaigns, projects and event series on certain occasions and social developments to raise awareness of human rights and promote them-categorically in close cooperation with affected stakeholder organizations. In Nuremberg, there are different lobby groups involved in local policy-making. For example, the committee for disabled people or the committee for refugees and migrants have function of consultation and giving expertise to City Council on local politics, which affects issues and needs of vulnerable groups. It is an important concern of the City of Nuremberg to involve stakeholder groups and civil society organizations as being a voice of the population in local

human rights government by giving them various opportunity to raise awareness about problems and challenges which society has to face and to actively participate in shaping human rights policy through proposals and advices.

4. Is your local government currently raising awareness on or promoting implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals? Is this action linked to your human rights action?

The city of Nuremberg have been striving to design urban development in a fair, sustainable, inclusive and environment-friendly way since more than two decades. In 1997, local agenda 21 was established by the City Council as a multi-stakeholder organization to promote and execute projects generating green and natural spaces in urban structures. Local Agenda 21 consists of four rounds tables, in which many environmentalist organization but also companies participated. Local Agenda 21 still exists and focuses nowadays on promoting sustainable consumption.

The city of Nuremberg has been publishing sustainability reports in a period for two to three years since 2009. According to signing up for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2017, the sustainable report published in 2018 has a direct connection to the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. The latest report about 2015 to 2017 is divided in 17 single parts related to each on SDG and has 150 pages. It counts and contents all measures, policies and programs, that the city of Nuremberg have initiated in the area of one SDG to promote and realize it. It is not an instrument used for self-glorification by the local authorities; it also contains self-criticism related to SDG standards and reports about problems and challenges the local government has to eliminate.

In order to reduce poverty and to guarantee marginalized and disadvantaged social participation, people from precarious living conditions have the opportunity to apply for the "Nuremberg Pass". The Nuremberg Pass is a great instrument of municipal poverty reduction and ensures that those in need have better access to social participation by offering them benefits in everyday life and at social events.

Creating Nuremberg progressively as an inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable city is a central concern of the city of Nuremberg. The main measure to realize this SDG is to transform the way of mobility from individual motorized to collective motorized or non-motorized mobility by encouraging pedestrian and bicycle traffic as well as expansion of the public transport network.

The municipality of Nuremberg is currently developing a long-term implementation strategy for realization. The human rights office in Nuremberg is taking part in a pilot project and is going to be one of four contact offices in order to advise and monitor the implementation process.

5. What are your demands and what steps need to be taken in regards to the relation between local governments and national administrations and the UN system in regards to human rights?

Unfortunately, there are only few connections between local human rights government of the city of Nuremberg and human rights system of United Nations in terms of personal

communication and relation. Local human rights government is always looking forward to sign and implement new policies and conventions that United Nations are publishing related to local human rights government.

In order to create a stronger network between local governments and national administrations and the UN system, which includes opportunities of best practice exchange and consultation, the UN system may should implement more transparent and participative structures. We also would appreciate if the UN initiates more programs and projects that are related to local human rights work and enhance exchange and cooperation between national government, UN system and municipality. It would be a pleasure as city of Nuremberg to participate in one of those programs and enhance the cooperation with the human rights system of UN.

Further information

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