



## **Addressee: Member States**

**Paragraph #41 Session #3 (2004)**

### **Full Text**

In the spirit of the special theme of its third session, "indigenous women", the Forum recognizes that the instruments relating to human rights, including the fundamental rights of indigenous women and girls, have been elaborated. Nevertheless, indigenous women continue to be one of the most marginalized groups in many countries, being victims of serious acts of discrimination and flagrant violations of their fundamental rights. The continuing gap between the proclamation and the implementation of human rights is largely due to the lack of commitment on the part of Governments to fully promote and protect those rights, as well as to the lack of awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms in society, including at the community level.

### **Comments**

The Government of Finland reports the following:

The rights of citizens are regulated in the Constitution of Finland. Section 6 of the Constitution contains a general equality clause and non-discrimination prohibition, among others regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on sex and a provision on equality. This latter provision stipulates that equality of the sexes is provided in more detail by an Act. The Law of the Equality between Woman and Man (609/1986) was passed in 1986. According to section 22 of the Constitution the public authorities shall guarantee the observance of basic rights and liberties and human rights.

### **Area of Work**

Human rights