

## Norway's Contact Committee for Immigrants and the Authorities 2006–2009



Dialogue  
Advice  
Advocacy

# Greetings from the Minister



Bjarne Håkon  
Hanssen, Minister  
of Labour and Social  
Inclusion.

The Contact Committee for Immigrants and the Authorities (KIM) is an important and useful body for discussion and dialogue on policy matters of concern to Norway's immigrant community.

The Committee serves as an advisory body for the authorities, and as a forum for dialogue for the various participants. The Committee also has a unique position in providing for a structured dialogue between the immigrant community and the authorities.

KIM's Immigrant Forum is composed of capable and resourceful individuals. Ministries and political parties listen closely to what the Immigrant Forum has to say.

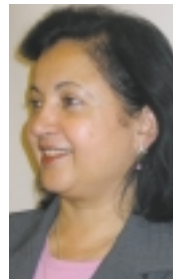
As the Minister responsible for social inclusion, I am happy to recommend to immigrant associations, non-governmental associations, central and local authorities, the media and concerned individuals to listen to and to make use of the Contact Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Bjarne Håkon Hanssen'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'B'.

# What is the Contact Committee?

KIM Chairwoman Rita Kumar (2006): *«Dialogue with all those concerned is important in the formulation of policy. It is through dialogue that the authorities can arrive at decisions which are both effective and inclusive. KIM clearly has a crucial role to play in today's pluralistic Norway.»*

- The Contact Committee was first appointed by the Government in 1984 on a joint initiative of the authorities and immigrant associations.
- KIM is appointed for a four year period, coinciding with the term of office of the Storting.
- KIM discusses matters of importance for the immigrant community, both on its own initiative and on the basis of proposals from government departments, associations etc.
- The Contact Committee as a whole is a forum for dialogue. The Immigrant Forum within KIM formulates advice to the authorities and also seeks to influence policy in relevant areas.
- The Committee Chair has the lead responsibility for the activities of both the Contact Committee and its Immigrant Forum.



Rita Kumar,  
Chairwoman  
since 2003.

Minister Bjarne Håkon Hanssen (2006): *«There is a difference between talking to and talking with. I want to talk with immigrant associations and groups. We who belong to the majority community have much to learn from minorities. Norwegian society as a whole and minorities need dialogue in order to know and understand each other better. We need an open dialogue in order to solve common problems.»*

# One Committee – two fora – three functions

## The Contact Committee

### Dialogue

17 regional representatives of the immigrant community.  
7 representatives of the political parties in the Storting.  
11 representatives of Ministries and other official bodies.

## KIM's Immigrant Forum

### Advice

### Advocacy

The 17 regional representatives of the immigrant community.

## The Chairwoman

Appointed by the Government.



Note: Some members were not present when these pictures were taken.

# Who sits on the Contact Committee?

For the period 2006–2009 the Committee has the following membership:

## Political parties

Seven representatives of parties represented in the Storting:

Labour Party, Progress Party, the Conservatives, Christian Peoples Party, Centre Party, Socialist Left and Venstre/Liberal Party.

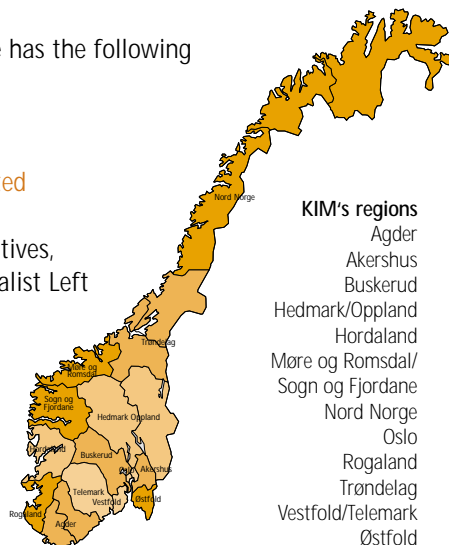
## Government Ministries and other official bodies

Eleven representatives of Government Ministries, directorates and other official bodies:

Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion, Ministry of Children and Equality, Ministry of Government Administration and Reform, Ministry of Health and Care Services, Ministry of Justice and the Police, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs, Ministry of Education and Research, the Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDI), the Directorate of Immigration (UDI) and the Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS).

## Regional representatives

Seventeen representatives of immigrant communities in twelve regions of Norway: See map.



# What does the Contact Committee do?

## **The Contact Committee:** Dialogue

- Engages in dialogue on issues of importance for the immigrant community.
- Promotes contacts and discussion between the immigrant community and the authorities by arranging meetings, seminars and conferences.
- Gives visibility to the immigrant community as a social partner through its hearings, campaigns etc.
- KIM's Steering Committee sets the agenda for meetings of KIM and its Immigrant Forum.

## **KIM's Immigrant Forum:** Advice and advocacy

- Gives advice to central and local authorities on issues of importance to the immigrant community.
- Seeks to influence policy in relevant areas.
- Makes submissions to Government Departments.
- Contributes to external conferences and seminars.
- Takes part in consultative committees and other official bodies.
- Writes and comments on relevant issues in the media.
- Arranges regional activities on issues of concern to local immigrant communities.
- Builds networks with national and local immigrant associations.

# KIM's Priorities for 2006–2009

The Contact Committee has identified five priority areas for its current term, and has set up internal working groups in each area. The Committee will where appropriate also follow up important issues outside of these five areas.

- Employment and Inclusion
- Children and Youth
- Participation and Mobilisation
- Health and Living Conditions
- Major Legislative Initiatives



*KIM's Steering Committee 2006–2009.*

Visit our website: [www.kim.no](http://www.kim.no)

News and information about the Committee, its members, meetings, reports, legislative submissions, national and regional activities, useful links and more.



KIM's Secretariat.  
Dr. Eamonn Noonan to the right.



Contact Committee for  
Immigrants and the Authorities

*KIM's secretariat prepares the Committee's meetings and supports all aspects of its work. The current director is Eamonn Noonan.*

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