

The Sámi—as an Indigenous People in Finland

The need for information in dismantling prejudices

Jovnna Ovllá Hánno Juhan, Juho Keva

Senior statistician / Statistics Finland / Society statistics

thl.fi/antiracismcourse



ASYLUM, MIGRATION
AND INTEGRATION FUND

Supported by the European Union

Start

thl.fi/antiracismcourse

Concepts 1/3

- Indigenous peoples: peoples who have lived in a certain area before the majority population.
- Sámi: this is basically simple: a person who was born (or adopted) into a Sámi family.
- Right to vote: there's a loophole: a person whose ancestry's livelihood is a Sámi livelihood in the records, have been able to enter to the Self-Government Body of the Sámi

Concepts 2/3

- Sápmi: Saamenmaa, the home region of the Sámi
- The Sámi Parliament: a parliamentary body elected by the Sámi.
 - culture and linguistic rights
 - does not have rights associated with the use and ownership of land

Concepts 3/3

- Assimilation: Forced fennicizing, eliminating the Sámi language and culture.
- Colonialism: in Finland, settler colonialism
- Sámi language: 9 different languages, endangered. In Finland, approximately 20 percent of the Sámi people have entered Sámi as their native language in the Digital and Population Data Services Agency records (Digi- ja väestövirasto).

Now

The shortcomings of an appraised education system in improving students' general knowledge

Lack of information in the era of knowledge management – creates space also for disinformation and hate speech

Protection of indigenous peoples' rights

In the past 1/2

- Settlement of Scandinavia
- Settler colonialism in Sweden–Finland
- Relations between the state of Finland and the Sámi

In the past 2/2

- Assimilation politics in Finland
- Racial research on Sámi and skull measuring
- The Supreme Administrative Court granted voting rights to persons who the Sámi have not recognized as Sámi.

In the future 1/2

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2022)

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Concerning the Sámi: the purpose is to recognize and evaluate discrimination in the past and today, including the state's assimilation policy and violations of the Sámi's rights and to investigate how they affect the Sámi and their community in the current situation and suggest ways to improve communication between the Sámi and the state of Finland and among the Sámi.

In the future 2/2

Producing more information

- Monitoring the protection of the Sámi's indigenous people's rights, for example, monitoring the availability of services in the Sámi language, monitoring demographics, providing information for the majority population

In the past

Now

In the future

thl.fi/antiracismcourse

Reading material

- <https://faktalavvu.net/>
- <https://www.samediggi.fi/>
- • *Vastatuuleen*, a book by Kukka Ranta and Jaana Kanninen (2019)

GIITU, THANK YOU

thl.fi/antiracismcourse

thl.fi/antiracismcourse

In cooperation with:



Finnish institute for
health and welfare



ASYLUM, MIGRATION
AND INTEGRATION FUND

Supported by the European Union



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Employment of Finland



MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
FINLAND