

Legal advice is free of charge for students having a net income of 600€ monthly or less. For those earning more than 600€ the cost of legal aid is charged according to your income. More information in English about the charges and services of legal aid is found at: www.oikeus.fi/oikeusapu/en/.

The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman

The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman (*Diskrimineringsombudsman/Yhdenvertaisuusvaltuutettu*) is an authority with the basic task of advancing the status and legal protection of ethnic minorities and foreigners as well as equality, non-discrimination and good ethnic relations in Finland. In addition, the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman will, together with other officials, supervise that everyone is treated equally regardless of their ethnic background. In the Finnish legislation, discrimination based on ethnicity is explicitly prohibited in employment (including self-employment), education and in any form of public service, e.g. social services, public health care, social security benefits, housing, and the right to buy or keep real estate property.

The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, or his office, helps persons who have faced discrimination by giving recommendations, instructions and advice. The office may also direct you to other authorities in order to ensure that the serious crime of discrimination will be dealt with accordingly.

Contact information:

Office of the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman

Visting adress: Berggatan 24, 00100 Helsinki

e-mail: yvv@oikeus.fi

www.ofm.fi

Phone: +358 (0) 29 566 6817

Customer service: Mon-Fri 10.00-12.00

Private Lawyers

To find private lawyers, visit the home page of the Association of Finnish Lawyers (*Finlands Juristförbund/Suomen Lakimiesliitto*) at www.lakimiesliitto.fi. Generally, the legal fees are very high.

The Finnish Consumer Agency and the Consumer Ombudsman

The Finnish Consumer Agency (*konsumentverket/kuluttajavirasto*) and the Consumer Ombudsman (*konsumentombudsman/kuluttaja-asiamies*) supervise compliance of the Consumer Protection Act. The main purpose of this act is to prevent any inappropriate marketing directed at the consumers. A victim of illegal or deceptive advertising and/or unreasonable contract terms should contact the Consumer Ombudsman. For more information, contact the Consumer Agency:

Konsumentverket/Kuluttajavirasto

Broholmsgatan 12 A, 00530 Helsingfors

phone: +358 (0) 29 505 3000 (switchboard)

e-mail: posti@kkv.fi

www.kkv.fi

Phone: +358 (0) 29 553 6901 (in Finnish) or +358 (0) 29 553 6902 (in Swedish)

Advisors are on call at the national phone number Mon-Fri 9.00-15.00.

If you prefer a personal contact, you can make an appointment with an advisor via the national phone number for consumer advisory services.

3.5 Embassies in Finland (ambassad/suurlähetystö)

If something happens during your stay in Finland, you might need the help of your country's embassy. You can find embassies from 62 countries in Finland, and many more are situated in the Nordic region. A list of embassies in Finland and the surrounding countries is available at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland's website (www.formin.fi).