

## **Profile of Partner Equality Body**

**Name:**

Latvian National Human Rights Office (LNHRO)

**Address:**

Latvian National Human Rights Office  
Elizabetes street 65 – 12, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Riga, LATVIA, LV 1050  
Tel.: +371 7287210  
Fax: +371 7244074  
email: [vcb@vcb.lv](mailto:vcb@vcb.lv)

**Date established:**

18 July 1995

**Mode of establishment:**

Primary legislation: The Office was established pursuant to Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers on the Latvian National Human Rights Office, passed in accordance with Article 81 of the Constitution.

**Status:**

Independent state institution. The status and mandate of the LNHRO are set in the law of 5 December 1996 “On the Latvian National Human Rights Office”.  
<http://www.vcb.lv/eng/index.php?open=parvcbeng&this=071003.82>

**Mandate/objectives:**

LNHRO is an independent state institution aimed at promoting the observance of human rights in Latvia.

**Grounds of Discrimination covered:**

Race, colour, language, sex, disability, sexual orientation, religion, belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

**Competences and responsibilities:**

- inquire into any complaint related to the abuse of human rights;
- review applications about human rights violations committed by public or municipal officials as well as private persons (there are no limitations under the law concerning the object of a complaint).
- immediately react to facts indicating violations of human rights, and on its own initiative determine conditions which may cause such violations;
- investigate the national situation regarding the observance of human rights, especially in areas relevant to vulnerable groups;
- investigate complaints of violations of the rights of individuals and citizens as stated in the Constitution and in international human rights treaties which are binding on Latvia.

The LNHRO is obliged:

- not to disclose information on the person submitting a complaint or any other person, when necessary for the protection of the rights of the individual.
- not to investigate a complaint if a Court verdict has already come into legal effect in a civil, criminal or administrative case concerning the violation of human rights and against the same person and for the same violation.

**Main activities:**

- review of applications concerning human rights violations;
- independent investigation, advice and assistance to victims;
- independent research and analysis;
- public information on human rights and promotion of its understanding and recognition.

**Publications:**

Regular publications: Annual Reports; a human rights quarterly (available in Latvian on website)

Ad hoc: several publications on specific and current human rights issues, published in various media.

**Management:**

The Office is headed by a Director (the Ombudsman)

**Nomination of senior staff and board:**

The Director is appointed for a term of four years following recommendation of the Cabinet of Ministers. The Deputy Director and staff members of the LNHRO are selected by the Ombudsman.

**Number of Staff:**

25

**Budget:**

The budget of the institution is adopted as a separate budget line in the state budget under ordinary procedure (through the Ministry of Finance). The budget for the year 2005 is 158 000 LVL (€ 224 815)

**Accountability:**

Required annual reporting to Parliament.

**Project contact person:**

Līga Biksiniece, Tel: +371 7686768, e-mail: ligab@vcb.lv