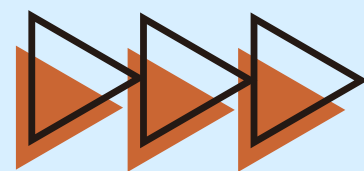




The Netherlands non-discrimination country report

Key highlights

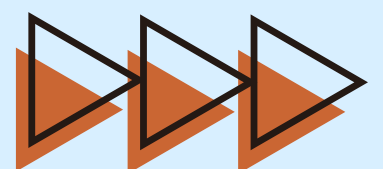


European network of legal experts
in gender equality and non-discrimination



Strong Legal Framework

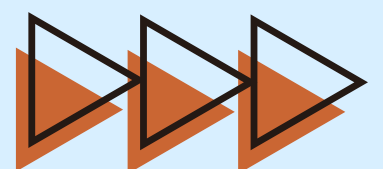
Dutch anti-discrimination legislation and policies remain of a high standard, with broad protection across employment, education, goods and services. However, structural discrimination remains widespread.





Disability Rights

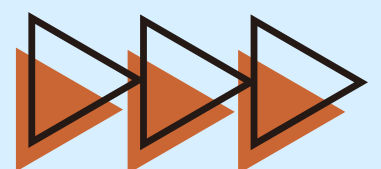
Accessibility requirements for products and services entered into force in June 2025. At the same time, many children with disabilities still lack access to suitable education.

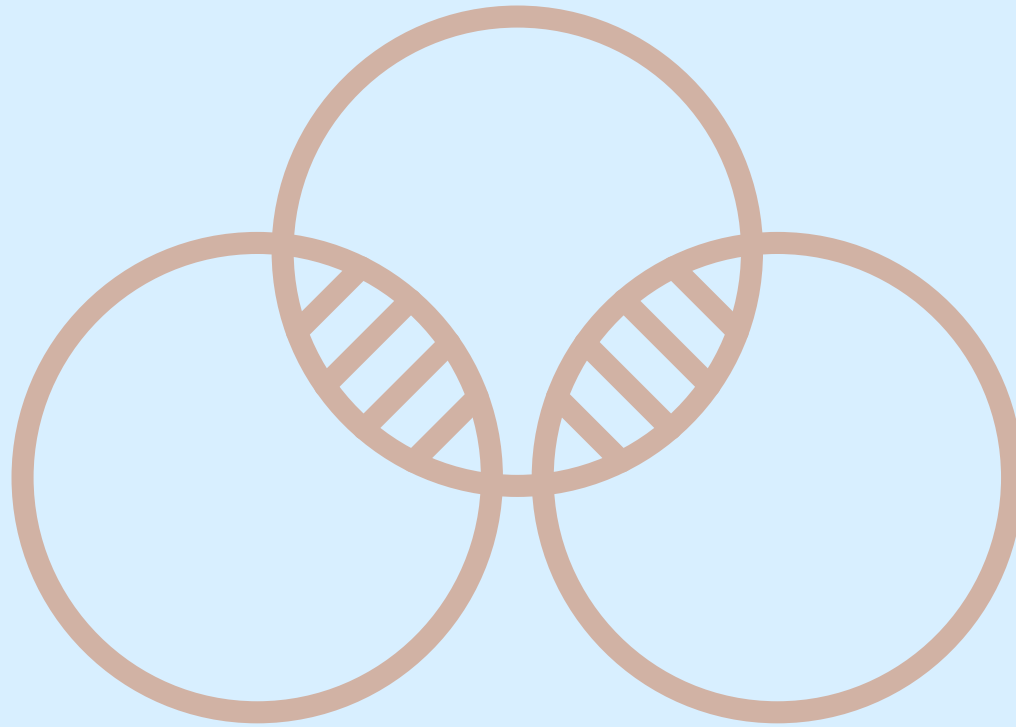




Accessible Enforcement

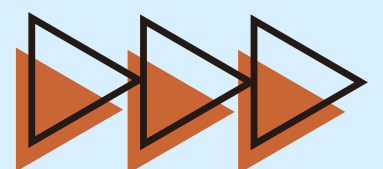
Victims can use a low-threshold complaints procedure before the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (NIHR) without legal assistance or fees, although its opinions are authoritative rather than legally binding.





Intersectional Discrimination

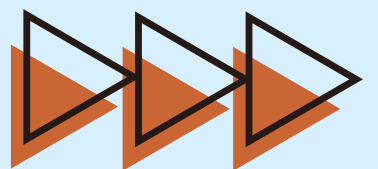
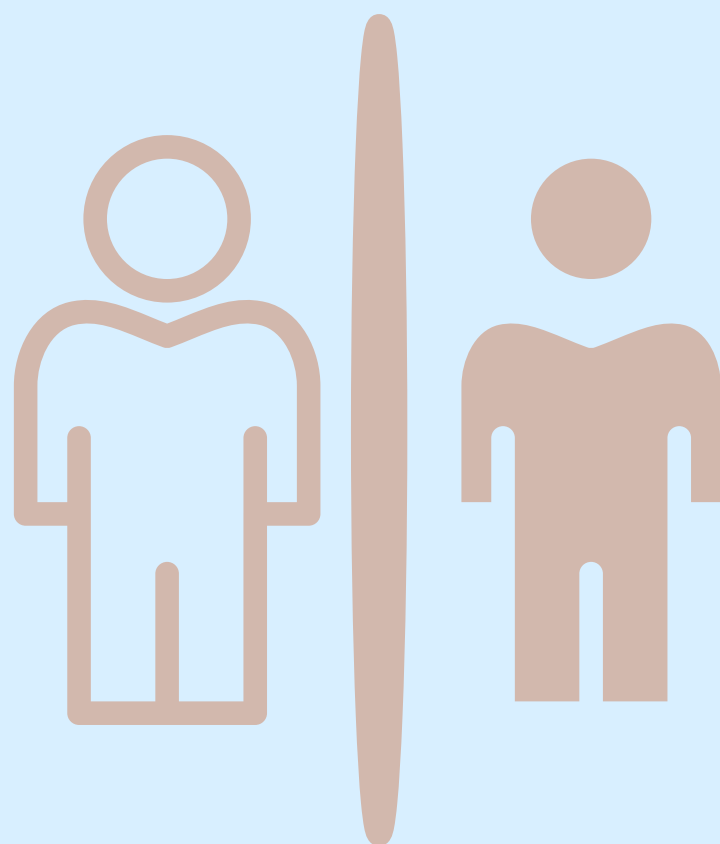
The NIHR increasingly recognised the interaction between discrimination grounds in 2025, including race and nationality, although intersectionality is still not expressly prohibited by law and its application remains developing.





Persistent Racial Discrimination

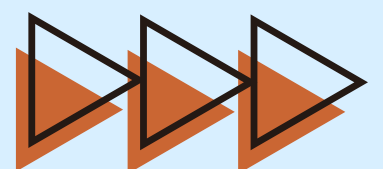
Research continues to document significant discrimination affecting people of Turkish and North African origin, with cumulative discrimination occurring across several areas of life.

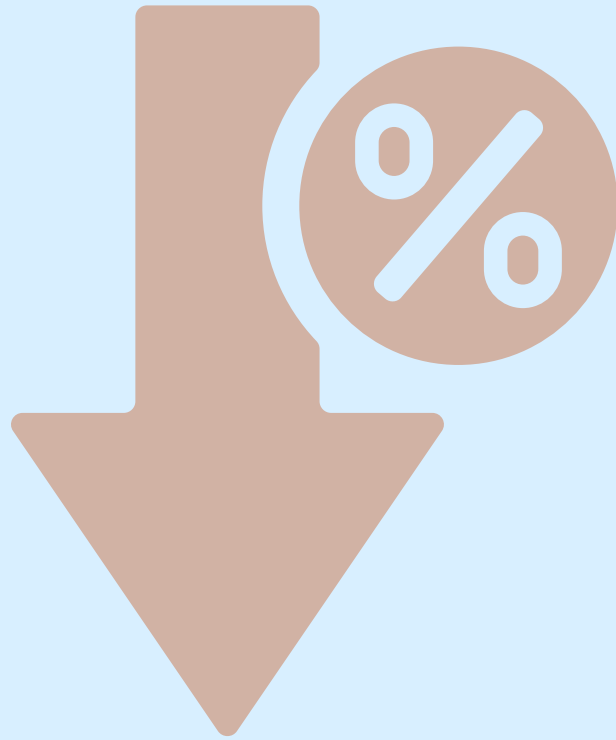




Religious Discrimination

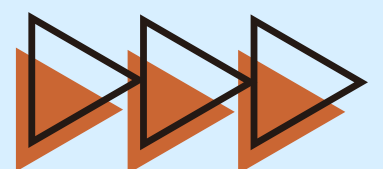
Evidence points to significant discrimination against Muslims in education, employment, housing and healthcare. The NIHR also found unlawful discrimination against women wearing religious headscarves at work.





Low Reporting Rates

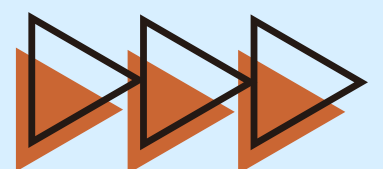
Around one in four people report experiencing discrimination, yet only 3% formally report these experiences to bodies such as local anti-discrimination services.





Uneven Local Policies

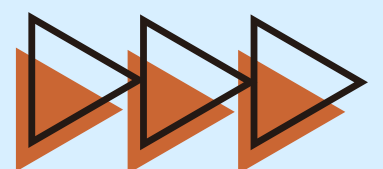
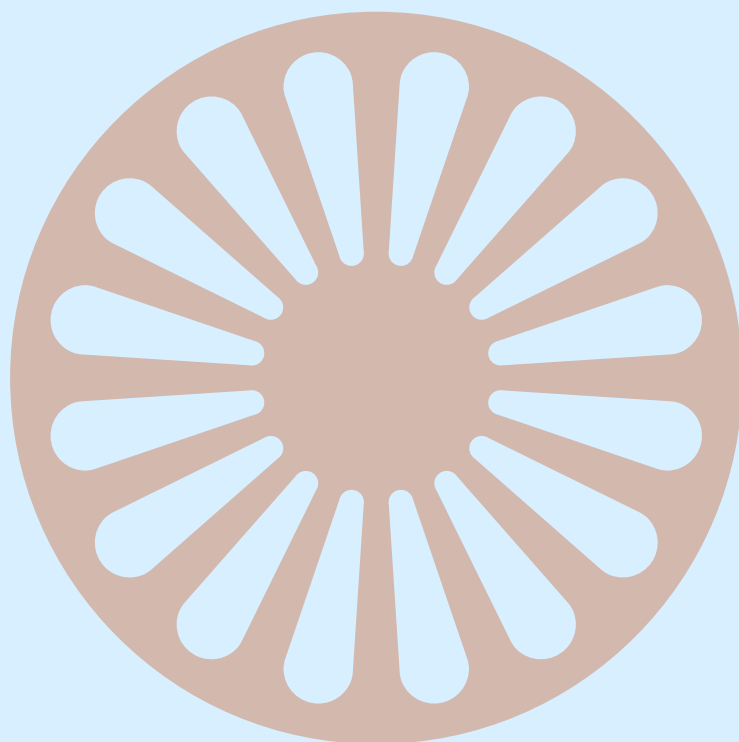
Municipal anti-discrimination policies remain inconsistent. Smaller municipalities often lack dedicated policies, while areas such as online discrimination receive comparatively limited attention.

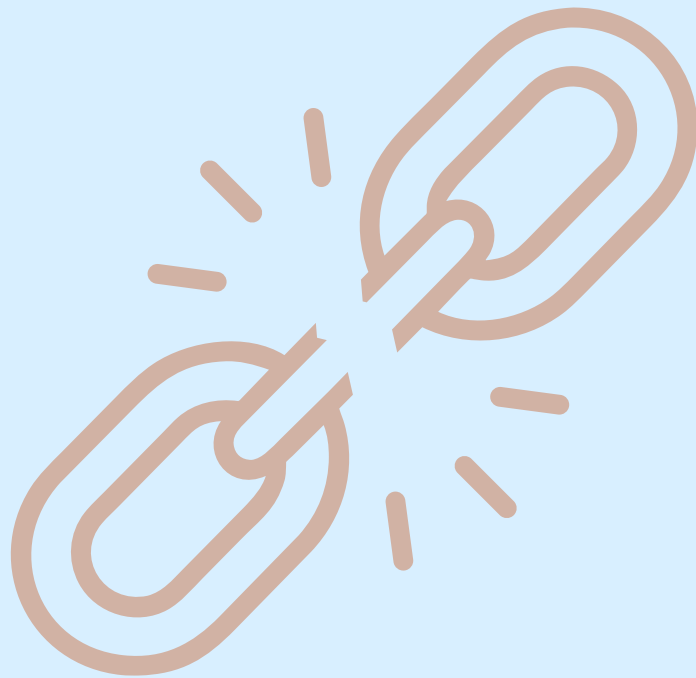




Roma & Sinti Inclusion

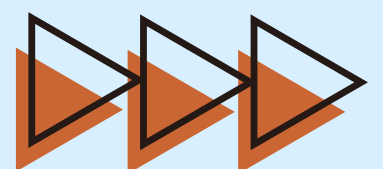
Educational participation among Roma and Sinti pupils shows signs of improvement, particularly at higher secondary levels, but harassment, feelings of insecurity and under-advicing remain concerns.

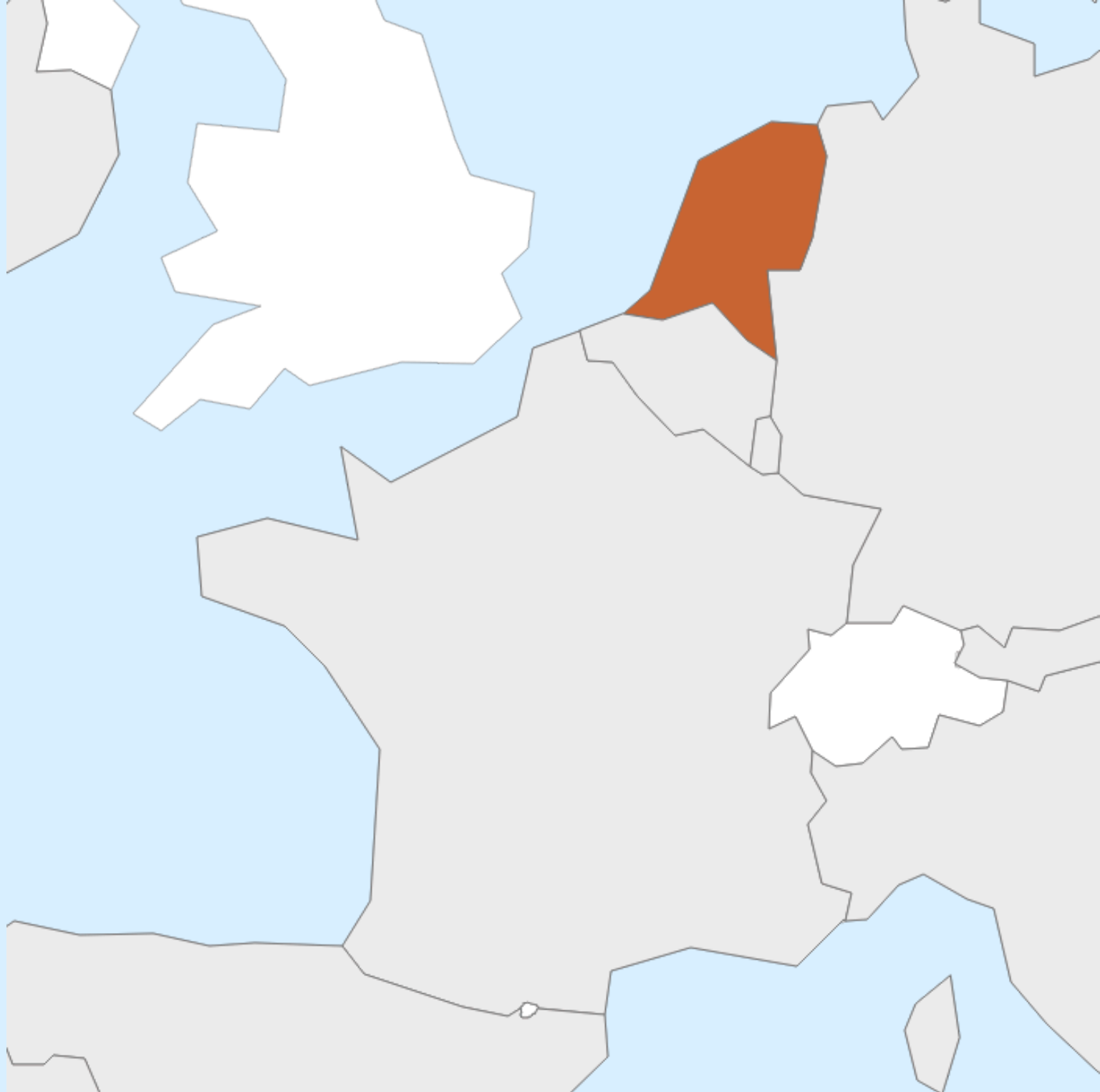




Enforcement Challenges

Concerns remain over aspects of Dutch discrimination law and remedies, including the definition of harassment, discriminatory risk profiling and whether sanctions and damages are sufficiently effective and dissuasive.





See the full report on
non-discrimination
in the Netherlands
on our website.



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