



Quick Facts

Immigration detainees (2016)	4,112
Detained minors (2017)	Not Available
Immigration detention capacity (2015)	150
Persons expelled (2018)	Not Available
International migrants (2019)	867,765
New asylum applications (2019)	3,594

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/norway>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	4,112	2016	Total number of detained minors	Not Available	2017
	3,191	2015		143	2016
	4,182	2014		330	2014
	3,266	2013		229	2013
	2,939	2013			
	2,164	2012			
Number of detained unaccompanied minors	10	2014	Number of detained accompanied minors	320	2014
Number of apprehensions of non-citizens	3,230	2018	Immigration detainees as a percentage of total international migrant population	0.42	2013
	5,330	2016			
	5,455	2015			
	3,720	2014			
	3,180	2013			
	2,760	2012			
Estimated total immigration detention capacity	150	2015	Number of dedicated long-term immigration detention centres	1	2018
				1	2015
Estimated capacity of dedicated long-term immigration detention centres	150	2015	Number of persons removed/returned (voluntary returns and deportations)	Not Available	2018
				5,940	2016
				5,450	2015
				5,365	2014
				4,450	2013
				4,045	2012
Number of deportations/forced returns only	5,240	2016	Percentage of persons removed in relation to total number of people placed in removal procedures	41.4	2014
	4,630	2015			
	2,865	2013			
	2,515	2012			
	2,330	2011			
Criminal prison population	3,874	2016	Percentage of foreign prisoners	33.8	2016
	3,649	2013		34	2013
Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	74	2016			
	72	2013			

Demographics and immigration-related statistics

	Observation Date		Observation Date
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Population	5,400,000	2020	International migrants	867,765	2019
	5,211,000	2015		741,800	2015
	5,000,000	2012		694,500	2013
				642,000	2010
International migrants as a percentage of the population	14.2	2015	Refugees	53,882	2019
	13.8	2013		57,026	2018
				59,236	2017
				59,452	2016
Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	11.29	2016	Total number of new asylum applications	50,389	2015
	9.14	2014		46,106	2014
	8.76	2012			
Refugee recognition rate	50.5	2014	Stateless persons	3,594	2019
				11,689	2016
				10,973	2014
				18,309	2012
Refugee recognition rate			Stateless persons	2,809	2018
				3,282	2017
				3,251	2016
				1,997	2015

DOMESTIC LAW				
LEGAL TRADITION				
Legal tradition	Name		Observation Date	
	Civil law		2017	
LAWS AND REGULATIONS				
Constitutional guarantees?	Yes/No	Constitution and Articles	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Yes	The Constitution of the Kingdom of Norway, article 94	1814	2017
LAWS AND REGULATIONS				
Core pieces of national legislation	Name		Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Act on the entry of foreign nationals into the Kingdom of Norway and their stay in the realm (Immigration Act) (Lov om utlendingers adgang til riket og deres opphold her (utlendingsloven))		2008	2017

LAWS AND REGULATIONS					
Additional legislation	Name		Year Adopted	Last Year Amended	
	Criminal Procedure Act (Lov om rettergangsmåten i straffesaker (Straffeprosessloven))		1981	2017	
GROUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE IMMIGRATION-RELATED DETENTION					
Immigration-status-related grounds	Name		Observation Date		
	Detention to prevent absconding		2018		
	Detention for failing to respect non-custodial measures		2018		
	Detention to effect removal		2018		
	Detention to ensure transfer under the Dublin Regulation		2018		
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES					
Does the country provide specific criminal penalties for immigration-related violations?	Fines	Incarceration	Observation Date		
	Yes	Yes	2018		
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES					
Grounds for criminal immigration-related detention/incarceration and maximum potential duration of incarceration	Grounds for Incarceration	Maximum Number of Days of Incarceration		Observation Date	
	Unauthorised stay	180		2018	
	Unauthorized entry	180		2018	
	Unauthorized exit	180		2018	
LENGTH OF DETENTION					
Maximum length for administrative immigration detention in law.	Number of Days		Observation Date		
	No Limit		2018		
LENGTH OF DETENTION					
Longest recorded instance of immigration detention.	Number of Days		Observation Date		
	940		2018		
LENGTH OF DETENTION					
Maximum length of time in custody prior to issuance of a detention order	Number of Days		Observation Date		
	3		2018		
PROCEDURAL STANDARDS					
Provision of basic procedural standards	Name		In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Independent review of detention		Yes		2018
	Information to detainees		Yes		2018
	Right to legal counsel		Yes	Yes	2014
	Complaints mechanism regarding detention conditions			Yes	2011

NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES (ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION)					
Types of non-custodial measures	Name		In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Designated non-secure housing		Yes	infrequently	2014
	Supervised release and/or reporting		Yes	infrequently	2014
	Registration (deposit of documents)		Yes	infrequently	2014
	Release on bail		No	No	2014
	Electronic monitoring		No	No	2014
NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES (ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION)					
Impact of alternatives	Name	Impact of Nature			Observation Date
	Unknown	As observed by the Norwegian Association for Asylum Seekers, data on the use of alternatives are not systematically collected, hence is it not certain whether these measures are used in practice.			2014
VULNERABLE PERSONS					
Is the detention of vulnerable persons provided in law? Are they detained in practice?	Name		In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Unaccompanied minors		Provided	Not available	2014
	Accompanied minors		Provided	Yes	2014
MANDATORY DETENTION					
Mandatory detention	Filter		Name	Observation Date	
	No			2018	

COVID-19 UPDATES

	Update Status	Observation Date
Latest Update	<p>The Norwegian Red Cross has reported that since March, it has been unable to access Norway's sole long-term detention facility, the Trandum Detention Centre. Although the organisation has remained in close contact with the facility's staff during the pandemic, it has been unable to physically enter the facility and its volunteers have only been able to speak with two detainees via video call. The organisation has frequently raised the need for access with the immigration police, but as of 29 September, access continued to be denied. Prior to the pandemic, the Red Cross ran an active volunteer visitor programme in the facility providing support and assistance to detainees. As of 8 September, there were 36 detainees in Norway's Trandum detention facility—three of whom are women—and no detainees have been held in the facility's separate family unit since March. One Red Cross representative told the GDP that because as the numbers of detainees at the Trandum have fallen since the onset of the pandemic, this has presented new opportunities for the humanitarian group to dialogue with officials about implementing new development projects at the centre. Among the items they have proposed has been boosting "internet access through digital equipment procured by the Red Cross." As the GDP previously reported on this platform (see 24 July update), some people have been released from detention due to the pandemic. According to the Norwegian Red Cross, although the exact number who were released remains unclear, it is generally thought that persons who were released (mainly from Ethiopia and Iraq) were selected because they had a network/family in the country who could provide them with accommodation. Those who were released have been required to report regularly to immigration police.</p>	2020
	<p>According to the Norwegian Parliamentary Ombudsperson (Sivilombudsmannen), responding to the Global Detention Project's Covid-19 survey, Norwegian authorities did not impose a moratorium on new immigration detention orders due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the National Police Immigration Service (NPIS) limited the number of immigration detention orders due to the reduced capacity at the police immigration detention centre, mainly caused by the implementation of infection control measures and the cancellation of scheduled returns and deportations. They also reported that the capacity of the immigration detention centre (presumably the Trandum facility near Oslo international airport, Norway's only dedicated immigration detention centre) has been increased, and each case is therefore assessed individually according to specific criteria in order to decide if a migrant is to be placed in detention or not. The Ombudsperson confirmed that persons have been released from immigration detention due to the pandemic, as mentioned in previous updates (see 25 April Norway update on this platform). However, no generalised criteria have been established and cases are assessed individually to determine if the legal conditions are still in place for keeping a person in detention pursuant to the Immigration Act. For instance, in some instances, decisions to release immigration detainees were made in order to avoid exceeding the legal time frames for detention provided in the Immigration Act. These cases arose due to flight cancellations and general travel restrictions due to Covid-19. Upon release, immigration detainees are checked for any Covid-19 symptoms. No further measures are taken apart from encouraging released detainees to follow infection control advice and recommendations provided by the Norwegian government. Within immigration detention, all new arrivals are tested for the disease. Detainees are first placed in a separate quarantine section of the centre, in which they remain until they have been tested and receive a negative result (see 25 April Norway update on this platform). According to NPIS, testing takes place upon arrival and results are normally provided within 24 hours. Non-nationals transferred to the immigration detention centre directly from another prison or detention facility who are free of any Covid-19 related symptoms are not tested. So far, the Ombudsperson reported that no detainees have tested positive at the immigration detention centre. The majority of accompanied forcible returns have been halted temporarily due to challenges caused by the pandemic, such as closed borders, flight cancellations, issues with transit countries, and safety of the accompanying personnel. A small number of unaccompanied forcible returns were still carried out; however, the amount of rescheduled and cancelled flights has also made these difficult to conduct. There is no list of "approved" countries for deportation but rather continuous assessments are conducted based on developments in the countries. Generally however, countries to which deportation flights were arranged had been determined, following a risk assessment, to be safe for a migrant to travel unaccompanied and where the flight itinerary avoided any transit issues. NPIS has carried out a very limited number of accompanied forcible returns in certain high priority areas. The Ombudsperson did not provide further details in this regard. In response to the pandemic, Norway adopted several new policies and regulations for immigration and border control. The Ombudsperson indicated that these have mostly consisted of interim acts, regulations and circulars relating to entry restrictions for non-nationals out of concern for public health. For example, limitations to the right of entry of non-nationals who would otherwise be legally entitled to enter Norway under the Immigration Act, when this is necessary to safeguard public health in connection with the outbreak of Covid-19; as well as exemptions from these restrictions for certain groups of non-nationals, including those seeking asylum. As regards border control measures, temporary entry and exit controls have been introduced at the internal Schengen border.</p>	2020
	<p>The Trandum National Police Immigration Detention Centre, Norway's only immigration detention facility which has a capacity of 220, had a population of 50 detainees as of 1 April, according to a communication from the Norwegian Red Cross (NRC) to the Global Detention Project (GDP). A series of measures have been implemented to avoid the spread of Covid-19 within the facility: - Only lawyers are allowed into the facility while visits by Norwegian Red Cross volunteers and individuals have been suspended. - Staff are investigating enabling videoconferences for detainees with family members, although this has not yet been put in place. - The frequency of disinfection and cleaning has been increased. The facility is now cleaned several times a day. - A separate unit has been dedicated to managing suspected or confirmed Covid-19 cases. Infected persons will be placed in this separate unit, isolated from others. The Norwegian Red Cross reported that some detainees had been released, but it was unclear how many. Those released include people deemed to not be a flight risk as well as people with a permanent and/or official address in Norway (for instance, reception centres for asylum seekers or a family address). On 24 April, two Dublin cases were released due to border closures and as the police cannot detain asylum seekers for more than six weeks after the recipient country accepts responsibility. It was expected that three others would soon be released. On 16 March, the country released 194 prisoners to avoid the spread of Covid-19 within its prisons. However, on 14 April, four inmates in the Bastøy Prison in Oslo tested positive for the disease. The Norwegian Correctional Service stated that 10 of their employees nationwide have been affected by the virus, but have not specified where in the country the employees work. As in other Scandinavian countries, the Covid-19 pandemic appears to be taking a disproportionate toll on immigrant groups in Norway. Some 15 percent of residents in Norway were born abroad but 25 percent of those that have tested positive for Covid-19 were foreign-born. Public health officials and researchers have said that immigrant communities tend to work in "high-contract jobs - healthcare workers, drivers and cleaners, for example - with a higher risk of exposure." Language barriers may also be at play as a lot of information was circulated through national health authorities' websites that are unfamiliar to many people in immigrant communities. On 21 April 2020, the National Centre for Multicultural Education (NAFO) published an online resource with information on Covid-19 in several languages, as well as various online resources for minority language learners.</p>	2020
	<p>A number of individuals have been released from immigration detention as a result of measures implemented in response to the pandemic. As of early April, the Police Immigration Department had released 10 individuals as deportations became impossible to undertake. Those released are required to remain in a stated location, either a private address or asylum reception centre. Arriving asylum seekers are to be quarantined for 14 days at the Rade arrival centre before they can be transferred to other reception centres. The Norwegian Correctional Service had released by early April nearly 200 prisoners in order to reduce prison populations. As of 7 April 2020, seven members of staff of the correctional service and two prisoners serving sentences in the community had tested positive for Covid-19.</p>	2020

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

International treaties	Name	Ratification Year
	ICPED, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	2019
	OPCAT, Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2013
	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2013
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2003
	CTOCSP, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	2003
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1991
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	1986
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	1981
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	1980
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1972
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1972
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	1970
	PCRSR, Protocol to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1967
	CRSSP, Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons	1956
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1953
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	15/19	

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

Individual complaints procedure	Name	Acceptance Year
	ICERD, declaration under article 14 of the Convention	1976
	ICCPR, First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	1972
	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1999	2002
	CAT, declaration under article 22 of the Convention	1986

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date
	4/7	2017

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Relevant recommendations issued by treaty bodies	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year
	Committee against Torture	§15: The State party should consider reducing the use and length of detention for asylum seekers who enter the State party undocumented. § 17: The State party should ensure that persons are held at Trandum only according to the law and only for the duration prescribed by law. The State party should ensure that all detention conditions are in total conformity with international standards, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, in particular with regard to the sanitary conditions and overcrowding.	2012
	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	§13: The Committee, recalling its general recommendations Nos. 30 and 31 (2005) on the prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system, recommends that the State party bring the conditions in reception and special return centres, and in reception centres for children, in line with relevant international human rights standards.	2011
Regional treaties, regulations, and directives			
Regional legal instruments	Name		Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)
	ECPT, European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment		1989
	ECCF, European Convention on Consular Functions		1976
	CATHB, Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings		2008
	ECHR1, Protocol 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)		1952
	ECHR7, Protocol 7 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)		1988
	ECHR, Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (commonly known as the European Convention on Human Rights)		1952

Regional treaties, regulations, and directives

	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year	Observation Date
Recommendations issued by regional human rights mechanisms	European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)	<p>§33: the Norwegian authorities to take urgent steps to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure that all newly-arrived foreign nationals at the Trandum Holding Centre are promptly examined by a doctor or a fully-qualified nurse reporting to a doctor; - arrange for the daily presence in the Centre of a person with a recognised nursing qualification; - ensure appropriate psychological/psychiatric assistance to foreign nationals; <p>§34: existing procedures to be reviewed at the Trandum Aliens Holding Center in order to ensure that, whenever injuries are recorded by a doctor which are consistent with allegations of illtreatment made by a foreign national (or which, even in the absence of allegations, are indicative of ill-treatment), the record is systematically brought to the attention of the relevant prosecutor, regardless of the wishes of the person concerned;</p> <p>§35: steps to be taken at the Trandum Holding Centre to ensure that confidentiality of medical data is respected in practice;</p> <p>§37: steps to be taken to ensure that foreign nationals placed in a security cell and/or subjected to “body cuffs” are always seen by health-care staff.</p>	2011	

Bilateral/Multilateral agreements linked to readmissions			
Bilateral/multilateral agreements linked to readmission	Name	Year in Force	Observation Date
	Germany	1955	2017
	Bulgaria	1999	2017
	Croatia	2005	2017
	Czech Republic	1993	2017
	Denmark	1957	2017
	Estonia	1997	2017
	Finland	1957	2017
	Latvia	1997	2017
	Lithuania	1993	2017
	Romania	2003	2017
	Slovakia	2005	2017
	Sweden	1957	2017
	Sweden	2003	2017
	Iceland	1957	2017
	Switzerland	2005	2017
	Albania	2009	2017
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2009	2017
	Georgia	2012	2017
	Kosovo	2010	2017
	Macedonia	2007	2017
	Moldova	2006	2017
	Montenegro	2009	2017
	Russian Federation	2012	2017
	Serbia	2010	2017
	Ukraine	2011	2017
	Iraq	2009	2017
	Burundi	2009	2017
	Tanzania	2011	2017
	Afghanistan	2005	2017
	Afghanistan	2011	2017
	Viet Nam	2007	2017
Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms			
Visits by special procedures of the Human Rights Council	Name	Year of Visit	Observation Date
	Working Group on arbitrary detention	2007	2018

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms				
Relevant recommendations by UN Special Procedures	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year	Observation Date
	None			2018
Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms				
Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recommendation Issued		Year Issued	Observation Date
	No		2010	2017
	Yes		2014	2017

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS															
Governing structures															
Federal or centralized governing system	Federal or centralized governing system									Observation Date					
	Centralized system									2018					
Governing structures															
Centralized or decentralized immigration authority	Centralized or decentralized immigration authority										Observation Date				
	Centralized immigration authority										2018				
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Custodial authority	Agency		Ministry					Ministry Typology			Observation Date				
			Ministry of Justice and Public Security					Justice			2018				
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Apprehending authorities	Name		Agency			Ministry			Observation Date						
	Police		Police						2018						
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Detention Facility Management	Entity Name						Entity Type			Observation Date					
	National Police Immigration Service						Governmental			2018					
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Formally designated detention estate?	Formally designated immigration detention estate?					Types of officially designated detention centres							Observation Date		
	Yes					Dedicated immigration detention facilities							2018		
	Yes					Any facility designated by relevant authority							2018		
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Types of detention facilities used in practice	Immigration detention centre (Administrative)	Immigration field office (Administrative)	Transit centre (Administrative)	Reception centre (Administrative)	Offshore detention centre (Administrative)	Hospital (Administrative)	Border guard (Administrative)	Police station (Criminal)	National penitentiary (Criminal)	Local prison (Criminal)	Juvenile detention centre (Criminal)	Informal camp (Ad hoc)	Immigration detention centre (Ad hoc)	Surge facility (Ad hoc)	Observation Date
	Yes														2018

Detention monitoring institutions			
Authorized monitoring institutions	Institution	Institution Type	Observation Date
	Red Cross	Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)	2018
	Ombudsman	OPCAT National Preventive Mechanism (NPM)	2017
	Supervisory Board	Internal Inspection Agency (IIA)	2016
	European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	International or Regional Bodies (IRBs)	2011
Detention monitoring institutions			
Does NHRI carry out visits?	Does NHRI carry out visits in practice?		Observation Date
	Yes		2017
Detention monitoring institutions			
Does NHRI publicly release reports on immigration detention?	Does NHRI publicly release reports on immigration detention?		Observation Date
	Yes		2017
Detention monitoring institutions			
Do NGOs carry out visits?	Do NGOs regularly carry our visits?		Observation Date
	Yes		2018
Detention monitoring institutions			
NGO capacity to receive complaints?	NGO capacity to receive complaints?		Observation Date
	No		2018
Detention monitoring institutions			
Do NGOs publish reports on immigration detention?	Do NGOs publish reports on immigration detention?		Observation Date
	No		2014
Detention monitoring institutions			
Do internal inspection agencies (IIAs) carry out visits?	Do IIAs regularly carry out visits?		Observation Date
	Yes		2016
Detention monitoring institutions			
Do IIAs have capacity to receive complaints?	Do IIAs have capacity to receive complaints?		Observation Date
	Yes		2011
Detention monitoring institutions			
Do IIAs publicly report their findings from detention inspections?	Do IIAs publicly report their findings from detention inspections?		Observation Date
	Yes		2016

Detention monitoring institutions																
Do international and/or regional bodies (IRBs) visit immigration-related detention facilities?	Do international and/or regional bodies (IRB) regularly visit immigration-related detention facilities?													Observation Date		
	Yes													2011		
Detention monitoring institutions																
Do IRBs publicly report their findings from inspections?	Do IRBs publicly report their findings from detention inspections?											Observation Date				
	Yes											2011				
Outsourcing and privatisation																
Types of privatisation/outsourcing	Types of Privatisation/Outsourcing										Observation Date					
	Health services										2015					
	Detention facility security										2007					
Outsourcing and privatisation																
Detention contractors and other non-state entities	Name of entity	Type of entity	Detainee transport	Food services	Health care	Social services	Laundry services	Legal counselling	Management	Owner of detention facility	Recreation	Security	Telephone service	Translation services	Observation Date	
	Legetjenester	For profit			Yes										2015	
	G4S	For profit										Yes			2007	
Expenditures																
Estimated annual budget for detention operations	Estimated total annual budget for detention operations (in USD)				Building and maintenance		Security	Staffing	Food	Medical	Transport	Observation Date				
	15,265,000											2013				
Expenditures																
Estimated annual budgets for particular detention-related activities	Individual detention-related activities							Estimated annual budget (in USD)					Observation Date			
	Staffing							11,236,000					2013			
	Medical							185,000					2013			

More information about immigration detention in Norway is available at the website of the Global Detention Project (www.globaldetentionproject.org)