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Environmental organisations defend human rights: review of climate lawsuits in Finland, Sweden and Norway

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Abstract

Climate lawsuits launched by environmental organisations have dealt with the human rights challenges posed by climate change in Finland, Sweden and Norway. The article examines the countries' climate lawsuits in the light of legal dogmatics and legal comparison. In Nordic case law, the rights of children and future generations, the right to the environment and, sporadically, other human rights have been highlighted. Climate trials are a strongly anthropocentric issue and, due to their political-legal nature, they also pose challenges from the point of view of the three-part doctrine of the separation of powers, yet they have become an important part of the climate impact of environmental organizations in the Nordic countries. The results of the article provide a diverse perspective on the Nordic case law on climate lawsuits and on what environmental organisations can do for human rights.

Keywords: climate change, doctrine of the separation of powers, legal dogmatics.



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