

European Bureau for Conscientious Objection

35 Van Elewyck street
1050 Brüssel
Belgia

Your ref

Our ref

Date

23/11397-8

27. januar 2026

Reply to questionnaire for EBCO Report 2025

The Norwegian Ministry of Defence (MoD) refers to the Questionnaire for EBCO Annual Report 2025 from the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO). You will find the MoD's answers below.

1. What legislative changes have happened within the last year which concern the military service, the right to conscientious objection, or related issues? **No**
2. Is there any such legal initiative undergoing at the Parliament or any other state body? **No**
3. Anything else that you would like to report? **No**

Statistics

A. Conscription

4. How many persons were prosecuted in recent years for evasion/refusal of military service? How many of these had declared conscientious objections? What were the outcomes, and what sentences were imposed? **No one was prosecuted for evasion/refusal of military service in Norway in 2025.**

B. Voluntary recruitment into military service

5. What was the total first-time military recruitment in recent years? Please disaggregate by age, gender and (if appropriate) whether as conscripts or volunteers.

Year	Gender (female)	Total number
2017	25,3 %	Approx. 8000-10000
2018	26,3 %	Approx. 8000-10000

2019	28,7 %	Approx. 8000-10000
2020	30,5 %	Approx. 8000-10000
2021	32 %	Approx. 11000
2022	36 %	Approx. 11000
2023	33 %	Approx. 11000
2024	31,5 %	Approx. 11000
2025	32,3%	Approx. 11000

6. What proportion of recruits sign up for a second period of the same length or longer? **Of the above 11000 conscripts, 652 signed up for a longer period.**

7. How many persons were called up for reserve service, and of what duration? **The Norwegian Home Guard is the largest department for reserve service consisting of approx. 40 000 soldiers.**

C. Application process for recognition of conscientious objectors

8. In recent years, how many applications were received? How many were successful on first consideration; how many unsuccessful applications were appealed, and with what results?

The Norwegian Armed Forces has received a total of 231 (before and during service), applications for recognition as conscientious objectors for 2025. The majority of these applications were submitted by personnel called up for initial military service, while a limited number were submitted by reservists in the Armed Forces. Of the total number of applications 206 were approved and 25 were rejected.

9. Are you able to indicate on which grounds they were rejected?

An application for recognition as a conscientious objector is based on the individual's personal beliefs and convictions, which can be difficult to substantiate with documentation. Most applications that were rejected were denied due to insufficient documentation or doubts regarding the underlying basis of the application. All applications are processed individually and the decision is taken based on the applicant's explanation, and the legal basis.

D. Conscientious objection during military service of conscripts/volunteers

10. Have any cases of serving members of the armed forces who applied for release having developed conscientious objection been recorded in recent years? Please give details of the number of applications, the number of acceptances.

Same answer as in question 8.

11. Give details, if relevant, of the grounds for any rejections.

12. How many persons were prosecuted for desertion? Were any of these persons who had declared themselves conscientious objectors? What was the outcome, and what sentences were imposed?

The Norwegian Armed Forces is not aware of any cases of desertion.

E. Conscientious objection after military service

13. Have any persons sought to refuse reserve service by applying for recognition as conscientious objectors in recent years? With what results?

Same answer as in question 8.

F. Asylum for conscientious objectors

14. Would it be possible for you to obtain statistics on approvals/rejections of those asylum applications in your country that were citing conscientious objection? We do not have access to this information.

Norway does not record statistics on this.

Yours sincerely

Ståle Tangestuen
Deputy Director General

Heidi Holt Zachariassen
Seniorrådgiver

This document is signed electronically and has therefore no handwritten signature.

Attachments: