

CONTROVERSY

**THE
INDEPENDENT**

Norway proposes to ban beggars and people who try to help them

Norway's justice minister says the law is needed to stop people who run begging networks as an 'organized business'

1. Norway has proposed a controversial new law. If the new law becomes a reality, it will be illegal to help beggars on the streets. If this happens, people who offer money or food to beggars can go to prison for between six months to a year, and organized begging will become a crime.
2. City authorities in Oslo are angry about the proposal, but Norway's justice minister Anders Anundsen said the law was needed to stop people who run begging networks as an "organized business".
3. Norway's parliament started debating the ban on begging last year, because of the high number of beggars on the streets. Individual councils are already able to ban begging, but now the government wants a nationwide ban.
4. Inger Husby, from Oslo, often invites homeless people into her house. She is afraid that her 'kindness' will become illegal if the proposal becomes a law.
5. "They have stayed here several times," she said. "I give them a packed lunch, and I fill their cups with cocoa. I wash their clothes when they need it and they come for dinner from time to time."
6. Karin Andersen, a member of parliament for the Socialist Left Party, tweeted her anger at the proposal and accused the government of criminalizing poor people.
7. "Europe's richest country criminalizes Europe's poorest people," she said.

Adapted from The Independent, by Roisin O'Connor, Wednesday 4 Feb 2015

TRUE or FALSE

Decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. Under the proposed law, people who offer money or food to beggars can go to prison for up to 2 years.
2. The government proposed the new law because there are too many beggars on the streets.
3. Norway's parliament started debating the ban on begging five years ago.
4. At the moment, begging is legal everywhere in Norway.
5. The new law is controversial.
6. Norway is Europe's richest country.

PHRASES FROM THE TEXT

Match the verbs on the left with the nouns and phrases on the right.

1. propose	___	a. a law
2. go	___	b. a reality
3. become	___	c. for dinner
4. come	___	d. money or food
5. offer	___	e. to prison

Make your own sentences using the phrases above.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

FIND THE WORD

Find a word in the text which means ...

1. manage (verb, SUBTITLE) _____
2. everywhere in the country (P3, adjective) _____
3. people who don't have a home (P4, phrase) _____
4. sent a message via Twitter (P6, verb in the past simple) _____
5. makes illegal (verb, P7) _____