



## Norway Apologizes for Historical Assimilation Policies

[Source: TH](#)

Norway's Parliament issued an official apology for the century-long [assimilation policies](#), known as "**Norwegianisation**," that discriminated against the Sami, Kven, and Forest Finn communities.

- Assimilation Policy promotes integrating diverse groups into the dominant culture, often requiring them to **adopt its norms, values, and language**, sometimes **losing their own cultural identity**.
- The **Norwegianisation process** aimed to erase the cultures and languages of the Sami, Kven, and Forest Finns.
  - Indigenous children were taken from their families and sent to state-run schools, where they faced discrimination and forced cultural change.
- **Sami**: Indigenous people from northern Europe, primarily in Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia, are the speakers of the **Sami languages**, which are endangered.
- **Kvens and Forest Finns**: Migrants from Finland and Sweden who settled in Norway centuries ago, with distinct cultural practices.

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## Samos Island

[Source: TH](#)

- A shipwreck near the **Greek island of Samos** led to the deaths of eight migrants, highlighting the ongoing challenges of [irregular migration](#) in the region.
- **Samos and nearby Aegean islands** are key transit points for migrants entering the [European Union](#) illegally from Turkey. Over 54,000 migrants have entered Greece illegally in 2024.
  - Many face dangerous journeys in unsafe, overcrowded boats, including riskier [Mediterranean](#) routes from Libya.
- The Island of Samos is in Greece, located on the [Eastern Aegean Sea](#) just 1,700 meters from the Asia Minor Turkish Coast.
  - Asia Minor or Anatolia is the westernmost part of Asia, which makes up the majority of modern-day Turkey.
- Samos Island is home to the fortified ancient city (Pythagoreion) and ancient Temple of Hera (Heraion) of Samos, a [UNESCO Heritage Site](#). It is also the birthplace of **Pythagoras (Greek philosopher and mathematician)**.

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## Siddi Community

[Source: IE](#)

Recently released **film *Rhythm of Dammam*** highlights the **marginalised Siddi community** in India.

- **Origin:** They are descendants of **African slaves** brought by the **Portuguese** in the late **17<sup>th</sup> century** during the **trans-Indian Ocean slave trade**.
  - They exhibit **Negroid physical traits**.
  - They are also known by different synonyms such as **Habshi and Badsha**.
- **Present-Day Location:** They mainly reside along the **western coast** of India, particularly in the states of **Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka**.
- **ST Status:** In India, the Union government in **2003**, classified **Siddis** under the list of **Scheduled Tribes**.
  - They are also included in the Centre's list of **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups**.
- **Family System:** The community follows a **nuclear family system**, although extended families exist.
- **Cultural Expression:** The Siddis are known for their **folk music and dances, such as Dhamal and Rasda**, with **men performing the Dhamal dance**.

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