

Gender equality the Nordic way

Since it was set up in 1971, the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) has worked actively to develop and promote equal treatment and gender equality in the Nordic societies.

In a Nordic context, this means that power and influence are distributed equally between the genders, and that females and males have the same rights, duties and opportunities in all areas of society and throughout all phases of life.

An equal society requires a society free from all types of gender-related violence and other forms of discrimination. The active participation of men and boys in gender equality work is a prerequisite for achieving a genuinely equal and diverse society.

Integrating a gender equality perspective in other policy and life areas will reduce the risk of people being treated differently on the basis of gender. It also increases awareness of the role of gender in co-operation and in policymaking.

The Nordic gender equality policies, methods initiatives and results are characterised by:

- A balance between high employment rates for women and relatively high fertility rates
- The involvement of men in the development of gender equality policy
- Redistribution of power, influence and care duties between women and men
- Possibilities for both genders to combine work and family life through an integrated family and equality policy
- Continuous work to put violence in relationships on the political agenda, leading to initiatives to help both victims and perpetrators.

During the recent global financial crisis, the Nordic countries have also shown that our equal societies are far more sustainable in times of economic recession. Gender equality therefore contributes to economic growth and continued welfare.



A precondition for growth

Assigning equal value to the experience, knowledge, competencies and perspectives of both genders guarantees not only a sustainable society but also a better and more just society. To attain gender equality, better use must be made of all available human resources, which also enables economic growth and guarantees welfare.

Nordic co-operation on gender equality is based on a common democratic tradition and history. Co-operation has been and still is of mutual benefit to the Nordic countries, the autonomous territories and the adjacent areas.

It is important that the relatively small Nordic welfare societies exchange experiences, learn and benefit from each other's expertise, and conduct political debate to develop the content of gender equality work and to achieve greater understanding of gender equality as well as, equal status and diversity.



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Gender Equality in Nordic Co-operation

Building sustainable societies

Nordic co-operation

Nordic co-operation is one of the world's most extensive forms of regional collaboration, involving Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland.

Nordic co-operation has firm traditions in politics, the economy, and culture. It plays an important role in European and international collaboration, and aims at creating a strong Nordic community in a strong Europe.

Nordic co-operation seeks to safeguard Nordic and regional interests and principles in the global community. Common Nordic values help the region solidify its position as one of the world's most innovative and competitive.

For the Nordic countries, being part of a globalised world means demonstrating international commitment. Gender equality is part of the Nordic identity, and has been a basic pillar of our democracies and in the development of our welfare models.

The vision of the Nordic Council of Ministers' work on gender equality is that it will serve as a model. It will show how we in the Nordic Region are responding to the challenges of globalization by implementing a gender equality policy that will ensure a sustainable society in the future.



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