

NORDISKE



2026

Programme

11-13 September

Nordic Women Against Violence 2026

This year's conference brings us together in Oslo to focus on post-separation abuse - an urgent issue affecting women across the Nordic countries.

Krisesentersekretariatet is delighted to welcome you to Nordic Women Against Violence 2026. It has been ten years since Norway last hosted NKMV. The network has been in existence for as long as Krisesentersekretariatet itself and continues to be of great importance to us and to all the Nordic organisations involved.

Over the course of the conference, we hope to deepen our understanding of post-separation abuse and, above all, be better equipped to continue the fight for a future in which all women can live their lives free from violence.



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Friday 11'th

15.00 - Registration

ATLANTIS:

16.00 - Welcome with Pia Krüger Grönqvist, Chair of the Board of Kriesentersekretariatet & Ane Fossum, Managing Director of Kriesentersekretariatet

16.10 - Panel - The fight for women's rights

Susan Arulanantham - Chair of the Norwegian Women's Lobby

Drífa Snædal - Spokeswoman for Stígamót, Iceland

Olga Persson - President of Unizon, Sweden

Helene Forsberg - Director of Women's Council, Denmark

Panel moderated by Ane Fossum

17.00 - End of Program

18.00 - Get-together

Join us for an informal welcome gathering with food and mingling



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Saturday 12'th

09.00 - Registration

ATLANTIS:

09.30 - Opening

09.40 - Country Presentations:

Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, The Faroe Islands, Norway.

10.50 - Break

11.10 - Country Presentations Continue

12.15 - Lunch

13.15 - The Danish Stalking Center: Mille Keis

Stalking as post-separation abuse.

14.15 - Group Photo

14.30 - Break

14.45 - Parallel Sessions

ATLANTIS: ROSA: Silje Heitmann & Leila Langdalen Sbai. Aftenposten & LO
Media: Gunnar Thorenfeldt

The People We Fail to Help. Stories of trafficking, exploitation – and the systems that fail their victims.

HYDRA: TryggEst: John-Ingvar Kristiansen

TryggEst aims to prevent, identify and respond to violence and abuse against adults who may be in vulnerable situations.

NEMO: Women's Shelter Iceland: Linda Dröfn Gunnarsdóttir. Bjarkarhlíð

Family Justice Center: Jenný Kristín Valberg

An Icelandic Family justice center in partnership with the Women's Shelter.

15.45 - Break

16.00 - Margunn Bjørnholt - Professor at VID and a Researcher at the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS)

Co-parenting in the context of continued abuse – consequences for mothers and children.

17.00 - End of Program

19.00 - Aperitif & Banquet Dinner



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Sunday 13'th

09.00 - Parallel Sessions

ATLANTIS: VO-linjen: Julie Haatuft & Einar Seierstad. NCK: Ann Andersson.

Lev Uden Vold: Sandra McNeary

From First Contact to Further Support: How Can the Support services for victims of violence and abuse collaborate with Domestic Violence Helplines?

HYDRA: Unizon: Åsa Witkowski. IKKR- kvinnojouren NINA: Halala Rafi. Kvinnors rätt: Maria Rashidi. Existera: Luul Jama

Honour-based violence and oppression: the work of Unizon's member organisations.

NEMO: ROKS: Adine Samadi. LOKK: Marie Bagger

-Violence and Child Custody – A Report from Sweden.

-Parental alienation in a Danish context.

10.00 - Break

10.15 - Parallel Sessions

ATLANTIS: Universitetet i Tromsø - Astrid M.A. Eriksen

Understanding Violence in Sami Communities: Knowledge, Barriers, and Interventions.

HYDRA: RED Center - Ulla Bang Steno & Maiken Simonsen

Post Separation Abuse in an Honour Related Context.

NEMO: Dyrebeskyttelsen - Karianne Muri

Animal Abuse as Part of Domestic Violence: Human Safety Depends on Animal Safety.

11.15 - Break

11.45

ATLANTIS: The Norwegian Partner Homicide Commission - Lena Bendiksen

The Norwegian Partner Homicide Commission and other positive initiatives and developments in the field.

12.45 - Ending Notes

13.00 - Lunch



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Ane Fossum

Ane is the Managing Director of Kriesesentersekretariatet, the national umbrella organisation for crisis shelters in Norway. The organisation serves as a key link between crisis shelters, government authorities, research institutions and civil society organisations. The organization also operates national support initiatives, including ROSA, which assists victims of human trafficking, and the Violence and Abuse Helpline (VO-linjen), providing guidance and support to individuals affected by violence and abuse. She leads its efforts to prevent domestic and gender-based violence, human trafficking and strengthen crisis shelter services across the country.



Pia Krüger Grönqvist

Pia is Chair of the Board of Kriesesentersekretariatet and Director of the Crisis Centre in Bergen. She has nearly 20 years of leadership experience in social services, including roles as Head of Department and Deputy Director. Throughout her career, she has worked with people in vulnerable situations and has gained experience in psychiatric care, psychosocial crisis response and family mediation. Her professional background includes experience in crisis management, leadership and interdisciplinary collaboration.





Susan Arulanantham

Susan is the Director of the Norwegian Legal Advice for Women (JURK), a feminist legal aid organisation established in 1974, and Chair of the Norwegian Women's Lobby, an umbrella organisation for women's rights organisations in Norway. JURK provides free legal assistance to women across Norway and has played a central role in advancing women's access to justice, particularly in cases involving violence, discrimination and family law. Susan holds a master's degree in law from the University of Oslo and an LL.M. in Law and Gender from SOAS, University of London, and has a professional background from the private legal sector.



Drífa Snædal

Drífa is the spokeswoman for Stígamót in Iceland. For the past ten years, she has held leading positions within the Icelandic labour confederation. Prior to that, she was politically active, and in the years 2003-2006 she was director of education and promotion at the Association for Women's Shelters as well as executive director. Drífa has been active in the struggle against trafficking and sexual violence through many roles, in her jobs, as an activist and researcher. She has a master's degree in labour market studies from the University of Lund in Sweden, focusing on the vulnerability of domestic workers.





Olga Persson

Olga is the president of Unizon, Sweden's largest support organisation for women subjected to violence. She holds a degree in political science and has broad experience and in-depth knowledge of men's violence against women and children. She has represented Unizon both nationally and internationally, including in the Swedish Parliament, the European Parliament, and the United Nations. Olga is one of Sweden's leading experts and most influential figures in women's rights. She is a frequent voice in the media and public debate, an award-winning communicator, and a recipient of the Anna Lindh Memorial Prize.



Helene Forsberg

Helene is the director of Women's Council Denmark – the Danish umbrella CSO working for women's rights and equality – and Chair of the Danish Observatory of Violence and the Network for Women, Peace and Security. Helene has a background in social work and has worked with advocacy for fundamental rights and equality, using gender-based and intersectional approaches at systemic, political and practical levels throughout her career.





Moderator: Maren Njøs Kurdøl

Maren has a background in social sciences and physical training. She has worked in the fitness industry for many years and has extensive experience in elected office at both the municipal and county levels. She has also worked at the Norwegian Parliament. Today, Maren is a political adviser at the Norwegian Women's Public Health Association (Sanitetskvinnene), Norway's largest women's organisation.

The Danish Stalking Center

The Danish Stalking Center is an independent non-profit organisation specialising in preventing, stopping, and raising awareness about stalking. It is dedicated to helping anyone affected by stalking, offering specialised support to victims, next of kin, and perpetrators. As Denmark's leading knowledge hub, The Danish Stalking Center provides targeted consultation and training for professionals – including law enforcement and social services – and engages in advocacy work to ensure effective, comprehensive responses to stalking.



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Margunn Bjørnholt

Margunn is a Professor at the Faculty of Social Studies, VID Specialized University and the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies in Oslo. She is a sociologist and holds a PhD in gender studies. Her current research focuses on intimate partner violence (IPV), mothering and post-separation abuse, and institutional responses to violence in intimate relations. She has published widely on IPV, sexual violence, migration, work, family and gender equality, and men and masculinities. Margunn introduced post-separation abuse in a Norwegian context and launched the Norwegian term for it: fortsettelsesvold.



Lena R. L. Bendiksen

Lena is a Professor of Law at the Faculty of Law, UiT – The Arctic University of Norway. Her research specialises in children's law, with a particular emphasis on protecting children from violence and abuse and on the safeguarding of their human rights. She has broad experience in research, teaching and academic leadership, including serving as Dean of the Faculty of Law. Lena has served on several public committees and boards and currently chairs the Norwegian Partner Homicide Commission. She is the author of numerous peer-reviewed publications published both nationally and internationally.

