

DATING VIOLENCE AMONG NORDIC YOUTH

Nordic Expert Conference on Violence in Adolescents' Intimate Relationships

Friday, April 15, 2016, 10:00 – 16:45

Stensberggata 27, 7th floor, Room 1

What do we know about «kjærestevold», dating violence, or intimate partner violence among youth, in the Nordic countries?

- ❖ What knowledge do we have about Nordic youth's experiences with violence in intimate relationships, and how might it be experienced differently depending on gender?
- ❖ What is currently being done to prevent intimate violence among youth, and what are the challenges facing this work?
- ❖ What are the best practices and what are our recommendations to organizations and public authorities?

The conference is funded by NIKK, Nordic Information on Gender, and organized by Reform – Resource Centre for Men (Norway), Profeministimiehet (Finland), Nordic MenEngage (Denmark), and Män För Jämställdhet (Sweden).

PROGRAM

Friday, April 15, 10:00 – 16:45

- 09:30 Registration and coffee (*Meeting room 6*)
- 10:00 Welcome
Are Saastad, Reform – Resource Centre for Men
- 10:10 Official opening of the conference
Kai-Morten Tarning, State Secretary, Ministry of Children and Equality
- 10:20 Introduction of participants
- Key notes: What do we know about youth's intimate violence in the Nordic countries?**
- 10:40 Denmark
Rikke Holm Bramsen, Department of Psychology at the University of Southern Denmark
- 11:00 Finland
Jonna Saxberg and Tommi Petteri Pesonen, Kalliola Youth Association
- 11:20 Short break
- 11:30 Iceland
Hjálmar G. Sigmarsson, Stígamót – Education and Counseling Center for Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Violence

- 11:50 Sweden
Sibel Korkmaz, the County Administrative Board in
Uppsala County
- 12:10 Norway
Per Hellevik, Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic
Stress Studies (NKVTS)
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 Spoken word performance by Jeaninne Masika Lukusa,
Tekstlab Unge Stemmer (TextLab Young Voices)
- 13:50 Discussion of key notes
- 14:10 **Group work: Challenges and recommendations**
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 15:45 Group presentations and plenary discussion
Each group presents its key points from the group work.
- 16:25 Concluding thoughts: What have we learnt and where do
we go from here?

End time 16:45.

OPENING

Kai-Morten Tarning, State Secretary, Ministry of Children and Equality



State Secretary Kai-Morten Tarning (Progress Party) will open the conference on behalf of the Norwegian government and the Ministry of Children and Equality.

Welcome

Are Saastad, Reform – Resource Centre for Men



Are Saastad is the director of Reform – Resource Centre for Men since 2012. In Reform, Are has managed several projects related to violence prevention and men's health. Are has previously been a nursing assistant within the field of psychiatry and has extensive experience as a labour union representative.

Program Chair

Hedda Hakvåg, Reform – Resource Centre for Men



Hedda Hakvåg is an advisor at Reform – Resource Centre for Men since 2015. Hedda has a master's degree in Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice and prior experience working with sexual assault education and violence prevention. In Reform, she works on the «Stopp kjærestevolden» project educating youth about dating violence and on other gender equity issues.

KEY NOTES

Adolescent Dating Violence: A Glimpse of Danish Efforts and International Experiences.

Rikke Holm Bramsen, Department of Psychology at the University of Southern Denmark



Rikke Holm Bramsen, PhD, is an Associate Professor and Head of Studies in the Department of Psychology at the University of Southern Denmark. Since 2014, Dr. Bramsen has been the head of ThRIVE, The Research Group on Interpersonal Violence Europe. Dr. Bramsen's research interests focus on interpersonal violence. Specifically, her research aims to prevent adolescent sexual violence and improve the multidisciplinary approach to survivors of sexual assault.

Dating Violence in Finland

Jonna Saxberg and Tommi P. Pesonen, Kalliola Youth Association



Jonna Saxberg has a Bachelor of Rehabilitation, and is a sexual counsellor and sexual therapist. She has worked for Kalliola Youth Association since 2013. Her first coordinating job was the e-Talo project (e-House is Girls' and Boys' House on the Internet) and as a counsellor in sexual violence work. Since August 2015 she has worked with girls and young women aged 13 to 28 who have suffered from sexual violence of some form.



Tommi P. Pesonen is a social educator, sexual counsellor and gestalt therapist. He has worked for Kalliola Youth Association since October 2013 at Boys' House as counsellor in sexual violence work working with boys and young men from 13 to 28 who have suffered from sexual violence of some form.

(cont.) Studies directly on dating violence have not been done in Finland, therefore the true extent and nature of the phenomenon is unknown. However, dating violence is an existing problem. In our work among youth, dating violence seems to be a very difficult topic to recognize and discuss. Dating violence needs to be made well-known as a term and as a phenomenon.

„My Boyfriend Raped me“- Violence in Intimate Relationships among Youth in Iceland

Hjálmar G. Sigmarsson, Stígamót - Education and Counseling Center for Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Violence



Hjálmar G. Sigmarsson is a counsellor for Stígamót, and his responsibilities include: Bringing prevention education to schools and youth centers, improving services for male survivors of sexual violence and engaging men in anti-VAW prevention. For over a decade, Hjálmar has been working on men's involvement and engagement with feminist issues and how to develop sustainable and effective approaches in politicizing men. Hjálmar has worked on gender based violence issues within academia, grassroots organizations, governmental gender mechanisms and international organizations.

This presentation will discuss how the issue of violence among youth has been addressed in Icelandic society in the last few years. Looking at how the debate seems to be taking a radical shift towards making the voices of survivors heard, as well as putting the spotlight on perpetrators and their sole responsibility for the violence. An overview of official and grassroots initiatives will be provided, highlighting the issues and approaches that have been emerging, stressing how to move forward. In addition the presentation will include a screening of a series of short videos, which Stígamót has recently produced, where survivors share their experiences.

Youth in Sweden – A Vulnerable Group

Sibel Korkmaz, the County Administrative Board in Uppsala County



Sibel Korkmaz is a social worker with a master's degree in social work. Sibel is the Development Manager Men's Violence Against Women, The County Administrative Board in Uppsala County.

Youth are identified as a group vulnerable to being subjected to violence, and during the last couple of years an effort to address that has been made. In Sweden, action has been taken to focus on preventing violence and to strengthen the focus on boys, men, and masculine norms within the work for gender equality, including violence prevention.

Existing Knowledge and Prevention Initiatives in Norway

Per Hellevik, Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS)



Per Hellevik is a Ph.d candidate at the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS) and the Institute for Media and Communication at the University of Oslo. He is a sociologist specializing in Internet and social media use among young people in connection with violent and abusive behavior.

In this presentation, existing research on intimate partner violence among Norwegian youth will be described. Additionally, Norwegian prevention and intervention initiatives will be presented. Finally, suggestions on how to address the issue of IPV in young people's lives will be discussed.