



Nordic Centre for Welfare and Social Issues

**Nordic overview – Violence against
persons with disabilities – to prevent,
recognize and respond**



NORDIC OVERVIEW - VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES – TO PREVENT, RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND

The need to pay special attention to persons with disabilities as victims of crimes is visualized in the Nordic countries in a variety of ways. Together with the members of the Council on Nordic Cooperation on Disability, a Nordic overview of this topic has been compiled. Below you will find just a few examples of how a disability perspective has been visualized and integrated into official action against violence. The theme will be studied further in a project beginning in 2015.

The Danish strategy against violence in close relations includes several measures to increase accessibility for disabled people to women's crisis centres. There are also educational measures that include professionals working with service and support.

In Finland, the National Institute for Health and Welfare recently published a guide book, "Dare to be, dare to speak". The purpose is to prevent, recognize and respond to violence against disabled people. The guide is aimed at women and girls with disabilities and at professionals working with disabled people.

In the Faroe Islands, the national campaign combating violence against women will include a disability perspective from the autumn of 2014. The Faroese parliament has also recently decided to mention girls and women with disabilities as in the new action plan on sexual violence.

Greenland has a general programme against violence in close relations and gender-based violence, but without an integrated disability perspective.

In Iceland, the government has a Rights Watch, which is a group of lawyers connected to the Ministry of Welfare charged with protecting the rights of disabled people. Stígamót, an organization that supports victims of sexual violence, has recently employed a person with a disability to reach that particular target group more effectively.

The Norwegian Centre for Welfare and Labour Research, NOVA, has recently made a study of the mission of the government and all the available service and support for disabled people who have been victims of violence. The results were published in 2014 and will be used in continual development to ensure that disabled people are given the right service and support.

In Sweden The National Board of Health and Welfare has published an educational guide about violence against women with disabilities. It targets professionals in contact with these women. Disability is one of the perspectives used when supervising the social security systems around gender-based violence and children who have witnessed violence.

Åland has a general programme to address violence in close relations and gender-based violence, but without an integrated disability perspective.



Other international examples

In 2012, the UN published a theme study about violence against women and girls with disabilities. The study includes recommendations to the state signatories of the Convention on Rights for Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) which include systematic gathering of information and accessibility to the legal systems. The parliament assembly of the Council of Europe communicated in 2013 about the extended risk of women and girls being exposed to violence. The Council of Europe reminded the member states about their commitments according to article 15 in the European Social contract, the UNCPRD and the Declaration of Istanbul about preventing violence towards women and girls in close relations. As the only regional organization, the European Union has ratified the UNCPRD and reported to the committee of the convention in 2014. In the report, the Daphne III projects are mentioned. Daphne III focuses on support for special victims. Iceland is one of the national partners to the project.

This overview has been compiled in collaboration between the Council on Nordic Cooperation on Disability and the Nordic Center for Welfare and Social Issues.

NORDENS VÄLFÄRDSCENTER / Nordic Centre for Welfare and Social Issues
Box 22028, SE 104 22 Stockholm / Visiting address Hantverkargatan 29 / Sweden
www.nordicwelfare.org



norden

Nordic Centre for
Welfare and Social Issues