



SECTOR PROGRAMME

Gender Equality

Swedish Presidency
Nordic Council of Ministers 2013

Gender Equality

Swedish Presidency – Nordic Council of Ministers 2013

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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.

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Gender Equality

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Foreword

The main theme during Sweden's Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2013 is the Nordic model in a new era.

The Nordic model has successfully managed to combine both growth and harmony. Many international comparisons rank the Nordic countries at the top when it comes to income distribution, competitiveness, innovation, labour market participation, general equality and gender equality, and the environment.

In the future, gender equality will continue to occupy a central role in the Nordic model and to contribute to the success of the Nordic welfare states. Therefore, during the Swedish Presidency, we will take a special look at gender equality work and gender mainstreaming in kindergartens and schools in the Nordic countries and the autonomous areas. Measures to combat gendered stereotypes and create opportunities for girls and boys to think outside traditional, stereotypical gender roles must be introduced early to have an impact. In this, the Nordic countries have plenty of positive examples to share.

Investing in gender equality already in kindergartens and schools will have an impact on working life. The Nordic countries are known for their high rates of labour market participation for both women and men, but the labour market remains segregated according to gender. In 2013, we will examine and discuss women's and men's different opportunities and patterns in the labour market and focus particularly on the issue of part-time work.

We cannot take for granted that worldwide, society will automatically continue to move toward greater equality. In many areas, the development is going in the opposite direction, even as we continue to move forward. For that reason, I and my Minister colleagues will spend our annual meeting focussing on the future of gender equality policy in the context of the 20th anniversary of the Beijing *Platform for Action*, coming up in 2014.

I look forward to our meetings and all of the activities in 2013!



Maria Arnholm
Jämställdhetsminister





Nordic gender equality co-operation

This year's Sector Program is the third one to be completed within the framework of the 2011–2014 Nordic cooperation programme for gender equality – Gender Equality Creates Sustainable Societies.

The cooperation takes place across three geographical regions – the Nordic countries and autonomous areas, the Baltic countries, and Northwest Russia. Each of the three regions has its own prioritised themes. Gender mainstreaming and the active participation of boys/men are included in each area of the cooperation program.

Priorities within the Nordic region:

1. Gender equality in the labour market
2. Gender equality in education and training
3. Gender, ethnicity and gender equality
4. Zero tolerance for gender-based violence.

Priorities in cooperation between the Baltic countries and the Nordic region:

1. Gender equality in the labour market
2. Gender equality education
3. Gender equality/equal treatment in public life and the media
4. Zero tolerance for gender-based violence.

Priorities in cooperation between Northwest Russia and the Nordic region:

1. Gender equality education
2. Zero tolerance for gender-based violence.

As part of the priorities defined in the current cooperation programme, activities will be carried out through the annual Sector Programmes. The current Presidency has the opportunity to highlight its own prioritised themes.

Nordic co-operation on gender equality – priorities in 2013

As part of Nordic gender equality co-operation, as defined in the 2011–2014 co-operation programme, the Swedish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2013 will focus on the prioritised action areas of gender equality in the labour market and gender equality in education.

Moreover, during its Presidency, Sweden will support activities related to the theme of mainstreaming, to develop mainstreaming as a method and a strategic tool. As President, Sweden also plans to support the Nordic Council of Ministers in its implementation of a model for working with gender mainstreaming internally at the Nordic Council of Ministers.

In line with the co-operation programme, the active participation of boys/men is included in all prioritised action areas within the co-operation programme. In particular, experiences obtained from efforts to increase the proportion of men in Nordic kindergartens and schools will be presented at a conference on gender equality in kindergartens and schools.

Finally, the Swedish Presidency will work in close collaboration with NIKK, Nordic Information on Gender, in order to ensure a successful launch for the knowledge and information centre. In 2012, NIKK joined forces with the Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research at the University of Gothenburg. During the Swedish Presidency, NIKK is tasked with implementing activities connected to the theme of gender equality in the labour market.

Gender equality in education and training

In the area of gender equality and education, the theme of gender equality and gender mainstreaming in kindergartens and schools in the Nordic countries and autonomous regions will be highlighted by producing a report and by holding a conference on the theme. The work to compile the report began already during the 2011 Finnish Presidency, as part of launching activities for the new cooperation programme. Gender equality in education was a prioritised action area also during Finland's Presidency, during which a conference was held to discuss gender awareness in teacher training. During the Norwegian Presidency, another conference took up the theme of gender balance in research.

Girls and boys continue to make educational choices along traditional gender lines, and this contributes to maintaining the gender segregation of the labour market. Ensuring gender equality in education is a way to improve girls' and boys' ability to develop their skills and interests without being hindered by stereotyped conceptions of gender.

These activities provide an opportunity for cooperation between the Committees of Senior Officials for Gender Equality (ÄK- JÄM) and Education & Research (ÄK-U) and experts working in those fields. The goal is to share experiences and highlight strengths and weaknesses connected to working with gender equality issues in the realm of education.

The following activities are planned for 2013:

Report on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in kindergartens and schools in the Nordic countries

The Swedish Presidency assumes responsibility for issuing a report on the work currently done with gender equality and gender mainstreaming in kindergartens and schools in the Nordic countries and autonomous areas. The report will present factors that have resulted in success in schools and kindergartens and in municipalities and regions that have systematically and continuously utilised gender equality-related goals. The report will also describe experiences derived from efforts to increase the proportion of men working in kindergartens.

The report is based on the experiences of Sweden and the Åland Islands in integrating gender as part of kindergarten education. The work was begun in the autumn of 2011 by the Finnish Presidency, as part of launching the activities for the new four-year cooperation programme.

Responsible party: Swedish Presidency; work carried out by external consultants.

Conference on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in kindergartens/schools in the Nordic countries and the autonomous regions

The Swedish Presidency will hold a conference that will highlight how gender equality and gender mainstreaming can serve as tools for high-quality activities. A report compiled by the Presidency will be presented at the conference. Also showcased will be experiences derived from efforts to increase the number of men working in kindergartens.

Responsible party: The Swedish Presidency; work carried out by the national education department.

Gender equality in the labour market

The Swedish Presidency will contribute to the co-operation programme's prioritised action area of gender equality in the labour market by conducting a study and arranging a conference on part-time work, gender, and economic distribution in the Nordic countries.

In international comparisons, the Nordic countries are characterised by high rates of labour market participation among women, even as the labour market remains highly gender-segregated. Another characteristic of the Nordic labour market is that women are much more likely than men to work part time, and by the fact that wage differences between women and men continue to persist. This means that women and men do not have the same access to economic independence. The different conditions for men and women in the labour market have an impact on both individuals and society, in the short term and the long term, and they affect issues such as income, pensions, and benefits.

The Swedish Presidency will focus on the consequences of part-time employment and examine ways in which both women and men can participate in working life under the same conditions. Sharing experiences of how the Nordic countries have addressed these issues will occur through the activities planned by the Swedish Presidency.

The preparations for these activities will offer opportunities for collaboration between the Committees of Senior Officials for Gender Equality (ÄK- JÄM) and Labour (ÄK-A) as well as experts within these fields. The goal is for these activities to provide input that ministers for gender equality and labour issues, as well as politicians, officials, and other parties in the labour market can utilise to make concrete proposals.

NIKK is in charge of implementing both activities. The subsequent Icelandic Presidency also plans to take up the question of gender equality in the labour market during the 2014 term.

The following activities will be implemented in 2013:

Working group for gender equality in the labour market

A working group that serves under the Committee of Senior Officials for Gender Equality (ÄK-JÄM) was established in 2012 during Norway's term as President to facilitate the sharing of experiences related to equal pay. In 2013, the group is tasked with supporting activities carried out in the area of gender equality and the labour market.

Responsible party: The Swedish Presidency.

Study on part-time work, gender and economic distribution in the Nordic countries

During Norway's Presidency, NIKK was tasked by the senior officials of ÄK-JÄM to conduct a preliminary study on part-time work, gender, and economic distribution in the Nordic countries. The Swedish Presidency requests NIKK continue this project by conducting the first sub-study analysing the economic consequences of part-time work. The results will be presented in the form of comparative Nordic overviews of existing knowledge and by holding a conference to disseminate this information during the Swedish Presidency, in the autumn of 2013.

The 2014 Icelandic Presidency will on the second sub-study, which will investigate the mechanisms – on individual, organisational and societal levels – that result in women being more likely than men to be employed part time. Preparations for this second sub-study will begin already during the Swedish Presidency. These studies aim to provide a deeper understanding of the consequences of part-time employment for the economy and for gender equality, as well as for families and workplaces throughout the Nordic region.

Responsible party: The Swedish Presidency; work implemented by NIKK.

Conference – Part-time work, gender, and economic distribution in the Nordic countries

The Swedish Presidency will hold a conference on gender equality in the labour market. The conference will serve as an arena for presenting the results obtained from the study on part-time work, gender, and economic distribution that NIKK is tasked with. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss and share experiences about the economic consequences of part-time work, including from the perspective of lifetime earnings. NIKK is responsible for arranging the conference in the autumn of 2013.

Responsible party: The Swedish Presidency; work implemented by NIKK.

Other prioritised action areas

The Swedish Presidency plans to support and collaborate on various activities that are part of the other prioritised action areas of the co-operation programme.

Gender, ethnicity, and gender equality

As specified in the co-operation programme, improving equal treatment and gender equality requires that we ensure diversity, gender equality, and the

full participation of women and girls, and men and boys, irrespective of ethnic or cultural background.

The Swedish Presidency plans to support Denmark in the implementation of the Nordic conference Gender Equality in Modern Nordic Welfare Societies. The conference will discuss the future of gender equality policies and focus on such topics as young people and gender roles, and men and gender equality. The conference will also work to create synergies with Nordic Forum 2014 and offer input for the new Nordic cooperation programme for gender equality.

Responsible party: Denmark together with the Swedish Presidency.

Zero tolerance for gender-based violence

Zero tolerance for gender-based violence is one of four prioritized themes for the Nordic co-operation on gender equality during the period 2011–2014. The work with gender-based violence within the Nordic gender equality co-operation includes measures for preventing trafficking for sexual purposes.

Risk assessment in intimate relationship violence in the Nordic countries

The Swedish Presidency plans to sustain the work to combat gender-based violence by supporting the implementation of a project focusing on risk assessment in relationship violence in the Nordic countries. The project's aim is to exchange experiences and to further develop the risk assessment methodologies currently in use in the Nordic countries in connection with relationship violence. Particular areas of focus include ensuring multi-professional collaboration and establishing "support persons" for those who have been subjected to relationship violence. Two seminars will be held, in Finland and Norway, for experts in the field to gather together those who are working with this issue in the areas of social affairs, health care, crisis centres (safe houses), and the police.

Responsible party: National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) in Finland in collaboration with the National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women (NCK) in Sweden, as well as Norway's Department of Justice and Directorate of Health.

Workshop and campaign on young people and violence in Greenland

During 2011–2014, one of the four prioritised areas of co-operation between the Nordic gender equality ministers is zero tolerance for gender-based violence. The central idea of the project – which comprises a workshop and campaign on young people and violence in Greenland – is to give children and young people in Greenland the opportunity to talk about the consequences of violence from their own perspective, and to disseminate positive messages in

society. At the same time, the project works to prevent young people from perpetuating violence-condoning attitudes and behaviours in society and in their own intimate relationships, and encourages discussion about gender roles and gender equality. The project targets young people between the ages of 14 and 16.

The project is a continuation of the special gender equality policy seminar that was held in Ilulissat in 2010, financed by the Nordic Ministers for Gender Equality. In addition, the project will help illuminate issues of gender and gender equality from a West-Nordic perspective and promote co-operation and dialogue between various actors in Iceland, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands.

Responsible party: Council of Gender Equality in Greenland.

Gender mainstreaming in the Nordic countries

As one of the two main themes of the cooperation programme, gender mainstreaming will be incorporated into all prioritised actions areas and all forms of co-operation specified in the cooperation programme.

In the course of 2013, the Swedish Presidency will continue to support the efforts to build awareness and share experiences about the gender mainstreaming process in each of the Nordic countries.

Sharing experiences about gender mainstreaming between the Nordic countries

Several of the Nordic countries are currently engaged in a mapping and development process to identify the structures for carrying out the work of gender mainstreaming. Sharing these experiences between the Nordic countries was embraced during Norway's Presidency, and meetings on the topic took place in both Oslo and Stockholm.

The Swedish Presidency plans to support and collaborate with Denmark on the implementation of the project "Nordic Project on Gender Mainstreaming – best practices and effects". The project's purpose is to showcase success stories about gender mainstreaming from different levels of society and to support ongoing development work for gender mainstreaming at the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The informal Nordic network established during Norway's Presidency will continue also in 2013 by supporting this work. The network consists of national gender mainstreaming experts within the various ministries.

Responsible party: Denmark, in cooperation with the Swedish Presidency.



Nordic Information on Gender (NIKK)

NIKK works under the administrative control of the Nordic Ministers for Gender Equality (MR-JÄM) and represents one of the support functions in the area of Nordic gender equality co-operation. NIKK as an institution was dissolved as of 31 December 2011, and the Nordic Ministers for Gender Equality made a decision regarding NIKK's new management in June 2012. As of September 2012, NIKK has been managed by the Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research at the University of Gothenburg (www.genus.se).

The Swedish Presidency and NIKK will collaborate on the political themes identified as current priorities in the co-operation programme by the Nordic Ministers for Gender Equality. Among other things, NIKK is responsible for carrying out activities within the prioritised action area of gender equality and the labour market.

In accordance with a decision by the Committee of Senior Officials for Gender Equality (ÄK-JÄM) in October 2012, the gender equality sector's budget is now divided into four separate funding areas, each of which contributes to an "application fund" that is open to funding applications from civil society and the authorities. In total, DKK 2.8 million is devoted to this purpose annually. Projects implemented through the application fund help support the implementation of the 2011–2014 Sector Programme.

Responsible party: The Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat.

Gender mainstreaming at the Nordic Council of Ministers

Gender mainstreaming the activities in which the Nordic Council of Ministers is engaged entails integrating gender equality into all relevant plans, decisions, and activities in each sector of the Nordic Council of Ministers and in other Nordic institutions. Individual statistics must be presented by gender, and gender equality analyses must be conducted to ensure that each sector's activities advance equality between women and men.

For the gender mainstreaming strategy to be successful, what is required is a combination of oversight and monitoring within each area, as well as competence development that ensures that all of the decision-makers and officials involved have the necessary skills to implement the strategy.

Internal gender mainstreaming at the institutions and Secretariat of the Nordic Council of Ministers

During 2012, the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat was engaged in further developing a model for working with gender mainstreaming at the Nordic Council of Ministers. The aim is that, before the 2013 session, all sectors will have provided reports on their gender equality goals and indicators in their respective areas. The goals and indicators will henceforth be part of annual reporting. During 2013, the work will focus on competence building and the establishment of an organisational framework that ensures qualitative and functional working methods in future work. In addition, various information and education initiatives will be implemented in the course of 2013 for strategic target groups.

The Swedish Presidency will support the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat in the implementation of the models developed for working with gender mainstreaming at the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Responsible party: Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat, supported by the Swedish Presidency.

Gender mainstreaming and related activities in other Nordic Council of Ministers sectors and units

By nature, gender equality is a cross-sectoral perspective – it permeates every area of society, because there is no area that does not involve both women and men in one way or another. The Swedish Presidency plans to implement and support gender mainstreaming and related activities within a number of other sectors and units.

Gender mainstreaming in the priority budget

The Nordic Ministers for Co-operation have decided to set up a priority budget of DKK 80 million starting in 2013. The budget will fund a series of targeted projects, under themes such as Green Growth and Wellbeing. This budget programme includes a special investment in gender mainstreaming projects that are funded through the priority budget. The work will take place over two phases: the first phase consists of an evaluation of which projects are best suited for gender mainstreaming, followed by a second phase of implementing concrete steps within the projects that were deemed suitable.

Responsible party: Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat.

Gender equality and young people at the Nordic Cool cultural festival in Washington, D.C.

During Sweden's term as President, Nordic culture will be the theme of the annual international cultural festival held in February–March at the Kennedy Center in Washington. A seminar – to be arranged in conjunction with the Nordic Children's and Youth Committee (NORDBUK) at the Swedish Embassy in Washington as part of the programme for the cultural festival – will explore the relationship between young people, the internet, and gender equality. The seminar will look at girls' and boys' use of the internet and social media from various perspectives, and initiate the sharing of experiences between different actors in the Nordic countries and the United States. This cooperation is part of promoting closer, more concrete collaboration between the two multi-disciplinary sectors.

Responsible party: Sweden's representatives on the Committee of Senior Officials for Gender Equality (ÅK-JÄM) and in NORDBUK, in collaboration with the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat.

Gender, climate change, and biological diversity

Over a number of years, and through a series of activities, the gender equality sector has highlighted the connection between gender and climate issues and sustainable development. The idea of a Nordic initiative on Gender, Climate Change, and Biological Diversity is a continuation of this work and has been developed in close collaboration between the sector for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

The project recognizes that women and men are affected by different social and economic conditions that burden the environment in different ways, and that fewer women take part in decision making in the environmental arena. The issue is explored both through a Nordic and a global context, with a focus on developing nations.

In 2013, investment in this area will consist of three activities: an event during the 2013 CSW meeting in New York, an event in conjunction with the 2013 Nordic Cool festival in Washington, D.C., and an event held during the Nordic Council of Ministers' 2013 sustainability conference in Umeå.

Gender and the media

In 2012, the sector arranged a Nordic-Baltic roundtable on gender and the media as part of Nordic-Baltic co-operation. Against the backdrop of the discussions held during this seminar of experts, Nordicom (The Nordic Information Centre for Media and Communication Research) has now drafted a project proposal – the Nordic Gender and Media Forum.

The project proposal includes the creation of a new Nordic meeting place to discuss these issues. The aim is to gather relevant parties from the Nordic media landscape and expand and deepen the dialogue about the conditions that apply to gender equality in the public media sphere from a multidisciplinary and Nordic perspective. The experiences and knowledge obtained from the forum will be published and disseminated throughout the Nordic countries, Europe, and worldwide.

During 2013, the sector will continue to work on the proposal, with the aim of holding the first forum in 2014. Dialogue with other relevant sectors has been initiated, mainly in the cultural sector, to explore opportunities for co-operation.

Responsible party: Nordicom and the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat.



Diversity and non-discrimination

In accordance with Nordic Council recommendation 15/2010, which challenged the Nordic Council of Ministers to implement an internal diversity policy, the Ministers for Gender Equality decided at their meeting on 9 October 2012 to explore the possibilities of working with diversity issues within the existing structures of the Nordic Council of Ministers, and specifically in terms of non-discrimination and sustainable development.

Activities in 2013

As part of the Nordic Council of Ministers' strategy for sustainable development, the sector will in 2013 seek cross-sector co-operation at the Secretariat level with relevant sectors at the Nordic Council of Ministers. The goal is to map out the work done thus far with diversity and anti-discrimination issues at the Nordic Council of Ministers, and to initiate dialogue about the needs, interests, and potential forms of formal cooperation on these issues in a Nordic context.

Following the outcome of this work, an impact assessment will be conducted to explore what impact increased efforts on behalf of diversity and non-discrimination can have on gender equality policy.

Responsible party: Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat, supported by the Swedish Presidency.

Co-operation with the three Baltic countries: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania

Like other areas of co-operation, the Nordic Council of Ministers' gender equality co-operation with the three Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is guided by governing documents: the *Guidelines for the Nordic Council of Ministers' Co-operation with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania 2009–2013* and the *Joint Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programmes 2009–2013*.

Co-operation between the Nordic countries and the three Baltic countries will in 2013 follow the main priorities of Nordic gender equality co-operation, i.e. gender equality in education and gender equality in the labour market.

The launch of the Danish children's book "*The day when Rikke was Rasmus – The day Frederik was Frida*" during the presidencies of Finland and Norway, in 2011 and 2012, respectively, was part of the prioritised action area of gender equality in education. The project was concluded in the beginning of the year. Dialogue as to the continuation of activities in these prioritised areas is ongoing, and possible needs will also be discussed at the annual Nordic-Baltic cooperation meeting.

The following is planned for 2013:

Development of Nordic-Baltic co-operation

In 2013, under the leadership of the Presidency, the Secretariat will develop cooperation by designing a concrete production model for the planning and implementation of the Nordic-Baltic meetings. It is important that the planning of the meetings involve close and well-functioning collaboration, in order to ensure mutual interest and engagement and even more goal-oriented cooperation.

As part of developing co-operation between the Nordic and Baltic countries, the Baltic countries have the opportunity to take part in and contribute to the Swedish Presidency's "Conference on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in kindergartens and schools" in Stockholm in May 2013.

Co-operation with the Nordic offices in the Baltic countries will be important in this context.

Responsible party: Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat in collaboration with the Swedish Presidency.

The NB8 Meeting

The annual meeting for Nordic-Baltic co-operation, the NB8 Meeting, between the Committee of Senior Officials for Gender Equality (ÄK-JÄM) and officials from the Baltic gender equality departments, will take place in Stockholm. The meeting will be held at the end of the seminar on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in kindergartens and schools.

The aim of the meeting is to share experiences from working with gender equality in kindergartens and schools and in working life.

Responsible party: Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat in collaboration with the Swedish Presidency.

Co-operation with Northwest Russia

Gender equality co-operation with Northwest Russia is governed by two principal documents: *Protocol of intent between the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Government of St. Petersburg of the Russian Federation and Guidelines for the Nordic Council of Ministers' co-operation with North-West Russia 2009–2013*.

Beyond this, co-operation with Northwest Russia is guided by the current 2011–2014 four-year co-operation programme *Gender Equality Creates Sustainable Societies* and its two prioritised themes.

Launching the 2013–2014 framework programme

In accordance with a decision by the Committee of Senior Officials for Gender Equality (ÅK-JÄM), the Swedish Presidency will support activities that were part of the conclusions compiled following the kick-off the 2011 conference in St. Petersburg, when the present cooperation programme of the Ministers for Gender Equality was presented.

Dialogue concerning how these conclusions can be concretised into activities in 2013 is ongoing with the Nordic Council of Ministers' St. Petersburg office.
Responsible party: Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat.



Kvalitetsfrukt



Other international co-operation

Nordic gender equality policy has attracted a lot of international interest, stemming from the importance of equality for families, working life and society as a whole. The Nordic gender equality authorities prioritise this international cooperation – at the UN and within the EU and the Council of Europe.

The Nordic countries' gender equality work at the UN is rooted in the *Platform for Action* adopted by UN member states in Beijing in 1995. The Council of Ministers for Gender Equality takes part in the annual meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and arranges various side-events tied to the CSW's main priorities.

The following activities are planned for 2013:

Nordic participation in the UN's CSW meeting in 2013

The Swedish Presidency, in collaboration with the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat, will support the various Nordic activities held at the CSW meeting in February/March 2013, where this year's main theme is violence against women and girls.

Nordic ministers' side-event and CSW luncheon

The Swedish Presidency will work with the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat and share responsibility for arranging the following during the CSW meeting:

- Side-event attended by Nordic ministers on the theme of men's and boys' participation in combating violence against women.
- Informal luncheon for participating Nordic Ministers for Gender Equality.
Responsible party: The Swedish Presidency and the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat.

CSW side-event on gender, climate change, and biological diversity

The Nordic Council of Ministers is responsible for the side-event on gender, climate change, and biological diversity during the CSW session. For more information about this event.

Responsible party: Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat.

NGO side-event during the CSW session

The Nordic network of women against violence (Nordiske kvinner mot vold) will hold a side-event on the importance and role of women's organisations in combating violence in the Nordic countries.

Responsible party: Nordiske kvinner mot vold (network of 250 crisis centres in the Nordic countries) / Iceland

Gender equality and young people at the Nordic Cool cultural festival in Washington

A seminar about young people, the internet, and gender will be held in collaboration with the Nordic Children's and Youth Committee, NORDBUK. For more information about this event.

Responsible party: Sweden's representative on the Committee of Senior Officials for Gender Equality (ÅK-JÄM) and in NORDBUK, in collaboration with the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat.

Side-event on gender, climate change, and biological diversity at Nordic Cool

The Nordic Council of Ministers will hold a side-event on gender, climate change, and biological diversity during Nordic Cool.

Responsible party: Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat.

Nordic Forum 2014

The Nordic women's movement will gather at the Nordic Forum conference 2014 in Malmö, Sweden. The conference will seek to identify the challenges and opportunities entailed in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action. The conference will convene Nordic as well as international participants.

The conference will reflect on the current situation in which the global development toward gender equality and the principles of universal human rights

and democracy are being called into question. The rights of women and other human rights encounter active opposition, guided by the influence of tradition, religion, and culture. Women's living conditions are also under pressure from economic, environmental and political crises, and an explicit gender equality perspective is often missing from the models that are discussed.

In many ways, the Nordic region is seen as a pioneer in gender equality and human rights. It is important that the Nordic countries join together to analyse the current situation, to set the agenda, and assess the challenges facing gender equality policy.

At their October 2012 meeting, the Ministers for Gender Equality made a decision to support *Nordic Forum 2014*. Therefore, the Committee of Senior Officials for Gender Equality will seek dialogue with the arrangers of the conference to explore possible forms of support.

Responsible party: Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat in collaboration with the Swedish Presidency.

Overview of gender equality activities during 2013

Apart from the Gender Equality Ministers' meeting (MR-JÄM) and the meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials for Gender Equality (ÄK-JÄM), "troika" meetings for the three presidencies – previous, ongoing and upcoming – will also be held. In 2013, the "troika" consists of Norway, Sweden, and Iceland. The Nordic Council of Ministers participates in the "troika" meetings.

Date	Activity
7–8 February	First ÄK- JÄM meeting, Copenhagen
4–6 March	CSW, New York
7 March	Nordic Cool, Washington
6 May	Second ÄK-JÄM meeting, Stockholm
7 May	Conference on gender equality and kindergartens and schools, Stockholm
8 May	NB8 meeting, Stockholm
3 June	MR-JÄM meeting, Stockholm
5–6 September	Third ÄK-JÄM meeting, Stockholm
22 October	Conference on gender equality and the labour market, Stockholm
28 November	Fourth ÄK-JÄM meeting, Stockholm



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