

Traditionally, women have been responsible for a care-giving and dependable rationality, in areas where a limited technical and financial rationality is insufficient. In health care, the female perspective is necessary to create a society that is good for children, women and men, which in turn is good for reproduction. Reproduction, in its widest sense, is about creating a safe environment for children, both nationally and internationally.

Women, labour and wages

Systematic and structural differences between men and women have led to women not getting equal pay, that single women with children remain poor, and that female pensioners fare worse than their male counterparts. Traditional female-dominated occupations systematically get lower pay than comparable male-dominated occupations. The role women play as caregivers for the young, sick and elderly reinforce this difference, partly because women work part-time more often than men. Women also play a significant role in unpaid health and cultural work, which is often invisible. The Nordic Women's University aims to contribute to research into understanding and explaining the differences that impoverish women and develop alternative economic models to remedy this situation.



Work is based on interaction between the managing director, board of directors, council and Nesna University College.

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Welcome to the Nordic Women's University!

Traditionally, the understanding of women's rights has varied over time. In many ways, feminism has seen a setback in the last ten years, and it has become more difficult to gain acceptance for a separate women's organization. The Nordic Women's University foundation believes that this development must be met with renewed vigour, mobilizing new generations of women to take on the challenges thrown at them by society at any given time .



Professor Berit Ås was the driving force behind the first women's university in Norway in 1983, as well as the Nordic Women's University foundation. Here she is with Arna Meisfjord, former Nesna University College rector.



Nordic Women's University

Modelled on its predecessors, the Nordic Women's University has existed as an idea and possibility for many years, until its realization at the establishment of the foundation on 11 January 2011.



Present at the foundation were: Top row, from left: Randi Fjørstad, Gunhild Vehusheia, Silje Marie Finsæther, Gabriel Steinsbekk, Merete Furuberg, Inge Ås, Paola Melchiori. Bottom row, from left: Arna Meisfjord, Kaarina Kailo, Berit Ås and Eva Wilks. Also present were Tina Storsletten Nordstrøm, Gina Barstad and Henning Jakhell, who also took the picture.

The Nordic Women's University was founded in January 2011, with Nesna University College in Norway as its host institution. The Nordic Women's University is financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research and is a continuation of the former Women's University in Norway, which was established by Berit Ås in 1983. The current Women's University even has the same statutes as its predecessor.

We are engaged in research, education and dissemination of knowledge from a female perspective, with a Nordic and international focus.

The purpose and responsibilities of the Nordic Women's University are specified in the statutes for the Nordic Women's University Foundation.

Article 2 – Purpose

- Establish and maintain an educational institution built on feminist values and a feminist pedagogy
- Develop alternative models fit to strengthen the identity of women, contributing to women's liberation
- Contribute to strengthening women's confidence, highlighting female contributions and importance
- Engage in interdisciplinary research and education about and for women of all ages, from different countries and with various educational backgrounds and experiences
- Set the standard for women's politics

Article 3 specifies the means and responsibilities of the Nordic Women's University in achieving its purpose. Among other things, the foundation must contribute to the dissemination of research results affecting women – informing the groups that may make use of this knowledge. Furthermore, the university must cooperate with feminist movements, women's organizations and groups, both nationally and internationally.

The Nordic Women's University will focus on three main areas:

Combat violence against women

The raping of and violence against women is a major social problem. Violence in close relations is indicative of a systematic danger affecting women. Since the year 2000, nearly one hundred women in Norway have been killed by their present or former partners. Systematic research and information work is needed to highlight and uncover the deep-rooted structures that cause men to act violently towards women, in close relations as well as in times of war and occupation.

Women and reproduction

In terms of reproduction, the roles of women and men are fundamentally different. Women are pregnant with, give birth to and nurse children, and the health of women is closely linked to these functions. In addition, the male body is the norm in most medical research, which means it is necessary to establish and maintain a female perspective in women's health work.