



The Nordic Way of working

Nordic Women against violence
1st World Conference on Women's Shelters
Edmonton, Canada
7.-12. sept.2008





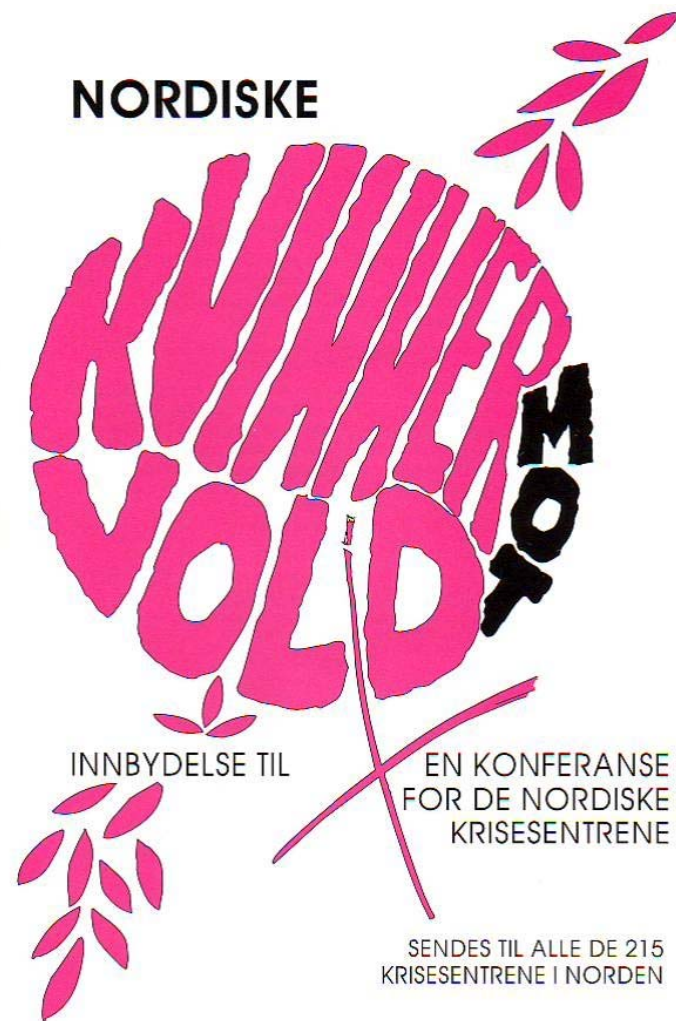
The lands of equality?

- The Nordic countries are the lands of equality according to gender empowerment measure (GEM) at the Human Development report from UN; Norway ranks first, then Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland.
- How come that we are then running 230 shelters for battered women, and many incest and Rape Crises Centres?
- Examples from the different countries, Iceland later today
- We deal with all kinds of gender violence, including, rape, incest, prostitution, trafficking and violence in partnership
- We work in different ways and our emphases are different. We vote different political parties if we vote at all, but when it comes to gender violence – we better stick together.
- The very existence of our “secret service” is a clear and unpleasant reminder of the real gender imbalance in our countries. That is why it is not enough to run the shelters we struggle for gender equality in general.
- (The gender empowerment measure (GEM) reveals whether women take an active part in economic and political life. It tracks the share of seats in parliament held by women; of female legislators, senior officials and managers; and of female professional and technical workers- and the gender disparity in earned income, reflecting economic independence)



Historic

- Oslo 2. May 1978 – 7 years after Chiswick in London
- From the same ideology to different emphasis
 - Good services and access around the clock in Norway,
 - feministic society work in Sweden,
 - consciousness raising around kids in Denmark,
 - work in Iceland
- No contact over boundaries
- First conference at Sundvolden in Norway 4.-6. febr. 1994 The thought was; then Europe (WAVE) and later the World
- A conference every year since, the latest and 15th in Stockholm this weekend



Structure



- No leader or board – but a reference group
- An informal network, with a reference group meeting every year
- A Nordic conference each year in one of the 7 countries: different themes; often perpetrators, health, costs, latest research
- All the organizations independent and cooperate in different fields
- Represent 230 shelters and more than 1000 involved women employed and voluntaries
- The women using the services are nameless and without any identification papers. We hide and support thousands of them and their children each year. We never know who will be next- it is not them and us- it is based on solidarity between all of us.

Ideology

- Picking up the best with respect for differences
- Help to self-help and feministic society work
- Different informal working groups; laws, newsletter, economy, European and international projects, political support, research
- Different projects; the status and rights of immigrant women..., trafficking, children, focus on perpetrators, ethical rules, minimum standards.....
- Best practises, laws, practical work, political work, demonstrations, activism
- The Incest Centres – invited – but different approach and ideology
- Seminars in connection with conferences- “Self-help groups in Iceland”
- Networking, globalisation, Nordic, Arctic, Europe.....
- Political pressure on politicians, resolution supporting each other
- Friendship and exchange.....
- The dark side – within the women’s movement – the split and the power struggle..... Have managed to avoid it and focus on strength, solidarity and empowerment!!



Flow of information, magazine, newsletter, internet..

- The first 5 years – before the internet – a magazine and later newsletter
- Statistics, research, projects, news.....



A Nordic seminar in Iceland 2005:

Self-help groups as a method at the Shelters



International work

- ❑ Beijing 1995 “The Nordic Women’s Underground movement” – “Women’s Secrete service”
- ❑ Brighton 1996
- ❑ CSW49 in New York 2005
- ❑ Daphne projects
- ❑ Cooperation with WAVE, CATW, EWL, Equality Now! and many others
- ❑ 1st World conference of Women’s shelters

