



Meeqqat tamarmik naleqarput

Alle børn er værdifulde

All children are valuable

Tusagassiorfinnut Nalunaarut Pressemeddelelse

08.10.20

MIO FN-imut: Ikiorserneqarnissamut atatillugu naligiinngittoqarnera saaffissaaleqisoqartarneralu meeqqanut inuusuttunullu akisusarpoq

Kalaallit Nunaanni meeqqat inuuniarnermikkut atugaat pillugit nalunaarusiamik Meeqqat Illersuisuat Aviâja Egede Lynge FN-imut tunniussivoq. FN-ip Meeqqat pillugit Isumaqatigiissutaani immikkoortut pingasut malinnissaat ajornartorsiutigineqartoq Meeqqat Illersuisuata tikkuarpaa: Meeqqap ikiorserneqarnissamut, ilinniartitaanissamut aamma peqqissutsimut pisinnaatitaaffia.

Isumassuinikkut ajornartorsiutit annertuut, Kalaallit Nunaanni meeqqat inuusuttullu amerlasuut ulluinnarni atugarisaat, ukiuni kingullerni amerlasuuni uppersarneqarlutilu tamanut ammasumik oqallisigineqartarsimapput.

”Innuttaasunut nalinginnarnut qinikkanullu paasissutissaq nutaarsiassaajunnaareerpoq: Kalaallit Nunaanni meeqqat inuusuttullu amerlavallaarujussuartut persuttaaffiusumi, imigassamik ajornartorsiorfiusumi atornerluiffiusumilu peroriartortarput. Meeqqat inuusuttullu pineqartut taakku sumiginnarneqarnerisa kingornatigut tarnimikkut ikiorserneqarnissamut periarfissaqannginnerannut imaluunnit periarfissakinnerannut paasissutissaq aamma nutaajunngilaa”.



Meeqqat inuusuttullu taama amerlatigisut eqqorneqarsimmata atugarliorlutillu ulluinnarni inuuniarnermini tarnimikkut nukippasuit atortaraat FN-imut nalunaarummini allappoq.

"Meeqqat atornerluinermik nalaataqarsimasut oqaatsitigut ilikkagaqarniarnermikkullu ajornartorsiuteqakkajuttarnerat misissuinerit takutissimagaat ilisimavarput. Sumiginnagaaneq allatut oqaatigalugu meeqqap ilinniagaqarnissamut pisinnaatitaaffianut ajoqutaasinnaavoq."

Peqqinnissaqarfiup naligiinngitsumik sullissinera Meeqqat Illersuisuata aamma isornartorsiorpaa:

"Sumiiffinni mikinerusuni nakorsassaaleqineq meeqqamut kinguaassiutitigut atornerlugaasimasumut ajorluinnarpoq: Illoqarfimmi nunaqarfimmiluunnit peqqinnissaqarfimmi sullissisut meeqqamik kinguaassiutitigut atornerlugaasimasumik naapitsigaangata nakorsamit misissorneqartussaasarpoq. Nunalli isorartunera angalanerillu sivisusinnaanerat pequtaallutik kinguaassiutitigut atornerlugaasimasup timaani uppernarsaatit tammarsinnaasarput, taamaaligaangallu suliakkiissutit unittarput, kinguaassitigut atornerluinermi uppernarsaatissaataasinnaasut ersittut nungussimasarmata."

Taamaattumik meeqqat pisariaqartitaminnik pisinnaatitaaffitsillu naapertorlugu ikiorserneqarnissaasa qulakkeerneqarnissaannut tunngasoq sammissallugu piffissanngortoq Meeqqat Illersuisuat isumaqarpoq.

MIO Kalaallit Nunaanni meeqqat inuusuttullu pisinnaatitaaffiisa qanoq qulakkeerneqarsinnaanerit pillugu FN-imut nalunaarsiamini inassuteqaateqartarpoq.

Naalagaaffeqatigiit inuit pisinnaatitaaffiisa iluanni Nunarsuaq Tamakkerlugu Piffissakkaartumik Nalilersuinermit atatillugu maajimi 2021-imi misilitsissapput.

Nunarsuaq Tamakkerlugu Piffissakkaartumik Nalilersuineq pillugu:

Nunarsuaq Tamakkerlugu Piffissakkaartumik Nalilersuineq (UPR) tassaavoq Naalagaaffiit Peqatigiinni Inuit Pisinnaatitaaffii pillugit Siunnersuisoqatigiinni inuit pisinnaatitaaffii pillugit suleriaaseq, naalagaaffiit allat naalagaaffinnut allanut inuit pisinnaatitaaffiisa inissisimanerannik ukiut sisamakkaarlugit nalilersueriaasiat. UPR-ip pingaarnertut siunertaasa ilagaat inuit pisinnaatitaaffiisa sunniuteqarluartumik illersorneqarnissaannut tapertaanissaq. Naagaaffiit Peqatigiinni isumaqatigiissutinut allanut attuumassutilinnut suleriaaseq pineqartoq naleqqiutissagaanni allaanerussutaa tassaavoq isumaqatigiissutit naalagaaffinni atuutsinneqarneranni sumut killissimanerannik ataatsimoortumik



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qimerloorneqartarnerat. Inuit pisinnaatitaaffiisa nalilersorneqartarnerat FN-imi nunat ilaasortat suliarisarpaat.

Ilangussaq:

MIO-p Nunarsuaq Tamakkerlugu Piffissakkaartumik Nalilersuinermut nalunaarusiaa.

Asannittumik inuulluaqqusillunga

Med Kærlig hilsen

Aviâja Egede Lyng

Meeqqat Illersuisuat

Børnetalsmand

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Tusagassiorfinnut Nalunaarut Pressemeddelelse

08.10.20

MIO til FN: Omsorgssvigtede børn og unge betaler en høj pris for ulighed og manglende adgang til hjælp

Børnetalsmand Aviâja Egede Lynge har afleveret rettighedsinstitutionen MIO's afrapportering om børns levevilkår i Grønland til FN. I rapporten retter hun kritik mod især tre områder, hvor det halter med at leve op til FN's Konvention om Barnets Rettigheder: Barnets ret til hjælp, uddannelse og ulighed i sundhed.

De massive omsorgsproblemer, som mange børn og unge i Grønland dagligt lever med, er de sidste mange år blevet dokumenteret og diskuteret i den offentlige debat.

"Det er efterhånden ikke længere ny viden for hverken den almindelige befolkning eller politikere: En alt for stor del af Grønlands børn og unge vokser op med vold, alkoholproblemer og overgreb. Det er heller ikke ny viden, at denne gruppe børn og unge har ingen eller meget ringe adgang til psykisk hjælp og behandling efter de har været udsat for omsorgssvigt".

Derfor retter hun i afrapporteringen til FN fokus på, at når så mange børn og unge er så hårdt ramt og ikke trives, er de er nødt til at bruge psykisk energi for at klare sig gennem tilværelsen.

"Fra undersøgelser véd vi, at børn, som har været udsat for overgreb, ofte får for eksempel

sprogproblemer og indlæringsvanskeligheder. Omsorgssvigt kan med andre ord komme til at gå ud over barnets ret til uddannelse”.

Børnetalsmanden retter også kritik mod den manglende lige adgang til sundhedsydelser i landet:

”Lægemanglen de mindre steder viser sig katastrofal for et barn, der er blevet udsat for seksuelt overgreb: Når sundhedspersonale i en by eller bygd uden læge møder et barn med tegn på seksuelle overgreb, skal barnet undersøges af en læge. Men på grund af den geografiske afstand og rejsetiden, forsvinder de fysiske tegn på seksuelle overgreb og derfor stopper sagerne, fordi der ikke længere er fysisk bevis for det seksuelle overgreb”.

Derfor er det ifølge Børnetalsmanden nu på tide at fokusere på at sikre børnene den hjælp og rehabilitering, de har behov for og ret til.

MIO's afrapportering til FN indeholder en række anbefalinger til, hvordan Grønland kan sikre børn og unge deres rettigheder bedre.

I maj 2021 skal Rigsfællesskabet til 'eksamination' i menneskerettigheder under den universelle periodiske bedømmelse.

Om Den Universelle Periodiske Bedømmelse:

Den Universelle Periodiske Bedømmelse (UPR) er en menneskerettighedsmekanisme under FN's Menneskerettighedsråd, hvor stater i en jævnlig cyklus bedømmer menneskerettighedssituationen i andre stater. Et af hovedformålene med UPR er at bidrage til en dialog om effektiv beskyttelse af menneskerettighederne. Til forskel fra de andre FN-mekanismer tilknyttet konventionerne er det den samlede status på menneskerettighedernes implementering i en stat, der gennemgås. Det er FN's medlemsstater, der står for menneskerettighedsgennemgangen.

Vedhæftet:

MIO's afrapportering til Den Universelle Periodiske Bedømmelse

Asannittumik inuulluaqqusillunga

Med Kærlig hilsen



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Nuuk, October 2020

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Greenland

Universal Periodic Review of Denmark

38th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

UPR Working Group (3-14 May 2021)

Stakeholder submission by:

National Advocacy for Children's Rights, Children's Spokesperson in Greenland, Aviâja Egede Lyng

The Greenlandic Spokesperson for Children and the National Advocacy for Children's Rights (MIO) has a special mandate to monitor children's conditions and assess whether legislation and practice are in line with Greenland's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Act on Children's Spokesman and Children's Council was passed in 2011. The institution assesses the conditions under which children live, spreads awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and provides advice and guidance on children's rights. The task is also to propose measures that strengthen children's rights, raise current issues to debate, represent the children's voice in the public debate and work on giving children better opportunities to participate in the debate and influence the development of society. The institution is politically independent.

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In the years 2015-2018 Greenland's Children's Spokesperson Aviâja Egede Lynge carried out the advocacy activities by listening to children's own words about their lives in their own surroundings. The result of the visits and interviews in 40 cities and settlements is a series of travel reports with a collection of statements from the rights holders themselves - children and young people in Greenland – about life seen from their perspective.

From the dialogues and surveys with children, community members, professionals from health, school and social sectors, a great gap between the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the national law and the actual reality in which children and youth are living has been uncovered. The National Child Rights Institution MIO estimates that Greenland does not comply with up to 20 articles in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This submission contains recommendations on the following issues:

1. Access to psychological recovery - Article 39 - Convention on the Rights of the Child
2. Children's right to education - Article 28 - Convention on the Rights of the Child
3. Inequality in health - Articles 24, 27 & 39 - Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Background

According to Greenland Statistics the national population is almost 56,000, of which 14,000 are children and adolescents. About 92 percent of the population of Greenland lives on the West Coast and primarily in the major cities. Besides the cities there are approximately 60 settlements with between 50 and 500 inhabitants each.

The Greenlandic people are part of the indigenous people Inuit and with the new Self-Government Agreement, which entered into force in 2009, Greenlanders are recognized as a people under international law. Greenland ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1993 and also recognized its responsibility to implement the ILO C169 and the UN Declaration on Indigenous peoples.

Inuit covers many different cultures; this is also true within Greenland, as the size of the country provides for big differences in the way of life of people in the north, east and south/west.

MIO stresses that children and adolescents live in close contact with nature with their own local traditions although without equal opportunities for education, and social and health care services.

Main political and structural measures related to children's living conditions since 2017

- 2017: Greenland's Parliament Inatsisartut passes a new law on child support
- 2018: Killiliisa – Naalakkersuisut's (Government of Greenland) strategy to reduce sexual abuse against children 2018-2022
- 2018: National action plan against parental neglect of children 2020-2030
- 2020: Inatsisartut adopts a National Action Plan for implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

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1. Access to psychological recovery - Article 39 - Convention on the Rights of the Child

MIO's travel reports and inquiries from children and adults show that a disturbingly large group of children and youth do not receive the care, protection, and recovery they need and are entitled to.

The biggest problems that children and young people report to MIO are:

- Children who have been sexually abused receive no or insufficient help
- Children are exposed to violence and abuse
- Children grow up in homes with severe substance abuse problems
- Authorities' help for vulnerable children comes too late or not at all
- The child's right to education and development is seriously challenged
- Bullying and mental abuse are widespread

At the authority level MIO is very concerned about:

- Whether the municipalities have and will have sufficient resources to carry out all the tasks that come with the national legislation
- Long waiting lists for psychological recovery for children and young people
- Underreporting is taking place
- There is no overall overview of how many people – children as well as adults – suffer from anxiety and depression and other mental health issues.¹

The children's own reporting is also reflected in a recent population survey in Greenland (2018)²:

- 28 percent of young people born in 1995 or later have grown up with domestic violence.
- 37 percent of the same target group have grown up with alcohol problems at home.
- 20 percent of persons born in 1995 or later have been sexually abused. An even greater proportion of parents and the grandparent generation have also been exposed to sexual abuse in their childhood and may experience long-term psychological sequelae.

¹ See MIO's travel reports: www.mio.gl

² Befolkningsundersøgelsen i Grønland 2018. Levevilkår, livsstil og helbred. Oversigt over indikatorer for folkesundheden. SIF's Grønlandsskrifter nr. 20. Statens Institut for Folkesundhed, SDU, 2019.

https://www.sdu.dk/da/sif/rapporter/2019/befolkningsundersoegelsen_i_groenland

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- 43 suicides in 2018, corresponding to almost 8 suicides per 10,000 inhabitants, means that many young people have experienced the loss of a close friend to suicide and have knowledge of suicide in the family. The proportion of young people who have attempted suicide is high and there are significantly more girls than boys. 13 percent of the girls and women in the age group 15-24 years have answered that they have tried to commit suicide in the past year, while 22 percent have had suicidal thoughts. Among the boys and men in the age group 15-24 years approximately 5.3 percent answered that they had attempted suicide within the past year. Furthermore, the population survey shows that suicidal thoughts are more common among people who have grown up with alcohol, violence and sexual abuse.

Recommendations to Greenland:

- Adequate resources to meet the needs of psychological help
- Nationwide systematic monitoring of mental health and well-being
- Strengthening the authorities' case processing

2. Children's right to education - Article 28 - Convention on the Rights of the Child

About half of the population of all 25-64 years old has no education above the lower-secondary level and only 1 in 7 pupils proceed directly to upper-secondary education.³ Despite a strong and modern law on primary and lower-secondary education, which is in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and despite a great political focus on education, there is nevertheless an excessively large group of young people today who get no education.

The existing knowledge about children and young people in the education system can, in several areas, be characterized as deficient. A special need can be pointed out for knowledge about why young people do not complete primary school and/or do not progress after primary school.

Given the quantitative and qualitative data described above on the mental well-being of children and adolescents, MIO assesses that it is likely that children's and adolescents' opportunities for learning are limited because their concentration instead revolves around concerns. MIO's assessment is supported by an evaluation of Greenland's primary and lower-secondary school from 2015 that shows that 18 percent of teachers estimate that at least 25 percent of primary school

³ Statistics Greenland, 2020, www.stat.gl

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pupils have difficulties of importance to their learning or well-being.⁴ Studies indicate that children who are victims of neglect often have language problems and learning difficulties, for example. These children are no less gifted. Rather, they have had to develop other parts of their giftedness than those typically measured in the school system.⁵

Also, the high level of bullying reported by children in MIO's travel reports is reflected in HBSC studies that show bullying is a relatively widespread phenomenon among children and adolescents.⁶ Studies indicate that there is a connection between bullying and academic performance in school, physical and mental symptoms, and self-destructive actions (Ibid.).

Recommendations to Greenland:

Gain knowledge about the social and psychological obstacles to completing primary school and progress after primary school. Secondly, secure help and recovery for these children and adolescents.

3. Inequality in health - Articles 24, 27 & 39 - Convention on the Rights of the Child

Social determinants of health include factors that go beyond what is traditionally perceived as health, but which nonetheless have a major impact on health and well-being. Social determinants of health are the conditions we are born into, grow up in and live under, such as housing conditions, economic resources, education, employment, working conditions and health care.⁷

Equal access to healthcare services is very challenging in Greenland partly because of the geography and infrastructure.⁸ Often there is neither a doctor nor a dentist in the smaller settlements. Citizens express concern that illnesses are discovered too late and that they have to travel far to the nearest town to receive medical treatment.

As a grave example of the implications for children, MIO has spoken to health professionals in smaller settlements who have encountered children with symptoms of sexual abuse. When a child has been sexually abused in a settlement without a doctor it is necessary to bring the child to a

⁴ Grønlands folkeskole. Evaluering 2015. Danmarks Evalueringsinstitut 2015, <https://www.eva.dk/grundskole/groenlands-folkeskole>

⁵ Overgreb mod børn. Ser du det? Gør du noget? Det Kriminalpræventive Råd, 2002

⁶ HBSC Greenland. Data fra Skolebørnsundersøgelsen 2018. Statens Institut for Folkesundhed, SDU, 2019. https://www.sdu.dk/da/sif/rapporter/2019/hbsc_greenland

⁷ Ingen børn skal vokse op i fattigdom. Fattigdom og social ulighed i børnehøjde i Grønland. Statens Institut for Folkesundhed, SDU, 2010. https://www.sdu.dk/da/sif/rapporter/2013/ingen_boern_skal_vokse_op_i_fattigdom

⁸ In Greenland many cities and smaller settlements are isolated and there are no roads between them. All transport is costly and takes place either by plane, ship, helicopter, snowmobiles or/and dog sledge depending on seasons.

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larger city in order to perform a medical examination. But due to the geographical distance and the travel time, physical evidence of abuse is diminished or lost and the further process stalls leaving the child with no restoration or psychological recovery.

Recommendations to Greenland:

Several international studies have shown that living conditions very early in childhood are important for health later in life and that conditions with significance for social inequality in health are already established early in a child's life. Poverty reduction, access to good education and a safe upbringing are examples of factors that, in the long term, can contribute to improving health and reducing social inequality⁹. On a more concrete level, introduction of a poverty line and more frequent medical travel teams to the most remote places of residence is recommended.

⁹ Social ulighed i sundhed i Grønland, Cecilia Petrine Pedersen, Center for Folkesundhed i Grønland, Det Sundhedsvidenskabelige Fakultet, 2010
https://portal.findresearcher.sdu.dk/files/40121736/2010_2_paarisa_sila_social_ulighed_i_sundhed_1_.pdf



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