

*Check against delivery*

## **Statement on the UPR Pre-session on the Kingdom of Denmark, 13 February 2026, Geneva**

It is a pleasure to address you today as the national director of the Danish Institute for Human Rights. The Institute is the A-accredited NHRI of both Denmark & Greenland.

Although Greenland is a self-governing territory within the Kingdom of Denmark, issues addressed have been developed in close consultation with the Human Rights Council of Greenland, with whom the Institute collaborates to promote, protect, and monitor human rights in Greenland. In relation to Denmark, I will address some of the key areas highlighted in our written submission and propose recommendations relating to: Persons with disabilities, violence against women, including femicide.

The Institute welcomes progress on several of the 210 recommendations accepted at the last review, including ratification of the Convention on Enforced Disappearance, limits on solitary confinement, and adoption of an anti-racism action plan.

Ahead of the UPR, the Institute amongst others, conducted a digital public consultation to gather citizens' views on human rights protection, supporting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' public meetings and public inclusion in the Danish UPR process.

### **Firstly, I would like to address issues pertaining to Greenland (*change slide*)**

Since the last review, authorities have taken a variety of actions corresponding to accepted recommendations. There has been progress in relation to the adoption of a general ban on discrimination and a new strategy for suicide prevention.<sup>1</sup> During the previous reviews Greenland received several recommendations pertaining to

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<sup>1</sup> Rec. no.: 60.281 (Iceland), 60.283 (Canada)

child poverty<sup>2</sup> as well as on sexual abuse of children.<sup>3</sup> While Greenlandic authorities have taken several steps to implement recommendations hereon, a sustained focus on these human rights challenges is needed.

### **Child poverty**

Child poverty remains a challenge in Greenland, especially in socioeconomically disadvantaged municipalities. While, Naalakkersuisut has no plans of introducing a national poverty threshold<sup>4</sup>, authorities have initiated clarification of the relative poverty line to ensure better knowledge about poverty in Greenland, including of child poverty.<sup>5</sup> The initiative aims to better understand the nature, timing, and impact of poverty, but there is no known status, follow-up, or recent reporting on data collection or child poverty in Greenland.

#### **We recommend Naalakkersuisut to:**

- continue focus on the implementation of 'initiative 13: National poverty line', including through the allocation of resources for its implementation.

### **Sexual abuse of children**

Statistics show the number of reports of sexual abuse of children has been decreasing in the past few years; however, the number of reports remains high.<sup>6</sup> Authorities are determent to continue efforts to combat sexual abuse of children in Greenland.<sup>7</sup> Authorities have noted the demand for treatment by offenders have been greater than expected.<sup>8</sup>

#### **We recommend Naalakkersuisut to:**

- continue the development of programs to combat sexual abuse of children, including through accessible information in the educational system and media and to ensure access specialised treatment of offenders.

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<sup>2</sup> Rec.no.: 60.182 (Czechia), 60.183 (Austria), 60.280 (Lithuania)

<sup>3</sup> Rec.no.: 60.282 (the United States)

<sup>4</sup> See Nalaakkersuisut, Draft report on follow up on recommendations and developments in Greenland, para. 16, available in Danish at: [https://naalakkersuisut.gl/-/media/horinger/2025/11/1211\\_menneskerettighedsraad/naalakkersuisuts-bidrag-til-kongeriget-danmarks-rapport-til-fn-upr-06112025-da.pdf](https://naalakkersuisut.gl/-/media/horinger/2025/11/1211_menneskerettighedsraad/naalakkersuisuts-bidrag-til-kongeriget-danmarks-rapport-til-fn-upr-06112025-da.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> 4 Initiative 13: National poverty line, Action Plan for Compliance with the UN Covenant on the Rights of the Child 2023-2030, page 45, available in Danish at: [https://naalakkersuisut.gl/-/media/publikationer/boern\\_og\\_unge/2022/2411\\_boerns\\_stemmer/efterlevelse\\_af\\_fns\\_brnekonvention\\_id\\_21463187\\_da.pdf?la=da](https://naalakkersuisut.gl/-/media/publikationer/boern_og_unge/2022/2411_boerns_stemmer/efterlevelse_af_fns_brnekonvention_id_21463187_da.pdf?la=da)

<sup>6</sup> Annual Statistics 2024, Greenland Police, page 2, 10, available in Danish at: <aarsstatistik-2024.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> See Nalaakkersuisut, Draft report on follow up on recommendations and developments in Greenland, para. 11, available in Danish at: [https://naalakkersuisut.gl/-/media/horinger/2025/11/1211\\_menneskerettighedsraad/naalakkersuisuts-bidrag-til-kongeriget-danmarks-rapport-til-fn-upr-06112025-da.pdf](https://naalakkersuisut.gl/-/media/horinger/2025/11/1211_menneskerettighedsraad/naalakkersuisuts-bidrag-til-kongeriget-danmarks-rapport-til-fn-upr-06112025-da.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> See Nalaakkersuisut, Draft report on follow up on recommendations and developments in Greenland, para. 12, available in Danish at: [https://naalakkersuisut.gl/-/media/horinger/2025/11/1211\\_menneskerettighedsraad/naalakkersuisuts-bidrag-til-kongeriget-danmarks-rapport-til-fn-upr-06112025-da.pdf](https://naalakkersuisut.gl/-/media/horinger/2025/11/1211_menneskerettighedsraad/naalakkersuisuts-bidrag-til-kongeriget-danmarks-rapport-til-fn-upr-06112025-da.pdf)

## Secondly, allow me to turn to issues pertaining to Denmark

### Persons with disabilities (*change slide*)

Firstly, rights of persons with disabilities gained relatively little traction during the previous cycle.<sup>9</sup> Despite progress since the last review, serious concerns remain, including a reported significant increase in the use of coercion in residential facilities for persons with disabilities.

Although the increase may partly reflect reporting changes, about half of municipalities estimate actual coercion exceeds reported figures, warranting further investigation and response if coercion is indeed rising.

#### **We recommend Denmark to:**

- Ensure that reported and published data regarding the use of coercion within residential facilities for persons with disabilities is accurate and reliable and take relevant and effective steps based on this data.

### Violence against women and femicide (*change slide*)

Secondly, during the last review, Denmark received several recommendations in relation to violence against women.<sup>10</sup> While Denmark in 2021 introduced a consent-based provision against rape, data indicates that 47.5% of women in Denmark have experienced physical violence, threats of violence, and/or sexual violence at some point in their lives.<sup>11</sup>

Data from the Ministry of Justice (2017–2021) underscore the urgent need to prevent violence against women and femicide and to strengthen survivor support systems. In 2023, a national action plan against intimate partner violence and homicide was launched.<sup>12</sup> However, the action plan will expire in 2026 and does not include initiatives addressing violence against women and femicide beyond the scope of intimate partner relationships.

#### **We recommend Denmark to:**

- Renew the national action plan to combat violence against women and introduce a dedicated offence code for intimate partner homicide in the police case management system to ensure effective monitoring.

Thank you for your attention.

Johan Busse  
National Director

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<sup>9</sup> Rec.no.: 60.231 (Mauritius) and 60.233 (Bulgaria)

<sup>10</sup> Rec.no. 60.130 (Bahamas) and 60.131 (Liechtenstein)

<sup>11</sup> FRA, EIGE, Eurostat, EU gender-based violence survey – Key results. Experiences of women in the EU-27, Publications Office of the European Union, September 2024, available at: [https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/eu-gender-based-violence-survey-key-results.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/eu-gender-based-violence-survey-key-results.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> The Ministry of Equality, Handlingsplan mod partnervold og partnerdrab 2023- 2026 [Action plan against partner violence and partner homicide 2023-2026], June 2023, available at: <https://mim.dk/ligestilling/publikationer/2023/handlingsplan-mod-partnervold-og-partnerdrab-2023-2026>.