

kimiliisa



- LET US SET BOUNDARIES



Killiliisa - Let us set boundaries

The Government of Greenland's strategy against sexual abuse 2018-2022

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Rasmus Flindt Pedersen: 20-21, 38.

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THE GOVERNMENT OF GREENLAND'S STRATEGY AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE 2018-2022



"Our children must grow up in a safe society without being exposed to sexual abuse. This requires that we, together, set boundaries and act now. Sexual abuse is a societal problem that reaches beyond the individual, the family and the local community. Consequently, if we want to end this problem we need to break the taboo about sexual abuse, work together, take better precautionary measures and offer treatment and support to anyone in need. Together we can and we will work to stop sexual abuse and ensure a better future for our children."

Antho Frederiksen (former Minister of Social Affairs)

A handwritten signature in white ink, reading "Antho Frederiksen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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INTRODUCTION

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My biggest wish for the future is a better life. I had a really tough childhood with a lot of sexual abuse. Actually, you cannot really call it a childhood because a childhood is supposed to be safe. For me it is nothing but grief to look back at my childhood, and the consequences have been unbearable.

survivor of childhood sexual abuse

Sexual abuse traumatizes people. It leaves its imprints that are not easily erased. Imprints that may have far-reaching consequences for the conditions of life for the survivors, for their relatives and for society in a wider sense. No one deserves to pay the high price that comes in the wake of sexual abuse. With this new strategy the Government of Greenland is going to develop and implement initiatives to prevent future assaults and provide help and support for everyone in need. No matter if you have been exposed to childhood sexual abuse, if you are an adult, a relative or a professional the best possible help must be procured and this help must be customised, readily available and holistic. It is not enough to initiate isolated interventions for individuals exposed to sexual abuse. Everyone is part of a bigger context that we need to take into account and include in order to make changes.

The goal of the strategy is to create positive changes and reduce the number of sexual assaults. This is to be done in cooperation between the citizens, professionals and politicians in the country. Thus, the potential for making a real difference and securing a better future for our children is big. With mutual help, ongoing awareness and determined action in the area the goal is to create positive changes. Even though sexual abuse leave its imprints on people it is possible to get on with your life after being exposed to sexual abuse and have a good life.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY ARE:

- To reduce the number of sexual assaults over the next 5 year, so that it does not occur among the 15-29-olds.
- To reduce the number of sexual assaults against children and young people for each birth cohort with the intention that 2022 will be an assault-free year group.
- To secure the best possible help and support to everyone affected by sexual abuse.

The strategy contains six main themes with associated goals and suggestions for future initiatives. In the coming action plans each main theme will be combined with targeted initiatives containing tangible actions. These action plans will be prepared in collaboration with relevant professionals in the field. The main themes have been singled out on the basis of distinctive challenges from practice that call for action.

THE SIX MAIN THEMES:

1. Information/ knowledge sharing
2. Prevention
3. Interdisciplinary cooperation
4. Survivors and relatives
5. The local community
6. Individuals with a sexually offending behaviour

FUNDING

The initiatives of the strategy are to be developed within the economic framework already allocated to the area. In the social sector resources have been earmarked for the work against sexual abuse, and in the fields of health service and education the measures against sexual abuse are incorporated into existing priorities in the respective fields.

TARGET GROUPS

Sexual abuse does not just affect survivors of sexual abuse. On the contrary, sexual abuse affects a broad and very diverse range of people and sectors. That is why the Government of Greenland intends to initiate a holistic approach that reaches out to all relevant individuals and operators. Therefore, the target group for the strategy is broad as the model below illustrates:



The justice area is shown in purple in the model since this area is still under Danish administration and is, therefore, a Danish field of responsibility. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of the Government of Denmark to safeguard the justice area which comprises

the Correctional Services, the police and the courts of justice. A strengthening of initiatives against sexual abuse necessitates involvement and engagement by the justice area which is why it is important to regard the justice area as a particular target group.

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Apart from affecting a wide range of people there is also a wide and varied band of professional sectors affected by sexual abuse. There is still a lot of taboo and reluctance to deal with sexual abuse among professionals, and the roles and responsibility of different professional groups are not always evident. The social services cannot accomplish the job alone. The health services and the educational sector are also important operators in the work against sexual abuse, partly because of relevant initiatives within their own areas and partly because there are many interfaces between the three sectors that are important to focus on. There is a need for a close cooperation between the three authorities in the development and implementation of initiatives against sexual abuse. The strategy is based on strong interdisciplinary cooperation across professional sectors in order to secure a more holistic outcome with greater knowledge sharing between relevant professionals and more qualified initiatives for affected citizens.

An advisory group is linked to the strategy with representatives from the social services, the health services, the educational sector, the five municipalities, the police, the Correctional Services, the local courts, the justice area, MIO (a children's rights institution) and the Center For National Guidance. The advisory group takes part in developing, qualifying and implementing the initiatives of the strategy.

The justice area carries a particular responsibility as regards the implementation of initiatives within the justice area, where it is crucial

that they take responsibility and involve the Correctional Services, the police, the local courts and the Danish authorities. To secure a wide implementation of the strategy and achievement of the strategy's goals a collective approach is necessary. It is, therefore, critical that the justice area – including the Danish authorities – endorses the work and incites an increased cooperation across professional sectors. An achievement of the strategy's goals requires, among other things, that the Danish authorities take on full responsibility for the procurement of available treatment options for convicted sex offenders of the same quality as Danish available treatment options for the target group. As the justice area is still under Danish administration, the initiatives of the strategy targeted at sex offenders focus on the reintegration of this group of people in their local community after serving time. Thus, it is very important that the different authorities work closely together regarding initiatives for sex offenders to ensure the best possible outcome for the target group

Sexual abuse constitutes a societal problem and necessitates a close cooperation between many different operators regarding prevention, treatment and follow-up initiatives. A joint effort is crucial to achieve the goal of reducing the number of sexual assaults. However, with the magnitude of the problem it will take time to reach the goals. It is a long struggle that demands continuous attention and action over a long period of time.

WHAT DO WE KNOW SEXUAL ABUSE

The amount of sexual assaults is big in Greenland. Various surveys suggest that more than one third of the Greenlandic population has been exposed to some kind of sexual assault.

In these surveys, it varies how the number of assaults is assessed but the results are identical. The survey "The Complicated Adolescence" suggests that 32% of girls and 9,4% of boys have been exposed to sexual abuse by a peer and/or an adult while the survey "Young People in Greenland - with a focus on sexuality and sexual abuse" states that 33% of women and 33% of men did not wish for anything sexual to happen in their first sexual encounter with another person.

The population surveys suggest that there are significant differences in the occurrence of sexual abuse between different birth cohorts. For people born between 1975-1989 results from the population surveys show an occurrence of sexual assaults of about 40% while the number of sexual assaults drops to about 20 % for people born in the 1990's. Thus, there is an indication that the number of sexual assaults is declining with the new

generations and the results stress the importance of recording decline in the number of sexual violations for each birth cohort when the initiatives of the strategy are to be evaluated.

In addition to the indications from various surveys among the population the high number of sex crimes testifies to a huge amount of sexual abuse. Compared to Denmark the frequency of reports to the police about sexual assaults is 10 times higher in Greenland, where 50 reports per 10,000 inhabitants were registered in 2015 vs. 5 reports per 10,000 inhabitants in Denmark. Simultaneously, many sexual assaults are never reported to the police and, thus, there is a high number of unreported cases that we need to take into account. Only about one third of the cases of sexual abuse are reported to the police and about half of these reports result in a conviction.

In most cases the victim knows his/her offender who is often a relative or a member of the local community. The personal relationship to the offender complicates reporting of the assault which is in many cases kept secret.

HOW ABOUT IN GREENLAND?

DEFINITION OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In the strategy, sexual abuse is understood as acts of a both physical and non-physical nature which the child is unable to understand or misunderstands and which the child mentally is not ready to give its consent to. Being exposed to sexual abuse the child's trust is exploited by the person committing the assault and the integrity of the child is offended. Sexual abuse is an expression of the offender's needs and it takes place on the offender's terms. In other words, sexual abuse is any act or activity of a sexual nature that oversteps the victim's boundaries.

The sexual act may manifest itself through indecent exposure, fondling, consummated intercourse or other sexual interaction. Most sexual assaults are committed by adults against children but surveys from abroad show that about one third of assaults against children and young people are committed by other children and young people. In these cases the acts are not punishable but they can still have serious implications for both the victim and the offender. Consequently, sexual assaults committed by children and young people against other children and young people are also a specific focal point of the strategy. No figures exist to assess the extensiveness of this problem in Greenland but the many requests for help in cases of children and young people offending other children and young people indicate the seriousness of the problem here as well.

SEXUAL ABUSE IS NOT AN ISOLATED PROBLEM

There are many reasons why people commit sexual assaults against others and it is important to keep in mind that sexual abuse is not an isolated problem. Sexual abuse is closely connected to other kinds of neglect and maltreatment. Among other things, there is a strong correlation between:

- Sexual abuse and alcohol or drugs abuse in the childhood home.
- Sexual abuse and early and big consumption of alcohol.
- Sexual abuse and abortions/premature childbirths.
- Sexual abuse and suicides/suicide attempts.
- Sexual abuse and violence.
- Sexual abuse and own exposure to childhood sexual abuse.

Thus, it is important not to address sexual abuse as an isolated problem. On the contrary, sexual abuse must be regarded within a larger social and societal context that calls for action at various levels by varying operators. Furthermore, the measures to reduce sexual abuse are manifold and it is not possible to implement the same initiatives in all local communities in Greenland and get positive outcomes. There are big social, cultural, logistic and socio-economic variations across

the country that need to be taken into account when designing future initiatives and projects against sexual abuse. For instance, surveys show that the occurrence of sexual abuse is higher in settlements compared to towns and higher in Eastern Greenland than in Western Greenland. Consequently, future initiatives must take local conditions, opportunities and needs into account in order to achieve the best possible results.

THE STRATEGY'S MAIN THEMES – FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION

As stated earlier a number of surveys suggest a high number of sexual assaults in Greenland. Despite a great determination among professionals and the population to make a difference in this area there are many challenges to overcome. In the following presentation of the main themes of the strategy some of the most important challenges for action are addressed followed by suggestions to overcome these challenges. The strategy against sexual abuse is an addition to and an extension of promising initiatives in the area which will, alongside many new initiatives, be included in the strategy. At the legislative level the new Inatsisartut Law no. 20 of June 26, 2017, concerning help for children supports the strategy. This law promotes the protection of children's rights, e.g. it ensures rapid responses in cases concerning sexual abuse. In this way, an important foundation has already been laid which the strategy builds on. With a holistic approach and increased interdisciplinary cooperation it is possible to make a difference on a much larger scale than before and secure enduring results. The same way as the new Inatsisartut Law concerning help for children supports the strategy's work against sexual abuse important initiatives exist in

other professional fields that contribute to positive outcomes. Among other things there is a lot of important work being done within the health services concerning the prevention of alcohol and other forms of abuse. This work is very important when we know that there is a strong correlation between the consumption of alcohol and drugs and sexual abuse.

The six main themes of the strategy will subsequently be presented separately focusing on objectives, challenges, existing initiatives and suggestions for future initiatives. As the justice area is under Danish administration and is consequently another authority there will be separate suggestions for initiatives within the justice area for most main themes. These suggestions originate from the Government of Greenland's strategy and action plan for the justice area from October 2017 containing suggestions for improvements in the area. Suggestions for initiatives within the justice area are included in this strategy as there is a close correlation between the justice area and the social services just as there are a number of interfaces between the justice area and the health services and the educational sector.



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You can always turn a depressing
childhood into something positive.

Arnanguaq, survivor of sexual abuse





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It is as if I have found happiness again.
After receiving therapy I know myself again.
I still got lots to work on but it is as if I have
overcome the biggest challenge. I have more energy
and I can see the light in my life.

survivor of childhood sexual abuse

INFORMATION/ KNOWLEDGE SHARING

GOAL:

**THE INFORMATION EFFORT
TOWARDS THE POPULATION CONCERNING
SEXUAL ABUSE MUST BE INCREASED,
TARGETED AND STRENGTHENED.**

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

A NEED FOR MORE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE

Although sexual abuse as a topic has been articulated more and more over the last couple of years there is a big need for more information in the area. Many people do not know how to notify the authorities or how to get help in cases of sexual abuse. Moreover, professionals across different sectors request more knowledge and better tools to identify signs and deal with cases of sexual abuse. Information efforts with a short-term approach are not enough to secure positive changes. In a survey on sexual abuse in Greenland 65 % of the participants stated that they could not recall a campaign or any other information on sexual abuse that had left a particular impression on them. This bears witness to a great need for a long-term and continuous informational effort and more knowledge sharing on the topic.

A TABOOED TOPIC

Sexual abuse is still a tabooed topic difficult to talk about. However, more and more people are courageously stepping forward to share their stories and these role models help break

the taboo and inspire freer dialog about abuse. Accordingly, the informational effort towards the population must have an ongoing focus on dialogue and detabooing of the topic. It is necessary to move away from the guilt and shame which is often associated with sexual abuse and instead focus on the courage and the resources that are also present. The strategy wants to involve role models actively in the work against sexual abuse to secure an ongoing detabooing of the topic and to show the public that it is possible to get on with your life after being exposed to sexual abuse. Many informational campaigns on sexual abuse portray the offender as a big, bad wolf attacking his victims. In this way, a very clear positioning of victims and offenders is created in the rhetoric on sexual abuse. However, reality is much more complicated and it is of no benefit for either one of them to be positioned as victim or offender. There is a request among professionals to focus on the prerequisites for a good life in informational efforts regarding sexual abuse. They want to help everyone affected by the sexual abuse to receive the help needed for them to obtain a good life after the abuse.



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As I grew older and got physically stronger I realized more and more that I shouldn't feel any shame at all and that I didn't have anything to be ashamed of. After all, I didn't make the choice.

Henrik, survivor of childhood sexual abuse





”

I have never been able to tell anyone
about it because I always believed that no-one
in the world has experienced what I did.

survivor of childhood sexual abuse

A modern, multi-tiered white lamp hangs from the ceiling, casting a soft glow. Below it, a vase of vibrant red roses sits on a light-colored table, accompanied by two small glasses of water. The background is a dark, textured wall.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

Beforehand, informational campaigns and guidance material on sexual abuse has been developed by the social services, the health services and the educational sector. Therefore, it is important to include knowledge and experiences from these campaigns and materials in the design and implementation of new informational initiatives about sexual abuse. For instance, it is important to review how the topic has been articulated previously by different authorities and assess the different approaches taken.

NAKUUSA's campaign (a UNICEF program) against sexual abuse called "Ullut Tamaasa" (every day), which was launched in February of 2018, is particularly interesting regarding the strategy's future information efforts. With this campaign NAKUUSA wanted to involve the whole population in the fight against sexual abuse and show that everyone can help make a difference. Thus, Ullut Tamaasa may contribute to a more free dialogue about sexual abuse among people and future initiatives can learn from experiences of this campaign – how it was received by the public, what effects it has had so far etc.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE INITIATIVES

- **A targeted information effort – electronically and on other platforms**

In order to secure easier accessibility to knowledge about sexual abuse and initiatives in the area it is necessary to develop informational initiatives targeted at different levels and platforms. For instance, a webpage for all citizens on sexual abused should be developed. The aim of this webpage is to bring together all initiatives and activities regarding sexual abuse across professional sectors and procure relevant knowledge on the topic targeted at various target groups. In addition, informational cam-

paigns should be developed with a long-term focus directed at the needs of the various target groups. For instance, there is a need to develop informational campaigns for professionals on sexual abuse which focus on how to prevent, identify and deal with cases of sexual abuse. Informational campaigns targeting individuals with sexually offending behaviour are also highly relevant. It would be recommendable to involve role models in the development and implementation of informational initiatives to ensure better results.

- **Information and guidance material**

Information and guidance material should be developed directed at various target groups and authorities in a close cooperation between the social services, the health services and the educational sector to achieve the best outcome. Style and content of the material will vary according to the different target groups.



A woman with curly hair, wearing a blue sweater, is looking directly at the camera. In the background, a polar bear is visible, slightly out of focus. The overall color palette is dominated by blues and greys.

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One of the consequences of sexual abuse is that the ability to set boundaries is often diminished. Your body feels your boundaries and your body always wants to protect you. Learn to listen to your body and to your inner strength: your “inner polar bear”.

Naja, psychologist working with survivors of childhood sexual abuse

PREVENTION

GOAL:

**THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE
MUST BE EXTENDED AND STRENGTHENED.**

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

THERE IS A LACK OF FOCUS ON PREVENTION AT VARIOUS LEVELS

Cases on sexual abuse can be very demanding and complicated to work on. Given the large number of cases around the country it is of primary concern to help the survivors of the abuse rather than to prevent new cases. However, it is extremely important with an ongoing focus on prevention parallel to the provision of support and treatment in order to prevent future assaults. Most often, people distinguish between three different kinds of prevention – primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. Primary prevention is about anticipating the problem before it occurs and here it is often a matter of implementing long-term initiatives with the aim of changing the norms and development of local communities. Secondary prevention takes place when the problem has occurred and often includes informational and educational activities such as stop smoking courses. Tertiary prevention is about putting out fires and secure acute interventions to deal with the problems here and now. Much prevention regarding sexual abuse takes place at the tertiary level such as the provision of therapy for survivors of sexual abuse. Secondary prevention also takes place – for example through training of professionals and students – but there is a need for more initiatives at this level to intensify the effect. Finally, very few initiatives exist at the primary level of prevention directed at sexual

abuse. An increased focus on prevention at all three levels simultaneously is necessary in order to prevent future assaults more effectively. At the same time, prevention initiatives must be directed at various target groups at the societal level, the local level and the individual level in order to change the situation significantly for future generations of children and young people. We need to deal with the problem from the beginning instead of putting out fires along the way.

BOUNDLESS BEHAVIOUR AND LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF NORMAL SEXUALITY

Many professionals experience boundless behaviour among adults and among children and young people regarding sexuality in the local communities which causes a lot of frustration. They request more knowledge and more tools to deal with the boundless behaviour and share knowledge about normal sexuality in local communities. In other words they are looking for preventive measures directed at the changing of norms regarding sexuality in local communities. In some local communities sexual abuse has almost become normality. In order to change this we need to take a step back and address the norms for sexuality directly, for example by helping children and young people set boundaries.

RISK FACTORS IMPEDE THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN IN THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES

Prevention is also about looking at risk factors in children's everyday lives that make them more vulnerable to sexual abuse. It is necessary to examine the existence of protective factors and risk factors in local communities in relation to sexual abuse. For instance, many children spend time by themselves in their leisure time after school where they are unprotected and at higher risk of being abused. Experiences from abroad show that safe and secure leisure time activities

have a very efficient preventive effect on sexual abuse and other forms of child neglect. Consequently, the development of more safe leisure time activities is an important part of the new strategy.

NO TREATMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A SEXUALLY OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR

Finally, the lacking measures for individuals with a sexually offensive behaviour are a big impediment to efficient prevention of sexual abuse. As described later on this is going to change with the new strategy.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

As stated earlier several initiatives exist that may be characterized as tertiary prevention efforts such as therapeutic treatment for survivors of sexual abuse taking place in the family centers, in student counselling centres and by therapeutic travelling teams. At the secondary prevention level there are initiatives at some schools called the school fairy arrangement or the school-social worker arrangement. Moreover, the children's right organization MIO has developed the teaching material "It is my body!" for students at the intermedi-

ate stage about the body and the setting of boundaries. As far as primary prevention prior to the occurrence of the problem is concerned there are no national initiatives focusing directly on sexual abuse. The health services run a project called MANU where they offer preparatory courses for future parents, which is an example of a primary preventive effort to prevent child neglect on a long-term basis. Thus, MANU is also instrumental in preventing sexual abuse although it is not targeting sexual abuse as such.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE INITIATIVES

- **Preventive initiatives on normal sexuality**
Implementation of primary, long-term preventive initiatives in all local communities that focus on normal sexuality. The initiatives must be implemented over time and be adapted to local conditions to secure a long-term effect in the local community. The development of these initiatives must take place in close cooperation between the social services, the health services and the educational sector as there are many interfaces between these authorities.
- **National informative and educational activities**
National informative and educational activities at the societal, local and individual level must be developed with clear goals and guidelines for different target groups. The activities must be holistic and developed in a close, interdisciplinary cooperation between different authorities.

- **More qualified leisure time activities for children and young people**

In order to secure safe environments for children and young people in their leisure time more qualified and meaningful leisure time activities must be created all over the country. These activities must be easily accessible and consider local opportunities and needs. Therefore, it is recommended to identify local possibilities for relevant leisure time activities.

- **Treatment for individuals with a sexually offending behaviour**

As stated earlier it is a very important preventive effort to secure support and treatment for individuals with a sexually offending behaviour and for potential

offenders. Customised initiatives will be developed for the target group (cf. the paragraph on individuals with a sexually offending behaviour later on).

- **Continued development of early intervention initiatives (regarding incident)**

Strengthening of early intervention initiatives may contribute to the prevention of sexual abuse. For instance, the social services, the health services and the educational sector is already working together to expand the project MANU where the target group will be extended to include children and young people up to the age of 18 instead of children in the age group 0-2 years.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE INITIATIVES IN THE JUSTICE AREA

- **Strengthening of The Greenlandic Crime Prevention Council**

It is suggested that the Crime Prevention Council is strengthened with the creation of an autonomous and independent main office that can devise autonomous surveys on the development of crime in Greenland. In this way the council will be able to provide independent consulting

services to the Government of Greenland, Inatsisartut (the Parliament), the Greenlandic local authorities, the Danish government and other relevant authorities. The Greenlandic Crime Prevention Council should consider how to support the municipalities in their crime prevention effort.

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The consequences of what I have been through was a big secret for many years. Suddenly I could put it into words and there was someone who listened and saw me. If I hadn't received help I'm certain that I would have ended up in the gutter somewhere.

survivor of childhood sexual abuse

INTERDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION

GOAL:

THE INTERDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION
ON THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SEXUAL
ABUSE MUST BE STRENGTHENED.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

LACK OF CLEAR PROCEDURES AND COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

Many different professionals and sectors are involved in cases of sexual abuse. The social authorities deal with notifications and case handling, health service staff examine victims of assault, the police investigate reported cases, staff in schools, day care centers etc. act on suspicions of abuse, the Correctional Services take care of the convicted offenders, etc. The will to make a difference in the work against sexual abuse is big among different professionals but the interdisciplinary cooperation is often complicated by logistic, organisational and communicative challenges. Many professionals emphasize challenges concerning the roles and responsibility of different authorities and they call for clear interdisciplinary procedures and cooperation agreements that specify who do what, when, why and how. Quite specifically, binding cooperation agreements are requested with

fixed times for meetings for knowledge sharing, fixed time frames for action, clear distribution of roles, and systematic follow-ups. In other words there is a need for breaking down boundaries regarding the interdisciplinary cooperation on sexual abuse cases so that everyone is aware of their roles and find strength rather than weakness in the interdisciplinary work. Professionals call for more communication across sectors, ongoing follow-up on cases, readiness to change, readiness to act, and they also request more attention to the implementation of initiatives in the local communities. An insufficient interdisciplinary cooperation may entail serious consequences for the people that we are trying to help. For instance, there have been cases of victims of sexual abuse who have had to wait for a very long time for police questioning and it is not uncommon to postpone action in cases of sexual abuse.



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To watch out for yourself is to love yourself.
Think of yourself first before you think of everybody
else and set boundaries both physically and mentally.

Arnajaraq, survivor of childhood sexual abuse

INSUFFICIENT FOCUS ON QUALIFICATIONS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING OF THE PROFESSIONALS

It is a demanding job to work with sexual abuse both professionally and mentally. Many professionals feel ill equipped to work in this area and request more knowledge, qualified opportunities for supervision, and an adjustment of their other numerous tasks so that they have the necessary time to work on the cases of sexual abuse. Among other things they call for training that will improve their skills of talking to children about difficult topics and they also demand more knowledge and information about procedures and requirements in connection to notifications. The qualifications of local professionals to work on cases regarding sexual abuse varies a lot and, consequently, it is dependent on individual skills whether a qualified work on prevention and treatment can be offered. Professionals across professional sectors demand a

strengthening of local professional qualifications and recommend the involvement of local resource persons into the work on sexual abuse. In smaller communities it may be difficult to find qualified professionals but here committed resource persons can easily take part in accomplishing the job and secure implementation of initiatives in the local community and development in the field. The local bailiffs in the settlements are examples of local resource persons who could be up skilled and become more involved in the work against sexual abuse. Finally, it is a challenge that several professionals working in the field have been exposed to sexual abuse themselves and consequently may find it hard to cope with the job and might become re-traumatized from others' stories of abuse. With the high number of sexual assaults in Greenland it is important to focus on this issue and not only concentrate on the professional qualifications but also take psychological well-being of the professionals into account.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

Some municipalities already provide clear procedures and cooperation agreements in cases of sexual abuse against children. An example of a local crisis response is the Qaammaavik model from the family center in Aasiaat. The Qaammaavik model has fixed and clear procedures as regards the interdisciplinary cooperation concerning a child exposed to sexual abuse. Here, written cooperation

agreements between the different authorities have been made in order to assure the quality of the effort. All involved parties know how the different professionals work and it is clear to everyone who is responsible for what. The cooperation agreement is renewed on an ongoing basis so that no knowledge is lost if people resign or new employees are taken in.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE INITIATIVES

- **National procedure for interdisciplinary cooperation in cases of sexual abuse**
A national procedure with local adaptation potential for the interdisciplinary cooperation in cases of sexual abuse inspired by the Qaammaavik-model must be developed. The procedure should procure clear guidelines for roles and responsibilities of the different professional and provide clear requirements of time frames, meeting structures, follow-ups and implementation in the local community. In other words structured, homogeneous procedures must be devised at the local level about the interdisciplinary handling of cases concerning sexual abuse. These must be legalized through local cooperative structures such as the cross-organisational consultative committee.
- **Binding cooperation agreements**
Binding cooperation agreements to be signed at the political level as well as at the local level must be prepared. The agreements should be based on legislation to secure the quality of the ongoing interdisciplinary cooperation in cases of sexual abuse and the implementation of initiatives in the local community.
- **Strengthened cooperation between the health services and the police regarding personal examination of people exposed to sexual abuse**
When people undergo a personal examination by the health service staff after an assault they must be treated both professionally and gently. Consequently, it is important that there is a clear distribution of roles and responsibilities between the health service staff and the police regarding the examinations. It must be secured that the health service staff performing the personal examination have been thoroughly introduced to the job.
- **Earlier intervention in cases of sexually transmitted diseases and abortion by young people under the age of 15**
It must be secured that the local health service staff know of and make use of the available guidelines and procedures that are meant to guarantee notification to the social authorities and other relevant authorities when they learn that a young person under the age of 15 has a sexually transmitted disease or is going to have an abortion.
- **Clear procedures for notifications for all professionals**
Information material and clear procedures for notifications must be prepared for professionals from different sectors in order to secure that all professionals know precisely when and how to make a notification.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE INITIATIVES IN THE JUSTICE AREA

- **Identification of interdisciplinary and crime preventive cooperation**
The interdisciplinary and crime preventive cooperation should be identified at the general as well as the specific level. The organisation of the preventive work should be assessed in order to understand whether or not the work can be organised better and smarter. In addition it might be relevant to examine how preventive, interdisciplinary cooperation works in practice. On the basis of such an evaluation it will be possible to come up with recommendations to strengthen the preventive, interdisciplinary cooperation between the police, the Correctional Services, the health services, the social services etc.

A large, stylized red quotation mark is positioned at the top left of the page, opening the text block.

After receiving therapy they suddenly have renewed strength at the individual level with competences and skills. We try to help them away from the abuse – for instance we try to show them feelings of being a mother, being a wife etc. We give them another perspective when the abuse takes up too much space.

psychologist working with survivors of sexual abuse





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Dialog unties a lot of knots in the mind and suddenly you are able to see again that life is beautiful, safe and a good place to be. That is my motivation to fight for my dear ones. Their struggle is my struggle.

Heidi, mother of two sexually abused girls

SURVIVORS AND RELATIVES

SURVIVORS AND RELATIVES IN NEED OF HELP RELATED TO SEXUAL ABUSE MUST BE PROVIDED WITH BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT, COUNSELING AND TREATMENT.

GOAL:

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

IDENTIFICATION IS CHALLENGING

To be able to help survivors of sexual abuse and their relatives it is necessary to know who they are. However, it can be very difficult to identify individuals exposed to sexual abuse. Due to taboo, shame, feelings of guilt etc. many people do not stand forward and tell their stories of abuse. Also, it is very uncommon for children exposed to sexual abuse to seek help. Often many years pass by before they are able to tell anyone about the abuse. Some survivors are threatened not to say anything, some keep quiet to protect the offender, and others do not have anyone to turn to that they can confide in. There are many different reasons and circumstances as to why sexual abuse is kept in the dark and suppressed. Thus, it is necessary to focus more on the identification of sexual abuse to improve the ability among professionals and citizens to spot signs of abuse and dare act on them.

NOT ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PROCEDURES AND PLACES TO TURN TO FOR HELP

In order to act on signs of sexual abuse it is paramount to know what to do, where to turn to and what you are obliged to do according to the law. However, among professionals as well as citizens there is a lot of doubt about what to do in these cases. There are many uncertainties about notifications to the authorities in cases of abuse. Who is responsible for making a notification? Who you address it to? It is possible to make anonymous notifications? Etc. This uncertainty points to the fact that there is a lack of knowledge about procedures and places to turn to in cases of sexual abuse. The experiences from MIO's visit to the former Qaasuitsup Kommunia bear witness that this indication is true. During their visit MIO experienced that the number of notifications increased by 50 % simply by putting up posters with information about where citizens could turn to notify.

NO NATIONWIDE TREATMENT

Finally, it is a challenge to secure treatment for all individuals exposed to sexual abuse all over the country. Some places offer qualified and long-term therapy treatment in family centers or by the travelling team for adult survivors suffering consequences of childhood sexual abuse. In many places, however, they do not have the necessary resources and qualifi-

cations to offer this kind of treatment. Furthermore, there is a great desire among professionals and citizens to include relatives of individuals exposed to sexual abuse in future initiatives. The relatives often feel very helpless and alone and they too are in need of knowledge and counselling to process the experiences of their loved ones and to support them as best as possible in the future.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

Fortunately, a lot of work is already being done to help survivors of sexual abuse and there are many inspiring initiatives locally and nationwide that the new strategy can be inspired from and build on. One of the bigger national interventions is the travelling team for adults suffering consequences of childhood sexual abuse which was established by the Government of Greenland in 2013. The psychologists and psychotherapists of the travelling team travel all over Greenland and offer therapy to adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. They stay in a town or a settlement for one week at a time for 11 months where they offer group therapy and individual therapy to survivors at the same time as they offer different kinds of training and support to local professionals working with people who have been sexually abused, e.g. psychoeducation, interdisciplinary meetings, supervision and courses. After the establishment of the travelling team in 2013 approximately 650 indi-

viduals have received treatment in 13 towns and 2 settlements. The efforts of the travelling team is supplemented with the free counselling hotline 141 - a number you can call to for support and counselling if you have been sexually abused as a child. Regarding ongoing cases on sexual abuse of children Saaffik, which is part of the Central Guidance Unit at the Agency of Social Affairs, offers counselling and support to all professionals working with children and young people aged 0-18. In addition, Saaffik helps the municipalities develop local emergency response structures to deal with cases of sexual abuse, they support professionals with local case management and they provide courses for professionals in all municipalities about signs of abuse, etc. Furthermore, Saaffik has a travelling team directed at children exposed to sexual abuse which also travels all over the country and offer treatment to children in cases of special needs.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE INITIATIVES

- **Treatment for all survivors and relatives**
Survivors and relatives in need of treatment must have the opportunity to get help no matter where in the country they live. Treatment may take place within various professional sectors and the content of the treatment may differ depending on local opportunities and constraints (individual therapy, group therapy, treatment over Skype etc.). Treatment offers must be available for everyone.
- **Expansion of existing initiatives with positive effects**
Promising and efficient initiatives such as the travelling team for adults suffering consequences of childhood sexual abuse and the travelling team under Saaffik directed at sexually abused children must be expanded and undergo further development.



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No doubt that I would have kept on smoking hash and drinking without limits daily if I had not received help. Nowadays I have so much energy and I even want to get an education. I have sent my application to a school that I am interested in. It is very exciting. Back then, when I was raped, I went out of school, you see, because I did not have the energy.

survivor of childhood sexual abuse

- **More tools to identify children exposed to sexual abuse** National and local initiatives for earlier identification of children exposed to sexual abuse should be provided through the development of effective initiatives regarding knowledge sharing, information and documentation.
- **Special initiatives for relatives** Special initiatives based on local needs should be developed to support of relatives (such as local support groups and psychoeducation). Initiatives must be provided for relatives of individuals exposed to sexual abuse as well as for relatives of individuals with a sexually offending behaviour.
- **Strengthening of the work on sexual abuse at foster homes throughout the country** A lot of children and young people living in foster homes around the country have been exposed to sexual abuse which calls for special interventions at foster homes. Therefore, customized initiatives must be developed for foster homes to strengthen their work in cases of sexual abuse locally and minimise the risk of additional assaults. Among other things, there is a need for tools to diagnose children at foster homes with sexually offending behaviour, a need for available treatment to survivors, and a need for training and support of the staff. Moreover, special attention is needed for disabled individuals in foster homes as these constitute a special risk group regarding sexual abuse.
- **Activities targeting children and young people exposed to sexual abuse** Children and young people exposed to sexual abuse must be offered participation in social activities that support them both individually and together in expressing some of the feelings linked to their traumas. This could be activities of a physical, creative or musical nature.
- **Strengthening of the work on sexual abuse within the health services** Health service staff who works directly with sexually abused individuals must be better equipped to identify signs and act on cases of abuse. To achieve this, clear procedures and training must be developed and implemented.
- **Skill development of staff** Skill development must be incorporated into existing training and education for professionals in all fields to secure that they all have increased knowledge about sexual abuse and about their obligation to notify etc. An improvement of qualifications must take place for all staff working on cases of sexual abuse – skilled as well as unskilled – such as local social workers, local bailiffs, health service staff and teachers.
- **Introduce amendments to the crime law for Greenland and to the Administration of Justice Act for Greenland (sex crimes etc.)** Inatsisartut (the Parliament) is to discuss an amendment to the crime law that entails that criminalization of sexual relationships with biological relatives in § 74 of the crime law be extended to also include adopted relatives in descending order. In addition, the rape clause in § 77 of the crime law should be extended to include exploitation of the helpless person due to conditions or situations that facilitate access to a sexual relationship, and to include sexual relationships with children under the age of 12. Furthermore it is suggested to extend the prohibitions in force against exploitation of among others the helpless condition of the injured party in §§ 77, 78 of the crime law to also be applicable within marriages. Finally a number of changes are suggested that extend the criminalized area by the law concerning pornographic conduct and possession of child pornographic material and trafficking of sex.



SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE INITIATIVES IN THE JUSTICE AREA

- **Counselling opportunities for survivors**
The Government of Greenland is currently preparing the implementation of a new counselling helpline for survivors of sexual abuse. The intention of this helpline is to provide survivors with supportive conversations with psychologist and also provide counselling regarding compensation, legal advice etc.
- **The establishment of victims guards**
Individuals exposed to abuse must be offered acute, supportive talks with a psychologist immediately after the incident. It is essential that a victim can contact the victims guard 24 hours a day. It would be a good idea to include the victim guards in the counselling helpline for victims.
- **Increased information to survivors**
Most people do not know exactly how the police and the courts deal with cases of sexual abuse. Thus it is important that the survivor is provided with information about the upcoming process. It must be secured that the staff with the police and the courts are well equipped to speak with the survivors in a good way. For the authorities cases about violence, rape and sexual abuse against children may be a matter of routine, but for the survivor the case is unique and should be treated as such by the authorities.



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I moved on because
I began talking openly about
what had happened to me.

Gukki Nuka, survivor of childhood sexual abuse

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

THE INITIATIVES IN THE STRATEGY MUST BE TARGETED AT THE INDIVIDUAL LOCAL COMMUNITY AND TAKE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES INTO ACCOUNT TO SECURE BETTER OUTCOMES AS WELL AS LOCAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMITMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE.

GOAL:

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

PUTTING OUT FIRES RATHER THAN PROVIDING HOLISTIC INITIATIVES

There is a great willingness and readiness in society to engage in the fight against sexual abuse but there are also many challenges to overcome to make a difference. Sexual abuse is still taboo which makes sexual abuse difficult to talk about and even harder to act on. In many places challenges standing in the way for sufficient effort in the area are a lack of knowledge, scarce resources and inefficient interdisciplinary cooperation. In order to make positive changes it is necessary to come up with new ideas and jointly approach the problem in ways that embrace both local and national needs. All citizens can take part in the fight against sexual abuse and contribute to a reduction of the number of sexual assaults, e.g. by setting boundaries and talking about sexual abuse openly. Sexual abuse is a societal problem but many initiatives are top-down

instead of bottom-up and are often isolated from other initiatives in the area. Often it becomes a matter of putting out fires rather than implementing long-term and holistic solutions which is understandable when resources are scarce etc. However, it is necessary to change this picture. By adopting a more holistic approach to sexual abuse and strengthening interdisciplinary cooperation in the area it will be possible to identify local possibilities for change. In every local community there are resourceful individuals and role models with the will and knowledge to make a difference. By listening to them and involving them in the development of future initiatives the outcome might be better and more people might get help. Furthermore, by actively involving local communities in the process it will become more evident for the individual how to take part in the fight against sexual abuse.

NORMALIZATION OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Another big challenge is the fact that sexual abuse has become a kind of normality in some places in the country as mentioned earlier. In these places, it is almost normal for children to be sexually abused by adults in the community. On her travels with MIO around the country, the Spokesperson for Children experienced this kind of normalization of sexual abuse and children were told that they would have to "get used to it". Unfortunately, MIO's experience is not an isolated incidence. As a member of the UN Greenland is obliged to comply with The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which states in article 19:

"States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or

abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child." With a normalization of sexual abuse in parts of the country Greenland does not meet its obligations concerning The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which is unacceptable for our children and their future. As a society we must stand together and take actions that secure a better future for our children. It is unacceptable to allow for a normalization of sexual abuse anywhere and, therefore, we must help each other create boundaries to change the situation. To achieve this, it is important to listen to one another, talk about challenges and identify possibilities for action at the individual as well as at the societal level.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

There is no joint approach so far to the work against sexual abuse. Different authorities approach the topic in different manners and at various levels. Few holistic and locally based initiatives about sexual abuse exist. However, other social service initiatives have started to include local communities in interventions. Thus, local and culturally adapted solutions to various social problems are provided. An example is Family Consultation which is a method that takes as its starting point that all families have resources – also families with social problems. Here, the family, the child and the network of people surrounding them are actively involved in the planning and implementing of interventions. Everyone takes part in discussing how to improve the life of the child and the family. Presently, the method is being implemented all over the country and the positive reception of the model bear witness to a huge interest in and demand for methods involving the local community and accounting

for social and cultural possibilities and needs. The commitment of the population to make a difference in the area of sexual abuse is big and people want to be included. For instance, the commitment and engagement of the population in NAKUUSA's national fundraising event against sexual abuse in 2017 was overwhelming. Also, many people get involved in public discussions when the press brings up stories about sexual abuse. The same kind of commitment was present during the election campaign in the spring of 2018 where all candidates from the different parties took each other's hands during a debate on television and promised that they would work together against sexual abuse regardless of the different parties that they were representing. With such a strong sense of commitment from the population as well as the politicians there is a great potential to create positive changes in the area.



SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE INITIATIVES

- **Holistic approaches to and initiatives against sexual abuse**
Approaches to and initiatives against sexual abuse must be holistic and account for the larger context that everyone is part of. To achieve better outcomes it is necessary to involve local communities – including role models and other individuals with resources and knowledge – and adapt the initiatives to the needs of the target groups.
- **Pilot project in a local community**
Initiatives against sexual abuse based on local requests and needs should be tried out in a local community with consideration of cultural, social, logistic and socio-economic factors present in that community.
- **Sex education in primary schools**
To avoid a normalization of sexual abuse sex education must be provided in all primary schools with a prescribed syllabus and training focusing on normal sexuality and normal sexual development.
- **Training of professionals**
Teaching materials and courses must be prepared targeting different educational institutions and fields to secure that professionals are better equipped to work on cases of sexual abuse. These should include knowledge and tools about signs of abuse and the responsibility of professionals in cases of sexual abuse.
- **Better health care and early intervention initiatives**
Existing initiatives on health care and early intervention must be strengthened and expanded – for instance by the expansion of the project called MANU mentioned earlier these initiatives must also account for local possibilities and needs.
- **Earlier intervention in cases of sexually transmitted diseases and abortion among young people under the age of 15**
It must be secured that the local health service staff know of and use the available guidelines and procedures that are meant to guarantee notification to the social authorities and other relevant authorities when they learn that a young person under the age of 15 has a sexually transmitted disease or is going to have an abortion.

INDIVIDUALS WITH SEXUALLY



OFFENDING BEHAVIOR

GOAL:

INDIVIDUALS WITH SEXUALLY OFFENDING BEHAVIOR AND POTENTIAL OFFENDERS MUST BE OFFERED SUPPORT AND TREATMENT.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

NO HELP FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A SEXUALLY OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR

Up until now it has been prioritized to help survivors of sexual abuse as best possible and no help has been provided to the sexual offenders committing the assaults. As of today no initiatives exist directed towards individuals with a sexually offending behaviour. However, to prevent future assault it is necessary to revise this approach and also offer help to offenders parallel to the help for survivors to stop the offending behaviour. Support and treatment to individuals with a sexually offending behaviour is a very important preventive effort regarding future sexual assaults against children. Research from abroad demonstrates that targeted and holistic initiatives towards sexual offenders can reduce the risk of new assaults significantly among individuals who have previously offended others. Moreover, it is possible to prevent future assaults through the developing of initiative directed at potential offenders who have sexual thoughts and fantasies about children.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF OFFENDERS

In the process of developing initiatives for individuals with a sexually offending behaviour it is important to bear in mind that

sexual offenders are not a homogeneous group. Surely, there are a number of similarities between them but it is important to distinguish between different types of offenders and account for different challenges and needs in order to achieve the best possible results. The initiatives of the strategy are to be targeted towards the following three types of offenders:

- Sexual offenders with or without a sentence who have sexually assaulted children.
- Potential offenders without a sentence having sexual thoughts and fantasies about children.
- Children and young people with a sexually offending behaviour.

Regarding the group of sexual offenders with or without a sentence it is important to emphasize that the initiatives of the strategy will be targeting convicted offenders after serving their sentence and also individuals with sexually offending behaviour without a conviction. The justice area, and hence the Danish authorities, is responsible for initiatives for convicted offenders during the serving of their sentence.

INTERDISCIPLINARY AND HOLISTIC INITIATIVES ARE NEEDED

Treatment of individuals with a sexually offending behaviour is complex in many ways. Many professionals are reluctant to work with offenders because we are dealing with people who have committed incomprehensible and often unforgivable acts. It is, however, important to remember that the offenders are also human beings in need of our help. Many sexual offenders are victims themselves and have been exposed to neglect, violence and sexual abuse as children. Therefore, it is important that future initiatives towards sexual offenders include a holistic perspective that considers all the challenges and needs of the individual offender. Moreover, it is crucial to establish a close interdisciplinary cooperation between the different authorities, e.g. close cooperation between Danish authorities and the Government of Greenland. To secure positive results the different authorities need to work together and overcome the challenges together. One challenge to overcome is the lack of possibility to diagnose children and young people with a sexually offending behaviour in the country which often prolongs the process of securing the necessary support and treatment. Another challenge is that many sexual offenders – convicted or not – still live in or returns to the local community where the sexual assaults took place. This creates great insecurity and potential retraumatization for the survivors, relatives and other citizens in

the local community – in particular when there are no initiatives available targeting the offenders. Local interventions focusing on interdisciplinary cooperation and reintegration of sexual offender would help create safer communities and simultaneously prevent future assaults.

EXISTING INITIATIVES

Today there are no initiatives directed at individuals with a sexually offending behaviour. In a few complicated cases Saaffik cooperated with the JanusCentret in Denmark who is specialized in cases of children and young people with a sexually offending behaviour, but no specialised initiatives exist in Greenland for the affected children and young people. Within the Correctional Services prisoners are offered to participate in a cognitively based program called MUMIK that seek to help prisoners avoid inappropriate behaviour. This program is also relevant for convicted sexual offenders but the problem is that many prisoners do not spend enough time in the prisons to get included in the program. MUMIK extends over eight weeks but as the prisoners cannot take part in the program before the pronouncement of their sentence – which may often take a really long time – then they are not spending enough time in the institution to finish the program. This means that there is actually no help for individuals with a sexually offending behaviour. The new strategy aspires to change this.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE INITIATIVES

Research from other countries on initiatives for individuals with a sexually offending behaviour suggests some important points of awareness that should be included in the future initiatives for the target group. There are:

- The approach to prevention and treatment in the area must be holistic, contextual and focus on the involvement of the local community.
- Parallel initiatives are effective, e.g. parallel interventions for offenders and survivors, for potential offenders and potential survivors etc.
- Long-term treatment has better outcomes than short-term treatment.
- Voluntariness and motivation must be bearing principles of the treatment.
- Anonymity plays a decisive role in preventive initiatives for potential offenders with thoughts and fantasies about children.
- Targeted, national information campaigns are important in terms of prevention and detabooisation of the topic.

- To prevent a new wave of offenders children and young people with sexually offending behaviour must be provided with specialised treatment offers.

Suggestions for future initiatives based on the above-mentioned recommendations:

- **Holistic support and treatment initiatives for individuals with a sexually offending behaviour**

Help must be offered to all individuals with a sexually offending behaviour. The initiatives must be customised to the needs and the situation of the individual offender, and thus the content of the help provided will vary. As many individuals with a sexually offending behaviour still live in or return to their local community after serving their sentence the initiatives need to involve the local community and might contain elements such as reintegration, mediation, psychoeducation, public meetings, risk assessment and therapeutic treatment.

- **Preventive online initiative for sexual offenders and potential offenders**

A webpage and an anonymous helpline must be developed that individuals with thoughts and fantasies about children can call for support and be referred to a specialised treatment program, e.g. therapy

through Skype. Inspiration for an online prevention initiative can be found at www.brydcirklen.dk.

- **Specialised initiatives for children and young people with a sexually offending behaviour**

Holistic initiatives targeting children and young people who offend other children and young people must be developed, e.g. initiatives focusing on diagnosis and treatment. Furthermore, it is important to include knowledge about children and young people with an alarming or sexually offending behaviour as part of the 'tool box' of child specialist.

- **Sex education in primary schools**

In order to prevent sexually offending behaviour sex education must be provided in all primary schools with a prescribed syllabus and training focusing on normal sexuality and normal sexual development.

- **Informational and educational activities about digital offenses for the highest grades of primary school**

Materials must be developed for students at the highest grades of primary school with knowledge about safe behaviour for children and young people on the internet in order to prevent digital offenses and to promote safe behaviour in the digital world for children and young people.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE INITIATIVES IN THE JUSTICE AREA

- **Treatment options for convicted offenders** In order to reduce the high number of sexual assaults against children it must be secured that convicted offenders receive specialised treatment to prevent relapses after release.

- **Research on convicted offenders** In order to implement effective initiatives for convicted offenders it is necessary to carry out a study to know more about the individuals who offend.

- **Prioritization of cases on sexual abuse against children** The Government of Greenland suggest that the police prioritize cases on sexual abuse against children and act on reports within 24 hours, if possible. Likewise, the municipalities must act on notifications within 24 hours according to the Law on support for children, §19.

- **Consider needs for amendments** The Government of Greenland will look into and consider the need for amendments under existing laws in the justice area as well as in the social field concerning prevention and action in cases of sexual abuse.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Agency Of Social Affairs is responsible for the overall coordination of the strategy's future initiatives in close collaboration with the interdisciplinary advisory group and the steering committee of the strategy. The advisory group is going to assist The Agency Of Social Affairs in the preparation of action plans for each main theme in the strategy. These action plans are to secure achievement of the goals of the strategy and homogeneous approaches to the work on sexual abuse. The initiatives in the action plans will be directed at different professional fields and, consequently, the implementation of the initiatives is dependent on the work of professionals from various sectors who need to take on responsibility and commit themselves to the implementation process. The advisory group is an important co-player in this connection as

the participants may contribute to a more efficient implementation of initiatives by engaging their respective workplaces and sectors in the work. As part of the action plans specific timetables for implementation of initiatives will be prepared that account for of the different roles and responsibilities of involved operators. An effective implementation of initiatives requires the allocation of means and resources as well as clear guidelines as to when, why and how the individual initiatives are implemented. Without political and interdisciplinary support the implementation of initiatives cannot succeed. Consequently, the strategy calls for the development of clear interdisciplinary and municipal cooperation agreements that obligate all relevant operators to engage in the future work against sexual abuse.

EVALUATION

It is important that there is an ongoing follow-up of the strategy's initiatives in order to secure the fulfilment of the strategy's goals and uphold a focus on the area. To be able to assess the effectiveness of the initiatives a baseline will be prepared with the purpose of obtaining more knowledge about the proportions and the complexity of sexual abuse in Greenland. This baseline will constitute the basis for a midterm evaluation and a final evaluation after four years. The final evaluation will focus on tendencies so far and on indicators of the implemented initiatives. The preparation of the baseline and the final evaluation must be based on evidence-based methods and international standards to secure the quality of these efforts. In addition, a follow-up survey will be conducted after five years to assess tendencies and effects of the

overall initiatives of the strategy. Finally, a memo will be prepared for the Government of Greenland on an annual basis describing the progress of the strategy's initiatives. As mentioned earlier, there are indications of significant variations in the occurrence of sexual abuse among different birth cohorts. Consequently, it is an objective for the evaluation to assess the occurrence of sexual abuse in each birth cohort – both in the final evaluation report and in the follow-up report five years later..

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