



*Denmark side event at CSW63
Thursday 14 March 2019, 3:00–4:15 pm
Conference Room 11, UNHQ*

**A Danish approach to child-care and family leave
INCLUSIVE EARLY EDUCATION
WORK-LIFE BALANCE AND
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

Investments in gender equality in the work place, parental leave, and affordable and inclusive child-care are important and necessary steps to secure economic empowerment of women. The Danish (and Nordic) experiences in promoting gender equality are a key factor in the efforts towards ensuring the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At this event, we will explore the Danish approach to securing gender equality between women and men.

Labour market participation of women

Investments in gender equality in the labour market have made the Nordic region one of the most prosperous areas of the world. The share of women who work in the Nordic countries is larger than the global average, which is partly due to commitments to ensure equality in the workplace and generous parental leave. Women's labour market participation makes a crucial contribution to the state finances and the economic prosperity of Danish families.

In Denmark, parents enjoy the same right to parental leave. However, many fathers are not aware of their rights and, overall, fathers are lacking behind when it comes to sharing the parental leave. We would like to address ways to overcome this obstacle.

Affordable, available, and inclusive child-care

Accessible and flexible child-care increases employment rates for women. Quality child-care stimulates the personal, cognitive and social development of children, and it can serve as an important measure of social inclusion. This is why child-care should be an area of continued priority at a global level.

In Denmark, 90% of children between the ages of 1-2 attend day-care. The number increases to 97% for children between the ages of 3-5. Because almost all children in Denmark attend day-care - during the most important years of the child's development - the learning environment needs to be taken seriously. At this event, we will explore ways in which to stimulate children's personal empowerment in child-care. This is a step necessary to ensure that children realize their full potential and fulfil their dreams. No matter their gender or their parents' status within society.

In line with the UN 2030 Agenda, we know that we still have some way to go. One challenge is the lack of male representation in day-care services. We will address this challenge and we look forward to having you join the conversation.

Panellists

Senior Adviser Trine Hougaard, Confederation of Danish Employers

Chairperson Nanna Højlund, The Women's Council in Denmark

Head of Division Christina Barfoed-Høj, Danish Ministry for Children and Social Affairs

Senior Adviser Cecilie Kisling, Danish Ministry of Employment

First Secretary Rasmus Jarak Nexø, Permanent Representation of Denmark to the United Nations