



## Violence in close relations and ageism - consequences of the Pandemic

Nordic-Baltic webinar, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Swedish Association of Graduate Women hereby invites you to take part in a webinar November 12. The plan is that the seminar will be accessible both in physical form and online by Zoom.

The physical part will take place in Stockholm. It will give us a chance to know each other better. In connection with the conference we will also have a business meeting, discussing the future of our Nordic-Baltic cooperation.

You will have further information about the conference in September when the final programme is set up

Best wishes from

Anne-Marie Morhed, PhD,

President of the Swedish Association of Graduate Women

### The Aim of the Conference

There is an ongoing discussion within the European organisation, The University Women of Europe, (UWE) as to how the pandemic has affected women's situation. A conference organised by the Finnish Federation of Women took place digitally on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The purpose of this Nordic-Baltic conference, which will also take place online, is to follow up and explore further some of the questions that were raised at the European conference. These issues, which the pandemic has made clearer, relate closely to the discussion which has taken place in Sweden.

## The Pandemic

The pandemic has been chosen as the overarching theme. In the course of the seminar, we hope to consider some ways of discussing ethical dilemmas such as the responsibility to protect vulnerable individuals from severe disease and death during the pandemic. We will pay particular attention to how it affected women.

With the aid of invited researchers and commentators, we want to investigate how the pandemic has affected 1) domestic violence and 2) ageism in society.

### Violence in close relations

During the pandemic many families have been forced to live in close proximity and with limited social contacts outside their household. This raises the issue of violence in a new way. What does current research have to say about victims and perpetrators? Do recent results show a different pattern compared to earlier research findings? Are particular groups especially vulnerable?

### Ageism in Society

At the beginning of the pandemic, old people were the most affected by the Corona virus. Those over 70 were subject to particular recommendations, isolation at home, in order to reduce the occurrence of cases of severe disease and death. After a while, these age specific restrictions were lifted and the responsibility for limiting infection was to be shared by all citizens. The pandemic revealed failings in the care provided for old people which was under dimensioned. The division of responsibility between the regions which provided medical care and the local authorities who were in charge of care homes created a number of ethical dilemmas. The largely female staff were placed under extreme pressure as their responsibilities extended far beyond their usual contracts. Both the particular demands made on the elderly and also society's inadequate protection of the aged have been discussed in terms of ageism.

### Delegates

The delegates are female academics who do research into domestic violence (violence in close relations) and ageism.

They are:

**Stina Johansson, Professor Emerita, Umeå University,**

Stina Johansson is the chair of The Association of University Women in Uppsala (UKAF) and retired Professor from Umeå university where she was the Professor of Social Work between 1999 and 2013. She has been active in research into old age in the broad sense: social care, social gerontology, gender and comparative social politics (also between the Nordic countries). During the pandemic, she been engaged in conversations as to how, once the pandemic is over, Swedish old-peoples' homes where there are staff with different areas of responsibility can be improved. She is the editor of a book on the topic which will be published in the autumn of 2022.

**Carolina Överlien, Professor, Stockholms University:**

Of late, Professor Överlien has studied violence in intimate relations amongst young people. For many years she was responsible for the Nordic section of an EU financed study (Safeguarding teenage intimate relationships - STIR). The study was carried out in five different countries, Norway, The United Kingdom, Bulgaria and Italy, and consisted both of answers to a survey which was answered by young people at the upper senior level and also of interviews with young people who had been exposed to violence. Later Överlien started the Swedish equivalent of the STIR-study.

**Viveka Enander, University Lecturer, Gothenburg University.**

Viveka Enander is the Development Manager, responsible for research at the Competence Centre for Violence in Close Relations in the region of Västra Götaland and she is also a university lecturer in Social Work at Gothenburg University.

**Anna Siverskog, researcher Jönköping's University College**

Anna Siverskog's doctoral dissertation deals with older LGBTQ individuals.

As a researcher, Siverskog was commissioned by the Council of Nordic Ministers to conduct a project entitled "Health, contentment and circumstances amongst young LGBTI-people".

The report is in two parts. Siverskog has worked with Part 1, a survey of research which

shows how young LGBTI-people in the Nordic countries feel. Part 2 maps efforts made today and historically. The data was collected during the pandemic.

**Sara Skoog Waller, University Lecture, The University College of Gävle**

Sara Skoog Waller's research deals primarily with men's violence against women and violence in close relations. Her current research project addresses loneliness and social isolation amongst women who have been exposed to violence by a partner. It also is concerned with preventative measures namely the identification of people subject to violence as well as the prevention of violence through increased awareness of exposure and the availability of support for the victims.

Each lecture will be about 25 minutes long and will be followed by a brief period for questions.

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The final programme and invitation will be sent out in the autumn.

For questions about the webinar contact Beatrice Christensen Sköld, e-mail:

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