



ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

*Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister of International Development*

Sex og Politikk
v/Tor-Hugne Olsen
Chr. Krohgs gate 34
0186 Oslo

Oslo, 3 July 2020

Thank you for your letter proposing closer Nordic cooperation on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) post COVID-19. We value the work of your organisation and your Nordic sister organisations.

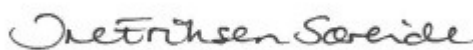
As you are aware, gender equality and SRHR have been a key priority in Norway's foreign and development policies for many years. We promote gender equality and SRHR because it is both the smart and the right thing to do. Gender equality, including SRHR, is a driver of development; it increases women's economic participation and is essential for building stable and prosperous societies.

The Nordic governments work closely together in promoting gender equality. We have joined forces to defend SRHR and the Sustainable Development Goals in negotiations, and to promote the participation of civil society. The Global Action Plan for SDG 3, which aims to strengthen collaboration among multilateral organisations in order to accelerate country progress on the health-related SDGs, was developed in response to a request made by Norway, Germany and Ghana.

In building back better after COVID-19, the Nordic countries have agreed to take on a special responsibility to promote gender equality, including SRHR. A working group is now looking into how we can do this most effectively. Your input is very useful in this context.

Nordic cooperation on promoting global gender equality can only succeed if other countries get on board. Our cooperation with Sex og Politikk and your international network will also be vital.

Yours sincerely


Ine Eriksen Søreide


Dag-Inge Ulstein