

Non Governmental Organizations

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Danish Society for the Children of Greenland
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www.foreningengronlandskeborn.dk
Danish Society for the Children of Greenland has been committed to the social and health development of children and adolescents in Greenland since 1924.

Save the Children Denmark
Rantzausgade 60,
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Phone: +45 3536 5555
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E-mail: redbarnet@redbarnet.dk
Save the Children Denmark is a Child Rights' organisation.

Governmental Organizations

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Market
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Phone: +299 345 000 Fax: +299 324 547
E-mail: dsa@gh.gl
www.isp.gl

Meeqqat Inuusuttulu Pillugit Ilisimasaqarfik
Centre of Information on Children and Young People
The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Market
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The Ministry of Health and Environment
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www.dsk.gl

Paarisa
The Ministry of Health and Environment
P.O. Box 1160, 3900 Nuuk, Greenland
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The Ministry of Culture, Education, Research, and Church
P.O. Box 1029, 3900 Nuuk, Greenland
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www.kiip.gl

Statistics Greenland
P.O. Box 1025, 3900 Nuuk, Greenland
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www.statgreen.gl

Inerisaavik
Centre for Educational Development and In-Service Training of Teachers
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E-mail: p-center@gh.gl
www.p-center.gl
www.atuarfitsialak.gl

From February 2002, the official website of the Home Rule Government will be:
www.nanoq.gl

The Second World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children / Yokohama 17. - 20. December 2001

INFORMATION ON GREENLAND AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Greenland and Greenland Home Rule Government

Greenland is a part of the Kingdom of Denmark. Before 1953 Greenland was a Danish colony. In 1953 the Danish Constitution was amended to include Greenland as a municipality within the Kingdom of Denmark. On May 1, 1979 Home Rule was introduced giving Greenland its own Parliament (Lands-tinget) elected in Greenland, and its own Government (Landsstyret), which heads central administration. In Greenland there are 18 municipalities, each made up of between 1-11 settlements. Greenland is a democracy according to the Nordic model.

Greenland left the EU on February 1, 1985 and has acquired OCT status - status as one of the overseas countries and territories attached to the EU. Greenland co-operates with the Nordic and Arctic countries, and is a member of the Nordic Council, the Arctic Council, the West Nordic countries (Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands), and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. Greenlandic foreign policy and defence affairs are affairs of the Realm of Denmark.



Key Figures

The population on January 1, 2001: 56.245 inhabitants. 34% of the population were under the age of 20. 88% of the population were born in Greenland.

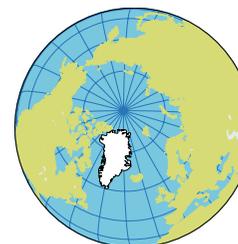
The sex distribution on January 1, 2001: 53% men and 47% women.

Immigration and emigration: Each year almost 3000 people either immigrate to or emigrate from Greenland - in the 1990's there have been more emigrations than immigrations.

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) per 2000: 2.308. TFR has been declining for the past 5 years.

In 2000 the infant mortality rate was 13,6 per 1000 live birth.

Medium life age: In 1996-2000 the average life age of men was 62,8 years and of women 68,0 years. One of the causes of the low medium life age for men is a large number of unnatural deaths among young men.



The Organisation of Social Policy

The Home Rule Government of Greenland assumed full responsibility for social policy on January 1, 1980. This responsibility is defined as follows:

- The implementation of measures within reasonable limits to prevent social problems.
- The alleviating of existing social problems.
- The provision of a special aid programme for Greenlanders living in Denmark.

The responsibility for social policy lies within the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Market, which has the day-to-day administration along with 2 regional offices, 1 office of residential homes of children, young people, and handicapped people, 1 consulting office of deaf people, and 1 office situated in the Denmark Office of the Home Rule Government.

Local responsibility concerning social policy lies within the municipalities (i.e. municipal councils and committees set up by the councils). The municipalities have the authority to decentralize certain affairs to the smaller councils in the settlements.

Relevant Legislation concerning Children and Young People

- Greenlandic parliamentary law no. 9 of October 30, 1992 concerning support for children and young people. This law has been amended after 1992.
- In 1992 the Greenlandic Parliament acceded to the UN Convention on

Child Rights. The substance of the convention is integrated into the law on support for children and young people.

- Greenlandic parliamentary law no. 1 of June 6, 1997 concerning Primary and Secondary School Education (6-16 years old). This law has been amended after 1997.
- Greenlandic Finance Act on "Paarisa" (office of health and preventive measures), and other preventive measures.

Facts

Primary and Secondary School Education: All children receive 9 years' compulsory education - beginning the year the child is 6 - and are offered an additional 3 years' schooling. However, it is possible to apply for dispensation to leave after 8 years' schooling. The education language is Greenlandic as well as Danish.

The total number of pupils is 11.316 in 24 town schools and 62 smaller schools in the settlements. The total number of educated teachers is 829, of which 72% are speaking Greenlandic. Beyond this, uneducated teachers give a number of lessons.

The Health Sector: The Health Service includes prevention of illness, medical examinations, treatment and care, food inspection, dental care, and the education of personnel in the Health Service. The services provided by the Health Service are, with few exceptions, free of charge for persons resident in Greenland.

Current Initiatives for Children and Young People

Legislation on Support for Children and Young People:

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Market is at present revising legislation on support to children and young people. A new publication in the form of a pamphlet entitled: "Break the vicious circle - put the child first" has been issued. Its aim is to discuss the situation of neglected children and young people and to ensure them the care and attention that they deserve and have the right to. The course of action in the revised legislation is based on the principle of honouring the child's needs instead of the present principle of "support and minimal interference".

Preventive Measures

"Paarisa" conducts campaigns on health and preventive measures. The basis of the work is The Home Rule Government's political objectives. In 1986 the Home Rule Government acceded to the Ottawa Charter thus implementing the strategy of the health policy of WHO, "Good Health for Everybody in Year 2000".

- "Paarisa" offers preventive measures against venereal diseases including HIV and AIDS, and misuse (tobacco, alcohol, hashish and sniffing). Apart from the above, preventive measures are concentrated on suicide, child care, and sexual abuse of children.
- "Paarisa" has, in co-operation with Save the Children and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Market, set

up a nationwide telephone line offering anonymous advice to children and young people.

- "Paarisa" ensures public debate through informative campaigns (publications on Health Care, television spots etc.) and by publishing pamphlets on the sexual abuse of children.
- "Paarisa" co-operates with advisers from local authorities working in the field of preventive measures.
- Furthermore "Paarisa" offers assistance to local authorities, if they wish for specific help to initiate local preventive measures.

The School Reform: "Atuarfitsialak - the Good School"

At present a thorough school reform is underway, and the bill will come to a vote in the spring of 2002. The basic idea is that the school should pay greater attention to the individual child, concerning both school work and personal matters. The school will take a more active role with regard to education in personal development in order to boost the child's self esteem and in the teaching of Civics.

Centre of Information on Children and Young People

As of October 1, 2001, the Home Rule Government has under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Market appointed a project co-ordinator in order to establish a Centre of Information on Children and Young People in Greenland.

