

NordAN Conference 2014
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”New actions on women’s rights in alcohol and drug policy issues”

Susanne Lönnberg,
Vice President of WOCAD (KSAN)
Sweden



WOCAD – Women’s Organisations Committee on Alcohol and Drug issues

- Founded in 1943
- Umbrella organisation
- Members: 34 women’s organisations
- Non-religious, non-political
- Drug prevention
- Target group: girls/women of all ages



CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women

- CEDAW – a UN Convention – important tool!
- Article 1 defines “discrimination against women” as *any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex, which has the effect or purpose of impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women.*
- Article 3 urges States Parties *to take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures to ensure the advancement of women.*



When did we ratify the CEDAW convention?

Ratification involves the legal obligation for the ratifying State to apply the Convention.

SOME EXAMPLES!

<u>Country</u>	<u>Ratified CEDAW</u>
Finland	1986
Denmark	1983
Iceland	1985
Norway	1981
Sweden	1980
Lithuania	1994
Latvia	1992
Estonia	1991

The NordAN Women's Section

- In 2006: WOCAD and Women Together Against Addictions (Finland) motioned to create a women's section within NordAN
- The motion was adopted!
- WOCAD coordinates the Women's seminar at the NordAN conference



From cradle to grave

WOCAD's projects – for girls and women of all ages, for example:

- alcohol and pregnancy
- teenage girls and pills/mood altering drugs
- elderly women and alcohol + pills/mood altering drugs
- drug prevention from mothers to daughters
- immigrant women

Do's and Don'ts

Do: create actions with RESPECT and DIGNITY

Don't: Intimidate or blame



Respect and dignity?

September 9th, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness day

Global campaign 2014 “Too young too drink”

WOCAD supported the campaign –
but not the pictures

*Instead – focus on where women can
turn to for help and support!*



Aggressive marketing of alcohol and tobacco

- Young women targets of aggressive marketing from the alcohol and tobacco industry!



- Internet: unregulated arena – new actions must be gender specific and gender sensitive

Alcohol and drugs among older women

- Recent study from Gothenburg University: increase in alcohol consumption among older Swedes – biggest increase among 75 year old women!
- Older people – more pills and medicine – bad combination with alcohol
- Women live longer than men
- An addiction does not go away just because the addict grows older!
- A female perspective is lacking in treatment and care

The goals of the NordAN Women's section are:

- influence attitudes and values regarding girl's and women's abuse and potential for treatment;
- influence decision-makers in the Nordic Countries, the Baltic States and the rest of Europe such that resources are made available for research and preventive initiatives in this field;
- stimulate interest in women's abuse issues among groups that have not previously been involved in work of this nature;
- increase exchanges and cooperation between various players in the Nordic countries and the Baltic States to stimulate increased gender-specific, gender-sensitive initiatives for girls and women in the combat against alcohol and drugs;
- create a joint strategy for NordAN's work in alcohol and drug issues from a women's perspective.



Thank you for your attention!

WOCAD (KSAN)
Östermalmsgatan 33
11426 Stockholm
Sweden

info@ksan.se
+468101041
www.ksan.se

