

Stockholm, December 4, 2017

To The Premier of Greenland, Mr Kim Kielsen
to The President of Inatsisartut, the Parliament of Greenland, Mr Lars-Emil Johansen
to The Minister for Health and Nordic Cooperation, Ms Agathe Fontain

Support letter for alcohol policy in Greenland

Nordic Alcohol and Drug Policy Network (NordAN) – an international umbrella organization for NGOs in the Baltic and Nordic states, involved in reducing harm from alcohol and drugs, would like to congratulate the Government and Parliament of Greenland for the recent amendments to alcohol policy.

Nordic countries have a longstanding positive experience in enforcing alcohol policy measures that have been the foundation of a public health-oriented policy and we can recommend it to any country that wants to tackle this harm.

Banning alcohol advertising and further regulating the availability of alcohol is strongly supported by the WHO and scientific evidence. As you have explained in the rationale of the alcohol policy bill, alcohol is causing different societal harms, ranging from family violence to health problems. Addressing the problem with alcohol policy measures, that should be supported by other prevention, treatment and enforcement interventions, is the right way to tackle the alcohol issue.

As you know from your experience public health goes against various financial interests. You will continue experiencing pressure from different economic operators who have clear vested interests in this matter. It is crucial to give precedence to the health, well-being and security of your children, young people, families and every Greenlander who is influenced by alcohol today. In order to reduce alcohol-related harms, it requires bold and decisive action.

Once again, we congratulate you for these measures and urge you to keep on working with evidence-based alcohol policies. If there is any way we can be of help, we are at your service.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Allebeck
president, NordAN

Lauri Beekmann
Executive director, NordAN

NordAN was established in September 2000 as a network of non-governmental, voluntary organizations who all worked to reduce the consumption of alcohol and other drugs and who supported a restrictive alcohol and drug policy and who did not receive contributions from the commercial alcohol industry. Acting on these principles NordAN today has grown to have 80 non-governmental, voluntary member organisations in all the eight Nordic and Baltic countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden), all active in the alcohol and drug field.