



norden

Nordic Committee on  
Bioethics

## Dialogue on Dignity, Disability, Discrimination and Diagnostics

Radisson SAS Hotel Saga, Reykjavík, Iceland  
19–20 October 2007

### PROGRAMME

#### Friday 19.10.2007

16.30 Registration and coffee

17.30– **Opening session**

19.00 Chair and welcome

*Vilhjálmur Árnason*, Professor, Nordic Committee on Bioethics

Welcome on behalf of the Nordic Council Welfare Committee

*Siv Friðleifsdóttir*, Chair

17.40 Opening lecture: Dignity and Disability

*Simo Vehmas*, Professor, University of Jyväskylä, Dept. of Education

18.25 Comment

*Arne Lein*, Deputy Chair of the Nordic Federation for Associations of Disabled

18.35 Who has the right to be born?

*Barbro Gregorson*, Ombudsman, the Swedish Federation of Disabled

18.50 Discussion

19.30 Dinner at Hotel Saga

#### Saturday 20.10.2007

09.00 Dialogue session 1

**Disability, diagnostics and reproductive freedom**

Moderator: *Astridur Stefansdóttir*, Associate Professor, Iceland University of Education

Dialogue partners

*Gerður Árnadóttir* M.D., Chair of Þroskahjálp

*Niels Lynoe*, Professor, Centre for Bioethics, Karolinska Institutet & Uppsala University

*Ellen Økland Blinkenberg*, Genetic counsellor at Haukeland University Hospital

10.00 Coffee

10.15-  
11.15 **Discussion in groups**

Questions for discussion

1. In what ways, if any, does PND pose threats for the handicapped? Does more choice in reproduction mean more justice for the disabled?

2. How can the value of life change due to new developments in genetics?

3. How far should we go in reproductive freedom? Is the right to reproduce an entirely private matter or is there a more public interest to be taken into account?

11.15- **Joint Session** with reports from the discussion groups

12.15 Chair: *Thomas Jensen*, Professor, Nordic Committee on Bioethics

12.15-13.15 Lunch

13.15 **Extraordinary Child**, visit to an exhibition at the National Museum of Iceland (<http://www.natmus.is>)

14.15 Dialogue session 2

**Disability, health, discrimination and social values**

Moderator: *Berge Solberg*, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Science, NTNU

Dialogue partners

*Thorvald Sirnes*, Director, Rokkan Centre, University of Bergen

*Frode Svendsen*, Deputy Head, Unit of Socially Excluded, Ministry of Social Affairs, Denmark

*Rannveig Traustadottir*, Professor of Disability Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Iceland

15.15 Coffee

**15.30 Discussion in groups**

Questions for discussion

1. Do the prevailing Nordic values pose a threat to handicapped people?

2. What counts as discrimination? Will genetics lead to more or less discrimination?

3. What is normalcy and how valuable is it? Can we influence social values?

16.30 **Joint Session** with reports from the discussion groups

Chair: *Veikko Launis*, Professor, Nordic Committee on Bioethics

17.30 Concluding words

*Veikko Launis*