

Experience of setting up self-organised groups of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion, by Johanna Engen and Laila Wolles, EAPN Norway

In our collaborative network of organisations, associations and groups, 90% of these self-organised. We want to share with you our experience about this work and tell their story.

In Norway we call these grassroots organisations.

The Poor House in Oslo: One of the most important things we have in Oslo, is The Poor House. This organisation was established by poor people in Oslo who wanted to meet each other and try to find ways to help themselves and other poor people in the capital. Many of those who started The Poor House, is still in the organisation. They are still poor, but have found other benefits in this community that has been very important for hundreds of poor people in the Oslo area. We will tell you more about this special place there we both have got help when the pocket money was gone...

<http://www.fattighusetoslo.no/bilder-fra-fattighuset/>

National Charitable Association for Justice for “Losers”:

This foundation was established by a man Ola Odegaard who has experienced abuse from the Norwegian Government because he was very badly treated as a schoolboy. Ola Ødegaard's history and experiences became famous by the book "No childhood".

The largest “loser” groups was children of 2nd war (with German fathers) who experience a terrible childhood in Norway, victims and people with learning difficulties and children who became sexual abuse in orphanages or in families, and also baby battering without anyone intervening who helped them out of their nightmare.

The foundation helps people obtain documents and write an application to the state and municipal level. The foundation has provided compensation from the Government to people for nearly 2.25 billion euro since they started the work in 1993.



Ola won back his life after a broken childhood...

BIBIAMKA: Bibi Amka is an organisation that works primarily with African women, children and youth to promote and defend their interests so they can live a dignified life, both in Norway or other parts of the world.

The topic in Bibi Amka has been to get knowing the culture and living in Norway, with laws and rules that

apply to all citizens in the country. It's particularly important for the family to learn about the support services and welfare benefits and doing well in integration program, but also their own duties. Many African families bring up their uncultured as baby battering and sexual abuse. This is forbidden in Norway, but many meet challenges in understanding this. Grassroots work together with integration is incredibly important.



Female, stand up!

"I have a burning commitment to justice, solidarity and care". *Honoratte Kashale*

Deferred man – Men who was/are sexually abused in childhood: 20 boys and men sexually abused, released in April 2009, Graduated in project Info, advice to the Government about what needs to be done for more people, how to be capable to speak and to talk about being exposed and the type of help that they need. One of their most important advices, was to develop a website, because very very few men ask for help or assistance. This will be a national site, with the lowest possible "threshold", but be well known all over the country. The site was intended as an important means of support centers. They can refer the boys and men to use this site and they can even use cut and inspiration from the websites, to improve their information to boys and men. It will also give doctors, psychologists and other parts of the health services increased knowledge and understanding of boys and men abused their situation. Today some of the guys organise seminars of the topic of sexually abused boys and men. They have won several awards for this work.

Etter riktig og viktig
behandling kan jeg nå se
farger i livet mitt igjen



du er ikke alene

“YOU ARE NOT ALONE!”