



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

*Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister of International Development*

Oslo, 16 February 2018

Dear partner

The #MeToo campaign has shown that sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse are widespread, and that the field of international aid and development assistance is no exception.

Norway is a significant actor in the field of international development. We attach great importance to doing our share to fight the negative culture highlighted by the #MeToo campaign.

First and foremost, we want to convey a clear message that sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse are completely unacceptable.

We expect all our partners to endorse this message. We also expect our partners to take their responsibility as employers seriously, and implement measures to combat the problem where necessary.

In concrete terms, this means that we expect all organisations that receive funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Norad to have ethical guidelines and good systems in place for preventing, reporting, and dealing with matters such as sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and gender-based violence. These systems and guidelines must apply to the organisations' own employees. The organisations have a responsibility as employers that they must uphold, and addressing this issue is an important part of this responsibility. The organisations also have a responsibility in relation to their partners and the local communities in which they are working.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we will put this issue even higher on the agenda when we meet our partners, whether they are NGOs, the UN, or other actors. This will be done at political level and at senior official level. This will build on the work we have been doing for many years. We have made it clear that the organisations we support must have guidelines and easily accessible channels for reporting concerns, which ensure that those who report concerns are followed up properly and impartially. We will now intensify our efforts in this area.

We look forward to continuing our dialogue on how we can best follow up this issue, so that we can work together to fight sexual harassment, abuse and violence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ine Eriksen Søreide".

Ine Eriksen Søreide

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikolai Astrup".

Nikolai Astrup