

Human Trafficking, Sex Work, and Migration in Oslo, Norway

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Oslo, Norway

Oslo is the capital and largest city in this Scandinavian country with a population around 5.2 million. Norwegian is the official language, but 90% of Norwegians speak English as a second language.

Norway consistently ranks highly in many areas. It is currently ranked as one of the top countries for: happiness, inequality, Human Development Index, economic performance and social progress, prosperity, economic freedom, democracy, rule of law, and political participation, among others. It is also rated the best country for children's rights and the best country to live in based on standard of living, life expectancy, and education.

Prostitution in Norway

The current law, in effect since 2009, made prostitution legal in Norway. However, it outlawed the purchase, solicitation, and advertising of sexual services in an attempt to reduce human trafficking. Unfortunately, this law has been widely criticized, as many sex workers report feeling less safe and more vulnerable because of it.



Field Placement Organization

Kirkens Bymisjon (Church City Mission): Church City Mission is one of Norway's largest non-profit organizations, working in over 40 towns and cities across the country. The organization prides itself on being inclusive, with "Room for All." The organization's mission is centered around three words: detect, relieve, and change. The vision they operate under is that "people in the city shall experience respect, justice and care."

Agencies

Nadheim: a center for people who sell or have sold sexual services. Nadheim offers a supportive environment to an extremely marginalized population in Oslo. The agency serves all clients, regardless of gender, nationality or life situation.

Laura's House: a safe house for women survivors of human trafficking and their children. Laura's House is intended to be a home where survivors trafficked from around the world can go for a period of reflection and healing before deciding how and where to continue their lives.

Activities

Nadheim: Provided individual case management services, conducted outreach work in-person and online, coordinated with community actors, provided resources to clients, offered a space for marginalized clients to be free to be themselves.

Laura's House: Provided individual case management services, organized a craft workshop for residents, monitored and guided resident group interactions, worked to ensure a positive and accepting environment for all residents.

Skills Utilized/Developed

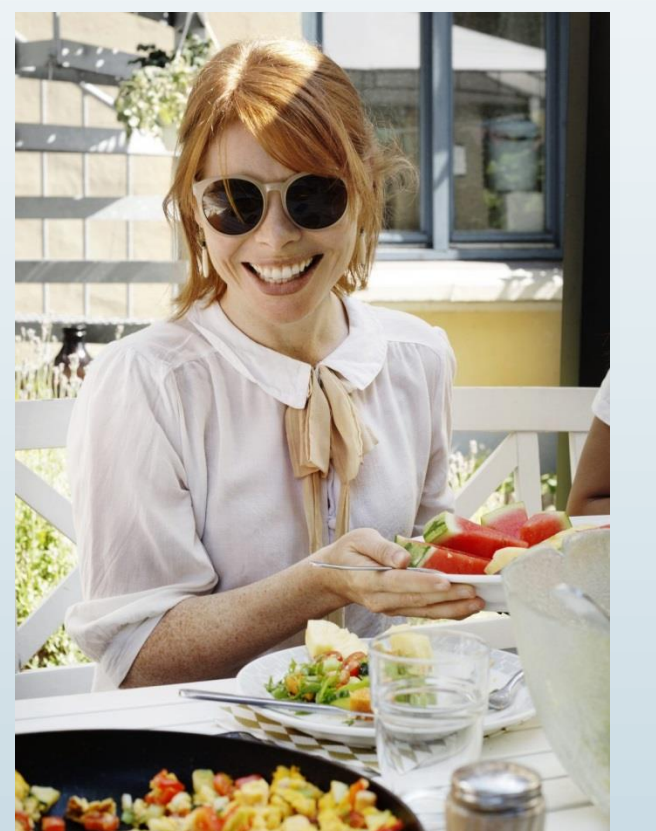
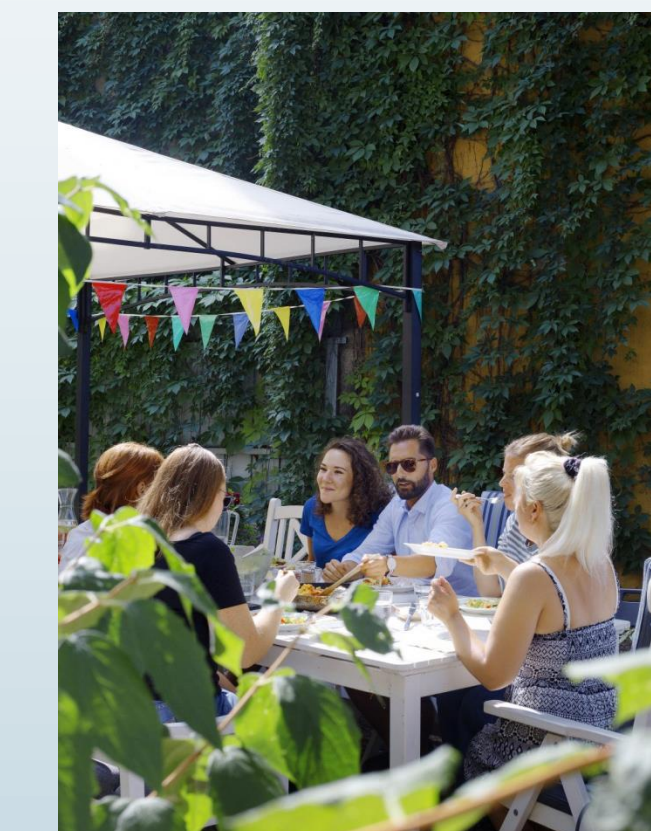
- Communication and engagement with diverse clients
- Harm reduction
- Trauma-informed care
- Work with groups
- Advocacy for human rights and system access
- Support in accessing social services
- Multi-lingual, multicultural service provision
- Global social work

Classroom Connections

Getting a broad understanding of social welfare policy helped me be better able to enter a country with such a vastly different social welfare landscape. The diversity and social justice class gave me a basic understanding of how to advocate for marginalized clients like those I worked with in Norway. My classes on interpersonal practice and attachment theory were extremely beneficial in my understanding of working with survivors of human trafficking and their children.

Lessons Learned

- Ensuring cross-cultural understanding is key when working with diverse populations
- It is important to fully comprehend and confirm client perception of every situation
- Tailoring service delivery to individual client needs and cultural context is a vital part of social work
- The best social work is done with the client spearheading their own goals
- Client advocacy can take place in a number of different circumstances



Career Connections

Completing this global field placement has truly changed how I see social work. In addition to gaining the experience of completing a social work internship, I also had a chance to get to know an entirely new social service system. Going to a country that is internationally known for its exceptional social service system has given me new perspectives and tools for inspiring change.

Advice

- Be open to learning from all different experiences before, during, and after the placement. I learned so much both at my placement and outside of it.
- Norway has so much to offer to students. Take advantage of everything that is available.

Acknowledgments

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All photos used in this poster are from the agency website: <https://kirkensbymisjon.no/nadheim-english/>