

*Joint statement from the Nordic Association of Social Workers (NSSK) and the Nordic Forum for Social Educators (NFFS)*

Iceland, 14 August 2011

**A versatile North, of course!**

On July 22<sup>nd</sup> terror hit Norway. 77 people were killed and many others wounded in the bombings of the government buildings and the shootings at Utøya. It is with great sadness that NSSK and NFFS hereby bring their sympathy to the wounded, the relatives, the survivors and the Norwegian people.

The attack was not just an attack on individuals. It was an attack on all the Nordic countries and the values we stand for: democracy, humanity, openness and versatility. Values that are also basic to the Nordic social workers and social educators. Some people want to destroy these values, some people take to incomprehensible means to achieve their goals. It was an attack on what we cherish the most.

Nordic social workers and social educators have this week been gathered to share and discuss welfare and professionalism at the conference "Welfare and professionalism in turbulent times". The conference emphasized the versatility of the Nordic countries. Social workers and social educators meet a lot of different people every day through their work. People, who each their own way contribute to a versatile society. Versatility creates richer lives and better societies regardless of ethnical background, sexual orientation, disability or other. Everybody has a place in the inclusive societies of the Nordic countries. This is the end of "we" and "them" – we are all "us".

The tragedy in Norway gives us all a responsibility. A responsibility to build a society that embraces all. The Nordic social workers and social educators must be first in line to fight for versatility and inclusive societies in the North.