

MFA Denmark, September 2016

Update on Denmark's commitments at the Global Leaders' meeting in September 2015.

Denmark made commitments regarding education, work and combatting domestic violence. The Women Deliver Conference to be held in Copenhagen in May 2016 was also mentioned.

Women in Denmark have one of the world's highest participation rates in the labor market. Antidiscrimination laws prohibit differential treatment in employment based on gender. The onus of proof is strengthened in favor of the employee in cases concerning pregnancy and maternity leave. The Ministry of Employment, the National Equality Body and the social partners monitor compliance with antidiscrimination laws.

Furthermore, in order to enable both women and men to participate in the labor market, all Danish municipalities must provide child-care for children from the age of 6 months.

Denmark is deeply committed to intensify efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and girls including strengthened support for victims. In 2016 several initiatives against stalking were launched. Overall efforts were strengthened to combat rape including tougher prison sentences for perpetrators and support and protection for victims. Furthermore a course of coping-strategies for girl- and boy-victims of dating violence was established. New methods to combat everyday-sexism have been developed. A nation-wide campaign aimed at raising awareness and breaking the still-existing taboo of partner-violence will be launched early 2017.

The daycare and school systems in Denmark are in general characterized by equality of the sexes. Still there are challenges. Boys are more often than girls academically challenged at the transition from preschool to primary school and also from lower secondary school to upper secondary school. Also, there are indications that a larger proportion of girls report about stress and failure to thrive. Furthermore, both girls and boys tend to make gender stereotypical choices when it comes to selecting an education. Therefore, the Minister of Children, Education and Gender Equality has formed a committee tasked to propose how to ensure that both girls and boys are able to develop their abilities on equal terms and participate in the Danish society. The committee is expected to deliver its report in November 2016.

In May 2016, Denmark successfully hosted the fourth international Women Deliver Conference – the largest gathering on girls and women's health, rights and well-being in more than a decade: 5759 participants from 169 countries, including 40 ministers, several UN leaders, civil society representatives and 1100 youth delegates. The overall theme was how to implement the SDGs so they matter most for girls and women, with focus on health, gender equality, education, environment and economic empowerment.