

Joint statement, Nordic Women Against Violence 2026: Post separation abuse is violence

More than 200 activists, social workers, researchers and professionals from Nordic crisis shelter organizations were gathered in Oslo this weekend for the Nordic Women Against Violence Conference. This year's conference brings us together to focus on post-separation abuse – an urgent issue affecting women across the Nordic countries.

Leaving an abusive partner does not necessarily mean that the violence ends. A 2022 study from Sweden found that 37 % of those who had been exposed to intimate partner violence reported physical violence or sexual abuse from their former partner after the breakup.¹

We know that a significant proportion of those exposed to intimate partner violence in other Nordic countries also experience continued violence from a former partner, often a man. When the perpetrator and the abused have children together, the violence can continue through parental cooperation. But post-separation abuse also occurs when the parties don't have children.²

Post separation abuse continues or worsens the consequences of the violence that occurred in the relationship, and has major consequences for health, finances, the ability to work, and for the children. In the extreme, post separation abuse can end in femicide.³

We demand that

- post separation abuse is recognized as violence against women by the authorities, the judiciary and aid agencies in all Nordic countries, and that
- post separation abuse is not referred to as parental conflict or other terms that minimize or hide the severity of these crimes

Oslo, 13th September 2026

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Rebecka Andersson, Managing Director, Unizon, Sweden

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Karen D. Jensen, Head of the Women's Shelter in Nuuk, Greenland

Pia Krüger Grönqvist, Chair of the Board, Kriresentersekretariatet, Norway

Ane Fossum, Managing Director, Kriresentersekretariatet, Norway

¹ <https://dinutvei.no/vold-i-naere-relasjoner/fortsettelsesvold/>

² Bjørnholt, M., (2024). Fortsettelsesvold etter samlivsbrudd – konsekvenser for mødres helse og livskvalitet. Universitetsforlaget.

³ Bjørnholt, M., (2024). Fortsettelsesvold etter samlivsbrudd – konsekvenser for mødres helse og livskvalitet. Universitetsforlaget; <https://dinutvei.no/vold-i-naere-relasjoner/fortsettelsesvold/>

