



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Historical inquiry into the relationship between Greenland and Denmark

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#### Introduction and purpose

With the joint declaration of 9 June 2022, Naalakkersuisut and the Danish government decided to initiate a historical inquiry into the relationship between Greenland and Denmark in the period after the Second World War up until today.

The historical inquiry into the relationship between Greenland and Denmark must be a scholarly founded contribution to a shared process of uncovering and understanding history, recognising the consequences of the decisions made, and the actions taken, in order to foster conditions for reconciliation with the past.

Greenland and Denmark have intertwined histories, where the countries together have lived through a development that has affected both. In the period after the Second World War and up until today, the relationship between Greenland and Denmark has been characterised by Greenland gradually assuming competencies and a number of fields of responsibility. The motivation for the inquiry into the relationship between Greenland and Denmark must be understood in this light.

The purpose of the inquiry is to contribute with knowledge on the relationship between Greenland and Denmark after the Second World War and up to today. It is the intention that this knowledge will increase the general understanding of the relationship between the two countries, and of how this relationship has had extensive consequences and affects current conditions for the Greenlandic population.

#### Content

The inquiry must concern the most significant political decisions, events, and other circumstances, actions, and processes that contributed to shaping the development of Greenland, the relationship between Greenland and Denmark, or which had consequences for the Greenlandic population.

The inquiry must include special cases and processes that principally occurred during the modernisation of Greenland in the period after the Second World War and up until today, or up until Greenland took responsibility for the relevant fields

of responsibility. Examples include cases and processes such as the birth-place criterion, the vacating of Greenlandic settlements, cases concerning the adoption practice of Greenlandic children from 1950-1980, Greenlandic children sent to Denmark, and the labour summoned from Denmark, etc. These examples are not exhaustive, and the inquiry may lead to the discovery and investigation of processes or cases that have not yet been widely known to the public.

In continuation of the above, the inquiry should:

- investigate significant political decisions, events and other circumstances, actions, and processes from both a Greenlandic and Danish societal and individual perspective, including taking into account the diversity that may exist between social groups and across country, region, settlement, and between Greenlanders residing in and outside of Greenland,
- investigate aims and considerations behind significant political decisions, events, and other circumstances, actions and processes and what led up to this,
- investigate human, cultural, and other societal consequences precipitated by significant political decisions, events and other circumstances, actions and processes.

In determining the topics to be analysed in the historical inquiry, consideration should be given to how many people have been or continue to be affected by the relevant decision, event, or action, and to what extent the decision, event, or action has affected the lives of these people. In selecting these topics, it is a preference that the principal investigator and the group of professionals consult, according to their needs, relevant actors, such as civil society organisations, etc.

The primary scope of the inquiry is the period after the Second World War and up to today. The inquiry should, however, cover periods of time prior to the conclusion of the Second World War as well as investigate decisions, events, and other circumstances, actions, and processes in their international context, when it is considered a necessary prerequisite to fully describe and understand all or parts of the inquiry's content.

The content of the inquiry must be organised to include results from other inquiries, investigations, and/or research projects on the relationship between Greenland and Denmark. Experiences and results from the ongoing impartial inquiry of the "IUD case" and other pregnancy prevention practices in Greenland and at continuation schools in Denmark with Greenlandic students from 1960 up to and including 1991, which was agreed upon between the then Danish Minister of Health and Naalakkersuisoq for Health on 30 September 2022, can be included in the historical inquiry.

### **Execution**

The inquiry is conducted by independent researchers, who will make final decision on theoretical approaches, methods, etc. The inquiry must be scholarly founded

and must include relevant historical sources and testimonies from living people about specific events, recollections, and life stories.

The inquiry must be organised from an interdisciplinary approach, where historical approaches are complemented with perspectives from other fields, e.g. cultural studies, anthropology, law, and political science.

The inquiry should include existing research results, investigations, and findings from similar relationships between countries and/or populations.

### **Organisation**

The principal investigator is appointed jointly by the Naalakkersuisoq for Education, Culture, Sports and Church and the Danish Minister of Higher Education and Science upon joint recommendation from Nunatsinni Ilisimatusarnermik Siunnersuisoqatigiit (Greenland's Research Council) and Denmark's Independent Research Fund. The recommendation must contain a small number of qualified candidates on the basis of a joint open call. The principal investigator will be affiliated with Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland).

The following criteria are favoured in the selection of the principal investigator:

- competences at associate professor or senior researcher level,
- comprehensive knowledge of the intertwined histories and societal conditions of Greenland and Denmark,
- experience in the execution and management of history research projects as well as the ability to embrace interdisciplinary perspectives, and
- experience in communication to the general public.

The principal investigator is responsible for establishing a group of professionals. In establishing the group, emphasis must be placed on an interdisciplinary composition with knowledge of the intertwined histories and societal conditions of Greenland and Denmark, experience with research dissemination, and representation of professionals from both Greenland and Denmark. The group must include professionals with language skills in Greenlandic and Danish.

The principal investigator and the group of professionals prepare a project plan for the inquiry, on the basis of which the funding is disbursed. The project plan must contain a work plan for the inquiry, budget items, an overview of the primary milestones, and involvement and communication activities.

A departmental group will be established and headed by the Department of Education, Culture, Sports and Church and the Ministry of Higher Education and Science. The principal investigator must present the project plan to the departmental group. The principal investigator must report at least every six months to the departmental group on current activities, results, and progress in accordance to the project plan and must present the overall budget status. The

departmental group may assist the principal investigator and the group of professionals with relevant clarifications, including e.g. archive access and unforeseen circumstances.

The principal investigator and the group of professionals have complete research freedom.

### **Involvement and dissemination**

The inquiry shall contribute to a shared process of investigating and understanding history, recognising the consequences of past decisions and actions, in order to thereby foster conditions for reconciliation with the past. Accordingly, it is crucial that the inquiry is organised in a way that includes the involvement of citizens in both Greenland and Denmark throughout the inquiry. The involvement will foster dialogue, cooperation, and transfer of knowledge between the inquiry and the populations.

The involvement can advantageously be applied at the beginning of the inquiry and throughout, where relevant. The involvement should be applied in the researchers' identification of thematic focal points for the inquiry, as well as in the collection of knowledge and personal testimonies concerning specific incidents, recollections, and life stories. The involvement must provide the opportunity for hitherto unnoticed Greenlandic and Danish voices to be heard. The principal investigator and group of professionals are expected to include the relevant population and social groups to an appropriate extent and in appropriate ways. In order to ensure a broad representation, the involvement must be done with particular attention to any specific contexts concerning language and patterns of settlement in Greenland, as well as the sensitivity that may be linked to the themes of the inquiry.

Material collected in connection with the historical inquiry must be handed over to Nunatta Katersugaasivia Allagaateqarfialu (Greenland's National Museum and Archives) upon the completion of the inquiry. The material is expected to contain information about individuals' private affairs and must therefore be processed in a way that ensures the integrity of individuals and complies with existing legislation. The principal investigator and the group of professionals are encouraged to inform about future use of material and to obtain informed consent when collecting knowledge and personal testimonies, etc.

The results and conclusions of the inquiry must be disseminated widely to both the Greenlandic and Danish public in an easily accessible form. It is expected that there will be ongoing dissemination throughout the period of the inquiry. This should be done both as scientific publications and in formats aimed at the wider public in both Greenland and Denmark.

### **Reporting**

The inquiry is carried out, as far as possible, within a time period of 5 years. It is intended that the inquiry is submitted to Naalakkersuisut and the Danish government in both Greenlandic and Danish no later than 5 years after the commencement of the agreement between Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland) and the principal investigator. The inquiry will be published upon coordination between Naalakkersuisut and the Danish government.

### **Funding**

Both countries agree that Denmark will provide a total funding of 45 million DKK for the historical inquiry into the relationship between Greenland and Denmark. The allocated funding will be transferred to the Self-Government of Greenland for implementation of the work concerning the historical inquiry, which will be affiliated with Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland).

Nuuk, 22 June 2023

*Translated by the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science. Please note this is a translation intended for reference only. For a valid version of these terms of reference, please consult the version in either Greenlandic or Danish.*