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# Exhausted Women - Exhausted Welfare

Religion and minorities in the transformations of gender and welfare

23-24 November 2017

The Humanities Theatre, English Park Campus, Uppsala University,  
Uppsala, Sweden



Photo: David Naylor

A Nordic conference arranged by  
*The International Society for the Research and Study  
of Diaconia and Christian Social Practice (ReDi)*

in collaboration with

*Uppsala Religion and Society Research Centre (CRS), Uppsala University*  
*The Impact of Religion Research Programme, Uppsala University*  
*VID specialized University, Oslo*  
*The Church of Sweden Research Unit, Uppsala*

European post-war welfare systems face challenges related to aging populations, globalization, migration and changing patterns of family formation and gender roles. Symptoms of exhaustion seem to hit women in particular. The conference will focus on the role of religion and faith based organizations in relation to these challenges, in particular as experienced in the Nordic countries.

The theme will be set in a wider context of the transformation of the European post-war model of welfare organization and its dependence on the idea of stable heterosexual families, with male breadwinners earning the money and women providing care for children and dependent adults. This postwar model is increasingly giving way to more individualized systems of breadwinning and social security. Simultaneously new care chains develop, with migrants and guest workers filling the gaps in strained safety nets.



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Religious communities have in different ways contributed to the development of social care, health care and education all over Europe. They provide resources connected to traditions of human dignity and neighborly love. With regard to gender their role is however ambiguous.

The conference will raise questions as:

To what extent do religious communities mirror society with regard gender and welfare?

What may a prophetic role look like in relation to ongoing changes?

How do faith-based organisations and communities relate to commercialisation and individualisation of welfare solutions?

How do churches and other religious bodies handle problems of exhaustion in their own contexts?

### Keynote speakers

Professor Hannah Bradby, Uppsala University, specialized in the sociology of health and illness, in particular forms of diversity, including ethnicity, gender and migration.

Dr. Theol. Gunilla Hallonsten, Church of Sweden, specialized in sociology, in particular issues of global health.

Professor Anne Birgitta Pessi, University of Helsinki, specialized in Church and Social Studies, in particular issues of compassion, altruism, volunteering and civil society.

Professor Stephanie Dietrich, VID Specialized University, Oslo, specialized in diaconia and leadership studies, in particular related to ecclesiology in a global context.

### Book launch

During the conference the new book *Religion and Welfare in Europe: Gendered and Minority Perspectives* (Policy Press, 2017) will be launched and introduced by the editors Lina Molokotos-Liederman, Anders Bäckström and Grace Davie.





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## Call for papers

Paper presentations in English or Scandinavian languages on the above mentioned and related themes are invited. Reports from practice are welcomed in a special session.

Abstracts of a maximum of 200 words shall include a presentation of the theme as well as a short presentation of the presenter, including scholarly and/or organizational position. Contributions from master- and PhD-students are especially encouraged.

Send your abstract to Ninna Edgardh [ninna.edgardh@crs.uu.se](mailto:ninna.edgardh@crs.uu.se) by October 1. Notification on acceptance of papers will be given continuously.

## Registration

Registration is administered by VID, Oslo. The registration fee is 500 Norwegian Crowns and includes all meals. <https://www.deltager.no/exhausted-women>

## Preliminary program

### Thursday November 23

11.00 Registration opens

12.00 Lunch

13.15 Welcome greetings

13.30 Key note 1

14.15 Key note 2

15.00 Coffee

15.30 Paper session

17.15-18.15 Book launch *Religion and Welfare in Europe: Gendered and Minority Perspectives*.

19.00 Dinner hosted by the Church of Sweden Research Unit

### Friday November 24

9.00 Keynote 3

9.45 Keynote 4

10.30 Coffee

11-12.30 Paper session

12.30 Closing session

13.00 Lunch