

# Nordic Dialogue Conference, Trondheim, March 14th- 16th March 2023

## A Society open to religion and life stance- Dialogue and Polarization

In a time of unrest, war and polarization it is important that we work together for a more inclusive society. What does a society open to religion and life stance mean? How do we ensure an open society? And how can we help to counteract alienation? These are questions we will address at the Nordic dialogue conference.



**DEN NORSKE KIRKE**  
Mellomkirkelig råd



**Kirkelig  
Dialogsenter**

## PROGRAMME

### Tuesday March 14th

**11:00** Registration and check in at Quality Hotel Agustin

**12:00** Lunch

**13:00** Welcome and opening by Bishop Herborg Finnset

**13:15** Workshop

**13:45** Coffee break

**14:00** Sturla Stålsett- A society open to religion and life stance

**15:15** Coffee break



*Photo: Eivor Veitberg Stålsett.*

**Sturla J. Stålsett** is professor in diaconal studies, and religion and society at MF Norwegian School of Theology. He has been the general secretary of Kirkens Bymisjon from 2006-2014, and the leader of

**15:30** Bente Sandvig – A society open to religion and life stance

**16:30** Coffee break

**16:40** Conversation with Sturla Stålsett and Bente Sandvig about the society open to religion and life stance– responses from the Nordic countries

**17:30** Departure to Nidarosdomen

**18.00** Service in Nidarosdomen

**20:00** Dinner

### **Wednesday March 15th**

**8.00** Breakfast

**9.00** Lars Laird Iversen-  
Uenighetsfelleskapet

**11.00** Coffee break

**11:15** Kristin Graff Kallevåg- The cross, Christianity and “the Norwegian” (Populism and Christianity)

**13.15** Lunch

**14.00-15:30** Parallel workshops

**16:00-17:30** Parallel workshops

**18.00** Service in Vår Frues kirke

**19.00** Dinner

### **Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup>**

**8.00** Breakfast

**9.00** Country report

**10.00** Coffee break

**10:15** Ingrid Rosendorf Joys: *Challenges and opportunities within the society of disagreement –*

Frivillighet Norge from 2014-2017. He led the government appointed commission to review the state's politics towards religious and life stance communities, that resulted in the report “Det livssynsåpne samfunn. En helhetlig tros- og livssynspolitik” (NOU 2013: 1).



**Bishop Herborg Finnset.** Herborg has been bishop in Nidaros diocese since 2017. She has had years long experience with working with Sami Culture and Church and contributed to establish Tromsø International Church Festival. Finnset is a board member of the Dialogue center in Trondheim and is also a member of the committee that reviews the Church of Norway's relationship to Jews and Judaism.



**Lars Laird Iversen** is an associate professor at MF Norwegian School of Theology. His research is mainly focused on sociology of religion, but have also studied national identity, nationalism, cultural diversity, disagreement and democracy. In 2008 Laird Iversen introduced the term «Uenighetsfelleskap» (a term that can directly translate into “a society of disagreement”).

Perspectives from The Council for Religious and Life Stance Communities in Norway (STL).

**11:15** Workshop

**12:15** Lunch

**13.15** Workshop

**14.15** What will we take with us from the conference?

**15:00** End of Conference



**Bente Sandvig** works as a special adviser at the Norwegian Humanist Association. Sandvig was the deputy chairman of the appointed committee that reviewed the state's politics towards religious and life stance communities in 2013. From 2007-2011 she was the leader of The Council for Religious and Life Stance Communities. She is currently a member of the Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board, deputy chairman of the board of The Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies and involved in the Oslo-coalition for freedom of faith and life stance.



*Photo: Herman Franzen.*

**Kristin Graff Kallevåg** is an associate professor in systematic theology and pedagogy at MF Norwegian School of Theology. Her research interest is mainly focused on the pragmatic dimension of theology and religion, and on how theology and religion are used in what may be labelled a post-Christian or secular context. She was a co-editor of the book *Populisme og Kristendom*.



**Ingrid Rosendorf Joys** is the general secretary for The Council for Religious and Life Stance Communities in Norway (STL). Joys has years long experience of working with humanitarian aid and interreligious dialogue. She has established, led, and participated in dialogue work in different arenas of the Norwegian society. Joys was the deputy chairman of a committee that reviewed what the needs of the religious and life stance communities in Oslo municipality, which resulted in the report “Tro det eller ei”.