

PRESS RELEASE

## Worrying development in Nordic prisons

It is becoming increasingly challenging to maintain the special Nordic prison system, characterized by high staff-to-inmate ratios, robust security measures, and a focus on crime prevention.

That is the message from the Nordic Prison Officials Union (NFU), which is holding a conference in Odense this week. NFU is a collaboration between the prison unions in Norway, Finland, Iceland, and Denmark.

The representatives from the four countries point to a worrying development, where politicians are increasingly resorting to harsher penalties without funding for staff and the reintegration of the inmates.

Chairman of the NFU, Asle Aase (N), says: "Politicians need to recognize that we lack the staff and capacity to deal with the challenges in prisons in the future if they want to preserve the special Nordic way of running prisons."

He points out that there are no quick-fix solutions in the form of importing foreign labour, renting foreign prisons, privatizing prison tasks or smart prisons.

"Solutions are neither to import nor export our prison tasks, nor are there any technological shortcuts that can solve our problems. The most important resource is the prison staff. It always has been – and it will continue to be so in the future," says Asle Aase.

Read the statement from the conference [here](#).

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NFU

*The Nordic Prison Officers Union is a co-operation between the prison unions in the Nordic countries. The organization represents prison officers and other employee groups in the Nordic countries.*