

# Preface

The idea for this book was launched at the first meeting of the Nordic network for Barnahus research in 2014. The network was established on the initiative of Norwegian Social Research (NOVA) with the aim of stimulating research and scholarly discussions on the Nordic Barnahus model. This book is a first contribution to that end.

The book aims to define and contribute to the evolving research field that has developed in parallel with the implementation of the Nordic Barnahus model. As reflected by the contributions in the book, this is an interdisciplinary research field, spanning disciplines such as law, criminology, sociology, political science, socio-legal studies, social work, psychology and medicine. It also encompasses different methodologies. The book gathers contributions from all Nordic countries and offers an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to different dimensions of the Barnahus model. It also combines a critical research perspective with a more practice- and policy-related approach, as well as combining in-depth chapters from the different Nordic countries and an overarching comparative analysis.

The network and book project have received support from various agencies that we wish to thank here: The Norwegian Ministry of

Justice and Public Security provided a grant for the first two meetings, Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden (Stiftelsen Allmänna Barnhuset) invited us to Sättra Bruk for a two-day seminar, Stockholm's Barnahus hosted a half-day seminar and the Research Council of Norway provided funding for the book to be published open access.

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Our hope is that this book will stimulate further research and discussion of the Nordic Barnahus model and inter-related research areas. We also hope that it can work as a resource for professionals involved in

Barnahus work, for students who want to learn more about Barnahus and for stakeholders and governments who are looking to improve collaborative work against child abuse—within the Nordic context and beyond.

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Oslo, Norway  
Oslo, Norway  
Stockholm, Sweden  
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Susanna Johansson  
Kari Stefansen  
Elisiv Bakketeig  
Anna Kaldal

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Johansson, S.; Stefansen, K.; Bakketeig, E.; Kaldal, A.

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