



November 12, 2018

I have recently learned that the Norwegian Government is currently considering a proposal from the Ministry of Health to incorporate the Norwegian Center on Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS) into the Public Health Institute (FHI). As a result, Norway will no longer have an independent research institution that is only focusing on violence and traumatic stress studies.

Given this worrisome news, I am writing to express my support for the NKVTS and the fine work that they do– not only for Norway– but for the entire global community that is working to combat violence and prevent traumatic stress worldwide.

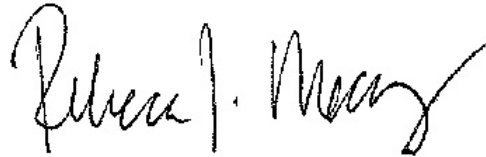
Prior to establishing NKVTS in 2004, few studies on violence and traumatic stress were conducted in Norway. During the last 14 years, NKVTS has succeeded in establishing a research community with high research standards, an interdisciplinary approach, and international recognition. Studies on child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, rape, disaster and terror attacks have provided Norway and the international community with crucial knowledge to implement adequate measures and enhance the level of care in child protection, children's crisis centers, and health services.

As the Editor-in-Chief for the *Journal of Family Violence*, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Dr. Carolina Øverlien and other members of NKVTS on special journal issues and other projects. Based on these collaborations, I can personally state that the NKVTS is producing high quality research and that they are making a positive impact both within and outside of Norway.

It takes time and efforts to develop successful research institutions such as NKVTS. There is obviously a need for continuous efforts in meeting the challenges on violence and traumatic stress, and the focus on this work may be hampered if NKVTS is incorporated into a large, broad based institute.

For all these reasons, I respectfully ask you to reconsider the current plans and proposal, and to take the actions needed to make sure NKVTS can continue to develop and provide the Norwegian and global societies with interdisciplinary research based knowledge on violence and traumatic stress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca J. Macy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

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