



SONS of NORWAY



Aug. 2022

Walworth County, WI

Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

Our 25th anniversary celebration is well in hand. July 30th, the Hendersons, the Oignes and I manned a tent at the Truck and Schuck day in Elkhorn. The Elkhorn Chamber said they were expecting 3,000 attendees, and I think that is about what we had. We had 300 handouts made and ran out by 2:30. So Brian went home and made 300 more, and we gave out about another 200 handouts. If only 10% show up at our open house, there will be 45 more people.

Our line up is looking good. People are excited to come and made their presentations. I've been in contact with the local publishing company and they want to talk to me after the 1st of Aug. Look for an article and advertising in your local paper.

At our next meeting, we need to discuss the next activity that will keep people interested. I feel our next project should be a baking workshop. We had talked about this before Covid, and I think we should pick it up again. I've had some feedback from Mandt and Venelog Lodges and we will talk about it at the next meeting, so be prepared.

We could use some assistance at the Open House August 20th. Let me know if you will be there, and we'd really appreciate it if you could make it to our next meeting at the **Advia Credit Union in Elkhorn: Aug. 9th at 6 PM**. We will again have a potluck and meeting. I will try to have the last half of the movie we watched in June.

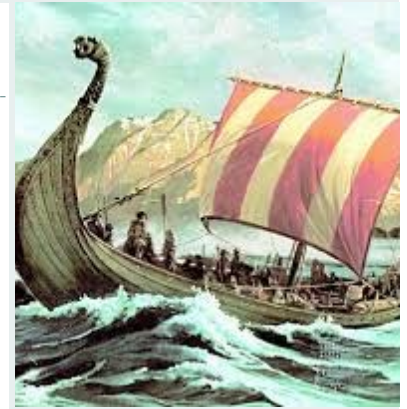
Test Your Syttende Mai Knowledge

By Sofia Haan

May 17 (*Syttende Mai*) is Norway's national day. The day marks the signing of the Norwegian Constitution in 1814, making Norway an independent country. As you prepare for the holiday, check out the [May issue of Viking magazine](#) to test your knowledge with our fun and festive quiz. Here are some bonus questions.

- The Syttende Mai children's parade (*barnetog*) has always allowed both boys and girls to participate.
 - True
 - False
- It's common to wear a Norwegian folk costume (*bunad*) to Syttende Mai celebrations. What is the primary function of a person's *bunad*?
 - To look nice
 - To pay homage to your hometown
 - To show the world you are Norwegian
 - There's no real purpose to the *bunad*
- For over 140 years, participants in the Syttende Mai children's parade have sung the national anthem, "Ja, vi elsker dette landet," as they walk. What does this translate to in English?
 - "Yes, we are a nation"
 - "Yeah, today is a celebration"
 - "Yes, we love this country"
 - "Yes, see our beautiful land"
- There were several years in the 1820s where the King banned the celebration of Syttende Mai. What was the name of the king who briefly prohibited the holiday?
 - King Karl Johan
 - King Harald Halfdansson
 - King Harald Haakon
 - King Olav Tryggvason
- Food and drink are at the heart of Syttende Mai, and Norwegians often raise a cocktail made with aquavit in celebration. Aquavit is a signature Scandinavian spice-infused spirit distilled from what produce?
 - Barley and wheat
 - Cane sugar and fruit
 - Rye and corn
 - Potatoes and grains

Check your answers on page 4



Gratulerer med dagen

August Birthdays

Marguerite Hendrixson 5th
Olav L Bradley 10th

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CALENDAR

Next meeting:

Aug. 9th

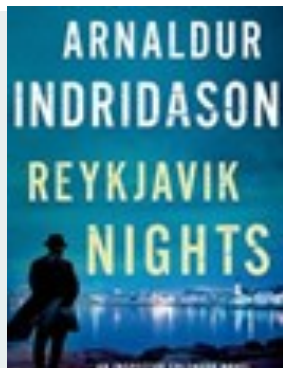
Advia Credit Union

837 N Wisconsin St,

Elkhorn, WI 53121

PotLuck Dinner

Meeting topic: 25th Anniversary Open House



REYKJAVIK NIGHTS

By Arnaldur Indridason

Haunted by the inexplicable death of a vagabond he befriended, a young Icelandic cop vows to learn the truth.

Decades before the events of the Inspector Erlendur novels (*Strange Shores*, 2014, etc.), Erlendur Sveinsson serves on patrol with Gardar and Marteinn, law students working for the police over the summer. Answering a domestic violence call, the young detective is reminded of an unsolved case from a year ago in which a homeless man named Hannibal drowned not far away. It may have been an accident, but Erlendur's instincts tell him otherwise. Maybe it's just because he took a liking to Hannibal. Flashbacks depict their budding friendship as Erlendur methodically investigates on his own time. He questions some of Hannibal's homeless mates and tracks down his sister, a possible lover and a pair of brothers who lived next door to him as a child and may have brutalized him. The deeper he probes, the more secrets he uncovers and the more he suspects foul play. Hannibal's is the most involving, but far from the only, case that the ambitious Erlendur is tackling. He makes a habit of trawling through police archives to study missing persons cases from the past and present. He's particularly intrigued by the disappearance of a young woman named Oddny from nearby Thorskafti that he thinks just might be connected to Hannibal's death.

Indridason's prequel unfolds with the same precision, economically depicted characters and authenticity as his Inspector Erlendur novels, but a livelier energy replaces the middle-aged Erlendur's noir melancholy.

There are 11 books in this series and this novel is available in the WI Library System in all media formats, including large print.

25 Very Best Places to Visit in Norway

January 4, 2022 by [David Nikel](#)

Planning a trip to Norway but have no idea where to start? Then this is the picture-packed article for you.

Like many people, I'm sure you're crossing your fingers that a trip to Norway in 2022 (or 2023) will be possible. For those living in Norway, the opportunity to see more of the country we call home is one that shouldn't be missed.



The Lofoten islands of northern Norway are a popular place to visit.

But in a country with so much natural beauty and history to explore, where do you even begin? We've done our best to build a "bucket list" of 25 places that we consider to be must-sees in Norway. This isn't intended to be a definitive list, and there will be many places well worth seeing that haven't made our list. It's intended to provide some inspiration to help you plan your future travels.

Places to see in Northern Norway

The [north of Norway](#) is remarkably different from the rest of the country in so many ways. It always surprises me how many Norwegians have never set foot north of the arctic circle, when there is so much to see and do. Here's just a handful of ideas.

1. Henningsvær

Regular readers will know I consider the [Lofoten islands](#) to be one of the must-visit places on earth, let alone Norway. This Lofoten fishing village, spread over several islands at the foot of a mountain wall, is one of the best spots.

The handful of arts and crafts businesses, including a



Henningsvær, Norway KAYAK



Reine in Lofoten,
Photo by Maciej Markiewicz

couple of art galleries, give an interesting reason to visit [Henningsvær](#) besides the landscape. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy everything from rock climbing to snorkeling.

There are a few places to stay in the village, but it's just as easy to visit Henningsvær as a day trip from nearby Svolvær. A car is recommended, as it is all over Lofoten, to make the most of the trip.

2. REINE

Another Lofoten favorite, [Reine](#) is famous as the location for one of the most famous photographs in all of Norway. The cluster of buildings making up the village with the imposing mountain backdrop is just as impressive in real life.

There are several ways to reach Reine, all of which are impressive in different ways. The Lofoten road trip along the E10 from Svolvær is simply unforgettable, while others opt for the ferry from [Bodø to Moskenes](#). This gives a unique perspective on the imposing mountains of Lofoten.

Finally, you can fly from Bodø to Leknes, and drive a rental car from there. Flying at relatively low altitude around Lofoten gives yet another different perspective of this truly special place.

3. Trollfjord

Hidden away in the far north between Lofoten and Vesterålen is the narrow [Trollfjord](#). This spectacular fjord is full of natural beauty and home to diverse birdlife, including white-tailed eagles.

Only accessible by boat, the Trollfjord typically welcomes visitors on the Hurtigruten coastal voyage and day-trippers from Svolvær. These trips often focus on birdlife and sealife. Whales, porpoises,



Tromsø seen from Fjellheisen cable car

basking sharks and seals are among the species to be found in nearby waters. The fjord also has a fascinating history. Way back in 1890, the fjord was the scene of conflict between industrial steamboats and local fishermen over local fishing rights. The conflict was immortalized in the painting *The Battle at Trollfjord* by Norwegian artist Gunnar Berg, one of the most recognizable works of art from northern Norway.

4. Tromsø from Fjellheisen cable car

There's plenty to see in Tromsø, the biggest city in northern Norway. But the number one must-do is to the [Fjellheisen cable car](#) up to the Storsteinen mountain ledge.

From 1,381 feet above sea level, you get a stunning view of the town, summer or winter. In the summer, the area is perfect for hiking. In the winter, you'll probably prefer to take advantage of the cozy cafe and restaurant!

The more energetic may prefer to hike up to Storsteinen. This has been made easier since the recent construction of the sherpa stone staircase. Just be aware there are 1,300 steps!

5. Norway's North Cape

Unlike many places on this list, I'm not including Nordkapp for spectacular scenery. The view from the clifftop is simply open ocean, and often cloudy. It's more to simply say, "I was there."

Nordkapp

While it isn't technically [Norway's northernmost point](#), there's a visitor center and the iconic globe sculpture to entertain visitors and provide photo opportunities. The drive there is also a memorable one.

6. Svalbard

A trip to the northernmost place on earth you can travel to on a commercial aircraft is on many people's bucket lists. These remote Arctic islands are Norwegian territory and are a tourist draw for adventurers, wildlife lovers and the simply curious.

Whether it's exploring the Russian settlements or taking in the spectacular scenery, there's plenty to see and do on [Svalbard](#). The Governor of Svalbard requires anyone travelling outside the settlements to carry a gun, in case of polar bear attack.



A Hurtigruten vessel enters the Trollfjord.



Svalbard, Where bears outnumber people. Norwegian Culture Blog

Editors Note: This is a five-part story which I will continue in the next issues covering Western, Southern, Central, and other special places in Norway.

Finnish Customs and Traditions

By [Marlene Robinson](#)



Finland has its share of amusing customs and traditions too – and some of these will indeed manage to stun you! We've come up with a collection of these customs and traditions that are sure to help you taste the pie of the vibrant Finnish culture. And we I bet you didn't know these earlier for sure!

Eukonkanto:

This is a favorite sport in Finland, where the men have to cross quite a lot of obstacles. Whoever reaches first is declared the winner.

Now, this seems easy, right? How about crossing the same obstacles while carrying your wife on your back?! Well, that's what the fun factor about Eukonkanto is! And moreover, this entertaining event has been taking place in Finland since the 19th century! Way to go, Finns!

Finnish knowledge:

Finns are very proud of their country, the fact that their Finns and also about the various **achievements** that the country has achieved from time to time. While they don't really expect you to know much about their country, they will be overwhelmed if you know some of their history and recent achievements too. SO do brush up a little bit before you step into Finland – get that first impression bang on!

Finns and their forest love:

Most of the customs and traditions in Finland are derived from nature and forests. And the Finns love nature so much that they are just on a lookout for a chance to escape the hectic city life and wander away into the forests! So on weekends, holidays or any other free time, you will surely find the Finns heading towards the cottages which are tucked away into the serenity of the forests!

Wood everywhere:

As mentioned above, the Finnish are very close to nature, and this is one reason why they love using wood as much as possible in their homes. So much so, Finnish saunas are entirely made up with wood. These wooden saunas have been carried down since ages together, and the Finnish still go about with their sauna routines just like their ancestors would have!

New Years Eve:

New Year's Eve is celebrated with great pomp in Finland. There's one particular tradition which the Finns follow on this day – they melt bits of horse-shoe shaped tin pieces and then throw them into cold water. The resulting shape is then interpreted as a sign of good luck in the year to come!



Matpakke This simple, healthy wrap is a take on the traditional Norwegian *matpakke*. Matpakke is a lunch you take to school or work and most commonly includes an open-faced sandwich wrapped in parchment paper. This wrap is a great option for children to make as they head back to school or a tasty snack for a fall hike.



Ingredients:

1 whole grain tortilla
125 g cream cheese
3 full-sized carrots
1/2 a cucumber

Preparation:

Cut the carrots and cucumbers into long strips.
Spread the cream cheese over half of the tortilla (this will make it easier to roll up)
Spread the carrot and cucumber over the cheese and roll together.
Roll into parchment paper and divide into three.

Norway's government ends oil and gas strike A DW Publication July 5, 2022

The Norwegian government has intervened to halt a strike by oil and gas workers. The move came amid concerns that the strike could have worsened Europe's energy crisis, which is already aggravated by the war in Ukraine.

Norway's government imposed a forced settlement in a dispute between striking [offshore oil and gas workers](#) and energy executives on Tuesday. The move has put a stop to the strike, also easing fears that further strikes could have significantly reduced the Scandinavian country's gas output and lead to shortages in Europe.

What is the latest?

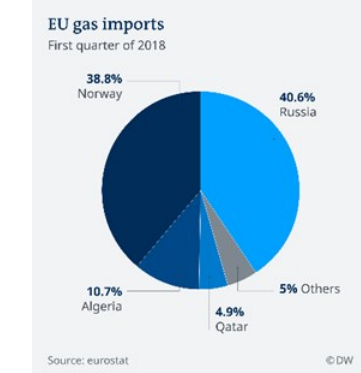
The Norwegian Labor Ministry moved to step in on Tuesday evening to halt the dispute, Norwegian broadcaster NRK reported. The country's government can [step in and stop strikes](#) in extraordinary circumstances. Audun Ingvartsen, the leader of the Lederne trade union told Reuters that the strike had ended. "Workers are going back to work as soon as possible," he told the news agency. Members of Lederne had demanded wage raises commensurate with rising inflation.

Equinor, Norway's [largest gas producer](#) and the second largest in Europe, initiated a safe shutdown of three oil fields due to the strike, the operator confirmed on Tuesday.

Another 117 employees were set to go on strike in three other oil fields on Wednesday if labor negotiations had not started.



Equinor is responsible for around 70% of gas production in Norway



A reduction in oil and gas flows from Norway could intensify the global gas shortage.

Concerns about energy cuts

The Norwegian Oil and Gas Association said earlier that an extension of the strike from Saturday could affect almost 60% of gas exports. From Wednesday, the strike would result in a loss of oil production of 130,000 barrels per day and a loss of gas exports of 292,000 barrels of oil equivalent a day, the organization said. Union leader Ingvartsen had said that he hoped talks with company leaders would resume soon, adding that the escalation was not designed to pressure the government to intervene and impose a settlement.

How important is oil and gas from Norway?

Norwegian oil and gas supplies have become more crucial than ever amid Russia's [ongoing war in Ukraine](#). The EU obtained as much as 40% of its gas from Russia prior to the war. Global boycotts by EU nations of gas supplies from Moscow have led to gaps in the global gas market. Russia also reduced gas deliveries via Nord Stream 1 to around 60% in recent weeks, citing a technical problem as the cause of the reduction.

Fears of increasing supply shortages drove gas prices in Europe to a four-month high on Tuesday. This price increase could have a resounding effect on inflation, as well as the value of the [euro, which sank to a two-decade low versus the dollar](#) following a surge in natural gas prices.

Answers: 1. False. When the first children's parades began in Oslo in 1869, only boys were allowed to participate. It wasn't until 1899 that girls were allowed to join in the parade festivities.

2. B. While it's true that the bunad is a symbol of Norwegian pride and heritage, bunad designs vary massively between regions. It's customary to wear an outfit from an area to which you have a genetic or residential connection because a bunad's designs and the colors should be a representation of your hometown or family's region of Norway.

3. C. The National anthem (*nasjonalsangen*) is officially called *Ja, vi elsker dette landet*, but is often referred to simply as *Ja vi elsker*. The song has long been a Norwegian anthem of nationalism and protest and was performed in public for the first time on the 50th anniversary of Syttende Mai in 1864. Despite this history and deep connection to the country, the song wasn't adopted as the official national anthem until December 2019.

4. A. At the time, Norway was in a union with Sweden and King Karl Johan was hesitant to allow celebrations. His banning of the holiday sparked public anger and even led to the Battle of the Square in 1829, where Norwegian demonstrators fought against forces from the United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway. Eventually, King Charles XIV John lifted the ban on Syttende Mai celebrations, and the holiday became what it is today by 1864.

5. D. A drink similar to vodka or gin, aquavit is a distilled spirit that comes almost exclusively from Scandinavian countries. To be designated as "Norwegian aquavit," the drink must be made with potato spirits distilled in Norway from a minimum 95% Norwegian potatoes, aged in oak barrels for at least six months and must contain caraway or dill seeds. The drink is intended to be shared with others as a social activity and cultural celebration so be sure to say "*skål*" (cheers) before drinking!

SAS and Pilots' Unions Reach Agreement, Ending Strike

Johannes LEDEL

July 18, 2022



Scandinavian airline SAS and the unions representing their pilots said Tuesday that they had reached an agreement, ending a two-week strike that has cost the ailing airline between \$9 and \$12 million a day. The agreement ending the strike after 15 days was confirmed by both the company and the unions after a negotiation session ran through Monday and into the early hours of Tuesday.

"I am pleased to report that we now have come to an agreement with all four pilot unions for SAS Scandinavia and the strike has ended," chief executive Anko van der Werff said in a statement. "Finally, we can resume normal operations and fly our customers on their much longed-for summer holidays. I deeply regret that so many of our passengers have been impacted by this strike," he added.

A new agreement, covering the next five and half years, means that "flights operated by SAS Scandinavia will resume according to their regular traffic program as soon as possible," the company said.

"SAS pilots have taken responsibility to sign a new agreement with SAS and the strike will cease," the Swedish Air Line Pilots Association (SPF) said in a separate statement, adding that it had been "an extraordinary and very demanding negotiation."

Pilots have been striking since July 4, when nearly 1,000 of them walked off the job after talks broke down. They were protesting against salary cuts demanded by management as part of a restructuring plan aimed at ensuring the survival of the company, and the firm's decision not to re-hire pilots laid off during the Covid-19 pandemic. Under the new deal, 450 pilots will be re-hired.

One day after the strike began SAS announced it was filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the United States, and last week van der Werff warned that the prolonged strike was putting the Chapter 11 process in jeopardy and, "ultimately, the survival of the company at stake."

When the stoppage was in its tenth day, SAS said it had already cost roughly 1 to 1.3 billion Swedish kronor (\$94 million to \$123 million), with more than 2,500 flights cancelled. The CEO also said the strike also had "a severe impact on our possibilities to succeed with SAS Forward," the cost-saving program launched by the ailing company in February. While the airline said it could meet its obligations in the near term it warned cash reserves "will erode very quickly in the face of a continuing pilot strike."

SAS, which employs nearly 7,000 people, mainly in Denmark, Norway and Sweden, is also seeking to raise about 9.5 billion kronor in fresh capital. "We now get on with the important work of progressing our transformation plan SAS FORWARD and building a strong and competitive SAS for generations to come," van der Werff said Tuesday.

The summer is shaping up to be difficult overall for European airlines and airports, who are faced with staff shortages that are affecting air traffic. After widespread job losses linked to Covid-19, airlines and airports are struggling to recruit new staff in many countries.

Gro Harlem Brundtland: Three-Time Prime Minister of Norway

July 15, 2022 by [Daniel Albert](#)

Known by some as the mother of the nation, Gro Harlem Brundtland took the role of Prime Minister three times during her long political career. Here is her story.

The first woman to become prime minister of Norway, champion of health and human rights, “mother of sustainable development”: Gro Harlem Brundtland can be described in many ways. Norwegian politicians of all colors will agree that she left her mark on the country.



Gro Harlem Brundtland speaking in Portugal in 2014. Photo: Luiz Munhoz.

Join us as we examine the life and legacy of one of Norway's [most famous politicians](#). How she got into power, how she changed her party and the country, and how she continued her career in international diplomacy after she stepped down as prime minister.

Her early life

It would not be wrong to say that Gro Harlem Brundtland was born into politics. Her mother, Inga Harlem, worked at the [Labour party \(Ap\)](#) parliamentary group's secretariat. Her father, Gudmund Harlem, was a government minister. Both her parents were active members of the Norwegian resistance during the German occupation of Norway [in World War II](#).

Gro Harlem, as she was called until she got married, was involved in youth political organizations in school and university, but largely left active politics after she graduated in medicine in 1963. As a doctor, the only political issue she got involved in was the struggle to let women themselves decide if they should get an abortion.

The fact that she mostly kept out of politics turned out to be a great asset, as it became increasingly clear towards the end of the 1970s that the Labor party needed radical change. The party was losing steam after largely dominating Norwegian politics for three decades, and was paralyzed by internal power struggles and a lack of will from the leadership to modernize.

The road to power

When Prime Minister Trygve Bratteli asked Brundtland to become his Minister of Environment in 1974, many were surprised – including Brundtland herself. Her work evidently impressed party colleagues since she was elevated deputy leader of Labor the very next year. After five years as Environment minister, it was clear to the party leadership that she had what it took to become a future leader. A cabinet reshuffle in 1979 saw her sent back to the Storting (Norwegian parliament), to what was called “prime minister school.”

She sat on the Finance Committee for a year, then on the Foreign Affairs Committee. The plan was for her to be on that committee until the election in 1981. However, Prime Minister Odvar Nordli was weakened by both political issues and health problems and was forced to resign in February of 1981.

Brundtland's first term as prime minister

Few within the party at the time saw Brundtland as ripe for the job of Prime Minister. Many saw Rolf Hansen, a government minister, as a more suitable candidate. The man himself refused, however, and pointed instead to Brundtland. So it was that on the 4th of February 1981, Gro Harlem Brundtland became not only the first woman to occupy the post of Prime Minister of Norway, but also the youngest person ever to be in the job – that record was later broken by Jens Stoltenberg.

Brundtland's first term as prime minister lasted only until the 1981 parliamentary elections. Labor fell sharply and Conservative Kåre Willoch was declared the winner.

For Brundtland, this marked the beginning of a five-year long period as leader of the opposition. During the following years, she would participate in many debates with the prime minister, leading to the coining of the expression “Gro and Kåre” to refer to the two arch-rivals.

Another election in 1985 resulted in Labor remaining in opposition, despite winning more seats than the previous time. Kåre Willoch's second term was a weaker one though, as his government depended on the support of the far-right Progress Party.



Gro Harlem Brundtland as Environment minister. Photo: Kraftmuseet – Norsk vasskraft- og industristadmuseum.

This lasted only a year and a half and the government lost the support of parliament, paving the way for Brundtland's second term as prime minister.

BRUNDTLAND'S SECOND TERM

Gro Harlem Brundtland started her second term as prime minister by forming a government comprising the highest proportion of women ever: 8 out of 18 ministers. Women had been represented in all Norwegian governments in the post-war period, but this was a new high mark, in effect doubling the previous record.

There was moderate grumbling, due to certain experienced male candidates being overlooked in favor of less experienced female ones, but Brundtland's leadership was well-established and the measure was generally very well received. This precedent she created is in fact a very real legacy of hers. All Norwegian cabinets have had over 40% representation of women ever since – with the exception of a single one, paradoxically a Brundtland cabinet, in place for just over three months and slightly under the 40% mark.

A difficult time

Brundtland was instrumental in bringing the country further in transitioning away from a planned economy and towards a more market-driven economy. But the country was plagued by deep economic problems during her tenure. This was partly due to a drop in oil prices which resulted in low investments in the oil sector. To make matters worse, the interest rates were high. The government brought down the value of the kroner by 12%, among other austerity measures. As a result of this, unemployment increased. Voters ousted the Labour government at the 1989 parliamentary elections, in favor of Jan P. Syse's Conservatives.

Brundtland's third term

Syse's government did not survive long. It was in place just a little over a year, marred in disagreement about the controversial [EEA negotiations](#) that were taking place at the time. Once again, the Conservative government fell and Labor was asked to take over in November of 1990. After the shock of her son's suicide in 1992, she resigned as the leader of the Labor party, but stayed in place as a prime minister.

The topic dominating political debates at the time was whether or not Norway should join the European Union. Brundtland's party advanced at the 1993 elections – her very first electoral victory as a prime minister – with a platform backing Norway's membership. The question was to be decided at a referendum in 1994. Brundtland and her government decided to strategically hold the referendum after Finland's (in October) and Sweden's (earlier in November), in the hopes that a "Yes" victory in those countries would sway undecided Norwegians. The plan did not work. Despite both the Finns and the Swedes voting to join, Norwegians voted "No" in a proportion of 52.2%.

Brundtland stayed in post until the autumn of 1996, when she handed the reins over to Thorbjørn Jagland.

International positions

Brundtland led the World Commission on Environment and Development from 1983 to 1987. The Commission's main message was for world leaders to support the principle that economic growth and social development should not destroy future generations' opportunities. The commission was a main driver for the concept of "sustainable development," which leads many to view her as the "mother of sustainable development."

As a medical doctor and experienced politician, Brundtland was a prime candidate to become head of the World Health Organization after she stepped down as prime minister. She was appointed director general of the Organization in 1998. Together with her chief of staff Jonas Gahr Støre (who would later also go on to become prime minister), she carried out an internal reform of the WHO. Policy wise, she gave a stronger focus to the prevention of health problems through limiting alcohol and tobacco use.

Later on, she occupied various prestigious international posts. She was a board member of the [UN Foundation](#), and member of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, directly appointed by the UN's Secretary General.



Gro Harlem Brundtland. Photo: APB Speakers.

Editor's note from Wikipedia: Brundtland narrowly escaped [assassination](#) by [Anders Behring Breivik](#) on [22 July 2011](#). She had been on the island of [Utøya](#) hours before the [massacre there](#) to give a speech to the [AUF](#) camp; Breivik stated that he originally intended Brundtland to be the main target of the attack (along with [Eskil Pedersen](#) and [Jonas Gahr Støre](#)), but he had been delayed while travelling from Oslo. Breivik arrived on Utøya about two hours after Brundtland had left.