**- A QUALITATIVE STUDY ON LEGITIMATION OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE.**

## Violence and abuse in Sámi communities

This is a 3-year project (2020-2022) initiated by SANKS and funded by Helse Nord and SANKS R&D fund, with participating researchers in SANKS and from RVTS-Nord, experience consultant and user representative at SANKS. The research group consists of social scientists, and both theoretical perspectives and the choice of method reflect this. Violence, value and culture are key concepts, seen from a discourse and power perspective. For parts of the upcoming dissemination part, the project has associated itself with an artist.

The project theme has direct relevance for improving the health services for the Sámi population. The results from the project will be disseminated in SANKS and RVTS Nord's ordinary teaching offer, because the connection between research and development of better treatment offers is a necessary and important perspective.

Violence and abuse are global public health problems, and particularly high numbers of these are found in some indigenous communities, such as the Sámi (SAMINOR 2 survey). These continuous problems have serious negative consequences for Sámi communities as a whole and for individuals' somatic and mental health. Legitimation can be one of several underlying reasons why violence and abuse occur in a society without sanctions being implemented. The pronounced and unspoken deep structural mechanisms for legitimizing violence and abuse are the project's main focus, and the main goal is to produce new knowledge about values and attitudes related to legitimizing violence and abuse in Sámi communities. It is important to find reasons, if any, for why there may be violence and abuse in Sámi communities. The project's overall research question is to investigate and understand how, and in what way, cultural values and attitudes can lead to the legitimation of violence and abuse in Sámi communities.

The project is divided into three work packages (WP) / subprojects

WP 1    Possible challenges in talking openly about violence and abuse in Sámi communities - What functions, meanings and consequences do such challenges possibly have?

WP 2    What are the social and societal differences between rural and urban Sámi settlements / local communities that may have consequences for the legitimation of violence and abuse.

WP 3    In what ways do municipalities in the administrative area of the Sámi Language Act take responsibility for developing and implementing locally adapted action plans against violence and abuse?