



# Naja-Theresia Høeghs tale ved EU-Arctic Forum

**Taler**

Naja-Theresia Høegh  
Studerende og medlem af  
bestyrelsen for Avalak

**Dato**

8. februar 2023

**Sted**

Nuuk, Grønland

## 1 International Cooperation in the Arctic: Moving forward

*Siullermik qujarusuppunga european commissionimut, inuussuttunik  
oqalleqataasussanik qaaqqusisimammata.*

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First of all, I would like to thank the European Commission, for inviting youths to participate in these discussions.

My name is Naja-Theresia Høegh, I am a 22 year old law student at the  
10 university of Copenhagen. I come from Qaqortoq, situated in Southern  
Greenland. I am a board member of an organisation called Avalak for  
Greenlandic students studying in Copenhagen, Denmark. I am also a part of  
OCT-YN, Overseas Countries and Territories Youth Network, representing  
Greenlandic youths with Niini Malu Hansen.

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I'm here to discuss the youth perspectives in regards to International  
Cooperations in the Arctic.

We can all agree that International Cooperation is more important than ever,  
especially in these uncertain times.

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In over all, Greenlandic inuit have never been afraid of connecting with other  
cultures. You would perhaps think that colonization would have resulted in our  
isolation from other nations. On the contrary, common history and common  
values continue to connect us.

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Our fore-fathers and fore-mothers have welcomed travellers, and have traded  
with them. And it hasn't changed. Today our government is welcoming  
international relations. And I assume, that my generation, which has had the  
possibility to connect with youths all over the world, with the use of social

media and the internet, isn't going to step down.

To mention a few of Greenlandic youths involved in international relations, I can mention:

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Linda Lyberth Kristiansen, who attended the Indigenous Youth Leadership Workshop 2023, and she is also here in this room with us today.

Iluuna Inga-Louise Sørensen, who is an "Arctic-Angel" for the Youth-Led organisation ArcticAngel.

40 Amalie Bourup, representing Greenland in the Nordic Youth Council. The reason why I am pointing this out, is to say that when opportunities arise, young Inuit will take them. And it won't stop there, because the youth want to be included. We would like to be invited to the table. Just like how our  
45 Greenlandic government says "Nothing about us, without us" in regards to being included in discussions about the Arctic, the youths have the same motto. "Nothing about us, without us", in regards to discussions surrounding the youths. Proactive involvement strengthens Indigenous values and culture. Proactive involvement ensures that youth become contributing members of our  
50 community, who are able to create sustainable solutions fit for the youth.

In regards to that, while I have this platform, it is important for me to point out the mental health crisis our youth are *and* have been experiencing. Greenland  
55 has one of the highest suicide rates in the world. It is a statistic I wish I did not have to share with you today. But when we are discussing youth perspectives, we need to give platforms for youths to express their concerns.

I have been in dialog with PhD student Ivalu Katajavaara Seidler, who is  
60 researching about the Greenlandic public health. I was made aware that 1 in 10 deaths since 1970 to 2018, has been caused by suicide.

Suicide was almost unknown to Greenlandic Inuit, until between the 1950's and 1960's, when the danification of the Inuit started. I am pointing this out,  
65 because we need to re-establish our values, as the current values are not fit for our indigenous youth.

Mental health is just one of the many topics youths want to be included in.

70 Through International Cooperation and involvement of the youths, the  
generation will have deeper roots in relation with other countries and nations.  
Afterall, it is the youth who will Greenland in the future.

Cooperation with communities like ours, can initiate problem solving.  
75 Indigenous groups share many of the same issues like other indigenous because  
of our common background. By sharing knowledge between Indigenous  
communities, youths will be given tools to create initiatives themselves.

Once again, thank you for giving youths a platform. And remember, nothing  
80 about us without us.

*Qujanaq* - Thank you

85 **Kilde**  
Manuskript tilsendt af taler

**Kildetype**  
Digitalt manuskript

90 **Tags**  
Politisk tale

**Relateret**  
Lars Løkkes tale ved EU-Artic Forum  
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95 **URI**  
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