

Abloom - Major projects 2018-2021



ABOUT ABLOOM

Abloom is a Norwegian advocacy NGO raising awareness about and creating meaningful and empowering activities for:

Ethnic minorities living with disability in Oslo and Norway in general - especially children and youngsters and their families. Refugees and asylum seekers in Norway living with disability.

Disabilities are not a punishment from God

Project: Abloom breaks down taboos. Joint Declaration from different religious groups, 2018-2021

Before I became a mother to a child with a disability, I had no knowledge about this topic. Today I am a very knowledgeable lady. I do not see my son's disability as a punishment from God, but as a real blessing, says Faridah Nabaggala. Faridah is a pragmatic and passionate woman who has devoted her career and life to breaking down taboos and helping all disabled children - and their families.

Faridah S. Nabaggala

Background

Since the start of the organization, Abloom has observed that taboos, delusions and superstitious theories affect people with disabilities. Especially in some minority environments there may be strong perceptions that disabilities are a punishment from God / gods. The cultural and religious background of these environments and individuals propagates to new generations. Abloom takes no position in theological questions, but we fight for the everyday life and future of the disabled.

Objective of the project

The main objective of the project is to change attitudes and behavior in minority environments that perceive disability as a punishment from God / gods. The idea is that a change in attitude / behavior will give minority families with disabled children a better chance of reaching their full potential - where they do not have to fight against prejudice and negative attitudes.

Target group

The primary target groups are those we want to influence: Minority communities and their attitudes towards the disabled. We are especially thinking about environments where there is strong stigma associated with having a child with a disability for various socio-economic and cultural-religious reasons.

The target group (s) for the project are churches and religious groups in Norway, and we have a special focus on leaders and resourceful people in religious communities. But our core target group are the families and individuals living with disabilities and the various stigmas connected to it.

Funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Culture.

Important events

August 2018- desember 2018:

Draw up a proposal for a cooperation agreement

Contacts and meeting with faith communities

Movie - Appeals

First meeting with project partners

Quality assurance of project with theologian

Make suggestions for questionnaires - attitudes (2 versions / relatives and religious leaders)

Test Questionnaire (meeting/interviews with a test group November 2018)

Journalistic/communications work to promote the project (internal and external) in English and Norwegian.

Applications for project funding

Send out inquiry information to relatives

Present the project under AFF 2018

January 2019 - Networking

February 2019 - Workshop in Oslo with academic scholars and religious leaders (workshop administrator: Berit Berg, acclaimed scholar in this field - NTNU).

April 2019 - Signing Ceremony in Oslo with partners, Abloom network, volunteers, representatives from public and private entities, parents and others who may be interested in our project).

May 2019 - October 2019:

- Translations of the statement to several languages in cooperation with linguistic and religious partners.
- Marketing and communication.
- Dialogue with more religious groups.
- Traveling and giving speeches, signature campaigns.

November 2019:

- Abloom Film Festival 22.11.2019: Testing and evaluating the concept and declaration during the film festival.
- Communication and marketing
- Report and evaluation

January 2020 - October 2020

- Workshop/Seminar regarding the translations of the declaration to different languages.
- Securing valid and correct translations we and they (the religious communities) can actively preach about and distribute in their own congregations (written and other forms of communication).
- Networking
- Communication and marketing
- Produce videos about the declaration: video/audio campaign where the declaration is performed in different languages.
- Traveling - seminars and speeches in other regions in Norway.

November 2020:

- Abloom Film festival 19.11. 2020.

- We will continue our marketing, evaluation and awareness activities before, during and after the film festival.
- Report and evaluation

January 2021 - October 2021:

- Planning a major cultural event (during Abloom Film festival 2021 - Abloom 10 year anniversary)
- The festival's topic in November is "Not a punishment - but a blessing!" and everything we have done in this project will conclude with the major event in November.
- Invitations, marketing, communication, promoting the event to attract visitors from both Norway and other countries. We intend to contact embassies in Oslo to build good relations and dialogue with international partners.

November 2021

- Abloom Film festival 25 .11. 2021 - Abloom 10 year anniversary!
- The main theme for the conference during the festival is "Not a punishment - but a blessing!". We hope to attract international guests and media to cover both the event and produce more journalistic material about the topic.
- Evaluation and reports

What is unique about our project?

No other organizations in Norway are focused on breaking down religious and cultural taboos about disabilities and people living with disabilities. This project is therefore in a unique position and could have a great and positive effect on a target group that is rarely mentioned in the media.

Such a written declaration is innovative in itself.

We also believe that the multi-lingual and culturally sensitive approach Abloom has to this issue is noteworthy and brings something new to this field of work in Norway.

The declaration is a tool that will create dialogue and improve the lives of people living with disabilities.

Experiences lead to more knowledge and better attitudes

Abloom wants to increase the understanding and awareness of the daily life and challenges of people living with disabilities. Something we are actively exploring is the creation of an experience/adventure center with educational purposes.

To develop the idea and test the concept, we are planning a smaller project with three attractions for children and youngsters. We are working with companies like Minoko Design and EGGS Design to develop both ideas and solutions.

Abloom Film festival

HISTORY

Abloom Film festival was created in 2012 as Handy Film Festival, but we later switched its name to Abloom Film Festival. The very word 'abloom' means, obviously, in full bloom, which is supposed to reflect what the organization and its departments represent. Abloom was founded by Faridah S. Nabaggala, who herself is a mother of a child with disability.

The 2012 film festival included project short movies, a pilot film and a film by Dissimilis, among other things. But since the festival only lasted one day we could only screen one documentary film. We received lots of positive feedback for finally creating a film festival aimed at at with our target group. So we decided to really go for it - and expand the festival and organization every year! This took a lot of hard work, sweat and tears. But also lots of joy, new contacts, friends and wonderful people joined the cause. Each year the festival has a particular theme.

Growth and strength

Since then the festival and organization has grown a lot. Every year the audience is growing rapidly. The festival in November has a Children's day, kick-off event, Youngsters' day, Kindergarten day, Family day, a full-blown conference and much more. Growth everywhere!

And more and more people are joining in as members, volunteers, political contacts, allies and supports... Now we are truly proud to call ourselves a dynamic, energetic and effective organization.

National and international

This festival brings together Norwegian and international films and guests to discuss important issues related to disabilities. Abloom Film Festival is the organization's main yearly event. We screen movies from all over the world, and the main focus of the festival is to promote movies of amazing quality about disability, empowerment, role models, community and other essential topics.

We believe it is possible to discuss important issues related to living with - or life with children and young people with disabilities, in a way that is uplifting and creates a positive narrative. Abloom is an aggressive and passionate fighter against isolation and stigma. Everyone is welcome - everyone is invited.. Film is a medium that can reach everyone. Through film we tell stories where feelings and dreams are shared.

Our mission is to create awareness of equal rights and opportunities for all.