



HELSE FINNMARK
FINNMÁRKKU DEARVAŠVUOHTA

Sámi views on suicide and what to do about it



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Sámi Norwegian National Advisory Board on Mental Health
and Substance Abuse
Circumpolar Mental Wellness Symposium
Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada. 2015.03.25-27.

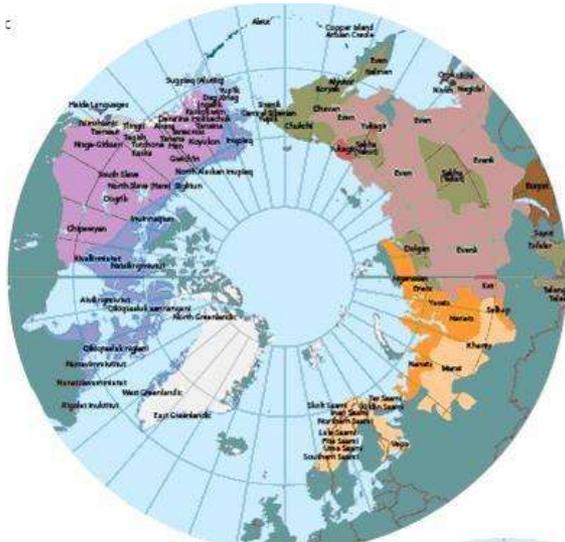
Sámi našuvnnalaš gealboguovddáš - psykalaš dearvasvuodasuddjen, SÁNAG.
Samisk nasjonalt kompetansesenter - psykisk helsevern, SANKS.

www.sanks.no

www.sanag.no

Sápmi (land of the Sámi)

Northern Scandinavia/Kola peninsula



The cultural meaning(s) of suicide among Sámi

☐ Suicide among Sámi is perceived by other Sámi to be:

- Affecting young reindeer herding men in particular
- Related to herders being forced to quit life as a herder, but instead choosing to quit life itself.
- something “understandable” as opposed to something “only *mad* people would do”

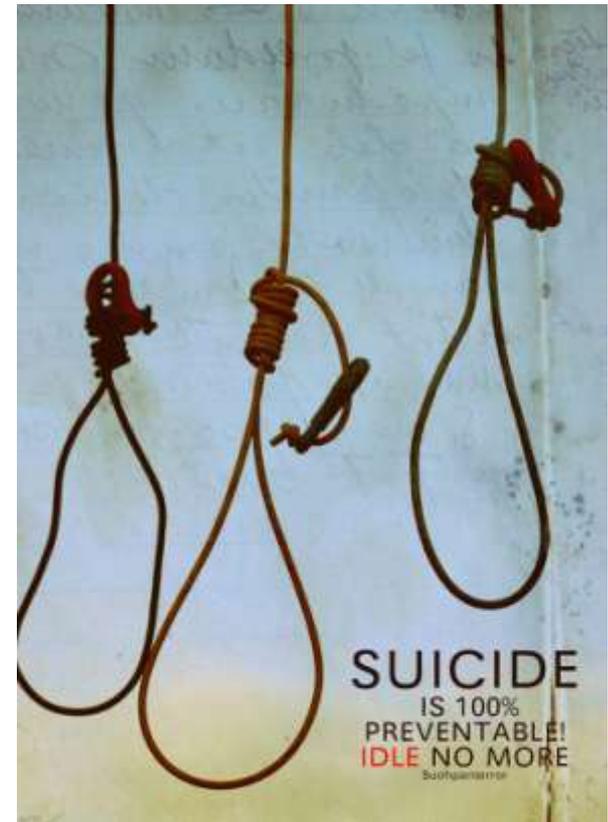
☐ Reindeer herding life is threatened by conflicts with majority society relating to, for example:

- predators on the land
- societal infrastructure (roads, railroads etc)
- Industry. For example: Mining activities, wind- and hydro power plants, forestry, tourism.

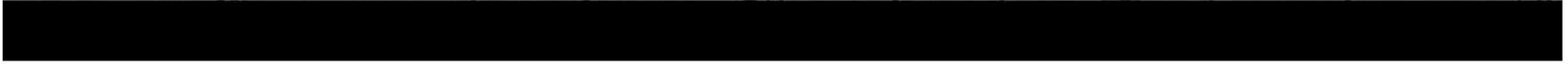


The cultural meaning(s) of suicide among Sámi

- ⚠ Conflict areas are very much related to political priorities
- ⚠ Sámi (in Sweden) lack political influence and power in regard to these processes
- ⚠ Consequently, suicide among Sámi is regarded as a political question. Sámi youth, organizations and rights activists wonder:
 - ⚠ ***if problems are political, why shouldn't answers be?***



Sofia Jannok – Áhpi (wide as oceans)



”Sáminess” in public

Last week, on the Norwegian reality show ”Paradise hotel”, a participant rated her fellow participants from ”top:



”Sáminess” in public

to ”bottom”:



Jon Henrik Fjällgren - Daniel's julk



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woEcdqqbEVg>

- 
- △ Enormous response and support from Sámi society
 - △ Embodying Sámi values through refusing to adapt to Swedish norms
 - △ Live as reindeer herder
 - △ Proud and strong, yet not trying to “show off”
 - △ Using the traditional joik as medium
 - △ Suppressing / expression emotions
 - △ A rolemodel for Sámi youth

Winner of Sweden's got talent 2014!



“The talent show was going to be the last thing I did”



NJE START NOJE SPORT EXPRESSEN.TV KULTUR LEDARE VÄDER A TILL Ö

TIPSA PÅ 71717 OM TIDNINGEN

Eda Musik Film Krönikörer Recensioner Livshjulet

Jon-Henrik Fjällgren ville ta sitt eget liv

Publicerad 10 mar 2015 08:10

Jon-Henrik Fjällgren vann Talang 2014 med "Daniels jokk". Men det han inte berättade då var att inte bara Daniel, utan fem andra vänner hade gått bort och Jon-Henrik därför ville

Fansens chock: "Vad han har åldrats... INGEN KÄNNER IGEN TV-HUNKEN"

Stjärnan: Det hände efter den stora succén.

Renées fräcka svar efter Davids hängel

Nu ger fru svar på tal – efter kysskuppen

FOOTV!
Våra kunders favoriter
SHOPPA HÄR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ij9R2mxigWY>

Jon Henrik finished as runner-up,
receiving a fifth of all votes!

