

Aviâja Egede Lyng

MSc. Social Anthropology, Indigenous Rights Advocate.

Professional profile

Since I was a child, I have been interested in human rights and socio-cultural differences between different groups in society. My educational and career choices have thus been shaped by an interest in how people from different cultures learn, how their social structures can vary, how history has shaped their communities, how to create healthy Indigenous communities and how to recreate a strong identity.

I have management experience in the private, public, political and administrative systems. I also have experience working with human rights locally and internationally.

I have in-depth knowledge of indigenous histories, cultures, local communities and how to create real participation and how to communicate with them in the best possible way.

Professionally, my strengths lie in communication, analytical and holistic thinking, the ability to work in context with socio-cultural differences and the ability to work on many levels. It is natural for me to be able to switch between academic work and, for example, working locally with community involvement.

For the past two years I have immersed myself in knowledge about personal, historical, generational and collective trauma. I am now putting this knowledge into context with indigenous cultures, which originally contain many mechanisms for regulating trauma.

I am results-oriented, but place great emphasis on the process-oriented long-term results. However, this does not prevent me from being decisive. Creating a safe space for breaking patterns and taboos is something that is very important to me. Therefore, I have an approach that is empathetic, appreciative and compassionate in the way I work with others.

Family, nature and my cultural spirituality are where I draw my strength.

Education

2024 Trauma Therapy Education, Denmark.

2023 Trauma-informed Leadership, Denmark.

- 2014 Human Rights Advocate. Human Rights Advocates Program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University, New York
- 2013 Diploma in the program on Human Rights and International Advocacy Skills. FIMI (International Forum for Indigenous Women). Global Leadership School of Indigenous Women.
- 2002 MSc (Master of Science, Magister Scientiae) in Social Anthropology, The Edinburgh University, Scotland.

Professional experience

2023-24 Indigenous Healing & Leadership Fellow, The Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples.

2022- Cultural Adviser, Arctic Funders.

2015- National Children's Rights spokesperson in Greenland.

Head of MIO - Greenland's Independent Children's Rights Institution. Between 2015-2024, I have consolidated the institution with children, authorities, the population, in the Arctic regions, the UN and internationally, and generally created collaborative relationships, networks and members. The close collaboration and adaptation to working with children and the Indigenous local population has helped break difficult taboos and provided knowledge about socio-cultural conditions that are important to know about in relation to policies and initiatives. This includes informal power hierarchies and social control.

2006-2014 Head of Department. Further Education & Research. Department of Learning, University of Greenland.

Head of the department for further education and research in academic diploma and master's programs. The programmes were part of the Greenlandic school reform which aimed to decolonize the education system by introducing pedagogy based on the identity and culture of Greenlandic children.

Professional development of program content and development of learning principles, including communication from and to different social and cultural groups. In addition, collaboration with other Inuit countries and presentations, lectures nationally and internationally

2010-2013 ISUMA. Private Consulting Firm.

Courses, workshops and speeches for locals and different companies: cultural understanding, identity, mental decolonization and empowerment.

2003-2006 Secretary of Ministry, Government of Greenland.

The field of labor market and gender equality.

Experience in political and administrative management. Advising the Minister on communication to different target groups, e.g. through participation in UN meetings.

Insight into Greenland's cooperation with the Nordic countries, Greenland's participation in international forums, the political and administrative system in Greenland and especially the interaction between government, parliament, directorate and society.

2002-2003 Consultant at Arctic Innovators Aps.

Project management of analyzes, conducting courses and seminars. For example, I have conducted a social anthropological study of the integration of Greenlandic and Danish children in public schools in Nuuk. Consulting and development of approach to empowerment concept and involvement of the population.

1998-1999 Head of the Conference Department. Katuaq, Greenland's cultural center

Examples of different professional activities

- Creating network and cooperation with other indigenous peoples
- National and international speeches and lectures
- Extensive involvement in media and debates
- Frontrunner in dealing with taboo

Awards and honorable orders

2024 Order of Dannebrog, given by the King of Denmark. The order is a means of honoring rewarding the faithful servants of the Danish State.

2023 The Ebbe Munck Honorary Award, which was given by the Queen of Denmark

2022 Winner of UNICEF Denmark's Award

2018 Peace Run Torch-bearer Award 2018

Professional memberships

- 2018- Member of Inuit Circumpolar Council
- 2015- Chair. Children's Council Greenland
- 2015- Member of Board. FIMI (International Forum for Indigenous Women)
- 2001-2003 Boardmember. Greenland Tourism A/S.
- 2000-2006 Inuit Youth International
- 1998-1999 SAMIK Fund
- 1998 Board of Greenland Cultural Centre