



In Greenland, more than four times as many Kalaallit Nunaat children are placed in out-of-home care as in comparable countries in the Nordic region. This situation is placing significant emotional pressure on children and families and considerable economic strain on the child welfare system. While the root cause of this overrepresentation has been subject to some research and critical analysis, the focus on what works to safeguard Inuit children and prevent their involvement in out-of-home care has not been considered in equal depth.

To help support efforts designed to safely reduce the number of Greenlandic children placed in out-of-home care, Dr Dan Allen, Principal Lecture of Social Work from Liverpool Hope University, has been awarded a United Kingdom – Greenland Arctic Research Bursary to work in collaboration with Associate Professor Bonnie Jensen, Ilisimatusarfik Grønlands Universitet.

This knowledge exchange project entitled 'SafeHarbour Greenland: Safely Reducing the Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care' represents a newly formed international collaboration between Liverpool Hope University and Ilisimatusarfik Grønlands Universitet. This project will enable a joint effort to build a community of practice that can focus on ways to safeguard Greenlandic children and prevent their involvement in out-of-home care.

By exploring and identifying opportunities to develop new models for child protection and pedagogical work with Greenlandic children, the collaboration also offers significant potential to enhance child welfare services for other racialised ethnic minority children, including Gypsy, Roma & Traveller children, living in the United Kingdom.

Associate Professor Bonnie Jensen says:

*"It is with great pleasure that I express my enthusiasm for the forthcoming collaboration and the positive impact it promises to have on addressing the significant challenges faced by children in out-of-home care in both Greenland and the UK. Our collaborative efforts aim to contribute significantly to the social welfare field through long-term joint research initiatives."*

In addition to forging opportunities for collaboration activities that promote social justice, Dr Allen, who is looking forward to building further research and knowledge exchange explained:

*"Reducing the number of children living in out-of-home care is an international priority. I am looking forward to working with Assistant Professor Bonnie Jensen on this hugely important project and developing opportunities for potential staff and student exchanges between Liverpool Hope University and Ilisimatusarfik Grønlands Universitet in the future."*

The project starts in September 2024, with Dr Allen traveling to Greenland. There he and Associate Professor Bonnie Jensen will visit child welfare service providers, meet children living in out-of-home care and their families and establish a formal Community of Practice that is focussed on safely reducing the number of children in out-of-home care.

Building upon the well-being efforts of Greenland's National Research Strategy 2022-2030, Dr Allen and Assistant Professor Bonnie Jensen will focus on the long-term strategies needed to ensure the safe reduction of children living in out-of-home care in Greenland and the United Kingdom.