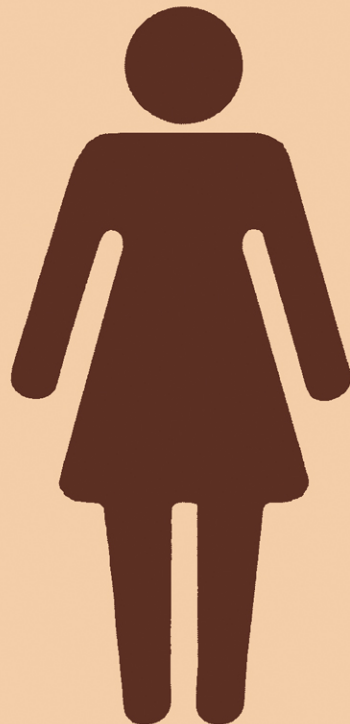
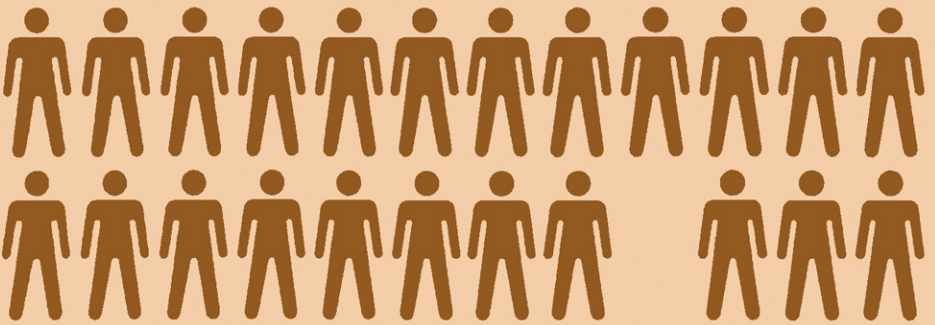


UNFINISHED DEMOCRACY

Women in Nordic Politics



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UNFINISHED DEMOCRACY

Women in Nordic Politics

Edited by

Elina Haavio-Mannila, Drude Dahlerup, Maud Eduards, Esther Gudmundsdóttir, Beatrice Halsaa, Helga Maria Hernes, Eva Hänninen-Salmelin, Bergthora Sigmundsdóttir, Sirkka Sinkkonen and Torild Skard

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Preface

Unfinished Democracy—Women in Nordic Politics grew out of a collaboration between Nordic researchers into women's issues which started with the "Women in Politics" working group at the meetings of the European Consortium for Political Research in Berlin in 1977. Since then we have gathered on innumerable occasions at international, Nordic and national meetings, quite apart from all our personal contacts with each other in smaller groups.

The authors of this volume are mostly academics and researchers, but many of us have also taken an active part in political decision-making in parliament, local councils, political parties and women's organizations. These experiences have also provided us with an insight into the formal and informal mechanisms which are the reason for the unfinished state of Nordic democracy.

The production of the book has necessitated numerous meetings, telephone conversations and letters between the twenty or so contributors to the project. The Nordic Council of Ministers has made available to us financial support for many of our meetings in 1982–83 and we also wish to thank the Council of Ministers for its help with the cost of printing the book, and for secretarial assistance. Research secretary for the group was Eva Hänninen-Salmelin. Further, we express our thanks to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, for financial assistance to publish the book in English.

This joint comparative research by a large group of scholars with varying degrees of experience, differing theoretical starting points and styles of writing has been a demanding and stimulating project. We hope that we have been able to combine in a productive manner the concept system used in political science and political sociology with the problem formulations of equality and feminist women's research.

I should like to make a personal warm vote of thanks to the editorial group and to all my colleagues for their patience, tenacity and enthusiasm during the hard work involved with this collaboration.

We hope that this book enables us to communicate something of importance to the many women who are already working in politics at different levels. Our message is: don't lose heart—continue to strive in conjunction with men to expand and develop democracy in the world.

Helsinki, January 1985
ELINA HAAVIO-MANNILA

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