



CREATING AN EQUAL
SOCIETY THROUGH
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

UNGEEN 2. Session
Panel Discussion, May 5, 2021

A sense of belonging?

- Does geographical names reflect society?
- Are we all given identity through geographical names?
- The Covid-19 pandemic laid bare societal inequalities in terms of
 - Race
 - Gender and sexuality
 - Class
- The movement, Black Lives Matter, showed that systemic inequality perpetrates society
- ... also in geographical names

Symbols of power

- Geographical names are strong identity markers
 - they give individuals a sense of belonging and bootstrap a national awareness
- Those that control naming, control identity and how society is perceived

- What if society standards change?
 - should geographical names reflect these changes and respond to new demands?
 - and how?

To achieve inclusion



RESTORATION
& REVIVAL



LANGUAGE
REVITALIZATION



IDENTITY &
VOICE



RESPECT

Responding to change

- More inclusive and equal geographical names
 - how do we achieve this?
- In relation to geographical names standardization:
 - Respect for indigenous peoples, colors and creeds
 - Respect for all national, ethnic and religious minorities
 - Work for gender balance
 - Avoid outright offensive and disrespectful geographical names
 - But respect existing naming fabric

The panel:

- a. Carla Jack - restoring indigenous geographical names
- b. Tara Wallace - dealing with derogatory geographical names
- c. Rikke Olesen - gender equality in new urban naming
- d. Annette Torenshjöö - equality in naming seen from a cultural heritage perspective

Wrapping up

The way forward



INCLUDE ALL OF SOCIETY



ACKNOWLEDGE SOCIETY
NORMS CHANGE



MONITOR POTENTIAL
ISSUES

Acting on call for change

- More inclusive and equal geographical names
 - how do we achieve this?
- Develop mechanisms for geographical names standardization to:
 - Respect geographical names of indigenous peoples
 - Work for gender balance in naming situations
 - Respect for all colors and creeds
 - Avoid outright offensive and disrespectful geographical names
- Set up mechanisms for regular reviews of compatibility of standardization rules with societal needs
- Public consultation is critical
- Relation building with indigenous and minority communities is a beneficial outcome

Work with



PROCESSES OF
STANDARDIZATION



PROCESSES OF
INVOLVEMENT



EVALUATE &
RE- EVALUATE



BENCHMARKS

Plan for the Side event

1. Opening remarks – Chair UNGEGN, Pierre Jaillard	7:30 - 7:35
1. Introductory statement and setting the scene- Moderator, Peder Gammeltoft	7:35 – 7:45
1. Panellists – Introduce their topic a. Carla Jack, Canada: 'Restoring indigenous geographical names' b. Tara Wallace, United States of America: 'Derogatory names' c. Rikke Olesen, Denmark: 'Equality in new urban naming' d. Annette Torensjö, Sweden: 'Inclusion in view of cultural heritage'	7:45 – 8:05
1. Panel discussion led by the Moderator	8:05 – 8:25
1. Open discussion with questions from the virtual floor	8:25 – 8:45
1. Wrap up and closing	8:45 – 8:50

05.05.2021