



# Aslak Holmberg

President of The Saami Council, Finland



## Education

- **University of Tromsø, The Arctic University of Norway (2018)**  
Master of Indigenous Studies (120 ECTS)  
- Thesis: Bivdit Luosa – To Ask for Salmon: Saami Traditional Knowledge on Salmon and the River Deatnu: In Research and Decision-making. Grade: A (Grading from F to A, A being the best)  
- Árdna award winner for best master thesis in Indigenous affairs in 2018
- **Saami University College in Guovdageaidnu (Kautokeino), Sápmi, Norway (2014)**  
First Cycle Degree in Teaching 240 ECTS (Bachelor + 1 year)  
- Courses on: Pedagogy, North Saami language, mathematics, Saami history, Religion, Indigenous philosophy, Scholarly writing & Educational material pedagogy

## Experience

- **President of the Saami Council:** an umbrella organisation of Saami NGOs. Current position since August 2022, with previous affiliation since 2013 ; Working with policy coordination, with a special focus on Indigenous knowledge and human rights.
- Chair of the Sámi Central Association of Finland
- Alternate member of the Ohcejohka/Utsjoki municipal Executive board and Municipal Council
- Vice President of the Saami Council (2017 - 2022)
- Member of the Saami Parliament of Finland, mandate (2016 - 2019)  
- Chair of the Culture Committee  
- A member of the Sámi Parliamentary Council: a cooperative body for the Sámi parliaments
- Member of the Executive Board of the Sámi university college (2013 - 2014)
- Member of the Ohcejohka/Utsjoki municipal Executive board
- **Honorary position : An Honorary Member of the Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas (ICCA) Consortium** since 2018

## Biography

- Representing Sámi and indigenous interests in policy internationally and in Finland
- Public speaking: short summaries of key issues, keynote lectures and performances
- Teaching: North Sámi language, Sámi and Indigenous issues
- Writing: Author of published essays and short educational texts on Sámi issues and fishing
- Salmon fisher with traditional Saami fishing methods, every summer since childhood
- Extensive experience in pan-Sámi and international Indigenous policy and human rights work, focused mainly on Indigenous knowledge and Sámi/Indigenous self-determination.