

Lára Björnsdóttir, Social Worker MA

Lára Björnsdóttir has been active in Social Work for half a Century, fighting for human rights for users of Welfare Services, especially people living in poverty and people with disabilities. She has a degree in Social Work from Copenhagen, Denmark in 1968 and a MA in Social- and Community Work from Bradford, UK in 1986.

Lára has worked in various fields of Social Work both within Local and State Governments as well as for NGO's. Thus she was Director of the National Association of People with Learning Disabilities 1990 - 1994, Director of the Social Services in Reykjavík Municipality 1994 - 2006 and Head of Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Deputy Director at The Ministry of Welfare from 2008 to 2012. Following the Economic Crises in 2008 she was Chair of the Welfare Watch in Iceland from 2009 - 2013.

Lára is a mother of three and a full time grandmother of ten boys and girls at the age of 1 to 27. She is an active sea swimmer the whole year round and has been walking the Camino to Santiago de Compostela twice since she left office.