

Dear friend of UPLIFT!

A healthy reaction to much of today's gloomy media coverage is to find and present examples of processes moving in a positive direction. And, much like the Norwegian folklore figure *Askeladden*, to care, together with other "good helpers".

For those of us who have chosen to support UPLIFT, which appears to be a mere dot on the map of Africa, it is nevertheless encouraging to read about the UN global goals for development (SDG – Sustainable Development Goals). As heir to the Millennium Development Goals these are to be the world community's new road map for the next 15 years, until 2030. This time the goals are global, not only limited to those nations defined as developing countries. When we know that UPLIFT has carried out its activities the past 15 years in line with the first Millennium Development Goals, it is of interest to compare current activities with the new SDG's.



Among the 5 first main goals, 3 of them – *No Poverty / Quality Education / Gender Equality* – make up the overarching goals of UPLIFT. Indeed, they justify UPLIFT's continued existence.

But we are already aware of this, so why mention them again at this time? Because the Board of Friends of UPLIFT wishes to 'keep the spirit strong' among our members, this time by referring to a confirming 'Charter' to sustain and boost our activity. Here is the 17 goals logo:

Check out website: <http://www.globalgoals.org/>

The home page has a separate article linked to goal no. 5 (in Norwegian: *Likestilling mellom kjønnene*), with focus on gender equality and empowerment. Click on the large picture to open the video for the UN 2016 campaign: **The Year for Global Girls!** Or scroll down and click on one of the main 'Goals'. [Also: www.norad.no/om-bistand/barekraftsmalene]

This focus on girls' and women's needs, and their potential for empowerment, will serve as an additional vehicle to bring UPLIFT into conversations about development and the times we live in.

In this connection it's worth mentioning that a portrait exhibition will be open for viewing and sale at the *galleri elelénn* in Lillehammer from 4th to 25th June. Many of the pictures are taken this year (and are not accessible on our website). This is meant as an extra motivation to attend **FUP annual general meeting (Lillehammer Sunday 5 June)** – after the opening day



This learner will not be attending in person, but... of the exhibition. The photographer and the owner of the gallery (both of whom are members of the Friends of UPLIFT) hereby invite you to a "private viewing" immediately after the annual meeting.

With warm greetings from the FUP board
Michael, Helge, Victoria, Inger-Johanne, Gunnar