**An organizational perspective is needed when disaster strikes: How the Norwegian labour party managed the terror attack in Norway on the 22. of July 2011.**

The tragic event of terror attacks in Norway in July 2011 was political motivated and aimed at the labor party, killing 69 of their youth members, wounding another 66. While the public focus has mainly been the on terror attack itself and how it affected and was handled by Norway as a nation, it has been quite unknown how the labor party as an organization was affected and how the party coped with and managed this crises situation. The party lost a lot of young members, the staff at the head quarter lost close friends, and the whole value system of their political conviction had been attacked. In addition, members and members family needed information and follow up. The organization had still to function both during and after this tragic event. In addition, the crises situation needed to be handled with the needed sensitivity and efficiency.

In this presentation the party secretary in charge of the party organization and an external organizational consultant and trauma expert will describe and reflect upon how keeping an organizational perspective acted as an important tool to support the leaders of the party and all those working in the organization. The working relationship between the secretary and the organizational consultant became very important, and addressed challenges like:

* How to provide space for pain and sorrow and still function as an organization and party.
* How to support grieving individuals in their roles to provide the work that still had to be done?

In the time that has passed we still meet for reflecting: Where were the most important decisions that made a difference for further development? How to understand the different consequences still appearing as effects of the terror attacks. In all situations and on all levels the understanding of primary tasks, roles and structure turned out to be very helpful.

The session is chaired by professor Ståle Einarsen and includes the secretary of the Norwegian Labour Party, Mr. Raymond Johansen and cand.psychol Renate Bugge, specialist in clinical occupational and organizational psychology.