

**Norwegian Public Television Broadcasting
Nov. 2005 Documentary 'Mercury Women'
Introduction, Background & Context
by Michael Bender, Mercury Policy Project**

- Conducted in response to dental nurse complaints
- After airing, 394 women called in
- Pattern emerged: Many worked while pregnant and were also breast feeding
- High number reported children born with neurological problems

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Response to Norwegian Documentary Showing in Denmark

- More than 1650 dental nurses called the Danish Trade Union
- Concerns expressed for both their health and the health of their children
- In response, Danish Trade Union launched a new website: www.kviksoelv.dk
- Danes working collaboratively with Parat, Norwegian Trade Union: www.parat.com

Norwegian, Danish* Governments Now Studying Dental Mercury Exposure Effects on Dental Personnel

- **A thorough literature search** to create an overall survey of knowledge both nationally & internationally
- **An epidemiological study** to examine illnesses among dental groups/others with Hg exposures
- **A clinical study** to find symptoms, illnesses that may exist among a statistically randomly selected group
- **A focused program of medical examinations** so that each person's symptoms and illnesses can be compared to their mercury exposure

* English translation of a 16 February 2006 press release on the website of the Danish Employment Ministry at:

<http://www.bm.dk/sw5110.asp>.

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Norwegian Press Award for Outstanding Investigative Journalism

- Presented to Ms. Synnøve Bakke and Ms. Kjersti Knudssøn, Norwegian Broadcasting, who won this most prestigious Norwegian journalistic prize for their documentaries on dental mercury exposure
- The judges' statement: "After the two journalists' impressive and extensive work, our perceptions of what 10,000 dental nurses were exposed to in their workplace has been changed forever."

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Award Given to Dental Assistant by the Norwegian Society for Civilian Courage

- Previously a dental assistant for 23 years, Ms. Tordis Klausen was recognized: ***“For her tireless work to acquire and spread information about health damage resulting from exposure to dental amalgam and mercury in dental clinics.”***
- Ms. Klausen lost a civil lawsuit in 1997 and 1999 for compensation; then appealed all the way up to the Norwegian Supreme Court — and was then denied
- Ms. Klausen has since appealed to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg

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2006 Zola-Prize Winner Tordis Klausen

Awarded to persons who ***“Openly and courageously have revealed or opposed conditions in Norway that threaten basic values in Norwegian society: human rights, democracy and legal protection.”***



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Information on 'Mercury Girls' and 'Mercury Children' Documentaries

- Information about the Norwegian Broadcasting documentaries can be found at:
- *Mercury Girls*:
<http://www.tv2world.com/programmes/show/109>
- *Mercury Children*:
<http://www.tv2world.com/programmes/show/110>
- Anyone interested in airing the documentaries should contact TV2 WORLD DENMARK, www.tv2world.com Their email addresses is as follows sales@tv2.dk and tel +45 65 21 22 23

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