

## Veritas Norway

### A national partnership with an apologetic vision

Five years ago, a vision emerged among some of the Norwegian participants at the annual European Leadership Forum (ELF). The idea was to join hands and co-sponsor an annual national apologetics conference, with young Christian adults as a key target group.

This led to the establishment of a strategic partnership between Bibelskolen in Grimstad (Normisjon), NKSS (the Norwegian IFES), and (3) the Communication and Worldview Programme at NLA Gimlekollen (Kristiansand).

### A growing national conference

The annual Veritas conference in Grimstad (usually the third weekend in October) has become highly popular, with growing numbers participating every year. In 2017, around 600 attended the conference.

The conference is designed with open plenaries Friday evening, Saturday evening and Sunday morning, combined with a plenary and 25-30 workshops on various key topics on Saturday for paying conference participants only. Each year, selected international and Norwegian speakers contribute. This includes having had female apologists from The Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics every year as keynote speakers, role-modelling that apologetics is not just for men! (See further [www.veritaskonferansen.no](http://www.veritaskonferansen.no).)

### Strategic initiatives emerging

Strategic initiatives have emerged out of the partnership and the conference. Early in 2017, the current gen. sec. of NKSS invited the other two partners, and two other leading evangelical organizations, Norwegian Lutheran Mission (NLM) Youth and Acta - Normisjon Youth, to form *the Veritas Network – a national network for apologetics in Norway*.

This led to the establishment of *Veritas Publishing*, a new imprint for apologetics within Lunde Publishing House. The first publication was *Grill a Christian: Answers to 20 common questions about the Christian faith*, co-sponsored by NKSS and NLM Youth. This launch generated a high-profile debate on apologetics in the Christian daily newspaper *Vårt Land*. The second publication just came out in time for the Veritas Conference 2017. This was a translation of late Nabeel Quereshi's *Only One God: Allah or Jesus*.

Damaris Norway (based at NLA Gimlekollen) is responsible for curating and creating related apologetics resources on the web, including small group and video resources for the published books and podcasting resources from the annual conference. (See further [www.damaris.no/veritas](http://www.damaris.no/veritas).)

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