

# Katrín Jakobsdóttir

## Prime Minister of Iceland



Katrín Jakobsdóttir has served as the Prime Minister of Iceland since November 2017 and is Iceland's second woman to hold that position.

She served as Minister of Education, Science and Culture and Minister of Nordic Cooperation 2009-2013.

Jakobsdóttir is the Chairman of the Left-Green Movement, a role she has held since 2013, having served as Deputy Chairman 2003-2013. Jakobsdóttir has been Member of Althingi for the Reykjavík North Constituency since 2007. She also serves as the Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders.

Prime Minister Jakobsdóttir's coalition government has continued Iceland's groundbreaking approach to addressing systemic gender inequality and the economic exclusion of women, including implementation of the world's first Equal Pay Certification policy. Her government has taken significant steps to end sexual and gender-based violence and recently took progressive steps to extend shared parental leave for both parents. As Prime Minister she decided also to serve as Minister for Gender Equality to ensure coherent action against all gender-based injustices.

Prime Minister Jakobsdóttir's government is also at the forefront of climate change policy and has committed to make Iceland carbon-neutral before 2040. Under Iceland's Presidency, the Nordic Prime Ministers have adopted an ambitious new plan focusing on climate action and sustainability.

Prime Minister Jakobsdóttir has emphasized the importance the approach of Well-being government and spearheaded a framework of 39 indicators that cover social, economic and environmental dimensions of quality of life. These indicators are linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and are intended to complement traditional economic measures, such as GDP, and monitor trends in people's wellbeing.

Born in Reykjavík on 1 February 1976, Jakobsdóttir and her husband, Gunnar Sigvaldason, have three sons.

Jakobsdóttir holds a master's degree in Icelandic Literature and a bachelor's degree with a major in Icelandic and minor in French from the University of Iceland. She did her Masters dissertation on the work of popular Icelandic crime writer Arnaldur Indriðason.

Before being elected to parliament Jakobsdóttir worked in the media, as a publishing editor and as teacher in secondary school and courses at the Continuing Education Institute at the University of Iceland.



**Government of Iceland**  
Prime Minister's Office