

**Theme: Rights of older persons in care situations**

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# **Fourth cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Sweden 2025**

**Factsheet on the status of the human rights  
situation in Sweden**



**SWEDISH  
FOUNDATION  
FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

## Theme: Rights of older persons in care situations

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<p><b>Background:</b> Sweden suffers from a widespread ageism. 28% of our population are 65 years old or more but are represented by only 4% in the parliament. This group is also poorly represented in political fora in the country. During the years of the Corona pandemic ageism was specifically prominent and widely acknowledged. Therefore, the government established a commission to investigate the mistreatment of older persons. The commission found severe irregularities in the treatment of older persons, both by the health care and caregiving institutions. The governmental agency responsible for identifying shortcomings and misconduct in health care, reported the same flaws, not only during the pandemic. Since then, not much has improved.</p> <p>Sweden needs laws specifying rights for older persons related to caregiving institutions, healthcare, discrimination due to age and power of attorney. Such a power of attorney, "Framtidsfullmakt", should contain how an old person wants to be treated when a person her/himself is not fit enough to do so – due to poor health or old age. Many old people are afraid of ending up in an institution with only strange persons and nobody to speak on their behalf. We strongly support a Convention on the rights of older persons.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation:</b> to actively promote a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons</p>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> to rephrase the present "Framtidsfullmakt" to also include healthcare.</p>
<p><b>Challenge:</b> There are no specific rights extended to older persons in contrast to children and persons with disabilities. Despite a well-founded and positive suggestion for a law with a modern view on care for older persons, the proposal was not accepted. As a consequence, the old law prevails and older persons have no specific rights. They still must apply for every kind of care activity that might then be extended to them. Furthermore, the government budget for care of older persons has been steadily diminished for the last twenty years, even though the number of elderly has increased.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation:</b> to establish a law assigning rights for older persons.</p>	
<p><b>Challenge:</b> Both CECSR and CRPD include all ages. However, a person older than 65 has no right to apply for personal assistance under the Swedish Act on Support and Service for Certain Disabled People.</p>	<p><b>Challenge:</b> Persons above a certain age are often not included in surveys and research. Screening for breast cancer and colon cancer is not available after the age of 74 etc.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation:</b> to remove the age limit regarding personal assistance in Swedish Act on Support and Service for Certain Disabled People.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> to remove age limitations in surveys and research.</p>