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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Sweden

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



1. The Swedish Government welcomes the recommendations received during the fourth Universal Periodic Review of Sweden on 5 May 2025.
2. After careful consideration of the recommendations, the Government is pleased to provide the responses as set out in the table annexed to this addendum.
3. Sweden received 315 recommendations. The Swedish Government accepts 201 recommendations, partially accepts 6 recommendation and notes 108 recommendations.
4. The Government would like to give the following information regarding the recommendations that it notes. The numbering used in this addendum corresponds to the numbering in the attached annex, within its thematic order. Due to limitations on wording length, more detailed explanations are provided directly in the annex.

Method and consultation process

5. Sweden accepts 24.49.

International human rights conventions

6. Sweden accepts 24.2, 24.3, 24.4, 24.16, 24.17, 24.18, 24.23, 24.24, 24.30, 24.34, 24.55, 24.58, 24.51.
7. Sweden partly accepts 24.19. 24.35.
8. Noted 24.1, 24.5, 24.6, 24.7, 24.8, 24.9, 24.10, 24.11: Sweden signed the Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearance (CED) in 2007. Prior to the ratification of the Convention, further analysis of possible legislative amendments is required. It is, however, Sweden's view that Swedish legislation essentially meets the requirements of the convention.
9. Noted 24.12, 24.13, 24.14, 24.15: The question of ratification of Convention 190 is currently being prepared in the Government Office.
10. Noted 24.20, 24.21, 24.22, 24.25: The ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) is broad and covers many areas. A prerequisite for ratifying the convention is the approval of the Swedish parliament (the Riksdag). Before the Riksdag takes a position, all questions regarding the legal consequences of accession to the convention must be investigated. There is currently no set timetable for this.
11. Noted 24.37, 24.38, 24.39, 24.40, 24.41, 24.42, 24.43, 24.44, 24.45, 24.46, 24.47: The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families provisions overlap with EU law, preventing unilateral action by Sweden. No EU state has ratified the Convention. Sweden meets the requirements of the ICMW to a large degree.
12. Noted 24.48: In 2019, Sweden undertook a comprehensive review of its reservations to the Convention on Statelessness and withdrew those that were no longer deemed necessary. For the remaining reservations it was concluded that a continued need for their retention persists. Everyone residing in Sweden – including individuals without a residence permit – has the right to seek assistance and have their case assessed under the Social Services Act.
13. Noted 24.26, 24.27, 24.28, 24.29, 24.31, 24.32, 24.33, 24.36, 24.52: See comment in annex.
14. Noted 24.57: See comment in annex.

Nation's human rights strategy

15. Sweden accepts 24.62.
16. Noted 24.61: See comment in annex.

National institute for human rights

17. Sweden accepts 24.77, 24.78, 24.79.

18. Noted 24.80, 24.81, 24.82: The Swedish Constitution protects the independence of administrative authorities by limiting the powers of the Riksdag and the Government to intervene in decisions of independent authorities. The Swedish Institute for Human Rights, as an administrative authority, has also been given a particularly strong independence through the special law on the Institute (lagen (2021:642) om Institutet för mänskliga rättigheter). In autumn 2024, the Swedish Institute for Human Rights was accredited with A-status to GANHRI.

Measures to combat discrimination and segregation and promote integration of newly arrived immigrants

19. Sweden accepts 24.183, 24.300, 24.302, 24.305, 24.306, 24.313, 24.93, 24.99, 24.100, 24.101, 24.102, 24.106, 24.107, 24.108, 24.116, 24.123, 24.124, 24.125, 24.126, 24.130, 24.135, 24.139, 24.84, 24.85, 24.304.

20. Noted 24.301, 24.94, 24.95: The mandate of the Equality Ombudsman covers multiple forms of discrimination.

21. Noted 24.185, 24.83: The Swedish welfare system includes social security schemes that cover the basic needs of all people who work and/or live in Sweden.

Measures to combat racism and hate crime

22. Sweden accepts 24.63, 24.64, 24.65, 24.66, 24.67, 24.87, 24.88, 24.91, 24.96, 24.97, 24.98, 24.112, 24.132, 24.133, 24.134, 24.137, 24.86, 24.89, 24.103, 24.104, 24.109, 24.111, 24.119, 24.127, 24.128, 24.129, 24.140, 24.153, 24.154, 24.262, 24.92, 24.105, 24.113, 24.117, 24.118, 24.131, 24.136, 24.156, 24.157, 24.159.

23. Noted 24.90, 24.110, 24.114: In Sweden, the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and to demonstrate are constitutionally protected and extensive. They include the right to express opinions that others may perceive as provocative and hurtful, even when it comes to religion. However, these freedoms are not unlimited and several recent court verdicts have been handed down where among other things burning of the Quran in public has been considered falling within the crime of agitation against a population group.

Measures for gender equality and to prevent men's violence against women

24. Sweden accepts 24.184, 24.204, 24.212, 24.213, 24.214, 24.215, 24.216, 24.218, 24.219, 24.220, 24.221, 24.222, 24.223, 24.224, 24.225, 24.226, 24.227, 24.228, 24.229, 24.75, 24.205, 24.207, 24.208, 24.209, 24.210, 24.211.

25. Noted 24.217: See comment in annex.

26. Noted 24.206: While more women than men attend and graduate from higher education in Sweden, only 33 percent of the professors are women (2024). Therefore, the Government has set a goal of ensuring that half of all newly appointed professors shall be women by 2030.

Measures to combat human trafficking

27. Sweden accepts 24.68, 24.72, 24.73, 24.74, 24.167, 24.168, 24.169, 24.170, 24.171, 24.172, 24.173, 24.174, 24.175, 24.176, 24.232.

Measures for the rights of the child

28. Sweden accepts 24.237, 24.238, 24.248, 24.70, 24.233, 24.236, 24.239, 24.241, 24.244, 24.252, 24.253, 24.254.

29. Noted 24.186: See comment in annex.

30. Noted 24.294: The goal of Sweden's child rights policy is to ensure that children and young people are respected and given the opportunity for development, security, participation, and influence. The goal means that all children, regardless of age, gender, origin, and disability, among others, should have their rights met. The Convention of the Rights of the Child was ratified in 1990 and came into force the same year. On January 1, 2020, the Convention was incorporated into Swedish law.

31. Noted 24.69, 24.71: The Government has commissioned the Swedish Agency for Public Management to follow up and analyze the Government's strategic work on the rights of the child. The focus should be on the work the Government has carried out in connection with the national strategy to strengthen the rights of the child in Sweden. The Swedish Agency for Public Management should also propose how the Government can strengthen the efficiency and impact of the work at the national, regional, and municipal levels. Among other things the Swedish Agency for Public Management should follow up and analyze the Government's efforts and the work that has been carried out in connection with the strategy, with a particular focus on the challenges and opportunities that national, regional, and municipal actors have had in applying the rights of the child in practice.

32. Noted 24.158: The Education Act (2010:800) and the Discrimination Act (2008:567) prohibit discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief in the area of education. In addition, the Instrument of Government contains a specific provision that protects religious freedom, according to which everyone is guaranteed the right to freedom of religion in relation to the public domain. In this context, the Swedish Education Act stipulates that all instruction must be non-confessional. However, confessional elements may be included in other parts of the educational activities at schools with a confessional orientation, provided that participation is voluntary.

33. Noted 24.189: At the beginning of 2025, Sweden adopted a national strategy on mental health and suicide prevention. The strategy not only emphasizes the rights of the child as a whole, but also dedicates an entire subgoal to increasing investments in favour of children's mental health and well-being. Besides the adoption of the national strategy, the Government also appointed a national coordinator for suicide prevention, contributing to engage and mobilize actors in all fields of society to prevent suicide.

34. Noted 24.190: Mental health and suicide prevention is of high priority for the Swedish Government. Considerable investments have been made over the past years to improve mental health in the population and prevent suicide. Children and adolescents have been the focus of these investments, for example, to reduce queues for child psychiatric care.

35. Noted 24.230, 24.231: See comment in annex.

36. Noted 24.242: Mental health and suicide prevention is of high priority for the Swedish Government. Considerable investments have been made over the past years to improve mental health in the population and prevent suicide, especially amongst the younger ones. The Swedish Government is currently actively working with the proposal of a government inquiry to establish a national investigation centre for suicide. This national centre will carry on investigations to better understand suicide, its causes and how to prevent it, with a particular attention given to children's suicides.

37. Noted 24.249: The Government has significantly increased the Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services (SBU) funding in order to strengthen the quality of care and to improve the availability of places in the special youth homes. The National Board of Institutional Care (SiS) has also been tasked to monitor the implementation of the expanded special authorities at the special youth homes. The assignment is to be reported no later than May 7, 2026. The agency has also been tasked with strengthening children's opportunities to claim their rights.

Measures for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and national minorities

38. Sweden accepts 24.268, 24.269, 24.272, 24.274, 24.280, 24.281, 24.282, 24.283, 24.284, 24.115.
39. Sweden partly accepts 24.264, 24.267.
40. Noted 24.263: See comment in annex.
41. Noted 24.265, 24.266, 24.270, 24.271: The Government is dedicated to the Truth Commission for the Sami People's mission and awaits the Commission's findings. It follows from the terms of reference that the Truth Commission has a broad mandate, which allows it to determine more precisely which areas to examine and how its work is to be carried out. The terms of reference lay out the guidelines for the work but do not direct the Truth Commission in a detailed way on specific activities that must be carried out within its mandate. Thus, no plan for the implementation of the Commission's recommendations can be made before the Commission has submitted its report.
42. Noted 24.273, 24.275, 24.276, 24.277, 24.279: See comment in annex.

Measures for the rights of persons with disabilities

43. Sweden accepts 24.60, 24.259, 24.260, 24.261.
44. Noted 24.59, 24.76, 24.258, 24.256, 24.257: See comment in annex.

Detention and restrictions

45. Sweden accepts 24.295, 24.309, 24.310, 24.145, 24.235, 24.240.
46. Noted 24.303: Detention of a child shall always be in conformity of the law and only used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period.
47. Noted 24.234: Sweden has already made legislative amendments meaning that a person under 18 years of age suspected of committing a crime and remanded in custody has the right to be with staff or someone else for at least four hours of every day.

Healthcare

48. Sweden accepts 24.177, 24.161, 24.191.
49. Noted 24.188: There is no conscience clause in Swedish healthcare. Staff cannot refuse to provide care to patients on the basis of their conscientious objections. It is not a right to work in a workplace or in a profession where the employee refuses certain elements. From the perspective of the abortion seeker, it is important not to have to feel questioned in their decision by meeting staff who refuse to participate in abortion care.
50. Noted 24.246: Mental health and suicide prevention is of high priority for the Government. Considerable investments have been made over the past years to improve mental health in the population and prevent suicide. Children and adolescents have been the focus of these investments, for example, to reduce queues for child psychiatric care.

The right to asylum

51. Sweden accepts 24.247, 24.292, 24.296, 24.297, 24.298, 24.299, 24.308, 24.315, 24.166, 24.307.
52. Sweden partly accepts 24.312.
53. Noted 24.311, 24.314, 24.164: See comment in annex.

Torture

54. Sweden accepts 24.142.

55. Noted 24.53, 24.141, 24.143, 24.144: In September 2015 an inquiry appointed to examine whether there is a need for a specific provision on torture in Swedish criminal legislation presented its findings in the ministerial memorandum A specific provision on torture? (Ds 2015:42). In the memorandum it is proposed that torture be criminalised as a specific crime. The memorandum has been circulated for formal consultation. The matter is being considered by the Government Offices.

Education

56. Sweden accepts 24.192, 24.193, 24.194, 24.195, 24.196, 24.245, 24.250, 24.251.

57. Noted 24.155: The Swedish Agency for the Media has for several years worked to establish a structure for collaboration between private and public actors at national, regional and local level in questions regarding media- and information literacy (MIL). This has resulted in the "MIL Sweden" network, which today consists of 23 authorities and organizations. Since 2024, the Agency is instructed to work permanently to promote MIL in Sweden. For several years before that, the agency had time-limited assignments to identify and create greater collaboration and more effective MIL work.

58. Noted 24.151: The Department of Special Investigations, SU, is an independent department within the Swedish Police Authority that investigates suspected crimes that police employees, police students, judges and prosecutors may have committed.

Gender recognition

59. Sweden accepts the following recommendation: 24.291.

LGBTIQ

60. Sweden accepts 24.289, 24.290, 24.285, 24.286, 24.287, 24.288.

Criminal law

61. Sweden accepts 24.146, 24.147, 24.148, 24.152, 24.162, 24.121, 24.122.

62. Sweden partly accepts 24.56.

63. Noted 24.278: Sweden is strongly committed to non-discrimination. Sweden has a comprehensive legislation in place that prevents racial profiling. E.g. the Discrimination Act (2008:567) includes a prohibition against discriminatory treatment of the public that applies, inter alia, to employees of the Swedish Police Authority.

64. Noted 24.54, Homicide is already criminalised in Sweden. The provision is gender neutral. The Government has also proposed that gender should be added to the general regulation on aggravating circumstances (Chapter 29, Section 2 in the Swedish Criminal Code). This would mean that a court should, when assessing penalty value, take into consideration whether a motive for a committed offence was to insult a person or a population group on the ground gender. The amendment will enter into force on 1 July 2025.

65. Noted 24.160: See comment in annex.

International cooperation

66. Sweden accepts 24.149.

67. Noted 24.150: Sweden remains committed to continued generous humanitarian support to UN humanitarian and relief agencies in Palestine and elsewhere, and will continuously review its humanitarian engagement and partners. Specific appropriations from the Swedish Government are decided on an annual basis, subject to approval by the Riksdag and subsequent Government decisions.

Labour market/Labour law

68. Sweden accepts 24.178, 24.179, 24.180, 24.181, 24.182.

Climate change

69. Noted 24.197: See comment in annex.

Other

70. Sweden accepts 24.199, 24.165, 24.255.

71. Noted 24.202, 24.203: EU restrictive measures are fully compliant with international law, including international human rights law. They are imposed in reaction to actions that constitute breaches of international norms and to defend key UN principles, including the maintenance of international peace and security and the protection of human rights.

72. Noted 24.138: Respect for diversity is captured by the general requirement in the radio- and tv act for audiovisual media to uphold the principle of democracy. This should be interpreted as a defence of the right and dignity of the individual. For public service media this is further developed through the requirement to mirror the whole country and the whole population in the programming.

73. Noted 24.50, 24.163, 24.187, 24.198, 24.200, 24.201, 24.120, 24.243, 24.293.
