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**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Forty-ninth session**  
Geneva, 28 April–9 May 2025

## **Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Sweden\***

### **Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

#### **I. Background**

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.<sup>1</sup> It is a summary of 24 stakeholders' submissions<sup>2</sup> for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

#### **II. Information provided by the national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles**

2. The Swedish Institute for Human Rights (SIHR) recommended to ratify the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190).<sup>3</sup>

3. SIHR underlined the need to strengthen the legal protection of human rights in Swedish legislation. It recommended to review the conformity of Swedish legislation with the UN conventions that Sweden has ratified.<sup>4</sup> It also recommended to establish a transparent, systematic and effective national mechanism to handle recommendations from international review bodies.<sup>5</sup> It also recommended to ensure that individuals can seek redress for violations of all human rights and freedoms, including by reviewing the regulations governing legal costs in human rights cases.<sup>6</sup>

4. SIHR reported that the implementation of the Government's 2016 Human Rights Strategy had come to a standstill. It recommended to develop a new strategy and action plan with concrete measures to achieve strong and comprehensive human rights protection in Sweden.<sup>7</sup>

5. SIHR stated that discrimination was a widespread societal problem in Sweden where public discourse was characterized by increasing polarisation, with racist and discriminatory statements gradually becoming normalised. It recommended to strengthen the Action Plan Against Racism and Hate Crime, ensuring that civil society has real influence in the

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



development of the action plan and to introduce disability as a protected ground in hate crime legislation.<sup>8</sup>

6. SIHR indicated that the gap in educational outcomes between different student groups and schools in Sweden was widening and many children left primary school without achieving passing grades. It recommended to combat discrimination and segregation in schools and ensure that all children, regardless of their circumstances, can enjoy their right to education.<sup>9</sup>

7. SIHR stressed that violence against women and domestic violence were a persistent and significant issue in Sweden. It recommended to continue to strengthen efforts to combat domestic violence, including by expanding access to legal aid and permanent housing options.<sup>10</sup>

8. SIHR alerted that a growing number of children were being recruited into criminal gangs and more children than ever were being detained and placed in custody, detention centres and institutions under substandard conditions. It recommended to ensure that crime prevention measures targeting children are based on research and have a clear child-rights perspective, ensure that the minimum age of criminal responsibility is kept at the age of 15, and ensure that the care and treatment of the reformed National Board of Institutional Care for young people will be compliant with human rights.<sup>11</sup>

9. SIHR considered that the protection of the rights of elderly people in Sweden was insufficient. It recommended to develop proposals for measures to combat ageism in elderly care and ensure the long-term and continuous involvement of older people in the planning, design and implementation of care for older people.<sup>12</sup>

10. SIHR indicated that the living condition of persons with disabilities were worse than for the rest of the population with lower education levels, higher unemployment, greater economic vulnerabilities and poorer physical and mental health. It recommended to combat segregating structures in housing, services, education and employment that lead to discrimination against persons with disabilities and rights violations.<sup>13</sup>

11. SIHR stressed that people from the five national minorities were often subjected to racism, hate crimes and hate speech. It recommended to step up measures to combat racism, antisemitism, discrimination, hate crimes, and hate speech, and further support the rights of national minorities.<sup>14</sup> JS7 also mentioned Antiziganism, Afrophobia, Islamophobia and Racism against the Sami.<sup>15</sup>

12. SIHR alerted about the Government's consideration to tighten the requirements for obtaining Swedish citizenship, increasing the possibility of revoking residence permits on the grounds of "dishonest ways of living" and restricting the freedoms of opinion of non-citizens. It recommended to uphold the 2011 reform of rights and freedoms in the Constitution, which seeks to ensure that Swedish citizens and non-citizens enjoy their rights on the same terms to the greatest extent possible.<sup>16</sup>

13. SIHR indicated that economic vulnerability was increasing in Sweden and the daily allowance for asylum seekers had remained unchanged since 1994. It recommended to ensure that the social protection is sufficient to fulfil the right to an adequate standard of living for everyone.<sup>17</sup>

14. SIHR alerted that structural homelessness was rising and that, despite the goal of zero evictions, the number of families with children being evicted had increased. It recommended to ensure access to adequate housing for all and ensure that no child is evicted into homelessness and that the child's right to adequate housing is always respected.<sup>18</sup>

### **III. Information provided by other stakeholders**

#### **A. Scope of international obligations<sup>19</sup> and cooperation with human rights mechanisms**

15. Several submissions recommended to ratify the OP-CRC-IC.<sup>20</sup>

16. IADP recommended to ratify ICPPED, ICRMW, the OP-ICESCR and OP-CRC-IC.<sup>21</sup>
17. PFT recommended to accept the requests for visits from Special Procedures mandate holders.<sup>22</sup>
18. Several submissions urged/recommended Sweden to ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).<sup>23</sup>
19. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) urged to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.<sup>24</sup>

## **B. National human rights framework**

### **1. Constitutional and legislative framework**

20. JS4 underlined that Sweden's dualistic legal system required international law to be translated into national law before it could be applied in domestic courts. For this reason, the judiciary and public authorities rarely applied human rights treaties in their decision-making.<sup>25</sup> JS4 recommended to incorporate ratified treaties into national law and to ensure that all draft legislation is preceded by a human rights analysis.<sup>26</sup>

### **2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures**

21. Several contributions welcomed the establishment of the Swedish Institute for Human Rights (SIHR).<sup>27</sup> JS1 recommended to include safeguards in the Swedish Constitution to protect the independence, mandate and authority of the SIHR.<sup>28</sup> OSCE-ODIHR recommended to strengthen the SIHR through provisions regulating the selection and appointment of its senior leadership, the grounds and process for their dismissal and to provide functional immunity.<sup>29</sup>

22. Some contributions recommended to strengthen the independence of the Ombudsman for Children (BO) by ensuring the long-term funding of its activities and granting it a mandate to receive and investigate individual complaints from children.<sup>30</sup>

23. Although designated as the equality body, the Equality Ombudsman of Sweden (DO) did not have the mandate to investigate cases of discrimination by police officers or custom officials.<sup>31</sup> DO recommended to make an ambitious interpretation and implementation of the EU legislation on binding standards and to provide the DO with sufficient additional resources.<sup>32</sup>

24. The Sami Parliament recommended to establish a national mechanism to handle recommendations from international review bodies.<sup>33</sup>

## **C. Promotion and protection of human rights**

### **1. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

#### *Equality and non-discrimination*

25. PFT underlined that the Swedish legislation prohibited discrimination based on disability, national origin or any other ground. However, persons of immigrant origin and persons with disabilities faced unfair discrimination in the enjoyment of their human rights and in accessing basic services such as healthcare, education and employment.<sup>34</sup> PFT recommended to enhance the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination against persons of immigrant origin and persons with disabilities in the enjoyment of human rights and access to basic services. It also recommended to establish an independent body to investigate and address complaints of discrimination.<sup>35</sup> DO recommended to create a litigation fund to pay for the litigation of major discrimination cases in court and to review the rules on legal costs in discrimination disputes. It also recommended to increase the resources and strengthen the capacity of the anti-discrimination agencies.<sup>36</sup>

26. JS1 indicated that there was a sharp increase in derogatory statements about ethnic and religious minorities and a racist narrative among politicians.<sup>37</sup> JS1 and JS4 indicated that authorities applied a narrow interpretation of the hate speech legislation, resulting in cases of hate speech not being prosecuted.<sup>38</sup> JS1 and JS4 recommended to adjust the wording of the provision criminalising hate speech in section 8 of chapter 16 of the Swedish Criminal Code.<sup>39</sup>

27. OSCE-ODIHR recommended to enact policies to address hate crimes in a comprehensive manner and to support victims as they report their experiences.<sup>40</sup> PFT recommended to introduce stricter legislations to combat hate crimes, particularly those related to islamophobia and abuse of sacred and religious symbols.<sup>41</sup> OSCE-ODIHR recommended to build law enforcement and justice sector capacities to recognize and effectively investigate hate crimes.<sup>42</sup> PFT recommended to encourage interfaith dialogue to prevent escalating religious tensions.<sup>43</sup>

28. European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) underlined that Sweden was not immune to the worldwide increase in antisemitic attacks. It urged Sweden to be proactive in combatting antisemitism and provide support for those affected by it.<sup>44</sup>

29. Save the Children Sweden (RBSCS) and JS4 alerted on the possibility for the police to proclaim a “security zone” where body searches can be carried out without any suspicion of criminal activity.<sup>45</sup> DO alerted that the recently adopted repressive legislation on security zones could increase the risk of discriminatory ethnic profiling. It urged the government to accelerate the drafting of legislation for comprehensive protection of individuals against discrimination in the public sector.<sup>46</sup> JS4 recommended to develop guidelines and training to the police on how to conduct non-discriminatory stop and searches.<sup>47</sup> JS1 recommended to introduce a prohibition against discriminatory measures by the police in the Discrimination Act.<sup>48</sup>

30. JS6 highlighted the heightened level of stigmatization against sex workers.<sup>49</sup>

#### *Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture*

31. International Alliance for Peace and Development (IAPD) underlined that Sweden had not yet adopted a definition of torture that encompassed all elements outlined in article 1 of CAT and that torture had not been incorporated as an independent and specific offense in the Swedish Penal Code.<sup>50</sup>

32. JS1 alerted about the frequent use of pretrial detention and solitary confinement of children. JS1 recommended to ensure that pretrial detention is used as a measure of last resort, to develop alternative measures and to ensure that restrictions on remand prisoners, and children in particular, are used only as an exceptional measure based on concrete individual grounds.<sup>51</sup>

33. The Ombudsman for Children (BO) expressed concern about deficiencies in the conditions for children deprived of their liberty and the lack of access to education. It recommended to ensure that children deprived of liberty have access to adequate healthcare, support, treatment and education, receive child-friendly information about their rights and can easily submit inquiries and complaints to an independent authority.<sup>52</sup>

34. PFT highlighted the growing prevalence of armed violence and the illegal use of force and firearms by armed gangs. It recommended to strengthen efforts of combatting criminal networks and armed gangs through adopting exhaustive social and security programmes. It also recommended to develop strategies to reduce the illegal proliferation of firearms and strengthen control over arms trade.<sup>53</sup>

35. RBSCS recommended to ensure that actions taken to prevent children being recruited by criminal networks and when children have committed crimes are based on research, proven experience, and respect for the rights of the child. It also recommended to ensure sufficient funding at both national, regional, and local level to ensure that preventive actions and early interventions are guaranteed for all children at risk of recruitment by criminal networks.<sup>54</sup>

36. JS1 alerted about the use of unauthorised coercive or restrictive measures in several group homes established with the Support and Service for Persons with Certain Functional Impairments Act. In many cases, these measures involved forced physical interventions, monitoring of patients and restrictions in their freedom of movement, which was considered a deprivation of liberty. JS1 recommended to educate medical and health care staff on the use of non-coercive methods.<sup>55</sup>

*Human rights and counter-terrorism*

37. JS1 underlined that the Swedish counter-terrorism legislation was not sufficiently clear and precise to comply with international standards and lacked a thorough analysis of its implications on fundamental human rights, including the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and the right to equal treatment. It recommended to ensure that counter-terrorism legislation and practices are in full conformity with fundamental human rights and do not have an adverse impact on minority communities.<sup>56</sup>

38. JS1 reported that, in 2023, an amendment to the Constitution made possible to limit the freedom of association for organisations engaging in or supporting terrorism. This amendment triggered another amendment to the Terrorist Crime Act, which entailed a new crime called "participation in a terrorist organisation". Neither the term "participation" nor "terrorism" were clearly defined. JS1 recommended to amend the Terrorist Crime Act taking into consideration the views of the Council on Legislation, the European Commission and the UN Special Rapporteurs.<sup>57</sup>

*Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life*

39. European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses (EAJW) requested Sweden to increase efforts to reduce threats, physical attacks, verbal abuse and acts of vandalism against Jehovah's Witnesses and their properties; and abide by its commitment to uphold the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of Sweden, the UDHR and the ICCPR for all citizens.<sup>58</sup>

*Right to privacy*

40. JS1 indicated that, in recent years, a great amount of new legislation had been enacted on the use of secret and preventative surveillance measures. It recommended to conduct a thorough review of the proportionality and compounded effects of that legislation to ensure the protection of the right to integrity of the person and to allocate the necessary financial resources to the Swedish Commission on Security and Integrity Protection to enable them to efficiently investigate illegal use of secret surveillance measures.<sup>59</sup>

*Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons*

41. ECLJ stressed that sex trafficking was the predominant form of trafficking in the country, despite being prohibited under Sweden's Anti-Trafficking Law. In addition, victims were only officially designated as victims of human trafficking after the conviction of a human trafficker. Human trafficking convictions remained low, in part because prosecutors often opted for other offenses that were easier to prove. In addition, many victims were from foreign countries and not aware of their rights.<sup>60</sup> ECLJ urged Sweden to train authorities to identify, investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking.<sup>61</sup> IAPD recommended to address all forms of slavery, combat human trafficking for labour exploitation, and ensure effective investigations and prosecutions of human trafficking offenders, resulting in dissuasive and proportionate penalties.<sup>62</sup>

*Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work*

42. IADP highlighted the increase in the unemployment rate particularly of persons with disabilities, of African descent, Muslims and national minorities.<sup>63</sup> JS4 recommended to review the national legislation to address systematic, intersectional and structural barriers experienced by persons with disabilities, national minorities, and migrants, and implement targeted measures to close the gaps in the open labour market.<sup>64</sup>

43. IAPD indicated that the gender pay gap for equal work remained significant and posed a challenge to Sweden's gender equality agenda. It recommended to eliminate the gender pay gap and strengthen labour laws to eradicate discrimination against women in the workplace.<sup>65</sup>

#### *Right to health*

44. BO reported that an increasing number of children reported experiencing mental illness. It stressed the significant deficiencies and regional disparities in access and quality of health care. BO recommended to increase knowledge of children's mental health and illness and to ensure that all children have equal access to adequate health care of good quality. It also recommended to adopt a national strategy for mental health and suicide prevention that includes a child rights perspective.<sup>66</sup>

45. JS3 reported that, if some proposals contained in the Tido agreement were implemented, the rights to access healthcare for migrants and undocumented asylum-seekers would be seriously impeded.<sup>67</sup> JS3 recommended to ensure that any immigration policy does not impede the equal access of migrants to essential services, such as affordable healthcare.<sup>68</sup>

46. JS3 and JS4 reported that racism was prevalent in the healthcare sector in Sweden.<sup>69</sup> JS3 recommended to ensure that state agencies and regional authorities implement action plans to prevent and address racism within the healthcare sector.<sup>70</sup>

#### *Right to education*

47. Broken Chalk stressed the need to efficiently implement the right to education, particularly for vulnerable and underprivileged groups and in rural and economically disadvantaged areas. The growing privatisation of education sparked concerns. It recommended to increase and prioritize funding for schools in economically underprivileged, rural, and underserved urban regions; implement and expand targeted intervention programmes for pupils from underserved socioeconomic backgrounds; and encourage policies that foster socioeconomic and ethnic inclusion in schools.<sup>71</sup> JS4 recommended to develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy for inclusive education and to establish a mechanism to monitor the implementation of national legislation on inclusive education.<sup>72</sup>

48. JS4 indicated that not all children received the primary and secondary education they were legally entitled to, being especially severe for the Roma children due to past and present exclusion.<sup>73</sup> JS4 recommended to guarantee Roma children equal access to primary and secondary school, by applying targeted measures to implement the national strategy for Roma inclusion.<sup>74</sup>

#### *Development, the environment, and business and human rights*

49. IAPD noted that climate activists who engaged in peaceful acts of civil disobedience continued to face severe charges of vandalism or sabotage.<sup>75</sup> JS1 recommended to clarify the wording of the sabotage provision in the Criminal Code to explicitly state that all peaceful expressions of opinion are exempt from criminal liability. It also recommended to refrain from depicting climate activists and peaceful protests as threats against democracy and public security.<sup>76</sup>

## **2. Rights of specific persons or groups**

### *Women*

50. IAPD noted that programmes and policies addressing violence against women did not always adequately include women from national minorities, women with disabilities, and immigrant women.<sup>77</sup> IAPD reported on the steady increase in cases of violence against women even if many abused women, particularly those of immigrant origin, did not report these cases.<sup>78</sup>

### *Children*

51. Several submissions expressed deep concern about the use of coercive measures against children in alternative care.<sup>79</sup> Barnrättsbyrån highlighted the use of solitary confinement in alternative care settings for minors under the Swedish National Board of Institutional Care.<sup>80</sup> Barnrättsbyrån recommended to take legislative measures to explicitly abolish the use of solitary confinement, isolation and restraint in alternative care settings for minors.<sup>81</sup> Barnrättsbyrån also recommended to ensure a total reform of state compulsory care for children and to ensure that children have access to confidential, child-friendly and independent complaint mechanism for reporting cases.<sup>82</sup> BO recommended to close alternative care institutions that do not meet children's basic needs for support and protection and to clarify the division of responsibility between actors responsible for the fundamental rights for children in alternative care.<sup>83</sup> ECPAT recommended to enable children to receive compensation if they have been abused in alternative care.<sup>84</sup>

52. BO highlighted the shortcomings in children's right to be heard in decision-making processes by courts, municipalities, and other authorities. It recommended to ensure that all children have the right to freely express their views in all matters affecting the child and that those views are given due weight.<sup>85</sup> RBSCS recommended to ensure that all municipalities establish policies and structures, such as youth councils, for ensuring the participation of children in local decision-making.<sup>86</sup>

53. Barnrättsbyrån referred to a State inquiry that proposed measures to ensure that children could complain and exercise their rights under the CRC in Swedish legislation.<sup>87</sup> RBSCS recommended that complaint mechanisms at local, regional and national levels are known to children and are child friendly.<sup>88</sup>

54. BO indicated that violence against children was widespread in Sweden and cases were rarely reported to the police.<sup>89</sup> BO and JS4 recommended to adopt and implement the national strategy to prevent and combat violence against children and adopt a child rights-based approach on protection from violence.<sup>90</sup>

55. BO stressed that the honour-related violence and oppression constituted a serious problem in Sweden. It recommended to ensure children's rights to protection from all forms of harmful practices, including child marriage, female genital mutilation, and honor-related violence and oppression.<sup>91</sup>

56. BO recommended to introduce the possibility for children to have their own legal representative in custody, residence and contact cases; introduce specialized courts, divisions, or judges for cases involving children; and ensure equal access to parenting support based on children's needs and designed with the participation of children.<sup>92</sup>

57. JS4 alerted that the Government had proposed repressive legislation for children in conflict with the law, including plans to establish child prisons.<sup>93</sup> RBSCS recommended to reform the system for children who are convicted of crimes, with a clear focus on reintegration of the child into society, instead of introducing child prisons.<sup>94</sup>

58. BO expressed concern about the number of children exposed to some form of sexual abuse and exploitation and its significant increase in recent years. It recommended to raise awareness among children about the risks of sexual abuse and exploitation online and ensure that the criminal law protecting against child pornography covers all persons under the age of 18, without exception.<sup>95</sup> ECPAT recommended to enable and prioritize education of police and social services personnel regarding sexual exploitation of children so that children who are victims of sexual crimes obtain the support and help they need.<sup>96</sup>

59. ECPAT stated that the child pornography offence in chapter 16 section 10a of the Swedish Criminal Code should change its name to reflect that a child can never consent to participation in this kind of material. It recommended to update that definition in the Criminal Code to ensure it is in accordance with international guidelines and recommendations.<sup>97</sup>

60. ECPAT highlighted that sextortion of children was not contemplated in the Swedish criminal law. It recommended to fund a hotline for the removal of child sexual abuse and

exploitation material and increase the protection of children provided by criminal law when it comes to sextortion by creating a new and specific offence.<sup>98</sup>

#### *Persons with disabilities*

61. PFT expressed concern about discrimination against persons with disabilities in accessing to education, healthcare and other public services.<sup>99</sup> JS3 recommended to develop a national action plan with clearly defined measures to ensure equal access to healthcare for persons with disabilities and to ensure that this action plan is developed based on human rights and without a medicalised approach to disability.<sup>100</sup>

62. DO highlighted the relatively large number of complaints in the housing sector concerned the discrimination form of inadequate accessibility in the Discrimination Act. It recommended to amend the Discrimination Act so that inadequate accessibility is covered by the prohibition of discrimination in the housing sector.<sup>101</sup> JS3 recommended to review the disability rights legislation to ensure equal disability rights as a precondition for equal right to health, and access to healthcare for all people with disabilities.<sup>102</sup> JS4 recommended to establish an independent complaint mechanism for disability rights and revise the legal aid system to ensure the enforcement of these rights and access to justice.<sup>103</sup>

#### *Indigenous Peoples and minorities*

63. The Sami Parliament reported that Sami people were recognized as Indigenous Peoples and minority group under Swedish legislation. This dual status meant that several international and regional human rights-specific instruments applied.<sup>104</sup> DO reported that Sami were discriminated against in all areas of society.<sup>105</sup> JS1 recommended to instruct the Police Authority to prioritise hate crimes against the Sami and ear-mark police resources for the investigation of such crimes.<sup>106</sup> The Sami Parliament and Samiraddi recommended to establish a Sami strategy and national action plan, in close partnership with the Sami people, to achieve the ends of the UNDRIP.<sup>107</sup>

64. JS1 stated that the legal distinction between reindeer herding and non-reindeer herding Sami had not been adequately addressed by the Government, resulting in internal conflicts and hindering the Sami rights movement.<sup>108</sup> JS1 and JS4 recommended to resolve the legal discriminatory legal division between Sami groups, in consultation with the Sami people.<sup>109</sup> The Sami Parliament recommended to ensure that all Sami enjoy equal access to land and water and to introduce legislative changes to avoid unnecessary distinctions among the Sami people.<sup>110</sup>

65. Samiraddi indicated that a Consultation Act with the Sami was negotiated between the Government and the Sami Parliament. However, the Sami Council stressed that the Act did not sufficiently ensure meaningful participation. In addition, the right to freedom of a free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) had not been included in the law.<sup>111</sup> Samiraddi recommended to review the Consultation Act making the necessary amendments to implement the Sámi People's right to FPIC.<sup>112</sup>

66. JS1 recommended to guarantee, both in law and in practice, the FPIC of the Sami in all decisions affecting them.<sup>113</sup> The Sami Parliament recommended to ensure that all Sami affected by exploitation projects are respected in land exploitations processes, and that the principle of FPIC is respected.<sup>114</sup> The Sami Parliament recommended to involve the Sami people in shaping policies, strategies and action plans to combat climate change, implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.<sup>115</sup>

67. The Sami Parliament expressed concern about the strive for the so-called “green sustainable energy” or “green transition” that created tangible conflict with Sami land use for traditional Sami livelihoods.<sup>116</sup> It also alerted that, in 2023, the European Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) was adopted by the EU. That law will increase land exploitation in Sápmi. The Sami Parliament underlined that the Government had not consulted the Sami people in the drafting of the CRMA.<sup>117</sup> Samiraddi recommended to ensure a fair green transition, to review the legislation relevant to industrial activities in the Sami areas and make the necessary amendments to ensure that such legislation de facto conforms with the rights the Sami.<sup>118</sup>



68. JS7 reported that the Government adopted the Action Plan for the Preservation and Promotion of the National Minority Languages in 2022. However, the Action Plan did not point out any single educational action or measure for language minority tuition.<sup>119</sup> JS7 recommended to recognize the existence of linguistic discrimination and to take legislative measures to eliminate discrimination on the ground of national minority languages.<sup>120</sup> The Sami Parliament recommended to intensify efforts to assist the revitalization of the Sami language and its language centres, increase the number of teachers who teach in Sami and to teach Sami at all levels of the education system.<sup>121</sup>

69. A Truth Commission for the Sami people was established in 2021 with a mandate ending in December 2025. The Sami Parliament recommended to equip the Truth Commission with sufficient resources and to establish an independent mechanism to support and monitor the implementation of its recommendations.<sup>122</sup>

70. JS4 stressed that, despite being recognised as a national minority, the Tornedalian, Kven and Lantalaïset (TKL) people faced structural discrimination and endured injustices. As they are not recognized as Indigenous Peoples, they are excluded from legislation protecting Indigenous Peoples and lack any land rights. In 2020, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission for TLK people was established to investigate and review the assimilation policy and its consequences today. It concluded that the Swedish state and the Church of Sweden had a moral and political responsibility to make amends for the damages caused to the minority.<sup>123</sup> JS7 stressed that reconciliation was at risk if the State failed to acknowledge responsibility for the violations committed against the minorities and the long-lasting harm they caused.<sup>124</sup> JS4 recommended to implement all recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for TKL in close consultation with these minorities.<sup>125</sup>

71. JS4 reported that efforts to implement the long-term coordinated strategy for the inclusion of Roma people should be integrated into regular activities and should focus on developing methods and practices for Roma inclusion. It recommended to apply a long-term approach with targeted measures to achieve the goals of the national strategy for Roma inclusion.<sup>126</sup>

#### *Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons*

72. JS3 reported on a new law adopted in 2024 to decouple the process of acquiring a new legal gender from the medical process of accessing gender-confirming healthcare. The law still required a medical professional to investigate and confirm the person's desired gender identity. JS3 recommended to adjust the adopted law to be based on self-determination.<sup>127</sup> JS4 recommended to ensure available and accessible gender-affirming care and hormone treatment to all individuals in need of it.<sup>128</sup> Center for Family and Human Rights (C-Fam) had an opposite opinion.<sup>129</sup>

#### *Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers*

73. RBSCS indicated that there was a regression in the protection of migrants with the Government linking migration and criminality and considering a more restrictive migration policy.<sup>130</sup> It also pointed at the proposals to restrict the rights of newly arrived migrants and to remove several fundamental rights for undocumented persons. In particular, it highlighted that asylum-seekers were no longer able to get a permanent residence permit.<sup>131</sup> RBSCS recommended to ensure that all legislation and other actions comply with the rule of non-discrimination.<sup>132</sup>

74. JS1 alerted that, in December 2023, new legislation entered into force which introduced stricter requirements for family reunification and made more difficult for children to obtain residence permits on humanitarian grounds. JS1 recommended to strengthen the protection of the right to family reunification and humanitarian protection by ensuring that all Swedish immigration regulation are in full conformity with fundamental rights instruments, such as the CRC.<sup>133</sup>

75. JS3 and JS4 stressed that the right to health for non-permanent residents and undocumented adult migrants was at risk despite that national legislation granted undocumented migrants access to "healthcare that cannot be deferred". That term had been questioned by health personnel and by the National Board for Health and Welfare.<sup>134</sup> JS3 and

JS4 recommended to clearly define the term “healthcare that cannot be deferred” and to guarantee the full right to subsidized healthcare to asylum-seekers, undocumented migrants, and EU migrants lacking health insurance.<sup>135</sup> JS3 and JS4 also recommended to guarantee publicly funded interpretation and translation services for non-residents and undocumented individuals, ensuring access in all healthcare settings.<sup>136</sup>

76. RBSCS informed about the Government proposal to introduce a legal obligation for professionals to report to the police and to the Swedish Migration Board when they meet an undocumented person with no exemptions for professionals within schools, health care or the social services.<sup>137</sup> JS1 underlined that this “snitch-law” would damage the trust between migrants and public authorities and would limit migrants’ access to their economic, social and cultural rights.<sup>138</sup> RBSCS recommended to secure the professional secrecy.<sup>139</sup> JS1 recommended to refrain from adopting legislation which would impede the equal access for migrants to services essential for the realisation of their human rights, including health care, education and access to justice.<sup>140</sup>

77. JS1 indicated that the Government proposed new legislation which further undermined the protection against refoulement and limited access to international protection. JS1 recommended to ensure the full protection against refoulement and strengthen the procedural guarantees for accessing international protection, by guaranteeing equal access to legal assistance, interpretation and the right of appeal in asylum and immigration procedures.<sup>141</sup> JS2 addressed the situation of the Ahmadis in Sweden.<sup>142</sup>

78. JS5 reported that Christian asylum-seekers who converted from Islam were denied asylum in Sweden. It recommended to take affirmative action to protect asylum seekers who converted from one religion to another and whose conversion is making them vulnerable to attacks by members of the religious faith they formerly adhered to.<sup>143</sup>

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/44/12, A/HRC/44/12/Add.1, and A/HRC/45/2.

<sup>2</sup> The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org) (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

### *Civil society*

#### *Individual submissions:*

Barnrättsbyrån	The Children’s Rights Bureau (Barnrättsbyrån), Stockholm (Sweden);
BO	Barnombudsmannen, Stockholm (Sweden);
Broken Chalk	The Stichting Broken Chalk, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
C-Fam	Center for Family and Human Rights, New York, NY 10017 (United States of America);
DO	Equality Ombudsman of Sweden, Solna (Sweden);
EAJW	European Association of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 1950 Kraainem (Belgium);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, The, Strasbourg (France);
ECPAT Sweden	ECPAT Sweden, Stockholm (Sweden);
IAPD ORG	International Alliance for Peace and Development, Geneva (Switzerland);
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva (Switzerland);
PFT	PFT, Cairo (Egypt);
RBSCS	Rädda Barnen/Save the Children Sweden, Stockholm (Sweden);
Sametinget	Sametinget/Sami Parliament of Sweden, Kiruna (Sweden);
Samiraddi	Saami Council, Karasjok (Norway).

#### *Joint submissions:*

JS1	<b>Joint submission 1 submitted by:</b> Civil Rights Defenders, Stockholm (Sweden); FARR- Flyktinggruppernas riksråd, SwedenFolkets Husby, SwedenGiron Sámi Teáhter, SwedenHelamalmö, SwedenIbn Rushd Studieförbund,
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	SwedenLandsförbundet Svenska Samer, SwedenSociala missionen, Sweden;
JS2	<b>Joint submission 2 submitted by:</b> Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, Paris (France); International Human Rights Committee;
JS3	<b>Joint submission 3 submitted by:</b> Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, Stockholm (Sweden); Swedish Association for Sexuality Education RFSU, Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Rights RFSL, RFSL Ungdom - Queer Youth Sweden, the Rosengrenska Foundation, Independent Living Institute, Médecins du Monde Sweden;
JS4	<b>Joint submission 4 submitted by:</b> Swedish Foundation for Human Rights, Stockholm (Sweden); Church of Sweden; Civil Rights Defenders; Independent Living Institute; Médecins du Monde Sweden; Queer Youth Sweden; Save the Children Sweden; Senior Revolt; The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education; The Swedish Disability Federation; RFSL Ungdom - Queer Youth Sweden; The Swedish National Association for People with Intellectual Disability; Trajosko Drom; United Nations Association of Sweden; Anti-discrimination Bureau Humanitas; Antidiskrimineringsbyrån Rättighetscentrum Västerbotten; Ordfront -The Swedish Human Rights and Democracy Movement; Rättighetscentrum Norrbotten; The antidiscrimination bureau in Stockholm north; Verdandi;
JS5	<b>Joint submission 5 submitted by:</b> World Evangelical Alliance, Geneva (Switzerland); European Evangelical Alliance (EEA)Swedish Evangelical Alliance (SEA);
JS6	<b>Joint submission 6 submitted by:</b> The Sexual Rights Initiative, Ottawa (Canada); - Red Umbrella Sweden- Sexual Rights Initiative;
JS7	<b>Joint submission 7 submitted by:</b> Minoritetslyftet, Uppsala (Sweden); Sweden Finnish Youth Organisation, Met Nuoret - the Tornedalians' Youth Organisation and Minoritetslyftet Consulting.

*National human rights institution:*

SIHR Institutet för mänskliga rättigheter, Lund (Sweden).

*Regional intergovernmental organization(s):*

CoE Council of Europe, Strasbourg Cedex (France);  
OSCE-ODIHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Warsaw (Poland).

<sup>3</sup> SIHR p. 6.

<sup>4</sup> SIHR p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> SIHR p. 2.

<sup>6</sup> SIHR p. 1.

<sup>7</sup> SIHR p. 1.

<sup>8</sup> SIHR pp. 2–3. See also OSCE\_ODIHR para. 9.

<sup>9</sup> SIHR p. 7.

<sup>10</sup> SIHR p. 5.

<sup>11</sup> SIHR p. 8. See also See also ECPAT para. 13; RBSCS para. 16b; JS4 pp. 1 and 13–14.

<sup>12</sup> SIHR p. 8.

<sup>13</sup> SIHR p. 9.

<sup>14</sup> SIHR p. 9. See also Sametinget para. 34; CoE p. 3.

<sup>15</sup> JS7 para. 25.

<sup>16</sup> SIHR p. 3.

<sup>17</sup> SIHR p. 3. See also RBSCS paras. 9, 12 and 30–35; JS4 p. 15.

<sup>18</sup> SIHR p. 7. See also IAPD p. 4; RBSCS para. 16d; JS4 p. 1; JS4 pp. 3–4.

<sup>19</sup> The following abbreviations are used in this UPR document:

ICERD International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
20 SIHR p. 2; BO p. 8; Barnrättsbyrå p. 2; ECPAT para. 3; RBSCS para. 27a; JS4 p. 2.	
21 IAPD p. 6. See also SIHR pp. 2–3; PFT p. 6; JS4 p. 2.	
22 PFT p. 7.	
23 DO p. 4; Sametinget para. 33; Samiraddi para. 21; JS1 para. 24; JS4 p. 10.	
24 ICAN p. 2.	
25 JS4 p. 2.	
26 JS4 pp. 1–2 and 8. See also IAPD pp. 5–6.	
27 BO p. 1; OSCE-ODIHR para. 5; IAPD p. 2; JS1 para. 2; JS4 p. 1.	
28 JS1 para. 5. See also JS4 p. 2.	
29 OSCE-ODIHR para. 5.	
30 BO p. 2; RBSCS para. 27d; JS4 pp. 13–14; Barnrättsbyrå pp. 1–2.	
31 DO pp. 1–2.	
32 DO p. 4. See also RBSCS paras. 31–35.	
33 Sametinget para. 33.	
34 PFT p. 2.	
35 PFT p. 7.	
36 DO pp. 1–2.	
37 JS1 paras. 6 and 17–19. See also JS4 p. 6; PFT pp. 4–5; and JS4 p. 6.	
38 JS1, para. 18 and JS4, p. 7.	
39 JS1, para 19 and JS4, p. 7.	
40 OSCE-ODIHR para. 13. See also JS1 para. 7.	
41 PFT p. 7. See also SIHR p. 4; JS1 paras. 8–12; JS4 p. 7; JS5p. 4.	
42 OSCE-ODIHR para. 13.	
43 PFT p. 7.	
44 ECLJ paras. 16 and 24. See also JS7 paras. 25–26.	
45 RBSCS para. 14; JS4 p. 6. See also JS1 paras. 13–16.	
46 DO pp. 2–3. See also RBSCS para. 14.	
47 JS4 p. 6.	
48 JS1 para. 16.	
49 JS6, paras. 18, 23, 29 and pp. 7–8.	
50 IAPD p. 2.	
51 JS1 paras. 45–47. See also SIHR p. 6.	
52 BO p. 7.	
53 PFT p. 7. See also RBSCS para. 2.	
54 RBSCS para. 16.	

- 55 JS1 paras. 45–47.
- 56 JS1 paras 25–26. See also SIHR p. 5.
- 57 JS1 para. 26. See also JS4 p. 7.
- 58 EAJW para. 39.
- 59 JS1 para. 41–44.
- 60 ECLJ paras. 5, and 11–13.
- 61 ECLJ para. 23.
- 62 IAPD p. 6.
- 63 IAPD p. 4. See also JS4 p. 3.
- 64 JS4 p. 4. See also SIHR p. 6.
- 65 IAPD pp. 4 and 6.
- 66 BO pp. 6–7. See also Broken Chalk paras. 23–25.
- 67 JS3 para. 7. See also RBSCS para. 1; JS4 p. 1.
- 68 JS3 para. 10. See also JS4 p. 3.
- 69 JS3, paras. 13 and 18 and JS4, p. 5.
- 70 JS3, paras. 13 and 18.
- 71 Broken Chalk paras. 9, 15–18, 30–32, and 34–36. See also RBSCS paras. 36–38; JS7 para. 52–53.
- 72 JS4 p. 4.
- 73 JS4 p. 3. See also Broken Chalk paras. 9, 15–18, 30–32, and 34–36.
- 74 JS4 p. 4.
- 75 IAPD p. 3. See also JS4 p. 1.
- 76 JS1 paras. 39–40.
- 77 IAPD p. 5.
- 78 IAPD p. 5.
- 79 BO p. 2; ECPAT para. 11; RBSCS paras 28–30.
- 80 Barnrättsbyrån pp. 2–3. See also ECPAT para. 11.
- 81 Barnrättsbyrån p. 4. See also ECPAT para. 12 and RBSCS para 30b.
- 82 Barnrättsbyrån p. 4. See also BO pp. 2 and 5; RBSCS paras. 30a and 30c; JS4 p. 14.
- 83 BO pp. 5–6.
- 84 See also ECPAT para. 12.
- 85 BO pp. 1–2. See also RBSCS para. 21.
- 86 RBSCS para. 25b.
- 87 Barnrättsbyrån pp. 1–2.
- 88 RBSCS para. 27.
- 89 BO p. 4.
- 90 BO p. 3 and JS4 p. 14. See also ECPAT para. 3.
- 91 BO p. 4.
- 92 BO pp. 4–5.
- 93 JS4 p. 13.
- 94 RBSCS para. 16c.
- 95 BO pp. 3–4. See also See also ECPAT paras. 8 and 13; RCSCS paras. 6–7.
- 96 ECPAT para. 21.
- 97 ECPAT paras. 9–10.
- 98 ECPAT paras. 13–18.
- 99 PFT pp. 3–4.
- 100 JS3 para. 33. See also JS4 p. 8.
- 101 DO p. 3.
- 102 JS3 para. 33.
- 103 JS4 pp. 8–10.
- 104 Sametinget para. 1. See also JS4 p. 9.
- 105 DO p. 3. See also IAPD p. 5; JS4 p. 7.
- 106 JS1 para. 19. See also JS4 p. 7.
- 107 Sametinget para. 33, Samiraddi paras. 18 and 21.
- 108 JS1 para. 20. See also JS4 p. 9.
- 109 JS1 para. 24; JS4 p. 9.
- 110 Sametinget para. 16. See also JS1 para. 24; JS4 p. 9.
- 111 Samiraddi paras. 5 and 15. See also SIHR p. 10; Sametinget paras. 3 and 6; JS1 para. 23 and JS4 p. 9; JS7 para. 50.
- 112 Samiraddi para. 21.
- 113 JS1 para. 24.
- 114 Sametinget para. 16.
- 115 Sametinget para. 16.

- <sup>116</sup> Sametinget para. 9. See also Samiraddi paras. 7 and 16; JS1 para. 21.  
<sup>117</sup> Sametinget paras. 11–12.  
<sup>118</sup> Samiraddi para. 21. See also JS1 para. 24.  
<sup>119</sup> JS7 para. 32. See also CoE p. 3.  
<sup>120</sup> JS7 paras. 55–56.  
<sup>121</sup> Sametinget para. 23. See also Samiraddi para. 13; JS7 para. 27.  
<sup>122</sup> Sametinget para. 28 and Samiraddi para. 11. See also JS1 paras. 22 and 24; JS4 p. 9; JS7 para. 21.  
<sup>123</sup> JS4 pp. 12–13. See also JS7 paras. 40 and 59–61.  
<sup>124</sup> JS7 paras. 19 and 23–24.  
<sup>125</sup> JS4 pp. 12–13. See also JS7 paras. 40 and 59–61.  
<sup>126</sup> JS4 p. 12.  
<sup>127</sup> JS3 paras. 20 and 25.  
<sup>128</sup> JS4 p. 5.  
<sup>129</sup> C-Fam paras. 17 and 25.  
<sup>130</sup> RBSCS paras. 2–3.  
<sup>131</sup> RBSCS para. 8. See also SIHR p. 10; JS4 p. 1.  
<sup>132</sup> RBSCS para. 7.  
<sup>133</sup> JS1 para. 37–38. See also JS4 p. 16; RBSCS paras. 8 and 12.  
<sup>134</sup> JS3 paras. 3–4 and JS4 p. 5.  
<sup>135</sup> JS3 para. 10; JS4 p. 5. See also p. 7.  
<sup>136</sup> JS3, para. 10 and JS4, p. 5. See also RBSCS para. 8.  
<sup>137</sup> RBSCS para. 8. See also JS4 pp. 1; 5 and 15.  
<sup>138</sup> JS1 para. 34.  
<sup>139</sup> RBSCS para. 12. See also JS3 para. 7.  
<sup>140</sup> JS1 paras. 31 and 36. See also JS3 para. 10.  
<sup>141</sup> JS1 para. 31. See also JS4 p. 15.  
<sup>142</sup> JS2 pp. 1–6.  
<sup>143</sup> JS5 pp. 2 and 8.
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