

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/Sweden/90

10 March 2025

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on follow-up on concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the tenth periodic report of Sweden, at the Committee's eightieth session, held on 22 October 2021. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/10](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 51 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Sweden to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 24 (a), (e) and (f) and 26 (d) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/SWE/FCO/10](#)) received with more than eight months delay on 16 August 2024 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its ninetieth session, held in February 2025, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment:

Regarding the recommendation made **in paragraph 24 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**strengthen and fully implement the current strategy in place to combat gender-based violence, including sexual and domestic violence against women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, by incorporating the knowledge and use of algorithms to prevent gender stereotyping and by linking the strategy to the prevention of suicide and substance abuse and to the action plan on parental neglect, with clear goals and mechanisms for prevention, monitoring and follow-up**”:

The Committee takes note of the State Party's ten-year national strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women (VAW) and its specific National Action Plans (NAPs) addressing sexual violence. It also notes the increase in funding and the establishment of agencies to promote mental health and prevent suicide. The Committee nevertheless regrets that the State Party report does not indicate steps taken to combat gender-based violence and domestic violence. It notes that the State Party has not provided any linkage between these initiatives and its efforts to combat gender-based violence, sexual violence, and domestic violence against women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities.

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The Committee notes with interest the commission of the Equality Ombudsman to deepen knowledge of the risks of discrimination in the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and other automated decision-making in working life. The Committee nevertheless regrets that the State Party's report has provided no information on efforts taken to incorporate knowledge of algorithms to prevent gender stereotyping or efforts to link the strategy to the prevention of suicide, substance abuse, and parental neglect.

The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is extensive but does not relate directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is only **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 24 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Strengthen and fully implement the current strategy in place to combat gender-based violence, including sexual and domestic violence against women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, by incorporating the knowledge and use of algorithms to prevent gender stereotyping and by linking the strategy to the prevention of suicide and substance abuse and to the action plan on parental neglect, with clear goals and mechanisms for prevention, monitoring and follow-up.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 24 (e)** that the State party “**specifically criminalize femicide and expedite the adoption of comprehensive measures to prevent, combat and punish all forms of gender-based violence against women, and ensure that adequate human, technical, and financial resources are allocated for their systematic and effective implementation, monitoring, and assessment**”:

The Committee notes with interest the State Party's appointment of an Inquiry to consider whether gender as a hate crime motive should explicitly be added as an aggravating circumstance in its laws. It also notes the various initiatives employed by the State Party to address sexual trafficking. The Committee notes with appreciation the legislative amendments in criminal legislation aimed at strengthening protection against sexual violence, men's violence against women, violence against children, and "non-voluntary" sexual relations. The Committee nevertheless regrets that the State Party's report does not indicate any criminalisation of femicide, punishment for all forms of gender-based violence, or effective implementation of such criminalisation.

The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is extensive but does not relate directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is only **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 24 (e)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

“Specifically criminalize femicide and expedite the adoption of comprehensive measures to prevent, combat and punish all forms of gender-based violence against women, and ensure that adequate human, technical, and financial resources are allocated for their systematic and effective implementation, monitoring, and assessment”:

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 24 (f)** of the concluding observations that the State party to “**ensure the collection and analysis of data, disaggregated by age, nationality, country of origin, disability and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, on gender-based violence against women and girls**”:

The Committee takes note with interest of the State party’s mandate to governmental agencies to include sex-disaggregated data in annual reports and the creation of new data categories related to crimes against men’s VAW. It further notes with interest that the Swedish Agency for Participation (MID) has been commissioned to compile data on exposure of persons with disabilities to violence and to identify knowledge gaps. The Committee also notes the State party government’s collaboration with its police authority to ensure that the registration of crimes against women is done in a uniform manner.

The Committee notes with appreciation the efforts by Statistics Sweden to develop guidelines for working with statistics disaggregated by sex, with a special focus on how sex can interrelate with other variables. The Committee nevertheless regrets the limitations of the General Data Protection Regulation, which, as a consequence, restricts access to statistics disaggregated by sex in combination with other categories, such as ethnicity, religion, and disability.

The Committee considers that the recommendation has **been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is extensive but does not relate directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is only **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 24 (f)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to: “**ensure the collection and analysis of data, disaggregated by age, nationality, country of origin, disability and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, on gender-based violence against women and girls**”.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 26 (d)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**continue strengthening its efforts to combat trafficking, and prioritize the prevention of trafficking and re-trafficking, protection of victims and prosecution of perpetrators by, inter alia, granting temporary resident permits to victims of trafficking irrespective of their willingness or ability to cooperate with the prosecution authorities and ensuring that immigration and deportation laws and policies do not deter migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from reporting crimes of trafficking or undermine efforts to prevent human trafficking, to identify or protect victims or to prosecute perpetrators**”:

The Committee notes with appreciation the expansion of measures and the commissioning of an agency by the State Party to combat the sexual exploitation of children, prostitution, and human trafficking. It also notes that a temporary residence permit may, under certain circumstances, be granted to a foreign victim. It further notes amendments to the Aliens Act that allow the municipal social service to apply for a residence permit on behalf of victims of trafficking or human exploitation and making changes regarding a reflection period.

The Committee nevertheless regrets that, according to the amendments made to the Aliens Act, unconditional protection for foreign victims of human trafficking does not appear to exist, as applications are made on their behalf by municipal social services or law enforcement for the purpose of their cooperation in preliminary investigations or criminal proceedings.

The Committee considers that the recommendation has **been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive and that it relates directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 26 (d)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to: **“continue strengthening its efforts to combat trafficking, and prioritize the prevention of trafficking and re-trafficking, protection of victims and prosecution of perpetrators by, inter alia, granting temporary resident permits to victims of trafficking irrespective of their willingness or ability to cooperate with the prosecution authorities and ensuring that immigration and deportation laws and policies do not deter migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from reporting crimes of trafficking or undermine efforts to prevent human trafficking, to identify or protect victims or to prosecute perpetrators.”**

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Yours sincerely,
Natasha Stott Despoja
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women