



REFERENCE: CERD/FU/GH/fm

15 May 2015

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 86<sup>th</sup> session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Sweden, pursuant to Rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the timely submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12, 14 and 16 of the concluding observations (CERD/C/SWE/CO/19-21), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> periodic report during its 83<sup>rd</sup> session in August 2013.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> periodic reports to be submitted in a single document on 5 January 2017.

**Paragraph 12 of the Concluding Observations:** The Committee welcomes additional measures taken to combat racially motivated hate crimes. However, it regrets the increase of hate speech and violence in the country, mainly targeting non-citizens, Muslims, Roma and Jews. The Committee requests the State party to provide information on the effects of the activities undertaken to curb the increase of hate crimes, xenophobia, and related intolerance. In view of its General Recommendation No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, the Committee reiterates the importance of education and awareness raising in eliminating racial discrimination to complement enforcement of legislation and other approaches, including systematic data collection and analysis in order to assess the circumstances under which hate speech emerges.

His Excellency  
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**Paragraph 14 of the Concluding Observations:** The Committee notes the efforts of Sweden in addressing social exclusion and segregation affecting foreign-born people in the labour and housing market. The Committee wishes to encourage the State party to assess the deep causes of the 2013 riots to guarantee that its integration policy and other related efforts are strengthened and effectively implemented. The Committee requests updated information on the implementation and outcome of these measures.

**Paragraph 16 of the Concluding Observations:** The Committee thanks the State party for its response on efforts to prevent racial profiling. It encourages Sweden to develop appropriate education programmes and trainings for law enforcement officials that would promote respect for human rights, tolerance and friendship as well as combat prejudice and racial profiling. The Committee stresses that States parties should always take the necessary steps to prevent arrests and searches which are based solely on visible characteristics of individuals.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Sweden, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



José Francisco Calí Tzay  
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination