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To:

**CERD Committee Secretariat
Palais Wilson
Geneva
Switzerland**

25 July, 2013

Subject: Alternative/Parallel Report to the Swedish State Report known as
CERD/C/SWE/19-21.

Introduction

This Alternative report consists of suggested comments and questions that are the consolidated responses from our network of national and international affiliates, researchers, scholars and social activists in response to statements offered by the State Party (Sweden) in its 19th to 21st Periodic State Report (CERD/C/SWE/19-21).

The intention is for these questions to be posed by the Committee in its examination of the Swedish report.

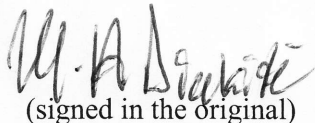
Abstract

These suggested questions are in four parts, each addressing corresponding articles, headings and paragraphs addressed in CERD/C/SWE/19-21.

The Suggested comments and questions are located beneath each corresponding paragraph section.

We look forward to the Committees addressing these issues.

Sincerely,



(signed in the original)

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I Introduction

Par. 1

This NGO's alternative report takes exception to the combining of three State reports into a single document. Such a combination severely limits the examination of a report by NGOs since distribution and analysis of reports within shorter periods seems more appropriate considering the nature of the subject matter.

Suggested Question

Does the combining of the state report provide NGOs in Sweden with sufficient time to consolidate and submit questions and comments to the State Party with such a comprehensive document spanning three reports?

II. Population Statistics

A. Population statistics

Par. 2. This NGO's alternative report also takes exception to the State's report on the population in Sweden in Part II, Section A. par.2, Table 1, (Population by background, 2011-12-31); Table 2, (Foreign-born population by region of birth, 2011-12-31); and table 3 (Countries of origin of the largest groups of foreign-born persons, 2011-12-31.)¹

Neither table identifies the population of Sweden with the variables required in the Convention in order to implement its provisions fully. The population of the foreign-born persons by region in the State report fails to clearly identify the "race" of those foreign-born populations even though persons of different races populate each continent named. We therefore suggest some questions, which the Committee might consider asking as they relate to specific articles in the State report.

Suggested Question

The populations of the continents named in Table 2 consist of persons who are recognized as racial minorities or indigenous persons in their countries of origin. If racial categories are not applied in Sweden, how does the State Party distinguish those foreign-born persons from the "majority" populations in the various continents listed in Tables 1 through 3?

III. Information relating to articles 2 to 7²

Article 2.1

5. Other general measures for combating ethnic discrimination, xenophobia and similar forms of intolerance

¹ CERD/C/SWE/19-21, pp. 3 – 4.

² Ibid., page 13, para 53.

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(b) Government support to organisations, with special reference to paragraph 12 in the Committees recommendations

Par. 53:

The State Party reports that “*Local anti-discrimination offices are given funding in accordance with the Ordinance on State Grants for Activities that Prevent and Combat Discrimination.*”³ Yet, according to par. 45 on Table 8 (page 12) the numbers of discrimination cases that are closed via a judgment are disproportionately low considering the claims that local anti-discrimination offices are provided with funding in accordance with the ordinance.

Suggested Questions:

How much funding is provided to each of the local anti-discrimination offices?

How many adjudicated cases per year have the local anti-discrimination offices prosecuted?

Do the adjudicated cases establish precedent or are the plaintiffs placated with settlements of small sums of money for damages?

What level of competence is required of the volunteers?

Article 2.2

Special measures, with reference to paragraph 13 in the Committees recommendations.

Par. 64

EIA takes exception to the State party’s claims in this paragraph that among the reasons not allowing special measures based on ethnicity is that there is “*difficulty of determining which criteria employers should use for such assessments, ethnic registration, difficulty of determining which ethnic groups they should extend to, legal insecurity and unpredictability, and a risk of conflict between individuals*”.

Suggested Questions:

What evidence does the State present to substantiate its reason for denying its ethnic minority groups their rights as provided for in Article 1:4 of the CERD?

Why should “*conflict between individuals and groups*” be assumed when the State party has not applied Affirmative Action policies based on race?

Who are likely to be the perpetrators of such conflict?

Which ethnic (racial) groups would be most vulnerable to such behaviour?

³ Ibid., par. 52.

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Par. 67.

The State Party states that it has a number of labour market policy measures in place designed to enhance progress for “*new arrivals in particular*”.

Suggested Questions

Are the new arrivals “visible minorities” from non-EU countries or are they from neighbouring EU countries?

What are the labour market policy measures in place that are designed to enhance progress?

What is meant by “progress” in this case?

2. National Minorities

Paris 68 – 111.

With the adoption of the strategy regarding national minorities and the large investment in funds and strategies for the official minorities described in paras. 71 – 111, the state party has failed to account for the number minorities to which the strategy is intended for.

Suggested question

Which minority groups receive the most funding and which receive the least?

What are the criteria for funding provided to the various official minority groups.

Is the amount of funds provided for in the official minority strategy disproportionate to the total population of all visible minorities?

PART III References

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Domstolsverket, *Official Statistics of Sweden*, Stockholm, 2012.

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