

List of themes | Sweden

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1. Introduction

The Swedish Institute for Human Rights was established in 2022 as Sweden's national human rights institution. In this document, we highlight several thematic areas where we assess that Sweden must intensify its efforts to meet its obligations under the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). An alternative report will also be submitted to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination later this year.

In preparation for this document and the forthcoming report, we conducted dialogue meetings with representatives from civil society organisations, activists, researchers, and rights holders from seven groups in Sweden that are particularly affected by racism: Afro-Swedes, Jews, Muslims, Roma, Swedish Asians, Sweden Finns, Tornedalians, Kvens and Lantalaiset, as well as the Indigenous Sámi people. Additionally, we held a dedicated meeting with youth organisations, focusing on young people's experiences of racism. In total, approximately 90 individuals participated in these consultations.

These meetings have provided the Swedish Institute for Human Rights with a broad picture of how groups exposed to racism and discrimination experience their situation and how they believe that racism can be counteracted. Some of the topics that have been highlighted in the meetings are:

- Lack of legal protection against hate crimes and discrimination: many participants reported difficulties in accessing justice and redress for victims of racism, underscoring gaps in Sweden's legal framework and enforcement mechanisms.
- Racist undertones in political discourse and policy initiatives: participants expressed serious concern about the increasing normalization of racism in public debate, both online and offline, which contributes to a broader societal acceptance of discriminatory attitudes.
- Racism in schools: children and young people are frequently exposed to racism in educational settings. Racist language and behaviour are becoming part of daily life for many children.
- Discrimination in interactions with public services: racism and discriminatory treatment are also reported in contacts between families and representatives of schools, social services, and healthcare institutions. These interactions directly affect access to fundamental human rights such as education, health, housing, and social security.

Terminology used in the report

The Swedish Institute for Human Rights affirms that every individual has the right to self-identification and to use terminology that best reflects their identity, in line with General Recommendation No. 21 of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.¹

In Sweden, there is no universally agreed-upon terminology for discussing ethnicity and racism. In our consultations with groups and organisations representing people who experience racism, we have therefore made a conscious effort to ask which terms and expressions they prefer to describe themselves and the forms of racism they face. Our aim is for the terminology used in this report to reflect, as far as possible, the preferences of the individuals and communities we are writing about.

We strive to use language that is specific and descriptive. Nonetheless, we acknowledge that some of the terminology employed may be imprecise, non-exhaustive, or not universally accepted within the groups concerned. As such, the terms used may not fully capture the diversity of identities or experiences within each community.

2. State action against racism

The following theme is based on article 2 and article 5 (a) to (d) of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which describes, among other things, the responsibility and role of the State in condemning, combating and eliminating racism.

Insufficient recognition of the UN Convention on Racial Discrimination

Sweden has not incorporated the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination into national law.

A survey conducted by the Swedish Institute for Human Rights reveals that the Convention is relatively unknown among the general public. Forty percent of respondents stated that they were not aware of the Convention at all.²

1 UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, General recommendation 21 (48) adopted at 1147th meeting on 8 March 1996: Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 48th session, 26 February–15 March 1996. CERD/48/Misc.7/Rev.3, 1996

2 Swedish Institute for Human Rights, Awareness and Perceptions of Human Rights in Sweden 2022–2023, 2023, p. 11. [Exploring human rights awareness, attitudes and perception in scandinavia](#)

This lack of awareness also extends to Swedish courts and public authorities. Although, in principle, they are expected to apply the Convention through treaty-compliant interpretation—meaning they should interpret domestic legal provisions in line with Sweden’s international obligations—such application remains rare in practice.

To address this gap, we believe that targeted measures are needed to increase awareness of the Convention. Doing so would provide courts and public authorities with stronger foundations for applying its provisions in practice.

Suggested question the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could pose to the Swedish government:

→ To what extent do judgments issued by Swedish courts contain explicit references to the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination?

Action plan against racism and hate crime

The Swedish Institute for Human Rights welcomes the development of a new government action plan to combat racism and hate crime.³ However, the plan has several notable shortcomings.

During meetings with civil society organisations and rights holders, concerns were raised about the process used to develop the action plan. Participants highlighted a lack of inclusion and insufficient consultation with civil society. Several also emphasized that the action plan must not remain a symbolic gesture; it should form the basis for concrete policies, practices, and political communication.

Furthermore, concerns were expressed that the plan predominantly frames racism as a matter of individual attitudes or interactions, which limits the effectiveness of the proposed measures in addressing structural racism. There is also a risk of inaccuracy, as the plan fails to acknowledge that racism manifests differently across various affected groups.

3 Arbetsmarknadsdepartementet m.fl., Ny handlingsplan för ett samhälle fritt från rasism, 13 december 2024. [Ny handlingsplan för ett samhälle fritt från rasism – Regeringen.se](#)

Currently, the public authorities responsible for implementing the government's action plan are given time-limited government assignments. In a review of the government assignments, it has been recommended that the government ensures that efforts to combat racism are long-term, rather than project-based.⁴

Suggested questions the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could pose to the Swedish government:

- How does the Swedish government plan to involve civil society and rights holders in the implementation of the action plan against racism and hate crime?
- What measures is Sweden taking to ensure that efforts to combat racism and hate crime are sustained over the long term, rather than relying on short-term projects as in the past?

The need to develop equality data in Sweden

Sweden currently lacks sufficient collection of equality data, which significantly hampers the ability to design, implement, and evaluate effective measures against racism and discrimination. By equality data, we refer to any qualitative or quantitative information that can be used to describe and analyse different groups' access to human rights.⁵

In a 2023 parliamentary discussion, the Government stated that it does not plan to develop methods for collecting equality data, arguing that such efforts would conflict with the principle of equal treatment. However, this position fails to consider that perceptions of categorisation and data collection vary among different communities—particularly those that have been historically and are still presently subjected to discrimination and human rights violations. For this reason, any initiative to collect equality data must be developed, implemented, and communicated in close consultation with the affected groups, ensuring that their perspectives, needs, and concerns are central to the process.

In our dialogue with Afro-Swedes, participants emphasized the importance of equality data in making racism and discrimination more visible, understandable, and actionable. Such data is seen as essential for identifying and addressing structural and institutional

⁴ Forum för levande historia, Statens arbete mot rasism, liknande former av fientlighet och hatbrott 2024, 11 april 2025. [Redovisning-av-uppdrag-att-samordna-och-folja-upp-den-nationella-planen-mot-rasism-liknande-former-av-fientlighet-och-hatbrott.pdf](#)

⁵ European Commission, European handbook on equality data 2016 revision, December 2016, pp. 15–16. [European handbook on equality data – Publications Office of the EU](#)

racism—something that is currently under-documented by the state. Existing Swedish statistics often rely on whether an individual or their parents are born abroad, which overlooks groups who may experience racism but do not fall under this classification.

Similarly, participants in our meeting with Swedish-Asians highlighted the widespread lack of knowledge about racism targeting people of Asian descent. It should be noted that anti-Asian racism is not mentioned at all in the government's current action plan against racism and hate crime.

Additionally, it was pointed out that although there is already considerable data available on inequalities based on ethnicity and country of birth, this information is often not used to guide the planning or implementation of measures to address those inequalities.

Suggested questions the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could pose to the Swedish government:

- What measures has Sweden taken to ensure the collection and analysis of data that would increase understanding of how different groups are affected by discrimination based on ethnicity or skin colour, and unequal access to rights?
- What steps is the Swedish Government taking to raise awareness of anti-Asian racism and other forms of racism that are currently not addressed in the national Action Plan against Racism and Hate Crime?

Deteriorating conditions for civil society

In recent years, the operating conditions for large segments of civil society in Sweden have worsened. Public sector funding has decreased, with project-based grants becoming more prevalent in place of operational grants, and reporting requirements have become more burdensome.⁶ As a result, there is growing concern that political priorities are increasingly dictating funding decisions, limiting the scope of activities that civil society can pursue. Notably, in 2024, the state subsidy earmarked for ethnically based organisations was abolished.⁷

⁶ Nationellt organ för dialog och samråd mellan regeringen och det civila samhället, Kartläggning av finansieringen av civilsamhället 2024. [Kartläggning av civilsamhällets finansiering – Nationellt organ för dialog och samråd mellan regeringen och det civila samhället](#). Myndigheten för ungdoms- och civilsamhällesfrågor, Stabilitet och framtidstro trots påfrestningar: Uppföljning av ideella föreningars villkor, 2023. https://www.mucf.se/sites/default/files/2024/05/villkorssrapporten_rapport-2024.pdf

⁷ Web source: Myndigheten för ungdoms- och civilsamhällesfrågor, Nyhet – Regeringen avser att avskaffa statsbidraget till etniska organisationer, 7 september 2023. [Regeringen avser att avskaffa statsbidraget till etniska organisationer | MUCF](#)

In our consultations with civil society representatives, there has been widespread disappointment regarding the nature of government consultations with civil society. There is a perception that these consultations have shifted from being inclusive, collaborative discussions to more one-sided information sessions.

Furthermore, civil society actors report that they are increasingly called into question from politicians, being cast under suspicion and, in some cases, dismissed as adversarial.⁸ Representatives of civil society also report a rise in hatred, threats, delegitimization, and stigmatisation and such testimonies are particularly acute amongst organisations working for and with Muslims, other minority groups, and those focused on anti-racism efforts. These developments are severely impacting organisations that promote anti-racism, democracy, and inclusion.⁹ During our meetings, we also learned of incidents involving intimidation, vandalism, and hate directed at the premises of Muslim and Jewish associations and congregations.

Suggested question the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could pose to the Swedish government:

→ What measures is the Swedish government taking to create and maintain the conditions necessary for a strong, diverse, and independent civil society working on anti-racism, democracy, and inclusion?

The principle of free and prior informed consent is not fully applied

The Sámi are both an indigenous people and a national minority. Their rights are protected, among other instruments, by the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169), which Sweden has yet to ratify.

The Sámi Consultation Law came into effect in Sweden in March 2022, requiring the government and all state administrative authorities to consult with Sámi representatives before making decisions on matters of particular importance to them. As of 1 March 2024, this obligation will also extend to municipalities and regions.

⁸ Web source: Civil Rights Defenders, Ett år med Tidöavtalet: Det är helheten som oroar, 2023-12-12. [Det är helheten som oroar – ett år med Tidöavtalet - Civil Rights Defenders](#)

⁹ FORUM Idéburna organisationer med social inriktning, Stämplad som demokratiextremist. Negativ etikettering och stigmatisering – Så drabbas civilsamhällets organisationer och ideell engagemang, 2024, p. 12. [forumrapportfinalwebb.pdf](#)

However, the law has several shortcomings and limitations and falls short of fully upholding the principle of free, prior, and informed consent. For example, it does not cover civil law contracts, and there is no mechanism for appealing inadequate or non-existent consultations. Consequently, it remains unclear to what extent Sámi representatives can seek judicial review of the consultation process in Sweden.

Sámi communities in Sweden are also facing challenges related to climate change, particularly the industrial expansion associated with the climate transition. Despite this, no additional funding has been allocated to support Sámi communities' participation in consultations.¹⁰ In the meetings we have held, Sámi representatives have emphasized that consultations must be effective in practice. There must be adequate time and resources for organisations to engage in consultations. For instance, consultations should be scheduled at times when representatives, including volunteers, can attend.

Sámi representatives also criticize how the government applies the Consultation Act. For example, Sámi civil society actors chose not to participate in consultations related to the disbanding of the Committee on Reindeer Lands. They abstained because they felt that the Government and the Government Offices had not applied the Consultation Act properly and that decisions had already been made prior to the consultation.¹¹ The Government's intention to dissolve the Committee was announced in a press release before consultations with Sámi representatives.¹²

Suggested question that the Committee on Racial Discrimination could ask the Swedish Government:

→ How will Sweden ensure the human right of the Sámi people to genuine and effective participation in matters affecting them, including a real opportunity to influence decisions in accordance with the principle of free and prior informed consent?

Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Sweden has not ratified the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families. The Convention clarifies states' obligations to inform migrants of their rights and recognizes migrants as rights holders.

10 Institutet för mänskliga rättigheter, Konferensrapport: Urfolksrätt och samers rättigheter i samband med klimatomställningen, 2023. [Urfolksrätt och samers rättigheter i samband med klimatomställningen](#)

11 Sámiid Riikkasearvi, Förfrågan om konsultation avseende avveckling av Renmarkskommittén, dnr. LI2024/02100, SO 5/21, 15 november 2024. [2411151.pdf](#)

12 Web source: Pressmeddelande från Landsbygds- och infrastrukturdepartementet, Regeringen avser avveckla Renmarkskommittén och tillsätta en ny utredning, 7 november 2024. [Ny handlingsplan för ett samhälle fritt från rasism – Regeringen.se](#)

The risk of human trafficking and labour exploitation is high, and the extent of the problem is believed to be significantly underreported. Those most vulnerable to exploitation include asylum seekers and migrants in an irregular situation. In some cases, exploited workers are forced to live at their workplace and work for minimal or non-existent wages to pay off debts incurred in relation to their employment. At the same time, they face a high risk of physical and sexual violence and deportation.¹³

Those affected by exploitation typically lack legal support and have limited opportunities to recover unpaid wages unless they are union members, which is rarely the case. Furthermore, union support for undocumented workers is severely limited.¹⁴

Suggested questions the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could pose to the Swedish government:

- What measures are Sweden taking to ensure the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families?
- What steps are Sweden taking to ratify the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families?

The Durban Declaration

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has recommended that Sweden implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which was adopted at the World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance in September 2001. However, none of the civil society representatives we have met with have been invited to consult or engage with the Government or the Government Offices on this matter.

Suggested Questions the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Could Pose to Sweden:

- How is Sweden working to implement and monitor the Durban Declaration, and how are rights holders involved in this process?

13 Arbetsmiljöverket, m.fl., Lägesbild 2021 för det myndighetsgemensamma arbetet mot fusk, regelöverträdelse och brottslighet i arbetslivet, 2022, p. 20–21, [Lägesbild 2021 – myndighetsgemensamt arbete mot arbetslivskriminalitet | Jämställdhetsmyndigheten](#)

14 Räddningsmissionen, Exploatering av arbetskraft i Sverige, 2023, p. 39, [Exploatering av arbetskraft i Sverige.pdf](#)

3. Hate crime, political discourse and redress

The following theme is based on articles 4 and 6 of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which state, among other things, that acts based on racism shall be criminal offenses and that public authorities must not promote or incite discrimination.

Increase in hate crimes

Hate crimes with racist and xenophobic motives account for 53% of all reported hate crimes and represent the most common category in hate crime statistics. Afrophobia and Islamophobia are the most frequently cited motives behind reported hate crimes in Sweden.¹⁵ Additionally, there has been a significant increase in hate crimes with anti-Semitic motives since October 2023.¹⁶

A common perception, shared during all of our meetings, is that the incidence of hate crimes has increased in recent years. Furthermore, all the groups we met with expressed that it is extremely difficult to obtain redress after reporting a hate crime, even in cases where clear evidence has been presented to the police. As a result, many people now choose not to report hate crimes, while others do so primarily to document the incident, without any expectation of redress.

15 Brottsförebyggande rådet, Polisanmälda hatbrott 2022 – En sammanställning av de ärenden som hatbrottsmarkerats av polisen, Rapport 2023:16, 2023, p. 9–10, [Polisanmälda hatbrott 2022](#)

16 Brottsförebyggande rådet, Polisanmälda hatbrott med antisemitiska motiv under hösten 2023, 2024, p. 16. [Polisanmälda hatbrott med antisemitiska motiv under hösten 2023 | Brå – Brottsförebyggande rådet](#)

Examples of hate crimes against different groups:

- In one study, 55 percent of Roma respondents reported experiencing harassment in the past year, with twelve percent having faced hate-motivated physical violence. The most common reason for not reporting is that anti-Gypsyism is so widespread that it has become normalized, and they do not believe that reporting will lead to any meaningful action.¹⁷
- There is a need for measures to increase police awareness of hate crimes against the Sámi.¹⁸ In our meetings with Sámi organizations, it became evident that the police lack knowledge about the specific forms of hate crimes against the Sámi. This lack of awareness often leads to crimes not being recognized as hate crimes by the police and prosecutors.
- People experience hate, threats, and violence in their daily lives—on public transport, at school, in their workplaces, and online. Individuals wearing distinct traditional attire or religious symbols are particularly vulnerable to harassment. Women are often affected by harassment in specific ways, such as Roma and Sámi women wearing traditional dress, or Muslim women wearing a veil. Discrimination and harassment vary depending on factors like gender and specific prejudices against the targeted minority. For instance, Swedish-Asian women report that the discrimination, hatred, and threats they experience are often sexualized.

Several individuals testify that hate crimes have increased as minorities assert their rights. For example, there are signs that hate crimes against the Sámi increase when their rights are recognized or brought to public attention, particularly in connection with legal proceedings where Sámi rights are at stake.¹⁹

Two out of ten congregations have refrained from making public statements or organizing activities due to fear of being subjected to threats and hatred. This is especially common among Muslim, Jewish, and Orthodox congregations.²⁰ Additionally, 35 percent of organizations advocating against racism report that their members or the organization itself has been threatened in the past year.²¹

17 Paula Mulinari, Ajin Ali, Sandy Lindkvist och Mujo Halilovic, Lycklig är den som har en öppen väg framför sig: En rapport om förutsättningar och hinder för romskt liv i Malmö, Malmö Universitet och Malmö Stad, 2024, p. 19. [Rapport om romskt liv i Malmö ger rekommendationer för stadens fortsatta arbete – Malmö stad](#)

18 Brottsförebyggande rådet, Hatbrott mot samer, rapport 2024:3, 2024, p. 66–68, [Hatbrott mot samer | Brå - Brottsförebyggande rådet](#)

19 Brottsförebyggande rådet, Hatbrott mot samer, rapport 2024:3, 2024, p. 9. [Hatbrott mot samer | Brå - Brottsförebyggande rådet](#)

20 Linnea Lundgren och Sara Fransson, Hot och Risker i Trossamfund: en nationell kartläggning av lokala församlingars utsatthet och sårbarhet för brott och andra risker, Stockholm: Myndigheten för stöd till trossamfund, 2025, p. 79. [SST.Hotochrisker.Inlaga proof](#)

21 MUCF, Kartläggning av hot och hat mot det civila samhället, 2022, p. 7, [Kartläggning av hot och hat mot det civila samhället | MUCF](#)

Suggested questions the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could pose to Sweden:

- What measures has Sweden implemented to prevent, deter, and prosecute hate crimes?
- What steps should Sweden take to increase trust in and accessibility to law enforcement authorities, encouraging more individuals to report racist hate crimes?
- How is Sweden working to ensure that individuals and civil society organizations are not subjected to hatred and threats when exercising their rights?

Political and public discourse

In all the meetings we held, there was widespread criticism of the current political discourse, which is perceived as racist. In addition to individual statements made by politicians, many of those we met with felt that recent legislative proposals related to law enforcement and migration carried racist and xenophobic undertones. A study commissioned by the Swedish Institute for Human Rights found that thousands of articles in both print and online editorial media during the 2022 election campaign contained polarizing and xenophobic statements.²²

In several meetings, it became clear that Muslims in Sweden feel particularly vulnerable to the racist political discourse. They highlighted numerous examples of critical statements made by high-ranking politicians. Recurrent negative remarks about Muslims reinforce the feeling of vulnerability and have a clear impact on societal attitudes towards Muslims. Muslim communities feel that negative statements from politicians about Muslims, along with generalizations about Islam, contribute to an increase in hatred, threats, and actual attacks on their communities.²³

In our meetings with Sámi representatives and organizations, it became evident that the public discourse is contributing to rising polarization by perpetuating prejudices against the Sámi and undermining their rights.²⁴

22 Institutet för mänskliga rättigheter, Årsrapport 2023, p. 90. [Institutet för mänskliga rättigheter – årsrapport 2023](#)

23 Linnea Lundgren och Sara Fransson, Hot och Risker i Trossamfund: en nationell kartläggning av lokala församlingars utsatthet och sårbarhet för brott och andra risker, Stockholm: Myndigheten för stöd till trossamfund, 2025, p. 3. [SST.Hotochrisiker.Inlaga proof](#)

24 See, for example, the panel discussion at the Göteborg Book Fair entitled “Sami, a privileged minority or a vulnerable indigenous people?” which generated reactions in the media such as Dagens Nyheter, Expressen, Svenska Dagbladet and Östersundsposten.

Several civil society actors also report being affected by harsh rhetoric, loss of legitimacy, and threatening accusations. Organizations focused on anti-racism and minority rights are particularly vulnerable. A survey revealed that the harsh rhetoric and accusations aimed at civil society are largely coming from politicians and party representatives.²⁵

Suggested Questions the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Could Pose to Sweden:

- What measures will Sweden take to combat racist hate propaganda and xenophobic statements? How does Sweden respond to the fact that certain groups experience that public officials and politicians are contributing to a racist and xenophobic discourse?
- What measures should Sweden take to protect individuals who experience increasing vulnerability due to racist statements?

Difficulty obtaining redress

A consistent theme that emerged from the meetings we held is the limited ability to obtain redress in cases of hate crimes, intimidation, and discrimination. Between 2020 and 2023, only six percent of recorded hate crimes were solved. Nearly half (47 percent) of these cases were closed after an investigation, while a similar percentage (46 percent) were closed before an investigation was initiated.²⁶ A survey conducted last year reveals that perceived discrimination is far more widespread than the number of reports submitted to the Equality Ombudsman suggests.²⁷

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission for the Tornedalians, Kvens, and Lantalaïset submitted its final report at the end of 2023.²⁸ Meanwhile, the Truth Commission for the Sami People continues its work of collecting and analyzing individual testimonies regarding the experiences and consequences of past policies directed at the Sami.

25 FORUM Idéburna organisationer med social inriktning, Stämplad som demokratiextremist. Negativ etikettering och stigmatisering – Så drabbas civilsamhällets organisationer och ideellt engagemang 2024, p. 12. [forumrapportfinalwebb.pdf](#)

26 Brottsförebyggande rådet, Polisanmälda hatbrott 2022 – En sammanställning av de ärenden som hatbrottsmarkerats av polisen, Rapport 2023:16, 2023, p. 112. [Polisanmälda hatbrott 2022](#)

27 Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, Årlig rapport från Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, rapport 2024:2, 2024, p.8. [Förekomst av diskriminering 2024](#)

28 SOU 2023:68, Som om vi aldrig funnits – exkludering och assimilering av tornedalingar, kväner och lantalaïset, 2023. [Som om vi aldrig funnits – Regeringen.se](#)

During the year, the Sweden Finns' delegation called for the establishment of a truth commission to identify and acknowledge the abuses and forced assimilation faced by this minority.²⁹

Suggested questions that the Committee on Racial Discrimination could ask Sweden:

- What measures will Sweden take to ensure that the proposals and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for the Tornedalian, Kvens and Lantalaiset and the Truth Commission for the Sami people are fully implemented in consultation with the affected groups?
- Is Sweden planning to establish a truth commission to investigate and acknowledge the abuses and forced assimilation suffered by the Sweden Finns?

4. Civil and political rights

The following theme is based on article 5 (a) to (d) of the UN Convention on Racial Discrimination, which states, among other things, that everyone has the same civil rights, regardless of race, colour, nationality or ethnic origin.

Changes to citizenship laws

Swedish citizenship laws are undergoing significant changes. The government has appointed an inquiry proposing stricter requirements for acquiring Swedish citizenship, as well as a parliamentary committee suggesting that the possibility of revoking citizenship should be greatly expanded.³⁰

29 Web source: Sverigefinne, Sverigefinnarna kräver egen sanningskommission, 28 april 2024. [Sverigefinnarna kräver egen sanningskommission | Sverigefinländarnas delegation](#)

30 SOU 2025:1, Utredningen om skärpta krav för att förvärva svenskt medborgarskap, 2025 [Skärpta krav för svenskt medborgarskap – Regeringen.se](#) och SOU 2025:2, Några frågor om grundläggande fri- och rättigheter, 2025. [Några frågor om grundläggande fri- och rättigheter – Regeringen.se](#)

The proposed changes to citizenship requirements include longer residency periods and a requirement for applicants to demonstrate financial self-sufficiency. The new rules also impose stricter conditions on those who have received income support.³¹ These more stringent requirements are likely to disproportionately affect people with disabilities and women who are distant from the labour market.³²

A cross-party committee recommends introducing the possibility of revoking Swedish citizenship, a measure currently available only in very limited cases. The proposal would allow for the revocation of citizenship from individuals with dual nationality, primarily impacting people born abroad. This change would result in Swedish citizens getting different levels of protection of their citizenship.³³

Suggested Questions the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Could Pose to Sweden:

→ What measures has Sweden taken to ensure that the new restrictions on citizenship do not violate the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination?

Restrictions on freedom of expression

A Government Inquiry has proposed expanded possibilities for denying or revoking residence permits if a person is found to have “deficiencies in their way of life”. Currently, this is only possible if the individual has been convicted of a crime. The inquiry suggests that such deficiencies in behaviour could include statements that seriously threaten Swedish democratic values, are seen as system-threatening, or could undermine the legitimacy of the public administration.

These proposals would condition freedom of speech for individuals who are not Swedish citizens. We are concerned that if freedom of speech begins to be restricted based on a person’s origin, it could both be discriminatory and undermine the principles of the rule of law.³⁴ Additionally, there is a risk that non-citizens may feel compelled to practice self-censorship out of fear that their residence permit might be denied or revoked.

31 SOU 2025:1, Betänkande av Utredningen om skärpta krav för att förvärva svenskt medborgarskap, 2025. [Skärpta krav för svenskt medborgarskap – Regeringen.se](#)

32 Institutet för mänskliga rättigheter, remissyttrande över betänkandet om skärpta krav för att förvärva svenskt medborgarskap (SOU 2025:1), dnr. 3.2.1-36/2025. [Skärpta krav för svenskt medborgarskap – Institutet för mänskliga rättigheter](#)

33 SOU 2025:2, Några frågor om grundläggande fri- och rättigheter, 2025. [Några frågor om grundläggande fri- och rättigheter – Regeringen.se](#)

34 SOU 2025:33, Skärpta och tydligare krav på vandel för uppehållstillstånd, 2025. [Skärpta och tydligare krav på vandel för uppehållstillstånd – Regeringen.se](#)

Suggested Questions the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Could Pose to Sweden:

→ What measures has Sweden taken to ensure that proposals which risk limiting the freedom of speech of non-Swedish citizens do not violate the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination?

5. Law enforcement measures

The following theme is based on article 4 and article 5 (a) to (d) of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which states, among other things, that all persons are equal before the law.

Increased risk of ethnic profiling

A study conducted by the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (BRÅ) shows that current police practices are linked to the risk of discriminatory ethnic profiling. For example, the report indicated that these practices lead to more errors, with people of African and South-West Asian descent being disproportionately misidentified in relation to suspected drug offences. Additionally, law enforcement have lower accuracy in areas with higher proportions of people from non-Nordic backgrounds.³⁵

In recent years, several measures have been introduced to grant law enforcement authorities more powers and tools. For instance, since April 2024, the police have been authorized to search individuals in certain restricted areas known as security zones.³⁶ In these zones, police can also search vehicles without concrete suspicion of a crime. This expansion of powers poses the risk of both actual and perceived discrimination.³⁷

In our meeting with young people, several participants raised concerns about the security zones, arguing that they rely on stereotypes and reinforce their mistrust of the police, thereby contributing to increased marginalization. Furthermore, measures have been introduced, with additional proposals under consideration, to grant the police

35 Brottsförebyggande rådet, Polisens arbete med profilering och likabehandling Med fokus på diskriminerande etnisk profilering Rapport 2023:12, 2023 p. 56 – 58. [Polisens arbete med profilering och likabehandling](#)

36 Section 22 a-c of the Police Act (1984:387)

37 Lagrådet, Utdrag ur protokoll vid sammanträde, 15 februari 2024, p. 1. [Säkerhetszoner](#). Institutet för mänskliga rättigheter, promemorian Säkerhetszoner – ökade möjligheter för polisen att visitera för att förebygga brott (Ds 2023:31). [Säkerhetszoner – ökade möjligheter för polisen att visitera för att förebygga brott – Institutet för mänskliga rättigheter](#)

greater authority to stop individuals and check whether they have the right to remain in Sweden. These developments further heighten the risk of discriminatory ethnic profiling.³⁸

We have also highlighted the potential for discrimination with the use of AI in camera surveillance.³⁹ If AI models are not trained to recognize certain physical characteristics, they may wrongly identify individuals, thus increasing the risk of discrimination.⁴⁰ The use of AI by other authorities has already shown discriminatory outcomes. For example, AI algorithms used by the Swedish Social Insurance Agency to detect benefit fraud have disproportionately flagged people with foreign backgrounds⁴¹ as potential fraudsters.⁴²

Suggested questions the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could pose to Sweden:

- What steps has Sweden taken to ensure that discriminatory ethnic profiling does not occur within law enforcement agencies?
- What measures has Sweden implemented to ensure that crime prevention tools, such as camera surveillance, security zones, and internal border controls, do not lead to ethnic discrimination or disproportionately disadvantage certain groups?

6. Religious freedom

The following theme is based on article 5 (a) to (d) of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which states, inter alia, that all persons shall enjoy the right to freedom of religion or belief and freedom of association.

38 Effektivare verktyg vid inre utlänningskontroll 2023/24:SfU6. [Effektivare verktyg vid inre utlänningskontroll – Regeringen.se](#). Institutet för mänskliga rättigheter, remissyttrande över promemorian Vissa åtgärder för stärkt återvändandeverksamhet och utlänningskontroll (SOU 2024:7), dnr. 3.2.1-775/2024. [Vissa åtgärder för stärkt återvändandeverksamhet och utlänningskontroll – Institutet för mänskliga rättigheter](#)

39 Institutet för mänskliga rättigheter, remissyttrande över promemorian Förbättrade möjligheter för Polisen att använda kamerabevakning, (Ds 2024:11), dnr. 3.2.1-367/2024. [Förbättrade möjligheter för Polisen att använda kamerabevakning – Institutet för mänskliga rättigheter](#)

40 Internetstiftelsen, Internetkunskap, AI – artificiell intelligens, Vilka risker finns det med AI, 7 maj 2025. <https://internetkunskap.se/artiklar/grundkurs-i-ai/vilka-risker-finns-det-med-ai/>

41 Persons with a foreign background include persons born outside Sweden and persons with at least one parent born outside Sweden.

42 Web source: Lighthouse reports, Sweden's Suspicion Machine, 7 May 2025. <https://www.lighthousereports.com/investigation/swedens-suspicion-machine/>

A national survey on the vulnerability of religious communities reveals that many congregations in Sweden have faced threats in connection with religious services: half of the four Jewish congregations, just over a third of the Catholic congregations, a quarter of the Muslim congregations, and a fifth of the Orthodox congregations reported such incidents.⁴³

In our conversations with Muslim organisations and congregations, several expressed the view that while religious freedom is well protected in law, it is insufficiently upheld in practice. All highlighted a negative trend in the protection of Muslims' human rights in Sweden. Challenges for Muslim organisations and congregations include difficulties in accessing premises and public funding, as well as frequent exposure to hate and threats. Several also reported cases where children are denied the opportunity to pray or practice their religion and traditions in school settings.

Jewish associations and congregations similarly emphasised that growing anti-Semitism not only affects individuals but also severely limits their ability to operate freely. This decline in conditions for Jewish organisations is taking place at a time when demand for community activities and support is higher than ever.

Suggested questions that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could ask Sweden:

- What steps are Sweden taking to strengthen the ability of religious organisations and congregations to operate and fully exercise their right to religious freedom?
- How is the Swedish state ensuring that the right to religious freedom is upheld consistently across all settings, including in schools?

7. Economic, social and cultural rights

The following theme is based on articles 3 and 5 (e-f) of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which states, among other things, that racial segregation should be eradicated and that all people have economic, social and cultural rights, such as the right to work, housing, health and education.

⁴³ Linnea Lundgren och Sara Fransson, Hot och Risker i Trossamfund: en nationell kartläggning av lokala församlingars utsatthet och sårbarhet för brott och andra risker, Stockholm: Myndigheten för stöd till trossamfund, 2025, p. 3. [SST.Hotochrisker.Inlaga.proof](#)

Discrimination in the labour market

Several reports indicate widespread discrimination in Sweden’s labour market based on ethnic origin. Men with Arabic or Muslim-sounding names are particularly vulnerable. Discrimination occurs in various forms, including during recruitment, promotion, and the allocation of tasks.⁴⁴

Foreign-born individuals report experiencing poorer working conditions compared to those born in Sweden.⁴⁵ In our meetings, many people highlighted labour market discrimination—such as the influence of skin colour and name on recruitment decisions. Roma individuals often conceal their identity by omitting their knowledge of the Romani Chib language from job applications in an attempt to avoid bias.

Among members of the Kommunal trade union who were born outside Sweden, nearly one in four believe that negative attitudes toward people with foreign backgrounds have increased in their workplaces. Members born in Africa are 300 percent more likely to be employed on fixed-term contracts compared to those born in Sweden or other Nordic countries.⁴⁶

Afro-Swedes face systemic disadvantages in employment outcomes. Compared to others with the same educational qualifications, Afro-Swedes earn lower wages, experience more prolonged periods of unemployment, and face greater barriers to career advancement. These disparities are most pronounced at higher education levels. For instance, the disposable income of university graduates is 39 percent lower for Afro-Swedes than for the general population—regardless of whether they were born and raised in Sweden.⁴⁷

Almost a quarter of Roma in Sweden report having experienced labour market discrimination. In a survey of Roma and Travellers, only 42 percent of women and 52 percent of men reported being in paid employment. The same survey found that one in three Roma or Traveller youth aged 16–24 were neither working nor studying at the time of the survey.⁴⁸

44 Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (DO), Diskriminering som har samband med religion eller annan trosuppfattning, 2022. <https://www.do.se/download/18.56175f8817b345aa7651a7e/1646129036985/Diskriminering-som-har-samband-med-religion-eller-annan-trosuppfattningen-analys-av-anmalningar.pdf> Delmi, Etnisk diskriminering i rekryteringsprocesser – orsaker och åtgärder, Kunskapsöversikt 2024:14. <https://www.delmi.se/publikationer/kunskapsaversikt-2024-14-etnisk-diskriminering-i-rekryteringsprocesser/> Kommunal, Var kommer du ifrån? Egentligen? 2024. [Var kommer du ifrån webb.pdf](#)

45 Arbetsmiljöverket, Fokus på utrikes föddas arbetsmiljö? Rapport: 2023/042947, 2023, p. 7. [Fokus på utrikes föddas arbetsmiljö](#)

46 Kommunal, Var kommer du ifrån? Egentligen?, 2024, p. 7. [Var kommer du ifrån webb.pdf](#)

47 Länsstyrelsen i Stockholm, Antisvart rasism och diskriminering på arbetsmarknaden, 2021, p. 39. [Antisvart rasism och diskriminering på arbetsmarknaden](#)

48 EU:s byrå för grundläggande rättigheter (FRA), Romer och resande i Sverige, 2019. [fra-2021-roma-and-travellers-survey-country-sheet_sv.pdf](#)

Suggested questions that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could ask Sweden:

- What measurable results can the Swedish government present regarding efforts to combat direct and indirect discrimination, harassment, and bullying of foreign-born individuals in the labour market?
- What concrete steps has Sweden taken to identify and address wage and economic disparities between Afro-Swedes and the rest of the population?

Discrimination in the housing market

According to the Equality Ombudsman, most reports of discrimination in housing relate to ethnic origin or disability.⁴⁹ Roma are particularly affected, with 60 percent of Roma and Travellers in Sweden living in overcrowded conditions, compared to 15 percent of the general population.⁵⁰ Overcrowding is also common among people born outside of Europe.⁵¹

In our meetings, participants testified to experiencing discrimination and pointed to a lack of preventive efforts among housing providers. We heard, for example, of landlords denying housing contracts to individuals with Roma names. The Equality Ombudsman has found that the practices of several landlords during the housing allocation process may result in discriminatory outcomes. Discrimination is often linked to ethnic origin, including requirements such as citizenship, permanent residence permits, or a Swedish personal identification number.⁵²

Discrimination in the housing market is a contributing factor to residential segregation in Sweden. Residential segregation has increased markedly in recent decades and is increasingly ethnic in character.⁵³ Areas facing socioeconomic challenges often have a high proportion of foreign-born residents. Research suggests a link between growing up in these areas and more limited future prospects—such as lower academic achievement,

49 Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (DO), Statistik över anmälningar som inkom till DO 2015–2023, p. 59–60. [Statistik 2015–2023: Statistik över anmälningar som inkom till Diskrimineringsombudsmannen 2015–2023](#)

50 EU:s byrå för grundläggande rättigheter (FRA), Romer och resande i Sverige, 2019. [fra-2021-roma-and-travellers-survey-country-sheet_sv.pdf](#)

51 SCB, Lämna ingen utanför Statistisk lägesbild av genomförandet av Agenda 2030 i Sverige, oktober 2020, 2020, p. 90. [Lämna ingen utanför](#)

52 Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (DO), Diskriminering vid tillhandahållande av hyresbostäder, Rapport 2021:3, p. 57. [Diskriminering vid tillhandahållande av hyresbostäder](#)

53 Boverket, Boendesegregationens utveckling och mekanismer Årsrapport 2023 om den socioekonomiska boendesegregationens utveckling i Sverige, Rapport 2023:23, p. 5. [Boendesegregationens utveckling och mekanismer](#)

fewer job opportunities, and poorer health outcomes.⁵⁴ During our meetings it was suggested that segregation limits contact between different groups, making it harder to build social networks that could support labour market integration and access to opportunities.

As of 1 March 2025, asylum seekers will, as a general rule, only be entitled to financial assistance if they reside in the asylum accommodation assigned to them.⁵⁵ However, several studies have identified serious issues with asylum housing, including overcrowding, remote and isolated locations, poor accessibility, lack of safety and security, and insufficient privacy or space for children to study, rest, or play.⁵⁶ During our meetings, participants expressed concern that this new requirement will make it even harder for persons with disabilities to have their rights met, as these accommodations are unlikely to offer individualized solutions.

Suggested questions the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could ask the Swedish State:

- What concrete measures has Sweden taken to ensure equality in the right to adequate housing?
- How is Sweden working to counteract the negative consequences of ethnically based residential segregation?
- What are the human rights implications of requiring asylum seekers to live in assigned accommodation, particularly for persons with disabilities, LGBTI individuals, women, and children?

54 Boverket, Verktyg för att minska och motverka boendesegregation: Hur planering, gestaltning och bostadsutveckling kan bidra till att förändra relationell boendesegregation, Rapport 2023:26 p. 10. [Verktyg för att minska och motverka boendesegregation](#) Martin Andersson, Johan P Larsson, Özge Öner, Goda grannar – en ESO-rapport om grannskapets betydelse för integrationen, Rapport till Expertgruppen för studier i offentlig ekonomi, (SOU 2024:3), p. 9. [Goda grannar - en ESO-rapport om grannskapets betydelse för integrationen](#), ESO-rapport 2024:3

55 Prop. 2024/25:49, En ny ordning för asylsökandes boende. [En ny ordning för asylsökandes boende](#)

56 See, among others; Arbetsförmedlingen, Jennie K Larsson, Platsen och boendets påverkan på nyanländas arbetsmarknadsetablering, working paper 2017:4, 2017. Brottsförebyggande rådet, Brott och brottsutsatthet på kollektiva asylboenden under 2018, Rapport 2020:16, 2020. [Brott och brottsutsatthet på kollektiva asylboenden under 2018](#). Rapport 2020:16

Svenska Röda Korset, Avslag på asylansökan – Upplevelser av att leva som asylsökande i Sverige, 2022. [efter-avslag--upplevelser-av-att-leva-som-asylsökande_230219.pdf](#). Rädda barnen, Tove Samzelius, Starka mammor, trygga barn – En rapport om asylsökande och nyanlända ensamstående mammors situation i Sverige, 2023. [Starka mammor – trygga barn – En rapport om asylsökande och nyanlända ensamstående mammors situation i Sverige | Save the Children's Resource Centre](#). Sandra Karlsson, Children's lived rights: The everyday politics of asylum-seeking children, Stockholm Universitet, 2021. <https://su.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1594563/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

Inequalities in health care

Several individuals we spoke to reported experiences of unequal treatment and discrimination in their interactions with the healthcare system. In some cases, ethnic markers or stereotypes were documented in medical records—for example, a patient was described as a “young girl with a big black skirt,” a description perceived to refer to her Roma identity.

Participants also described how difficult it is to obtain redress after experiencing racism in healthcare. One proposal raised was that the Swedish Health and Social Care Inspectorate (IVO) should include racism as a specific area of supervision, in order to systematically monitor and respond to such issues.

Sámi and Sweden Finns report a higher prevalence of long-term illness than the general population and are more likely to have seriously considered or attempted suicide.⁵⁷ Life expectancy figures also illustrate deep inequalities: in 2019, the average life expectancy for men and women in Sweden was 80.6 and 84.1 years, respectively. Among Roma and Traveller populations, however, life expectancy was significantly lower—69 years for men and 74 years for women.⁵⁸

People with a foreign background are more likely to have negative healthcare experiences than those with a Swedish background. They are more often forced to forgo medical care due to cost and tend to experience longer waiting times.⁵⁹

Ethnicity-based stereotypes within healthcare contribute to patients not being treated based on their individual needs, which can result in inadequate or inappropriate care.⁶⁰ In obstetric and maternity care, Afro-Swedes report experiences of structural racism, prejudice, and patronising or stigmatising treatment, and often perceive the quality of their care as inferior compared to how others perceive the quality of their care.⁶¹

57 Folkhälsomyndigheten, Hur mår personer med finländskt ursprung?, 2019. (artikelnummer 19021). Folkhälsomyndigheten, Hur mår samer i Sverige? Resultat från en enkätundersökning om hälsa, livsvillkor och levnadsvanor bland samer, 2023, p. 68. [Hur mår samer i Sverige? – Resultat från en enkätundersökning om hälsa, livsvillkor och levnadsvanor bland samer](#)

58 EU:s byrå för grundläggande rättigheter (FRA), Romer och resande i Sverige, 2019. [fra-2021-roma-and-travellers-survey-country-sheet_sv.pdf](#)

59 Myndigheten för vård- och omsorgsanalys, Vården ur befolkningens perspektiv, 2023, p. 18. [Vården ur befolkningens perspektiv | Vård- och omsorgsanalys](#)

60 Forum för levande historia, Erfarenheter av rasism i kontakt med svenska myndigheter och andra offentliga verksamheter – en kunskapsöversikt, 2021, p. 37. [Erfarenheter av rasism i kontakt med svenska myndigheter och andra offentliga verksamheter – en kunskapsöversikt](#)

61 See e.g. Web source: RFSU, Jämlik förlossning Svarta/afrosvenska kvinnors upplevelser och erfarenheter av afrofoxi inom mödra- och förlossningsvården i Region Stockholm, 2024, p.43 f. [Jämlik förlossning. Svarta-afrosvenska kvinnors upplevelser och erfarenheter av afrofoxi inom mödra- och förlossningsvården i Region Stockholm](#). Web source: Göteborgsposten, Agmall Sarwari, De vittnade om rasismen mot födande kvinnor, 3 september 2024, hämtad den 24 januari 2025. [De vittnade om rasismen mot födande kvinnor | Göteborgs-Posten](#)

By law, asylum seekers and undocumented adults are only entitled to “treatment that cannot be deferred,” a vague and inconsistently interpreted concept across regions and providers.⁶² A survey by the Swedish Red Cross highlights deficiencies in the way healthcare staff treat, inform, and communicate with undocumented migrants. The study found that undocumented individuals are frequently denied access to healthcare altogether.⁶³

Suggested question that the Committee on Racial Discrimination could ask Sweden:

→ What measurable results can Sweden show in its efforts to combat discrimination and unequal treatment based on ethnicity and skin colour in the healthcare sector?

Children and parents face racism and ignorance in the school system

Reports and testimonies consistently point to racism, discrimination, and hate crimes occurring in schools. Many participants in our meetings described how these issues are often ignored or inadequately addressed by teachers and school leadership. Several recent studies support this, including a survey by Save the Children which found that half of all fifth-grade students had witnessed racism in school. Additionally, one in five children with a foreign background reported feeling worried about being teased for reasons such as their skin colour, name, language skills, or dietary preferences.⁶⁴

A significant number of discrimination complaints submitted to the Equality Ombudsman concern harassment in the education sector on the grounds of religion or belief, with incidents involving both peers and educators. Muslim girls report being harassed for wearing veils, and Jewish students face anti-Semitic harassment or are targeted simply for being perceived as Jewish.⁶⁵ The DO has also highlighted cases of Afro-Swedish students being subjected to discrimination and how schools often downplay or ignore

62 7 § lag om hälso- och sjukvård till vissa utlänningar som vistas i Sverige utan nödvändiga tillstånd. [Lag \(2013:407\) om hälso- och sjukvård till vissa utlänningar som vistas i Sverige utan nödvändiga tillstånd | Sveriges riksdag](#)

63 Svenska Röda Korset, Papperslösa migranternas upplevelse av tillgång till vård – en behovskartläggning, 2024, p. 22. [srk_rapport_papperslosa_migranter_digital.pdf](#)

64 Rädda Barnen, 2021, Vuxna – vad gör dom? Barns röster om rasism i skolan, p. 9 och 13. [Adults – what do they do? Children’s Voices on Racism in Schools | Save the Children’s Resource Centre](#). Barnombudsmannen, 2024, Om barn och ungas utsatthet för rasism, BO-2020-0306, 2021. [om-barns-och-ungas-utsatthet-for-rasism_2021.pdf](#)

65 Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, 2022, Diskriminering som har samband med religion eller annan trosuppfattning, p. 16. [Diskriminering som har samband med religion eller annan trosuppfattning – en analys av anmälningar](#)

such issues.⁶⁶ FRA, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, conducted a survey in 2022 in which 16 percent of Roma parents in Sweden reported that they had experienced discrimination in the past year in their contacts with schools.⁶⁷

This was echoed in our meetings, where many participants expressed frustration with the general lack of understanding of racism within schools. Teachers are often untrained or unable to identify when a comment or act is racist, and this contributes to the normalisation of discriminatory behaviour. Participants also described how reports of harassment can lead to retaliation by the school against parents, such as filing reports of concern to social services. This has also been noted by the Equality Ombudsman.⁶⁸ According to the DO's report, there are experiences of schools reporting concerns about Afro-Swedish families to social services to a significantly greater extent than other families.⁶⁹

Suggested questions that the Committee on Racial Discrimination could ask Sweden:

→ What concrete results can Sweden report in the fight against racism, discrimination and segregation in schools?

Unequal access to social protection and support from social services

In Sweden, disparities in material and social poverty between those born in the country and those born abroad are the largest in the EU. In 2023, 14 per cent of people born abroad were living in material and social poverty—the highest level recorded since data collection began—compared to just 3 per cent among those born in Sweden.⁷⁰

Several individuals we met described feeling treated less favourably by social services due to their skin colour or ethnicity. This included not receiving support on equal terms. Some also reported that referrals to social services were used punitively, such as in response to parents raising concerns about their children being subjected to racism

66 Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (DO) Förekomsten av diskriminering 2024, Årlig rapport från Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, Rapport 2024:2, 2024, p. 72 f. [Förekomst av diskriminering 2024](#)

67 EU:s byrå för grundläggande rättigheter (FRA), Romer och resande i Sverige, 2019. [fra-2021-roma-and-travellers-survey-country-sheet_sv.pdf](#)

68 In the autumn of 2023, the DO demanded that an education provider pay discrimination compensation for having subjected a guardian to retaliation when the guardian pointed out deficiencies in an after-school centre's handling of harassment related to ethnicity.

69 Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, 2024, Förekomst av diskriminering 2024: Årlig rapport från Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, Rapport 2024:2, p. 82 f. [Förekomst av diskriminering 2024](#)

70 Web source: Statistiska centralbyrån (SCB), Materiell och social fattigdom ökar i Sverige, 7 May 2025. [Materiell och social fattigdom ökar i Sverige](#)

at school. The level of awareness of racism and discrimination among social services caseworkers is perceived as low. A report by the Equality Ombudsman found that social workers' assumptions about ethnicity, among other factors, may influence both who receives support and the type of support offered⁷¹—raising concerns about discriminatory treatment and unequal access to rights and services.

The daily allowance for asylum seekers has remained unchanged since 1994, despite repeated recommendations from the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The allowance is so low that it undermines the right to an adequate standard of living. Moreover, families receive full daily support only for their two oldest children; younger siblings receive only half the amount.⁷²

Newly arrived persons with disabilities face particular barriers in accessing their right to social security and an adequate standard of living. Many struggle to find employment, and language courses are often not adapted to their needs. Several also reported challenges in navigating the support system and accessing information about their rights.

Ukrainians in Sweden under the Temporary Protection Directive, unlike other refugees with residence permits, are excluded from residence-based social benefits. As a result, they are not entitled to child allowances, housing support or elderly care benefits, increasing their financial vulnerability. They are also excluded from entitlements under the Act on Support and Services for Persons with Functional Impairments (LSS).⁷³

Suggested questions that the Committee on Racial Discrimination could ask Sweden:

- How does Sweden explain the significant poverty gap between people born in Sweden and those born abroad, and what measures are being taken to strengthen the socio-economic conditions residents born abroad?
- Can Sweden demonstrate that the rise in poverty among foreign-born individuals does not indicate unjustified regression in fulfilling its obligations under economic, social and cultural rights?
- What concrete outcomes can Sweden report in its efforts to combat discrimination in access to social services?

71 Diskrimineringsombudsmannen (DO), Skillnader som kan utgöra risk för diskriminering? En kvalitativ studie om faktorer som påverkar socialsekreterares bedömningar och beslut inom den sociala barn- och ungdomsvården, 2021, p. 98. [Skillnader som kan utgöra risk för diskriminering?](#)

72 Förordning (1994:361) om mottagande av asylsökande m.fl. [Förordning \(1994:361\) om mottagande av asylsökande m.fl.](#) | Sveriges riksdag

73 Prop. 2023/24:151, p. 32f and p. 39 f. [Förbättrade levnadsvillkor för utlänningar med tillfälligt skydd](#)

→ How does Sweden ensure that recent legislative and policy changes in the field of migration do not cumulatively undermine the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by migrants?

Language rights

Among national minorities, there are recurring reports of discrimination that go beyond what is currently covered by Swedish anti-discrimination legislation. This includes the failure to realise linguistic and cultural rights, as well as the lack of effective legal redress when those rights are violated.⁷⁴ For example, Sweden Finns have described healthcare providers' lack of knowledge and unwillingness to accommodate minority language rights. In some cases, the right to use Finnish—a recognised national minority language—is treated by healthcare personnel as optional or subject to their personal discretion, rather than a legal obligation.⁷⁵

The Institute for Language and Folklore (Isolf) previously received temporary government funding to operate four language centres aimed at promoting Finnish, Yiddish, Meänkieli and Romani Chib. However, in the 2025 state budget, Isolf's funding was reduced, though not as severely as initially proposed.⁷⁶ At the same time, the Ordinance (2009:1299) on National Minorities and Minority Languages was amended, resulting in decreased state grants to municipalities, regions, and organisations, including those representing national minorities.⁷⁷

Funding for the Sámi cross-border cooperation body Sámi Giellagáldu has also been cut. Sámi Giellagáldu plays a crucial role in preserving and developing the Sámi languages across Sweden, Norway and Finland, with co-financing from the Sámi parliaments of the three countries.⁷⁸ These reductions undermine efforts to sustain and revitalise minority languages.

74 Länsstyrelsen Stockholm och Sametinget, Nationella minoriteter och minoritetsspråk – Minoritetspolitikens utveckling år 2023, 2024, p. 28. [Minoritetspolitikens utveckling år 2023](#)

75 Mona Lindqvist, Mattias Strand, Sverigefinnar i Stockholms län: Psykisk hälsa, vårderfarenheter och hälsorelaterade behov, 2024:1, Transkulturellt Centrum, 2024, p. 61. [sverigefinnars-varderfarenheter-och-halsobehov---ny-version.pdf](#)

76 See e.g. Prop. 2024/25:1. [Budgetpropositionen för 2025 volym 1](#) Magasin K, Isofs språkcentrum får kapad budget, 19 september 2024. [Isofs språkcentrum får kapad budget | Magasin K Sveriges radio](#), Förvirrad stämning bland anställda på språkcentrum för finska efter minskad finansiering, 20 september 2024. [Förvirrad stämning bland anställda på språkcentrum för finska efter minskad finansiering - Sveriges Radio Finska | Sveriges Radio Sveriges radio](#), Regeringen skär ner i språkcentrumens budget – “En katastrof”, 20 september 2024. [Regeringen skär ner i språkcentrumens budget – “En katastrof” - Meänraatio | Sveriges Radio](#) Web source: Minoritet, Fortsatt satsning på språkcentrum för de nationella minoritetsspråken, 12 december 2024. [Fortsatt satsning på språkcentrum för de nationella minoritetsspråken – Minoritet.se](#)

77 Web source: Minoritet, Statsbidraget sänks till kommuner, regioner och organisationer, 17 december 2024. [Statsbidraget sänks för kommuner, regioner och organisationer – Minoritet.se](#)

78 Prop. 2024/25:1. [Budgetpropositionen för 2025 volym 1](#) Web source: Sametinget, Utvecklingen av de samiska språken hotas av budgetnedskärningar, 17 december 2024. [Utvecklingen av de samiska språken hotas av budgetnedskärningar – Sametinget.se](#)

Suggested questions that the Committee on Racial Discrimination could ask Sweden:

→ How does Sweden explain why national minorities still do not have full access to public services in their mother tongue, as guaranteed by the Minorities Act?

8. Expanded discrimination legislation

The following theme is based on article 6 of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, which deals with the right of individuals to a fair hearing by courts and authorities when they are victims of racial discrimination.

Different rules for different public functions

Discrimination legislation for public functions in Sweden varies depending on the sector. In our meetings with representatives of organisations and rights holders, particular concern was raised about the fact that police activities are not currently covered by the Discrimination Act. Although the issue has been investigated and the government has promised to extend the Act⁷⁹, no concrete action has been taken since the inquiry was presented in 2021, despite the government's stated intention in 2024 to prepare a legislative amendment.

Suggested questions that the Committee on Racial Discrimination could ask Sweden:

→ When will the extension of discrimination legislation be implemented?

Introduce language as a ground for discrimination

Language is not a ground for discrimination in the current Discrimination Act, this has also been raised in our meetings. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Tornedalians, Kvens and Lantalaïset has also proposed that the government should investigate the issue of language as a basis for discrimination.⁸⁰ The issue of language has also come to the fore in recent years with proposals on restricting access to publicly

79 SOU 2021:94. [Ett utökat skydd mot diskriminering, SOU 2021:94](#)

80 SOU 2023:68, Som om vi aldrig funnits – exkludering och assimilering av tornedalingar, kväner och lantalaïset, 2023. [Som om vi aldrig funnits – Regeringen.se](#)

funded interpreters in dealings with public institutions and a reduction in resources for minority languages. While discrimination based on language can sometimes fall under the category of ethnicity, recognising language as a separate ground could offer stronger legal protection. In its review of minority rights in Sweden, the Council of Europe has recommended that Sweden include language as an explicit ground for discrimination.⁸¹

Suggested questions that the Committee on Racial Discrimination could ask Sweden:

- Will Sweden include language as a ground for discrimination in the Discrimination Act?
- If not, what measures will Sweden implement to ensure that people are not discriminated against because of the language they use?

⁸¹ Council of Europe, Resolution CM/ResCMN(2024)3 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Sweden (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 5 April 2024 at the 149th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies) CM/ResCMN(2024)3.

