Summary of Stakeholders’ submissions on Sweden*


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. It is a summary of 27 stakeholders’ submissions to the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Information provided by stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies

2. It was recommended that Sweden ratify the ICPPED, ICRMW, OP-CRC-IC, and OP-ICESCR as well as the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169). ICAN and WILPF recommended ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

B. National human rights framework

3. UNA-Sweden/JS1 noted that Sweden received numerous recommendations to incorporate the CRC into national legislation. The Ombudsman for Children in Sweden (the Ombudsman), ECPAT-Sweden and UNICEF-Sweden reported that the parliament adopted a bill to incorporate the Convention into legislation, which would come into force in 2020. SC-Sweden and UNICEF-Sweden stated that the Convention would gain legal status as national law. However, it would not take precedence over national legislation in situations of conflicting laws. Furthermore, OP-CRC-SC and OP-CRC-AC were not incorporated. SC-Sweden and UNICEF-Sweden recommended guaranteeing that the CRC and its optional protocols would prevail when provisions of domestic law came in conflict with the Convention.

* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.
4. UNA-Sweden/JS1 and JS6 stated that Sweden has still not established an independent national human rights institution despite accepted recommendations\(^\text{15}\) from the universal periodic review of 2015 (the 2015 UPR).\(^\text{16}\) AI recommended establishing an independent national human rights institution with a broad human rights mandate and providing it with adequate resources, in accordance with the Paris Principles.\(^\text{17}\)

5. CoE-Commissioner noted that the Equality Ombudsman was not empowered to invoke international standards and that it could not deal with cases of alleged discrimination by some state agencies, such as the police, the prison service, prosecutors and the courts.\(^\text{18}\)

6. UNA-Sweden/JS1 stated that no amendments were introduced to mandate the Ombudsman for Children to receive, investigate or make decisions in individual cases concerning children or represent children in court. It recommended amending the legal mandate of the Ombudsman to ensure children the right to claim redress for human rights violations.\(^\text{19}\)

C. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Cross-cutting issues

   Equality and non-discrimination\(^\text{20}\)

7. JS3 noted that a number of recommendations from the 2015 UPR called for strengthening efforts to combat discrimination and hate crimes. However, the number of reported hate crimes remained high.\(^\text{21}\) UNA-Sweden/JS1 noted that hate crimes with racist or xenophobic motive continued to rise. Hate crimes with anti-religious motives had also increased and hate crimes with sexual orientation motives remained an issue.\(^\text{22}\) EU-FRA noted that few complaints on hate crime led to prosecution and even fewer to convictions, despite an increase in the number of hate crimes reported.\(^\text{23}\)

8. Furthermore, CoE-ECRI stated that the number of incidents of racist and xenophobic hate speech had been rising and that the main target groups were migrants, Muslims, Black persons and Roma. Anti-Semitic hatred also remained a problem.\(^\text{24}\) JS3 noted that legislation prohibited hate speech. However, there were obstacles that prevented the effective prosecution of hate speech.\(^\text{25}\)

9. JS3 stated that Sweden developed a strategy to combat hate crime and adopted a national plan to combat racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crime.\(^\text{26}\) CoE-ECRI noted that the national plan did not contain clear targets and measurable outputs and recommended that Sweden add concrete, targeted and measurable actions in the national plan.\(^\text{27}\)

10. UNA-Sweden/JS1 recommended that Sweden inter alia implement and enforce existing legislation on hate crime and hate speech and establish a thorough investigation on the issue of unrecorded and underreported hate crimes, and the gap between reported hate crimes and the initiated investigations, prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators.\(^\text{28}\) CoE-ECRI recommended taking adequate measures to ensure that police services did not resort to ethnic profiling.\(^\text{29}\)

11. UNA-Sweden/JS1 stated that activities of racist and extremist organisations was an alarming issue and that neo-Nazi parties and associated organisations had taken part in major cultural and political events and been given permission to conduct demonstrations and spread their propaganda.\(^\text{30}\) JS3 noted that the police claimed that legislation did not allow to ban demonstration promoting and inciting racism and that the police mainly focused on ensuring the respect of public order during neo-Nazi demonstration and did not interrupt hate speech or similar criminal offences committed during such demonstrations.\(^\text{31}\) CoE-ECRI noted that legislation to criminalise the creation or the leadership of a group which promoted racism, support for such a group or participation in its activities was missing.\(^\text{32}\)
12. CoE-ECRI recommended criminalising the creation or the leadership of a group promoting racism, support for such a group, and participation in its activities and establishing a criminal liability for all racist offences committed by legal entities. It recommended enacting legislation making it possible to withdraw public financing from parties promoting racism and disbanding such organisations.

13. JS6 stated that Sweden still performed sex “normalizing” surgeries on children born with different intersex traits and that such surgeries were reportedly carried out very early age, before the child was old enough to give a consent.

14. JS6 stated that the Constitution did not expressly prohibit discrimination and negative treatment of transgender people and reported on a high rate of violence. JS6 stated that trans people were required to go through mandatory gender affirming health care to get legal gender recognition, which was not in line with the Yogyakarta Principles. There was no possibility for non-binary people to have their gender legally recognised since a gender-neutral marker did not exist.

Development, the environment, and business and human rights

15. WILPF and SC-Sweden noted a national action plan on business and human rights. However, WILPF noted that the action plan did not integrate a gender responsive perspective. SC-Sweden reported that the action plan had no reference to the CRC General Comment no. 16 on the principles of the rights of the child and business.

16. By referring to reports indicating inadequate human rights due diligence in the supply chains by Swedish companies, WILPF recommended that Sweden adopt a law on mandatory human rights due diligence by companies.

Human rights and counter-terrorism

17. JS3 noted that counter-terrorism activities by law enforcement agencies was reportedly one of the areas where minorities, particularly Muslims, experienced racial/ethnic profiling. It recommended ensuring that counter-terrorism legislation and practices are in full conformity with international human rights standards, including the right to liberty and security.

2. Civil and political rights

Right to life, liberty and security of person

18. AI recommended incorporating into domestic legislation the crime of torture and adopting a definition of torture covering all the elements contained in Article 1 of the CAT as well as ensuring that statutes of limitation are not applicable to acts of torture.

19. CoE- Commissioner was concerned by the prevalence of compulsory admissions and coerced treatment in psychiatric institutions. The lack of sufficient safeguards to ensure a free and informed consent regarding psychiatric treatments such as electroconvulsive therapy had been a constant concern.

20. CoE-CPT recommended that the relevant legislation be amended so as to specifically provide for an obligatory psychiatric expert opinion (independent of the establishment in which the patient is placed) in the context of the review of the measure of involuntary hospitalisation. Furthermore, CoE-Commissioner stated that Sweden should send a clear signal that the goal is to drastically reduce and progressively eliminate the recourse to coercion in psychiatry and to ensure that sufficient safeguards are in place in the meantime.

21. Claiming that Sweden remained a large exporter of arms and exported arms to countries listed as responsible for grave violations of rights of children, SC-Sweden recommended that Sweden ensure that the principles of the CRC are considered and given due importance in the regulations and control of arms trade of Sweden. It recommended that Sweden promote the principle of non-recruitment and non-participation of children in armed conflicts in its foreign policy. WILPF recommended that Sweden inter alia cease to
export arms to countries where there is risk that arms might be used to facilitate or commit serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.  

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

22. CoE-CPT recommended ensuring that the right of all detained persons to have access to a lawyer is fully effective as from the very outset of deprivation of liberty, and that all persons apprehended by the police are fully informed of their fundamental rights in a language they understand and that their right to have access to a doctor be made subject of a specific legal provision.

23. CoE-CPT stated that there were no real signs of progress as regards to the widespread imposition of restrictions on remand prisoners. It reiterated its recommendation that Sweden take swift and decisive action to ensure that restrictions on remand prisoners are only imposed in exceptional circumstances which are strictly limited to the actual requirements of the case and last no longer than is absolutely necessary.

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

24. JS4 recommended that Sweden continue strengthening efforts to combat religious intolerance and to promote the respect, protection and fulfilment of religious, cultural and linguistic diversity.

25. YWAM stated that the legislation stipulated that freedom of conscience shall be granted to health care professionals who could not participate in abortion for moral or religious reasons. However, it reported on cases indicating problems in ensuring freedom of conscience to medical professionals in practice. JS2 recommended that Sweden guarantee the right of medical personnel to exercise conscientious objection.

26. Reporting on alleged denial of government grants/financial aid to religious communities, European Association of Jehovah’s Christian Witnesses (E AJCW) requested the Government, inter alia, to ensure that their religious community enjoys access to public funding as other registered religious communities.

27. While noting that the election legislation provided a solid basis for the conduct of democratic elections, OSCE/ODIHR recommended that consideration be given to further measures to ensure the secrecy of the vote, in accordance with the Constitution, as well as with OSCE commitments and other international standards, and to additional measures to ensure that ballot papers be made available to voters under equal conditions for all contestants. Sweden was recommended that legislation should be amended to explicitly provide for the presence of observers.

Prohibition of all forms of slavery

28. Being concerned that not all forms of human trafficking were sufficiently addressed CoE-GRETA stated that Sweden should strengthen action against human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, by reviewing the legislative framework, improving the identification of, and assistance to, victims of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.

29. CoE-GRETA urged Sweden to intensify its efforts to prevent trafficking in children and to ensure more effective and timely identification of child victims of trafficking with a view to providing them with appropriate assistance.

30. CoE-GRETA urged Sweden to ensure that human trafficking offences are investigated and prosecuted effectively, leading to proportionate and dissuasive sanctions and in particularly to strengthen efforts to investigate and prosecute cases of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.
3. Economic, social and cultural rights

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

31. UNA-Sweden/JS1 stated that unemployment disproportionately affected persons with disabilities, Afro-Swedes, Muslims, national minorities and LGBTQI persons. Fryshuset noted an increase in unemployment among young persons.

Right to an adequate standard of living

32. UNA-Sweden/JS1, reporting an increased presence of European Union citizens from Eastern Europe, living in situations of marginalization in Sweden. Most of them had been Roma seeking to escape from structural discrimination in their home countries. Once in Sweden, many saw no other option than begging for money in the street and sleeping in tents or temporary settlements on the outskirts of cities. Many of them spent years in Sweden, in a social and legal limbo, deprived of social protection and support.

33. Furthermore, CoE-Commissioner noted reports of evictions of Roma immigrants in Sweden and was concerned about the reported eviction of about 200 people in the Sorgenfri district of Malmö in 2015. Many Roma were left homeless as a result of the eviction.

34. UNA-Sweden/JS1 reported on a lack of housing, partly due to a lack of affordable tenancies affecting low income families and groups in risk of exclusion in society. The housing market was increasingly segregated where persons of foreign descent still experienced discrimination in the housing market. UNA-Sweden/JS1 stated that homelessness and evictions were growing issues.

CoE-ECRI noted that the Government presented in 2016 its new housing policy and a reform programme to reduce segregation (2017–2025).

UNA-Sweden/JS1 recommended addressing the housing shortage, especially the need for affordable housing.

Fryshuset and Operation1325 recommended preventing segregation in housing.

Right to health

35. UNA-Sweden/JS1 recommended establishing a national strategy for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Right to education

36. SC-Sweden reported on an increase in school segregation and noted a lack of measures to ensure equivalent education for all children regardless of background.

UNICEF-Sweden recommended adopting a holistic approach to increase social inclusion among children.

37. HSLDA noted that the 2011 Education Act allowed parents to choose home education for their children in case of exceptional circumstances. ADF International explained that under the Act, requirements for an exemption from compulsory education were strict and that religious convictions of parents were not considered to constitute exceptional reasons. ADF International reported that many parents were prohibited from using home education for their children. HSLDA stated that some parents who were denied permission for home education faced fines of up to 20 000 euros per child per year and a treat of child protection investigations.

ADF International considered that the Education Act should be revised in this regard.

38. Noting the intension of the Government to ban private religious schools, ADF International recommended respecting the rights of parents to educate their children in accordance with their moral and religious convictions in line with international human rights law.
4. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

39. UNA-Sweden/JS1 recommended that Sweden end the gender wage gap and enforce and strengthen labour laws to eliminate discrimination against women in the labour market.84

40. Noting that Sweden accepted four recommendations86 from the 2015 UPR on violence against women, AI reported on the adoption of a strategy on violence against women in 2017.87 CoE-GREVIO noted that the extensive policy attention to combating violence against women did not always extend systematically to groups of women who belonged to national minorities, women with disabilities, migrant women and other women exposed to intersectional discrimination.88

41. AI noted the adoption of a new law on sexual crimes in 2018, which made sex with someone who did not voluntarily participate a criminal offence and introduced the new offence of negligent rape.89 CoE-GREVIO welcomed this approach for its firm anchoring in consent: any sexual act that was not voluntary was a crime. The onus was on the perpetrator to establish whether the act was engaged in voluntarily. Failure to do so would incur criminal liability under the newly introduced criminal offence of negligent rape.90

42. AI noted that sexual violence against women remained pervasive. The majority of rape victims never reported the crime to the police.91 CoE-GREVIO noted that reporting rates of intimate partner violence and sex offences were generally low, and women from migrant communities, Roma and Sami women were even less likely to seek help from law enforcement agencies for lack of confidence.92

43. AI recommended intensifying efforts to analyse and address the causes of under-reporting of rape.93 CoE-GREVIO recommended reinforcing the investigative capabilities of law enforcement authorities to reduce the backlog of domestic violence and rape cases, and to ensure a prompt and appropriate response by law enforcement agencies in all cases of violence against women.94

44. AI recommended ensuring access to comprehensive, affordable and accessible support to all survivors of sexual violence.95 CoE-GREVIO recommended that Sweden revamp its system of protection orders and equip the competent authority with the power to specifically expel a perpetrator of domestic violence from the residence that he shares with the victim in situations of immediate danger and as an emergency safety measure and for this expulsion to remain in force for an appropriate length of time to allow the victim to feel safe and to take other measures to ensure safety.96

Children

45. UNA-Sweden/JS1 noted that although child abuse was prohibited by law, but its prohibition was not specifically addressed in the Penal Code. It explained that general provisions on abuse, offenses and unlawful threats of the Penal code would be applicable in events of violence and abuse against children.98 UNICEF-Sweden noted that certain forms of violence against children were not considered a crime, for example neglect and psychological violence.99 The Ombudsman noted that according to the Education Act, adults might use justified measures in school, including a certain degree of violence, against pupils in order to address issues such as a pupil’s disruptive behaviour and violence.100

46. UNICEF-Sweden stated that children were exposed to various forms of domestic violence and that many cases of violence against them remained unreported.101 The Ombudsman reported on violence against children occurring in the home as well as in the community and at school. The Ombudsman noted that those children often faced difficulties getting the right support, help and redress.102

47. UNICEF-Sweden recommended taking measures to fully protect children from all forms of violence and introducing child-abuse as a specific crime in the Penal Code that includes all forms of violence against children in line with the CRC.103 ECPAT-Sweden recommended eliminating all pecuniary penalties for sexual crimes against children so that the minimum sanctions reflect the severity of those crimes.104
48. The Ombudsman reported that Sweden received a number of recommendations concerning children and young people who were held in police cells and remand prisons, but Sweden noted those recommendations. The Ombudsman stated that children were still being held in custody in police cells when they were detained under suspicion of having committed a crime and that such facilities were not suitable for children. The Ombudsman reported that the increase in the pre-trial detention of children had continued. Some children were detained for a very long time with severe restrictions.

49. ECPAT-Sweden reported that no marriages involving a person under the age of 18 would be considered valid in Sweden due to legal amendments in line with a recommendation from the 2015 UPR.

50. The Ombudsman recommended developing alternatives to police cells for detaining children and introducing a time limit of 24 hours for how long a child may be held in custody. The Ombudsman recommended introducing alternatives to remand prison for children suspected of committing a crime and a total ban on solitary confinement for children who are being held in remand prison during an investigation. The Ombudsman recommended introducing a time limit of 30 days for how long a child may be held in remand prison during an investigation.

**Persons with disabilities**

51. CoE-Commissioner considered that the full incorporation of the CRPD into law could have a positive impact on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. UNA-Seden/JS1 recommended establishing CRPD and SDGs indicators to strengthen the realisation of the rights of persons with disabilities.

52. CoE-Commissioner stated that Sweden has long been at the forefront of developing and implementing personal assistance services. He noted, however, that intrusive checks were increasingly made on individuals when determining the extent of the right to personal assistance. As a result, a trend towards re-institutionalisation had worryingly been reported. CoE-Commissioner was concerned that Sweden has been implementing retrogressive measures in the area of state-funded personal assistance.

53. CoE-Commissioner was concerned that unemployment remained higher for persons with disabilities than for the general population. He called on Sweden to phase out the term “reduced capacity to work” and instead focus on the ability of the person to work, with due regard to how support can compensate the disability.

54. CoE-Commissioner called on Sweden to sustain progress in replacing all forms of substituted decision-making with supported decision-making, so as to fully comply with the requirements of Article 12 of the CRPD.

**Minorities and indigenous peoples**

55. CoE-ACFC noted that the legislative, institutional and policy framework was not fully effective in ensuring the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. In particular, the level of implementation of the relevant legislation at local level and by state authorities was insufficient and varied depending on the municipality.

56. Furthermore, UNA-Sweden/JS1 stated that the right of five recognised national minorities to receive education in their mother tongue was not fulfilled in practice. There was a widespread lack of initiatives within municipalities to foster minority language education. CoE-ACFC noted that the most significant concern for teaching in and of minority languages was the severe shortage of national minority language teachers. CoE-ECRML stated that there was no teacher education for pre-school, primary school nor for bilingual education, for any of the minority languages and that there was a lack of teaching materials for all levels of education. CoE-ACFC and CoE-CM recommended increasing the availability of teaching in and of minority languages.

57. Noting positive results of the long-term strategy for Roma inclusion 2012–2032 in five pilot municipalities, CoE-ACFC recommended that Sweden continue investing in the implementation of the strategy based on clearly-defined target indicators and regularly
reviewed implementation plans and move from short-term projects to long-term institutionalised support for initiatives that have proven to be effective.\(^\text{124}\)

58. Sámiràddi noted the structural discrimination against the Sami and concluded that Sweden failed to respect the right of the Sami as indigenous, in an institutional manner.\(^\text{125}\) Sàmediggi explained that the commercial use of land for resource exploitation and extractive industries, large infrastructure projects, mining activities, energy installations, forestry activities, increased recreational activities and tourism, carnivore population management and the impacts of climate change were all recognized as threats to Sámi livelihoods and culture.\(^\text{126}\)

59. Sámiràddi noted that reindeer husbandry was paramount to preserving and developing the Sami culture and that a threat to Sami reindeer husbandry was loss and fragmentation of pasture lands due to industrialization. Mineral exploitation in Sami reindeer herding areas was actively promoted.\(^\text{127}\) Sámiràddi explained that legislation acknowledged that Sami reindeer herding communities hold property rights to their respective lands. But the rights must regularly yield in conflict with mining interests. Mining legislation largely treated indigenous Sami communities as it did property right holders and took for granted that expropriating land for mining purposes was lawful, provided that monetary compensation was provided. That way of life and cultural identity of Sami were tied to the land was disregarded.\(^\text{128}\) CoE-ACFC noted that as a consequence, many reindeer herding communities were involved in lawsuits, creating significant financial risks due to the absence of legal aid for class action lawsuits.\(^\text{129}\)

60. Furthermore, Sámiràddi stated Sweden was committed to maintaining carnivore populations at high levels and largely located those to the Sami reindeer herding areas. Sami reindeer herding communities lost unsustainable amounts of reindeer to carnivores.\(^\text{130}\)

61. Moreover, UNA-Sweden/JS1 and JS3 stated that the non-reindeer herding Sami communities, such as the hunting and fishing communities, had no recognized rights connecting to their traditional lands.\(^\text{131}\) Likewise, CoE-ACFC stated that the significance of land use for non-reindeer herding Sami was not always taken into account.\(^\text{132}\)

62. CoE-ACFC stated that while the Sami had a certain degree of cultural autonomy through the Sami Parliament, their influence on matters regarding the use of land, water and other resources remained far behind the concept of self-determination, as claimed by Sami.\(^\text{133}\) CoE-ACFC stated that legislation required a certain form of consultation on planned exploitation of areas traditionally inhabited by the Sami. However, the Sami were not always consulted before decisions were taken that would affect them and their traditional use of land.\(^\text{134}\)

63. CoE-ACFC and CoE-CM recommended that Sweden increase and formalise opportunities for the Sami to participate in a meaningful and effective way in decision-making processes affecting them at municipal, county and national levels and ensure that the Sami can maintain and develop their culture whenever decisions are taken that affect areas inhabited traditionally by them.\(^\text{135}\) Sámiràddi recommended that Sweden review its legislation on mining and on industrial activities in the Sami areas and make necessary amendments to ensure that it de facto conform with the rights of Sami people as indigenous.\(^\text{136}\)

64. Sàmediggi noted that the shortage of teachers who could both teach in the Sàmi languages and teach the Sami languages was acute and that there were serious shortcomings in fulfilment of municipalities’ responsibilities to provide education in the Sami languages.\(^\text{137}\) It recommended that Sweden intensify its efforts to assist the revitalisation of the Sami languages and increase the number of teachers teaching in Sami and the Sami languages at all levels of education system.\(^\text{138}\)

65. Sàmediggi recommended that Sweden adopt the Nordic Sami Convention and accept the amendments submitted by the three Sami Parliaments to the draft Convention in 2018.\(^\text{139}\)

66. CoE-ACFC and CoE-CM recommended developing, in close co-operation with the Sami, a truth and reconciliation process which thoroughly addresses past human rights violations against the Sami and creates awareness of this issue in society as a whole.\(^\text{140}\)
Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

67. Fryshuset recommended that Sweden implement commitments under the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and in particular, objectives on providing access to basic services for migrants, empowering migrants and societies to realise full inclusion and social cohesion and eliminating all forms of discrimination and promoting evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.

68. CoE-Commissioner stated that the Government responded to the high number of asylum seekers in 2015 by introducing a package of temporary measures, intended to apply for three years and to deter asylum from coming to Sweden. While CoE-Commissioner commended Sweden’s efforts in helping asylum seekers and refugees, particularly at the peak of arrivals in 2015, he was concerned at the restrictions introduced.

69. CoE-ECRI stated that part of the measures to reduce the number of newly arriving migrants was to enact temporary legislation restricting eligibility for family reunification. The new law that came into effect in 2016 allowed family reunification only for persons recognised as refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection holding a permanent residence permit which was only granted to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection after a period of three years. JS4, UNA-Sweden/JS1, UNICEF-Sweden, SC-Sweden expressed similar concerns.

70. CoE-Commissioner urged Sweden to ensure that refugees and other beneficiaries of international protection fully enjoy their right to family reunification. He called on Sweden to lift the temporary measures before the 2019 deadline. JS6 reported that the temporary restrictions adopted in 2015 had been prolonged until July 2021.

71. JS6 reported on cases of LGBTQI people being deported to countries where same-sex relations were criminalized. UNA-Sweden/JS1 and JS3 reported on a lack of adequate procedural guarantees for protection against refoulement for unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors. Likewise, JS4 noted that the religion-based asylum process faced challenges and risked to fail to comply with relevant international human rights standards. It explained that some Muslim asylum-seekers from Asia have converted from Islam to Christianity and claimed asylum based on religion sur place. Due to the denial of their asylum applications, they risked deportation to their country of origin and, in most cases, also persecution due to their new religion.

72. JS6 recommended ensuring the principle of refoulement when considering the situation of refugees or asylum-seekers who allege that their lives, liberty or personal integrity may be at risk in their countries of origin. JS2 recommended investigating the handling of asylum cases of persons fearing for persecution on the basis of religious motives, evaluating the consistency of the procedures and methods to guarantee a fair and due process and providing appropriate remedy for those cases that are not handled according to international law on refugees.

73. JS2 reported on cases of violence in asylum centres against asylum seekers who converted to Christianity from another faith and recommended protecting those asylum seekers.

74. CoE-Commissioner noted a number of deficiencies in the reception of unaccompanied migrant minors. He noted with concern that, while a guardian should be appointed “as soon as possible” after the arrival of an unaccompanied minor, there was no legal time frame provided, and the actual appointment could be delayed by months. There was no limit to the number of children a guardian could take care of. Guardians were not always properly trained and supervised. He noted that asylum applications from unaccompanied minors had been processed slowly and that some children had been waiting for a decision for over two years.

75. SC-Sweden and UNICEF-Sweden stated that age assessments in the asylum procedure were permitted when there is ‘reasonable doubt’ about an individual’s age. However, it was unclear how reasonable doubt was defined and what safeguards were in place to prevent abuse of the concept. There had been reportedly a significant increase in the number of unaccompanied minors whose age had been changed to 18 without medical age assessments or other investigations.
76. UNICEF-Sweden and SC-Sweden stated that Sweden has started to use medical assessment to assess the age of asylum seekers based on dental and knee X-rays. The results indicated a high margin of error, but the procedure continued to be used. The value of non-medical methods such as psychological and social assessments had not been given due weight.\textsuperscript{158} UNICEF-Sweden and SC-Sweden reported that medical age assessment was not compulsory, but a refusal to participate without an acceptable reason would lead to the prediction that the person was 18 years or older.\textsuperscript{159}

77. CoE-Commissioner underlined that Sweden should always treat the best interests of the child as a primary consideration in all decisions relating to their asylum and migration status. These cases should be prioritised to avoid long waiting periods.\textsuperscript{160} CoE-GRETA recommended ensuring the timely appointment of guardians and adequate resourcing of the guardianship system in all municipalities, including limiting the numbers of children assigned to a guardian.\textsuperscript{161} SC-Sweden recommended that Sweden prevent detention of children regardless of their migration status and increase the use of alternatives to detention.\textsuperscript{162}

78. CoE-Commissioner called on Sweden not to rely only on a medical assessment of age but to establish multidisciplinary procedures and to ensure that minors are always given the benefit of the doubt where there is uncertainty as to their age.\textsuperscript{163}

79. Noting an increase in the number of unaccompanied minors that had gone missing after arriving in Sweden, CoE-Commissioner called on Sweden to investigate all cases of disappearances of unaccompanied children and take all necessary measures to increase their protection.\textsuperscript{164}

80. Furthermore, SC-Sweden recommended that Sweden present a plan to prevent unaccompanied minors and young people from becoming homeless and being exploited after a final asylum settlement decision.\textsuperscript{165}

81. CoE-ECRI noted Sweden’s efforts to address the need to integrate the high number of refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection who arrived during the migration crisis in 2015. The objective of Swedish integration policy was to facilitate their access to the labour market.\textsuperscript{166} However, despite those efforts the rate of labour market participation following completion of an introduction programme was rather low.\textsuperscript{167} CoE-ECRI recommended reviewing the introduction programme for refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection with the aim of strengthening it and achieving higher success rates in labour market participation, paying particular attention to addressing the specific needs of women.\textsuperscript{168} UNA-Sweden/JS1 recommended ensuring that asylum seekers have equal access to health care.\textsuperscript{169}

**Stateless persons**

82. CoE-Commissioner encouraged Sweden to consider adopting a system of automatic granting of citizenship at birth to children who would otherwise be stateless.\textsuperscript{170}

83. CoE-Commissioner noted that Sweden did not have a dedicated statelessness determination procedure and that the national legislation did not contain a definition of a stateless person.\textsuperscript{171}

**Notes**

\textsuperscript{1} The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org.

*Civil society*

*Individual submissions:*

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<td>ECPAT-Sweden (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes)</td>
<td>Stockholm, Sweden;</td>
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Fryshuset, Stockholm, Sweden;
ICAN International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva, Switzerland;
JAI Just Atonement INC, New York, United States of America;
HSLDA Home School Legal Defense Association, United States of America;
ODVV Organisation for Defending Victims of Violence, Tehran, Iran;
Ombudsman Ombudsman for Children in Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden;
Operation1325 Operation1325, Stockholm, Sweden;
Sàmediggi Sámi Parliament in Sweden, Kiruna, Sweden;
Sàmiráddi Saami Council, Karasjok, Norway;
SC-Sweden Save the Children Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden;
UNICEF-Sweden UNICEF Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden;
YWAM Youth with a Mission, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
WILPF Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Geneva, Switzerland.

Joint submissions:

UNA-Sweden/ JS1 Joint submission 1 submitted by: United Nations Association of Sweden with the contribution of Swedish section of the International Commission of Jurists, the Swedish Women’s Lobby, the Swedish Foundation for Human Rights, the Order of the Teaspoon, the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, Swedish Disability Rights Federation, Civil Rights Defenders, Equality Unique, the Swedish Federation for LGBTQ rights, Visual Impaired Youth Sweden, Disability Humanity Rights, and Church of Sweden as well as support of Operation 132, the Swedish Human Rights and Democracy Movement and the Swedish National Federation of Immigrant Women’s Association (Sweden);

JS2 Joint submission 2 submitted by: Swedish Evangelical Alliance (Sweden), European Evangelical Alliance (Belgium), World Evangelical Alliance (United States of America) and European Centre for Law and Justice (France);

JS3 Joint submission 3 submitted by: Civil Rights Defenders supported by the Order of the Teaspoon1, É Romani Glinda, the Afro-Swedish National Organisation, the Muslim Human Rights Committee, and the Pan African Movement for Justice, as well as the following Sami representatives: Peter Rodhe, Chair of the National Association of Samiland, Helena Dädring, Chair of Landsförbundet Svenska Samer, Marie Persson Njajta, Founder of the Stop Rönnbäck Nickel Mining Project in Ume River, Tärnaby, Marianne Gråik, Member of a Reindeer Herding District and Åsa Simma, Theatre Manager, Giron Sámi Teáhter, Sweden;

JS4 Joint submission 4 submitted by: Church of Sweden and the Christian Council of Sweden, Sweden;

JS5 Joint submission 5 submitted by: International Organisation for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (Geneva, Switzerland) and Catholic International Education Office, Roma, Italy;


Regional intergovernmental organization(s):

CoE The Council of Europe, Strasbourg (France);

Attachments:
(CoE-Commissioner) Report by Mr. Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, following his visit to Sweden from 2 to 6 October 2017,
Strasbourg, CommDH (2018) 4;
(CoE-Commissioner Letter of January 2016) Letter of the Commissioner for Human Rights to the Minister for Culture and Democracy of Sweden, 26 January 2016, Strasbourg;
(CoE-ECRI) European Commission against Racism and Intolerance report on Sweden, adopted on 5 December, 2017, CRI (2018) 3;
(CoE-CPT) Report to the Government of Sweden carried out by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment from 18 to 28 May, 2015, CPT/Inf (2016) 1;
(CoE-CMRecChl ) Recommendation of Committee of Ministers, (2017)1 of the Committee of Ministers on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Sweden, adopted on 11 May 2017;

EU-FRA
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Vienna, Austria;

OSCE/ODIHR
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Warsaw, Poland;

Attachment:

2 The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:
OP-ICESCR Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
CAT  Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
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;
ICPPED  International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

3 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/13, paras. 145.1–145.4, 145.24, 146.1–146.7 and 147.1–147.5.
4 AI, p.7.
5 AI, p.7 and Fryshuset, para. 1.3.
7 AI, p.7.
8 Sámiriddi, para. 27; AI, p.7; UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 12 and JS3, 12. See also CoE-ACFC, para. 41.
9 ICAN, p. 2 and WILPF, p. 4.
10 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/13, paras. 145.5–145.16, 145.18, 145.24, 145.41, 146.8, 146.14–146.25 and 146.28.
11 For the full text of the recommendations see A/HRC/C/29/13, paras. 145.5 (Albania); 145.6 (Angola); 145.7 (France); 145.8 (Qatar); 145.9 (Iceland); A/HRC/C/29/13, paras. 145.5–145.9.
12 UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 13.
15 For the full text of the recommendations see A/HRC/29/13, paras. 145.10–145.16 (Namibia, Ukraine, France, Indonesia, Ireland, South Africa, Togo) and 146.14–146.25 (Mexico, Tunisia, Portugal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Sudan, Benin, Denmark, Ghana, Gabon, India).
16 UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 5 and JS6, p. 13. See also CoE-Commissioner Letter of October 2017, AI, p. 4 and Såmediggi, p. 7.
17 AI, p. 7. See also UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 5 and JS6, p. 14.
18 CoE-Commissioner, para. 66. See also CoE-ECRI, p. 9.
19 UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 13. See also Ombudsman, p. 7 and UNICEF Sweden, paras. 4 and 7.
21 JS3, paras. 23–24.
22 UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 8. See also JS2, paras. 2-3. JS6, p. 10, JS4, para. 12, ODVV paras. 8-9 and JAI, paras. 5 and 7.
23 EU-FRA, p. 7. See also UNSA-Sweden/JS1, p. 8 and CoE-ECRI, p. 10.
24 CoE-ECRI, p. 10. See also paras. 22-28. See also ODVV, para. 9.
25 JS3, para. 30.
26 JS3, paras. 25 and 29. See also, JS2, para. 4.
27 CoE-ECRI, p. 10 and para. 42. See also JS3, p. 8 and JS2, para. 5.
28 UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 8. See also JS4, para. 13, JAI, para. 10 and JS6, p. 11.
29 CoE-ECRI, para. 74. See also JS3, para 12 and p. 4.
30 UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 8. See also JS6, p. 10 and JS3, para. 32.
31 JS3, paras. 32-35.
32 CoE-ECRI, p. 9.
33 CoE-ECRI, p. 8. See also UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 8. Fryshuset, para. 1.1 and JS6, p. 11.
34 CoE-ECRI, para. 13.
35 JS6, p. 2.
36 JS6, pp. 9-10.
37 JS6, p. 4.
38 SC-Sweden, p. 3 and WILPF, p. 12.
39 WILPF, p. 12.
40 SC-Sweden, p. 3.
41 WILPF, p. 13.
42 JS3, para. 18. See also JS7, p. 6.
For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/13, paras. 145.129, 146.9–146.13, 146.34 and 146.41.

AI, p. 7.

CoE-Commissioner, p. 3.

CoE-CPT, p. 8.

CoE-Commissioner, p. 3.

SC-Sweden, p. 2. See also ODVV, paras. 11 and 18.

WILPF, p. 17.

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/13, paras. 145.117–145.119.

CoE-CPT, pp. 5-6 and paras. 17, 18 and 20.

CoE-CPT, p. 6.

CoE-CPT, para. 53.

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/13, para. 145.121.

JS4, para. 13.

YWAM, paras. 12-17. See also JS2, paras. 16–18.

JS2, para. 19.

EAJCW, p. 1.


OSCE/ODIHR Final Elections Report, p.10.

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/13, paras. 145.106 and 145.107.

CoE-GRETA, para. 37.

CoE-GRETA, para. 37.


CoE-GRETA, para. 198.

UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 6. See also Operation1325, p. 2.

Fryshuset, para. 1.1. See also Operation1325, p. 2.

AI, pp. 4-5. See also UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 6 and JS3, para. 7.


UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 6. See also SC-Sweden, p. 6.

CoECRI, p. 9.

UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 7. See also AI, p. 7 and JAI, para. 2.

Fryshuset, para. 1.1 and Operation 1325, p. 3. See also AI, p. 7.

UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 9. See also JS6, pp. 6-8.

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/13, paras. 145.126.

SC-Sweden, p. 7. See also UNICEF-Sweden, paras. 39-40 and Fryshuset, para. 1.1.

UNICEF-Sweden, para. 42. See also Fryshuset, para. 1.1.

HSLDA, para. 6.

ADF International, paras. 5-6.

HSLDA, para. 6.

ADF International, para. 18.

ADF International, paras. 22 and 28. See also JS5, p. 3-6 and YWAM, para. 9.

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/13, paras. 145.32–145.39, 145.103–145.105, 146.27 and 146.35.

UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 10.

For the full text of the recommendations see A/HRC/29/13, paras. 145.32 (Bosnia and Herzegovina), 145.103–145.105 (Philippines, India, Mexico).

AI, p. 2.

CoE-GREVIO, p. 7. See also UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 10.

AI, p. 2.

CoE-GREVIO, p. 7. See also EU-FRA, p. 6.

AI, p. 2.

CoE-GREVIO, p. 8.

AI, p. 7.

CoE-CP, para. 12. See also CoE-GREVIO, para. 204 and AI, p. 7.

AI, p. 7. See also UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 10 and CoE-CP, para. 3.

CoE-GREVIO, para. 229. See also CoE-CP, para. 13.

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/13, paras. 145.25, 145.26, 145.120, 145.125, 146.39 and 146.42.


Ombudsman, p. 4.

UNICEF-Sweden, para. 25.
Ombudsman, pp. 2-4.
103 UNICEF-Sweden, paras. 31 and 32. See also Ombudsman, pp. 3-4, UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 13. and Fryshuset, para. 1.1.
104 ECPAT-Sweden, p. 3.
105 For the full text of recommendations see 146.37, 146.38, 146.39 and 146.42.
106 Ombudsman, p. 5.
107 Ombudsman, p. 6.
108 For the full text of the recommendation see A/HRC/29/13, para. 145.125 (Egypt).
109 ECPAT-Sweden, para. 2.
110 Ombudsman, p. 6.
111 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/13, paras. 145.127–145.133.
112 CoE-Commissioner, p. 2.
113 UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 11.
114 CoE-Commissioner p. 2. See also paras. 81-91.
115 CoE-Commissioner, p. 2 and para. 72. See also UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 6.
116 CoE-Commissioner, para. 79.
117 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/13, paras. 145.92–145.102.
118 CoE-ACFC, p. 1.
119 UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 6.
120 CoE-ACFC, para. 92.
121 CoE-ACFC, para. 4.1, points G and H.
122 CoE-ACFC, p. 2 and CM/ResCMN, p. 2. See also CM/RecChL, paras. 1-4 and UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 7.
123 CoE-ACFC, p. 1.
124 CoE-ACFC, para. 30. See also CM/ResCMN, p. 2 and CoE-ECRI, para. 79.
125 Sàmidiggi, para. 7.
126 Sàmediggi, para. 26. See also CoE-ACFC, para. 37.
127 Sàmiràddi, paras. 10, 13 and 14.
128 Sàmiràddi, para. 15. See also CoE-ACFC, para. 11.
129 CoE-ACFC, para. 38. See also UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 12 and JS3, paras. 41 and 42.
130 Sàmirìddi, paras. 18-19.
131 UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 12 and JS3, para. 40.
132 CoE-ACFC, para. 11. See also para. 38.
133 CoE-ACFC, para. 102.
134 CoE-ACFC, para. 103.
135 CM/ResCMN, p. 2 and CoE-ACFC, para. 110. See also Sàmediggi, p. 6, UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 12 and JS3, p. 11.
136 Sàmiràddi, para. 27. See also Sàmediggi, p.6 and CoE-ACFC, para. 41.
137 Sàmediggi, para. 9. See also Sàmiràddi, paras. 23-24 and JS3, para. 46.
138 Sàmediggi, para. 10. See also Sàmiràddi, para. 27, CoE-ACFC, para. 100 and CM/ResCMN, p. 2.
139 Sàmediggi, para. 24. See also UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 12 and JS3, p. 12.
140 CoE-ACFC, para. 100 and CM/ResCMN, p. 2. See also Sàmediggi, p. 3 and JS3, p. 12.
141 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/29/13, paras. 145.135, 145.136 and 146.44.
142 Fryshuset, para. 1.3.
143 CoE-Commissioner, p. 1 and paras. 9 and 11. See also SC-Sweden, p. 3 and UNICEF-Sweden, para. 8.
144 CoE-ECRI, para. 63. See also EU-FRA, p. 5.
145 JS4, paras. 27-30, UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 13, UNICEF-Sweden, para. 9 and SC-Sweden, p. 3.
146 CoE-Commissioner, p. 1. See also paras. 21-24, 28 and 29, CoE-ECRI, para. 64 and JS4, para. 32.
147 CoE-Commissioner, para. 14.
148 JS6, p. 4. See also UNICEF-Sweden, paras. 8 and 9, JS4, para. 27 and SC-Sweden, p. 3.
149 JS6, p. 4.
150 UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 13 ad JS3, 49.
151 JS4, paras. 16, 19 and 22. See also JS2, paras. 11-13 and YWAM, paras. 19-29.
152 JS6, p. 4.
153 JS2, para. 14. See also YWAM, paras. 30-36.
154 JS2, paras. 7 and 10.
156 CoE-Commissioner, paras. 32 and 33. See also EU-FRA, p. 8.
157 SC-Sweden, p. 4 and UNICEF-Sweden, para. 10. See also JS3, para. 50.
158 UNICEF-Sweden, paras. 11 and12 and SC-Sweden, p. 4. See also JS3, para. 50 and CoE-Commissioner, paras. 35-37.
159 UNICEF-Sweden, para. 13 and SC-Sweden, p. 4.
160 CoE-Commissioner, p. 1. See also paras. 43 and 44. See also SC-Sweden, p. 5 and UNICEF-Sweden, para. 19.
161 CoE-GRETA, para. 138 and pp. 51-52. See also CoE-Commissioner, para. 45.
162 SC-Sweden, p. 5.
165 SC-Sweden, p. 4.
166 CoE-ECRI, p. 9.
167 CoE-ECRI, para. 61.
168 CoE-ECRI, para. 62.
169 UNA-Sweden/JS1, p. 9.
170 CoE-Commissioner, p. 2 and para. 58.
171 CoE-Commissioner, p. 2 and paras. 52 and 56.