

**Group of Experts on Action against Violence
against Women and Domestic Violence
(GREVIO)**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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**Report submitted by Sweden
pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1
of the Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating violence
against women and domestic violence
(Baseline Report)**

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Baseline report by the Government of Sweden on measures giving effect to the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

1. Introduction

In Sweden, the subject matter of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (hereafter the Convention) is addressed by the Government in various policy areas, most comprehensively in its policy for gender equality with the overarching goal, anchored with the parliament, of equal power for women and men to shape society and their own lives. The national gender equality policy, comprising six sub goals, is described in the Government Communication Power, goals and agency – a feminist policy for a gender-equal future (Govt. Comm. 2016/17:10). Since 1994, an important sub-goal of this policy has concerned violence against women in line with the 1992 General Recommendation No. 19 by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as well as the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women by the General Assembly.

According to the current sub-goal, men's violence against women must stop and women and men, girls and boys, must have the same right and access to physical integrity. In Sweden, *men's violence against women* is an umbrella concept, referring to all kinds of physical and psychological violence against women and girls, and threats thereof, including sexual violence, honour-related violence and oppression as well as prostitution and trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation. Moreover, the concept includes commercialisation and exploitation of the female body in the media,

pornography and advertisement that aim to reproduce ideas of women's subordination (Govt. Bill 2005/06:155, Govt. Comm. 2016/17:10). Consequently, the views and objectives of Sweden's policy for gender equality largely align with those of the Convention.

The Convention entered into force in Sweden on November 1, 2014, after approval by the Parliament on May 27 and ratification on July 1 that same year. In reviewing the compatibility of Swedish law and legal practice with the Convention, the Government found it necessary to propose legal changes expanding the scope of restraining orders in cases where the parties involved have a joint permanent residence, introducing Penal Code provisions against marriage coercion as well as by deception inducing someone to travel abroad with the purpose of forcing them to enter into marriage and, to further limiting the possibilities of recognising marriages of persons aged under 18 years.

Sweden reserves the right not to apply Article 44.3 concerning exceptions from the requirement of double criminality and Article 58 on the statute of limitation.

The preparation of this report was coordinated within the Government Offices by the Division for Gender Equality at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs based on reports or contributions from the Swedish Council for Crime Prevention, the Swedish Police, the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority, the Swedish National Courts, the Swedish Prosecution Authority, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service, the Swedish Migration Agency, the National Board of Health and Welfare, the county administrative boards and the National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence against Women at Uppsala University. The preparations included consultations with some of the aforementioned government agencies and a broad range of non-governmental organisations, including Unizon (the national association for women's shelters), young women's empowerment centres and other support services, and Brottsofferjouren (Victim Support Sweden), the national association for local victim support centres.

2. Integrated policies and data collection

Sweden has a feminist Government. This means that gender equality is central to the Government's priorities – in decision-making and resource

allocation. A feminist Government recognises the prevalence of gender inequality and how that limits and shapes conditions for women and men, girls and boys. A Feminist Government works to make a difference in people's lives. The policy agenda strives to combat inhibitive gender roles and structures, so that women and men, boys and girls can live their lives to their full potential.

In accordance with a Government Decision, gender mainstreaming is mandatory in preparation of all Government decisions. Although this decision encompasses all Government policy making, four main processes are subject to specific consideration: the budget process, the legislative process, the governance of national authorities and agencies, and EU matters. See also further information on the Government's gender mainstreaming process under section 4B1.

A. Strategies and Action Plans

Combating violence against women has been a consistent priority over the ten years running up to the current reporting period. Consequently, the policy approach and working methods have evolved in several stages to incorporate lessons learned and address needs identified throughout multiple national reviews and evaluations by government agencies (e.g. the Swedish Council for Crime Prevention, The Swedish Agency for Public Management and the National Board of Health and Welfare) as well as Government Inquiries and a national audit (SOU 2014:49, SOU 2014:71, SOU 2015:55, SOU 2015:86, RiR 2015:13).

In November 2016, the collected experiences and evaluations over the past ten years resulted in a new multi-sectoral ten-year National Strategy for Combating and Preventing Men's Violence against Women 2017–2026, including an action plan for the years 2017–2020. The strategy is included in the written communication 'Power, goals and agency – a feminist policy for a gender-equal future' (Govt. Comm. 2016/17:10) which has formally been submitted to the Swedish parliament.

The national strategy includes a plan for the coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures to combat men's violence against women and domestic violence including honour related violence and oppression as well as prostitution and trafficking.

It was developed with the Convention as a crucial reference point and is chiefly harmonising with the latter in terms of its scope of application and specific measures. The strategy recognises men and boys as potential victims and women and girls as potential perpetrators of those forms of violence (e.g. domestic violence) that are predominantly, though not exclusively, exercised by men and boys against women and girls. It puts special emphasis on prevention targeting men and boys as well as destructive norms of masculinity and the need for more broadly involving men and boys in efforts against violence. The strategy's four inter-related objectives are meant to guide all Government interventions at national and regional levels; 1) Enhanced and effective prevention, 2) Improved detection, protection and support to women and children subjected to violence, 3) More effective crime control and 4) Improved knowledge and development of methods. All interventions are likewise expected to consider nine cross-cutting principles such as respect for human rights, including the rights of the child, persons with disabilities and LGBTI-persons.

Issues falling under the scope of the Convention are also addressed by additional plans and strategies:

In March 2017, the Government introduced a long-term national crime prevention program, *Combating crime together*, targeting, i.a., offenses of violence against women (Govt. Comm. 2016/17:126).

Threats and violence, or the risk of being subjected to threats and violence, is addressed as a serious work environment problem in the *Environment Strategy for Modern Working Life 2016–2020* (Govt. Comm. 2015/16:80). The strategy contains concrete measures to improve the work environment. In 2010, the Government introduced a cohesive national strategy for alcohol, narcotic drugs, doping and tobacco (ANDT) policy 2011–2015 targeting drug-related violence as well as violence experienced by children living with adults who are abusing drugs or suffer from mental illness (Govt. Bill 2010/11:47). During these years, approximately 300 million SEK (approximately EUR 29,5 million) were allocated yearly to implement the strategy (in 2015 the total amount was about 260 million SEK, approximately EUR 26 million). The strategy has been renewed for the period 2016–2020 (Govt. Comm. 2015/16:86) during which it will be funded by close to 200 million SEK (approximately EUR 20 million) yearly.

The Government has an action plan to protect children from trafficking, exploitation and sexual abuse. The action plan for 2014–2015 was updated for a new period 2016–2018 (Govt. Comm. 2013/14:91 and 2015/16:192). The current action plan aims at combating human trafficking, sexual abuse and other types of exploitation against children as well as contributing towards the strategic work that the Government is carrying out to reach the gender equality policy target of eliminating male violence against women. The measures supporting the achievement of objectives in this action plan have synergies and partially overlap with those of other Government action plans, especially in the field of eliminating men’s violence against women. Hence, the allocated funding to some degree overlaps with funds supporting the implementation of this plan. In the year 2017, approximately 11 million SEK (approximately EUR 1 million) contributed to the implementation of the action plan.

In July 2017, the Government adopted a national action plan to protect journalists, artists and elected officials, against hate speech and threats (Ku2017/01675/D). The action plan i.a. addresses the specific nature, and at times greater volume of, threats and hate that is targeted towards women in these professions.

The above and other national action plans and mandates, include significant commissions for government agencies or agreements with local and regional authorities of strategic importance to strengthen local and regional coordination and capacities to combat men’s violence against women and domestic violence. Examples of such commissions include the commission of the National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) since 2007 to allocate development funds (109 million SEK, approximately EUR 11 million) to municipalities, civil society, county councils and county administrative boards in order to increase knowledge and quality of work in the area of domestic violence and men’s violence against women. These funds are also used to maintain support to develop and disseminate knowledge and know-how from national and regional to local level. Since 2016 this funding also includes interventions in the health and dental area.¹ State contribution to national civil society organisations or organisations with nationally significant

¹ Since 2017 a part of the separate development funds, 25 000 000 SEK has been moved from this allocation and incorporated in the National Strategy to Combating and Preventing Men’s Violence against Women 2017–2026. However, within this new framework, the funds are still used to support the same development objectives as before.

and specialised functions active in more than one location and that work in the social domain have also been allocated since the late 1990s. During the reporting period, such grants to organisations working in the field of combating men's violence against women amounted to around 40 million SEK yearly (approximately EUR 4 million). The Government has also signed a separate agreement with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL) for work on women's health. Another significant example was the commission given to the Swedish Prison and Probation Service (KV) to strengthen preventive activities in its work with violent men 2013–2016 (Ju2013/04393/KRIM). This initiative has since been incorporated into the regular programme of the agency.

The policy frameworks preceding the current plans also included the below:

Three national action plans were adopted to counter men's violence against women during the mandate period 2006–2010:

A national action plan for combating men's violence against women, violence and oppression in the name of honour and violence in same-sex relationships (Govt. Comm. 2007/08:39);

A national action plan against prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes (Govt. Comm. 2007/08:167);

An action plan to prevent and hinder young people from marrying against their will (Govt. Comm. 2009/10:229).

In total, these three action plans distributed 704 million SEK (approximately EUR 69,5 million) over 107 interventions involving multiple national agencies and NGOs.

During the Government term that followed (2010–2014), although no separate action plan was in place, the Government viewed violence against women as the most pressing problem of gender equality in its policy for gender equality 2011–2014 (Govt. Comm. 2011/12:3). In line with this policy, measures to stop men's violence against women were planned and implemented within six focus areas; 1) National mobilisation and coordination, 2) Measures against sexual violence, 3) Reinforced prevention and protection and support for women subjected to violence and children who have witnessed violence, 4) Preventing and combating honour-related

violence and oppression including forced marriage 5) Preventive interventions for men, and 6) Measures against prostitution and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The focus was on incorporating lessons learned and working methods developed during the previous period into the regular programme of the authorities and, hence, no separate action plan was in place.

In 2012–2014, the Government appointed a National Coordinator on Domestic Violence. The coordinator's remit included working for better effectiveness, quality and long termism in work on violence in close relationships. The coordinator was also to work for better collaboration between the parties affected, consider how preventive action could be developed and consider how support to voluntary organisations should be strengthened. A final report on the work of the coordinator was presented in June 2014. In adopting the new national strategy for 2017–2026, the Government has decided on, or in other ways taken, more than 25 measures directly related to proposals by the National Coordinator on Domestic Violence. Measures in the new comprehensive strategy also stem from the findings of multiple evaluations by commissions for Government agencies as well as Government Inquiries which were delivered 2014–2015.

While these evaluations were finalised and the findings consolidated into the new ten year strategy, national work in this field continued in a similar vein and with similar resources allocated on an annual basis as during the years 2011–2014. The Government allocated 137 million SEK (approximately EUR 13,5 million) to combating men's violence against women in 2015 and another 138 million SEK (approximately EUR 13,5 million) in the year 2016.

As an immediate boosting measure preceding the ten year strategy, however, additional support was introduced to local women's shelters in 2015 with a total of 425 million SEK (approximately EUR 42 million) granted for their support for the years 2015–2019 (2015:454). It is important to note that as the policies and the work in the field of men's violence against women has evolved, new needs and priorities have emerged and been identified over time.

Key findings of the multiple evaluations in this field which the new ten year national strategy is designed to address and build on included the below:

The evaluations found that numerous activities have been carried out by a wide range of actors and that there is an increasing awareness and knowledge of violence against women as well as of methods for support and intervention in Sweden. In particular, the initiatives have concerned trainings of different professional groups as well as producing a variety of training materials and studies. New legislation and regulations within criminal justice, health care and social services have been developed with the aim of protecting women and children from violence. Work related to cases of violence by agencies within these sectors has also been subject to increased monitoring. However, the assessments found that there are still important gaps in knowledge. Due to limitations in available data, data collection and systems of follow-up, the overall impact of Government initiatives for women and children at risk of violence, are difficult to assess. It has, however, been noted that the intensive work conducted in recent years has contributed to increased public awareness and commitment to the issues which in itself is harder to measure. Attention to the continuous development and evolvement of appropriate indicators and data collection are therefore required.

Another overarching conclusion of the national reviews and evaluations was the need for strengthened governance and coordination of work in this field on all levels. This would both contribute to strengthened efficiency, knowledge-management and sustainability in activities aiming to prevent and combat violence against women but would also address tangible challenges identified in the ongoing work such as geographic disparities in support available to individuals, overlapping activities of multiple actors in the same field with sometimes incompatible approaches or material developed as a result. The reviews also called for long-term strategic interventions integrated into the regular work of authorities specifically to enable better knowledge-management, identification of effective working methods and avoidance of duplicate, parallel or at times contradictory interventions or guidelines. Additional areas identified in need of strengthening included the systematic training of professionals, local and regional discrepancies in the work of authorities in this field as well as a need to better capture best practices of efficient intervention.

Through the new policy initiatives, the Government intends to address these recommendations and has created a common framework for strengthened governance and coordination in this field. Coherence and continuity in the

work has further been ascertained through anchoring the strategy in the national parliament.

A key measure for the strengthening of the strategic, cohesive and sustainable governance in this field is the establishment of a national agency for gender equality, to be operative as of 1 January 2018. The agency will be responsible for follow-up, analysis, coordination, knowledge and support based on the national gender equality policy goals. It will also have a specialised mission to support the Government in coordinating the implementation of the national strategy.

B. Allocation of financial resources

The new national strategy includes an action plan for the years 2017–2020 for which a total of 600 million SEK (approximately EUR 59 million) has been allocated. Along with previously decided grants for non-profit women’s shelters, municipalities and county councils/regions, the Government has allocated over 1 billion SEK (approximately EUR 986 million) for work in this area from 2015 to 2020. Notably, this is a low estimate since it does not include core funding to public authorities of for example the criminal justice system.²

In 2015 and 2016, the Government also made about 1 billion SEK (approximately EUR 986 million) per year available to the county councils/regions for improving their work around sick leave and rehabilitation including initiatives to identify and handle cases where domestic violence is the underlying cause of sick leave, through an agreement with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL). A new agreement between the Government and SKL concerning pre-and post-natal care and other women’s health services 2017–2019 includes an annual budget of 500 million SEK (approximately EUR 50 million) by which county councils and regions can fund initiatives to inform

² It should be noted that due to the integrated nature of the issues addressed under the Convention and comprehensive approach required from authorities to address violence against women and domestic violence through a range of judicial and social support services, the same Government funding may sometimes support measures which contribute to meeting the objectives of multiple national action plans. The current report has attempted to avoid double reporting of funds to the greatest extent possible but some amounts stated are approximate and in a few cases the same (but smaller limited) funds may have been included in multiple estimates due to the interrelated nature of the activities covered. The report further does not cover the core funding allocated to concerned national authorities or services such as police, prosecution, health care, emergency and health care hotlines, prison and probation services etc. The real amounts of funding contributing to the work in the area of the Convention in Sweden is therefore much larger than what is indicated in this report.

women about services for victims of violence among women in maternity care.

Specific additional amounts allocated to research and measures under national action plans that contribute to addressing the areas covered by the convention are reported under sections 2A and 2F of this report.

C. Civil society support

Swedish NGOs and civil society actors, in particular organisations for women's shelters, have long been at the forefront both in shaping the public's opinion against men's violence against women through awareness raising and advocacy, as well as in providing active support to victims of violence. These important contributions and the knowledge that exists within civil society are recognised, encouraged and supported by the Government. The Government also supports NGOs and civil society actors financially through grants.

The Government often includes NGOs and civil society actors in structured dialogues in the process of developing new policy measures, strategies and action plans. NGOs and civil society actors are also given the possibility to react on and comment the reports by government committees and inquiries. E.g., in the context of the government action plan to protect children from human trafficking, exploitation and sexual abuse, several dialogues with civil society is set out. Moreover, the Government has a children's rights delegation consisting of NGO: s and government authorities which meets four times per year.

On the regional level, the county administrative boards in Sweden are, within their regular mission concerning men's violence against women, instructed to cooperate with civil society organisations.

On the local level, there are examples of municipalities that have invited NGOs to serve in an advisory capacity for the development of their own regular plans and operations.

Given the important and prominent role that civil society shoulders in supporting vulnerable persons exposed to violence in Sweden, the Government and government agencies, where appropriate, also provide professional support and aid, including supervision, to civil society

organisations that take on public missions. Civil society activities funded through state grants can also be covered by formal public reviews and regulations, e.g. oversight of non-profit women's shelters was included as part of the national supervision conducted by the National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) and the Health and Social Care Inspectorate (IVO) 2012–2013. Currently, the Government Inquiry for a strengthened child rights perspective in sheltered accommodation (ToR 2016: 99, S 2016:08) is reviewing the need for special permits for shelters to be allowed to operate. The purpose of introducing a special permit would be to strengthen quality control for the benefit of the victim and clarify roles and responsibilities between the non-profit and public sectors.

As mentioned in section 2A, commissions for government agencies aiming to prevent and combat men's violence against women have included substantial grants for municipalities and non-governmental organisations since 2007.

In addition to the 425 million SEK (approximately EUR 42 million) allocated for the support of local women's shelters for the years 2015–2019, other examples of government financial support include contributions to the national umbrella organisations for women's shelters, young women's empowerment centres, youth centres and rape crisis centres through the National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) as part of commissions mentioned under section 2A. They also include grants to NGOs from the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF), the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority (BrOM) and the Swedish Prison and Probation Service (KV). There are also funds available for NGOs within the government commission to the National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) on development funds mentioned in section 2A and the county administrative boards provide grants to NGOs working with honour related violence and oppression.

Furthermore, the Crime Victim Fund distributes approximately 30–35 million SEK (approximately EUR 3–3,5 million) a year to civil society organisations. The fund is primarily built up through a special fee of 800 SEK (approximately EUR 80), which every person convicted of a crime that is punishable by a prison sentence has to pay. Moreover, a person who serves a sentence through electronic tagging pays a fee of 80 SEK (approximately EUR 8) per day, up to maximum 9 600 SEK (approximately

EUR 955). The fund is also open for donations. The fund provides core financing to local crime victim support centres but also awards grants to researchers, non-profit organisations, and to specific activities run by private or public actors ranging from simple information campaigns to extensive research projects.

D. Official bodies for coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

The Division for Gender Equality, located within the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, is the coordinating body for the new national Strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women. To ensure coordination on the strategy and work in this field within the Government Offices, the Division convenes an Interministry Working Group on men's violence against women.

In line with the recommendations of the national commission which suggested the newly adopted strategy as outlined under section 2A, the coordination and national governance of policies and structures working to prevent and combat men's violence against women has recently been reviewed and strengthened.

The strategy includes a plan for the coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures. To strengthen the sustainable and strategic governance in this field, a new national agency for Gender Equality is being established, set to start its mandate on 1 January 2018. The agency will have a specialised mission to support the Government in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the national strategy for the operative level.

The national strategy, furthermore, includes an assignment for continuing evaluation over the full ten year period by an independent national actor or agency.

It should be noted, however, that in addition to ongoing monitoring and evaluation of regular activities of authorities, government commissions or other measures, the Government also regularly appoints specialised ad hoc government inquiries to evaluate needs and effectiveness of legislation, policy, governance and operations in this area of work. Examples of such government inquiries are mentioned in chapter 2A. The Swedish National

Audit Office (RR) also independently selects and audits the effectiveness of areas of public management. In 2015, such an audit was conducted on the Government's gender equality initiatives 2007–2014 (RiR 2015:13).

In line with the national strategy, the 21 County Administrative Boards which support a range of actors working to prevent men's violence against women on a regional level, will in 2017 receive an expanded and institutionalised mandate to coordinate local activities to ensure quality and consistency in services available to victims and offenders of violence on the regional level as well as across regions. These county administrative boards already support and coordinate regional activities in this field and some hold special responsibilities for national coordination of the 21 counties' measures to counter men's violence against women, honour related violence and oppression, forced marriages as well as prostitution and trafficking for sexual purposes. The County Administrative Board of Östergötland convenes a network of 13 government agencies and authorities dealing with honour-related violence and oppression as well as the Swedish Association of Local and Regional Authorities (SKL).³

The work conducted by municipalities and county councils is guided and supported by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL).

There also exist a number of other coordination mechanisms and special mandates for coordination in the field of preventing and combating men's violence against women which ensure regular coordination between specialised actors in different fields. Such coordination mechanisms include:

The National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women (NCK), a knowledge and resource centre at Uppsala University and Uppsala University Hospital, convenes a group of 18 national agencies, the county administrative boards as well as the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions with the purpose of exchanging experiences and ideas, spread knowledge and enable collaboration around specific projects.

³ The following Government agencies/authorities participate in the network: Children's Ombudsman, the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority, the Swedish Council for Crime Prevention, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service, the Swedish Migration Agency, the National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women, the Swedish Agency for Support to Faith Communities (Myndigheten för stöd till trossamfund), the Swedish Police, the Swedish National Agency for Education, the Swedish Tax Agency, the National Board of Health and Welfare and the Swedish Prosecution Authority (the prosecution development centre of Göteborg).

The group is also meant to raise awareness among professionals and volunteers who through their work come into contact with victims with women, children or youth subjected to violence or men who are perpetrators of violence.

The University of Gothenburg, where the Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research is located, is tasked by the Government to, promote gender research in Sweden with a nationwide perspective through investigative work and dissemination of information and in other ways that the university finds appropriate. The centre aims to strengthen the impact of research and knowledge related to gender and gender equality in academia and the rest of society. In addition, the Secretariat is in charge of several large projects.

The National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) has the coordinating responsibility between the agency, the National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women (NCK), the County Administrative Councils and Municipalities and civil society, for the implementation and reporting on the government commission to distribute development funds to local and regional actors to counter violence in intimate relationships and provide support to women and victims subjected to violence as mentioned under section 2A.

The coordinating role of the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention has been strengthened in the preventative work and methods for practical coordination between local actors have been developed and updated in collaboration with the Police and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL).

Examples of successful local coordination initiatives which serve as models of best practice around the country and beyond are also “Concept Karin” (formerly “project”) in Malmö where the joint housing of the concerned authorities has contributed to improve protection and support offered to women subject to violence, as well as the joint preventative work conducted by the municipality, the National Board of Health and Welfare, Police and schools in the municipality of Botkyrka.

E. Data collection

According to law, there must be official statistics for general information, investigation and research in Sweden. The statistics are to be objective and

made available to the public. Statistics Sweden is responsible for coordinating the system for the official statistics. The Government has appointed 28 government agencies to be responsible for official statistics within their respective areas. The official statistics are regulated according to the Official Statistics Act (2001:99) and the Ordinance of official statistics (2001:99). Among other things, the Ordinance in §14 specifies that official statistics related to individuals are to be disaggregated by sex, unless there are special reasons for not doing so. As a result, statistics in the annual reports of all public authorities is in general disaggregated by sex.

Statistics Sweden has a gender equality portal on their website which is updated with national statistics and indicators relating to the national gender equality objectives twice a year, see <https://www.scb.se/jamstalldhet/>

A range of national data on men's violence against women is accessible as a sub-set of this portal here: https://www.scb.se/sv_/Hitta-statistik/Temaomraden/Jamstalldhet/Indikatorer/Mans-vald-mot-kvinnorska-upphora/

Statistics Sweden also annually publishes the publication Women and men in Sweden— facts and figures, where the section on crime contains a range of relevant statistics.

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) produces and publishes Sweden's official crime statistics. Sweden's crime statistics contain information about reported offences, processed and cleared offences, persons suspected of offences, persons found guilty of offences, prison statistics and recidivism. The data on reported, processed and cleared offences is disaggregated by sex and age for most violent offences, such as assault, gross violation of integrity, unlawful threat and rape. For assault the data is also disaggregated by relationship to the perpetrator. For assault and rape the data is disaggregated by location (indoors/outdoors). The data is made public and published on Brå's website.

Brå also publishes the Swedish Crime Survey annually (see sections 2F and G).

The National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) publishes statistics in the areas of health and medical care and social services. The statistics includes causes of death and hospitalisations due to injuries, for example violence-

related injuries. The National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) also publishes Regional and local comparisons and Performance Assessments to encourage the providers and management of health care to improve performance.

An annual publication of how the social services on the municipal level are working with these issues can be found at the National Board of Health and Welfare's open website "Öppna jämförelser" ("Open comparisons") (<http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/oppnajokforelser/valdinararelationer>). The publication was initiated by the Government to allow a national overview of services related to, i.a., victims and perpetrators of domestic violence in 290 municipalities.

Since 1994, the Swedish Work Environment Authority (AV) collects statistics on the work environment and work-related disorders based on reported work-related accidents and occupational illness as well as biannual surveys by Statistics Sweden (SCB) including data on bullying, (sexual) harassments, threats and violence (see <https://www.av.se/arbetsmiljoarbete-och-inspektioner/arbetsmiljostatistik-officiell-arbetskadestatistik/>). The Children Ombudsman collects statistics on children's living conditions within the Max18 program, including on the themes of safety and protection/support.

F. Research conducted or supported by the Government 2011–2016

Research within the area of the convention is commissioned, conducted and funded in a multitude of models and by multiple actors in Sweden.

The Swedish state research funds are allocated as direct appropriations to universities and university colleges and as appropriations to research councils and sectoral research agencies. The Swedish Research Council is the largest state funding agency for basic research and allocates around 6,4 billion SEK (approximately EUR 637 million) annually by grants for basic research. They support research in many fields where violence against women and domestic violence can be included, primarily in medicine and health research and social sciences.

The Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare, Forte, distributes around 550 million SEK (approximately EUR55 million) every year to both basic and needs-driven research, often with an (gender) equality

perspective. In 2016 Forte published *Men's Violence Against Women in Intimate Relationships*, a research brief describing the current state of knowledge within the area with the aim to identify gaps in knowledge and areas left to develop.

Uppsala University is commissioned by the Government to develop and disseminate evidence-based knowledge and information on violence against women with a nationwide and comprehensive approach. The term violence against women also refers to honour-related violence and oppression, and violence in same-sex relationships. As a starting point for the mission, current research is to be compiled and the need for new research should continuously be analysed. The university shall also conduct research related to the clinical activities in the field of men's violence against women. For example, the National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women (NCK) located at the university has in a national study in Sweden asked 10 000 women and 10 000 men between the ages of 18 and 74 about their exposure to sexual, physical and psychological violence, both in childhood and in adulthood. The study also includes questions regarding health and life circumstances.

Gothenburg University, where the Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research is located, has also been commissioned to support public authorities in their work with gender mainstreaming. See further information on this resource centre under section 2D in this report.

The Government contributes financially towards work to prevent sexual crimes against children run by the Centre for Andrology and Sexual Medicine (CASM) at Karolinska Hospital. The centre works to prevent sexual abuse by treating people who engage in behaviours that put them at risk of committing sexual abuse, partly through the national PrevenTell helpline. People with a pattern of sexual attraction to children are particularly prioritised. The centre will also develop and carry out a training programme directed towards relevant professional groups for treating people in risk categories who carry out, or risk carrying out, sexually violent acts – with the aim of reducing the risk of reoffending. The aim is for the individuals who want help in dealing with their sexual attraction so as not to abuse children, to receive the support they need, thus helping to prevent sex crimes against children.

The Swedish Work Environment Authority (AV) was given 46 million SEK (approximately EUR 4,5 million) during 2012–2016 to develop and implement preventive measures to improve the work environment in women dominated professions.

As a centre for research and development within the judicial system, the National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) introduced under sections 2D and 2E of this report, may be commissioned by the Government to produce data and disseminate knowledge on crime and crime prevention work. At the moment Brå is commissioned to analyse the development of gross violation against a woman's integrity and to study police methods to prevent repeated abuse by a closely related person against adults and children. In 2011–2015, Brå has also been instructed by the Government to study the unlawful persecution offence, the provision of personal emergency phones for people at risk, the provision on restraining orders, the provision on contact with a child for sexual purposes, the online threats and incidents of abusive or offensive behaviour against private individuals that are reported to the police, and a project that specialises in helping victims of abuse by a closely related person. Brå has also been instructed to conduct a national survey regarding offences in close relationships. (See additional information under sections 2E, 2G and 5O).

The Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority (BrOM) was in 2011 commissioned to distribute funds to research etc. with the aim of improving knowledge about men's violence against women, including sexual violence and other sexual abuse. Approximately 40 million SEK (approximately EUR 4 million) was distributed in 2011–2014.

Research projects or researchers can also be financed through the Crime Victim Fund elaborated in further detail under section 2C above.

The Government has established a national Centre of Excellence on violence against children and child abuse at Linköping University. The University is tasked to gather and disseminate knowledge about violence and other abuses against children. The centre has a central role in the Government's efforts to improve prevention of violence and abuse and provides a link between research and practice for all relevant actors, including "barnahus" Children houses as developed further under section 6I.

The Government grants funding to the Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden to carry out a study regarding children who have been the victims of sexual abuse via the internet. An adapted version will be published to accommodate specifically to the needs of professionals working with children. The aim is to increase understanding of the consequences for children and young people of sexual abuse online.

The Children's Welfare Foundation has also been granted funding to carry out a study about the presence of corporal punishment and other infringement of children in Sweden. The study lasts during 2016–2018.

The Government decided to grant the Children's Welfare Foundation funding in order to conduct a knowledge collocation about violence against girls and boys with functional impairments. Multiple studies have shown that children with functional impairments are at greater risk of being victims of violence than children without functional impairments.

According to a national collocation done by the Children's Welfare Foundation and Karlstad University in 2011, fourteen percent of the pupils state that they have been beaten at some point in their life and three percent have been beaten several times. This share of pupils is almost exactly the same as in earlier studies and there is no indication of any increase. The outstanding risk factor for corporal punishment is violence between the adults in the family. This gives a ten-fold risk increase for corporal punishment compared to families where there is no inter-adult violence (Kroppslig bestraffning och annan kränkning av barn i Sverige – en nationell kartläggning 2011).

As mentioned under chapter 2D, the Government regularly appoints government inquiries to examine the needs and effectiveness of legislation, policy, governance and operations in this area of work. Examples of such government inquiries are SOU 2014:49, SOU 2014:71, SOU 2015:55, SOU 2015:86, and SOU 2016:60.

G. Population-based surveys on violence against women

Since 2006, the National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) is conducting the Swedish Crime Survey (NTU) annually. It is a large national questionnaire survey where more than 12 000 people aged 16–79 years reply to questions about exposure to crime, security and confidence in the justice

system. The survey contains questions on for example exposure to assault, threats, sexual offences, robbery and harassment. The data is disaggregated by for example sex, age and location. The results are made public and published at Brå's website and in a printed publication.

Exposure to offences against the person, 2014–2015. Percentage of girls and women aged 16–79. Source: the Swedish Crime Survey (NTU), Brå.

	2014	2015
Assault	1,6	1,5
<i>thereof serious</i>	0,3	0,4
Threats	4,6	5,2
Sexual offences	1,8	3,0
Robbery	0,5	0,5
Harassment	5,0	5,7

In 2014, Brå presented the results of a national survey regarding offences in close relationships. The survey was conducted within the framework of the NTU. The purpose of the survey was to gain more knowledge of how widespread these types of offences are and to investigate their characteristics. The results show that the share of women victimised in close relationships in 2012 was almost equal to the share of men victimised (7.0 per cent among women and 6.7 percent among men, whereof 2.2 per cent of women and 2.0 per cent of men had been subjected to physical violence). The results also show that it was more common for women to be subjected to more serious violence and to have a greater need of help and aid, primarily in the form of medical care. Also, repeated victimisation was more common among women. The survey further shows that more than one in four women (and one in six men) had been victimised in a close relationship at some point in their lives.

The National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women (NCK) at Uppsala University published a report in 2014 entitled Violence and Health in Sweden – A National Prevalence Study on Exposure to Violence among Women and Men and its Association to Health⁴. The report is part of a research project entitled Women's and men's exposure to violence from a life-course and population perspective – A national study.

4

[http://kunskapsbanken.nck.uu.se/nckkb/nck/publik/fil/visa/464/Violence_and_health.pdf#__utma=1.1024682975.1491985679.1491985679.1491985679.1&__utmb=1.3.10.1491985679&__utmc=1&__utmz=1.1491985679.1.1.utmcsr=google|utmccn=\(organic\)|utmcmd=organic|utmctr=\(not%20provided\)&__utmv=-&__utm=51789737](http://kunskapsbanken.nck.uu.se/nckkb/nck/publik/fil/visa/464/Violence_and_health.pdf#__utma=1.1024682975.1491985679.1491985679.1491985679.1&__utmb=1.3.10.1491985679&__utmc=1&__utmz=1.1491985679.1.1.utmcsr=google|utmccn=(organic)|utmcmd=organic|utmctr=(not%20provided)&__utmv=-&__utm=51789737)

The report reflects the results of a national study in 2012 focusing on the prevalence of exposure to psychological, physical and sexual violence among women and men between the ages of 18 and 74. The results presented in the study are extensive but indicates, for example, that 46 percent of women and 38 percent of men surveyed stated that they had, at some point, been subjected to some kind of severe violence. Women are significantly more likely to have been subjected to severe sexual and psychological violence, and men are marginally more likely to have been subjected to some form of severe physical violence. The analyses demonstrate that psychological and physical ill-health is more common, sometimes several-fold more common, in individuals who have been subjected to severe violence. However, it is important to note that these connections cannot be said to be causal.

In 2011, a commissioned survey based report on threats and violence in schools was published and made publicly available by the Swedish Work Environment Authority (AV) (Rapport 2011:15). The report was supported by Statistics Sweden (SCB) which conducted a national randomised survey amongst female and male teachers and boys and girls in schools.

The Public Health Agency of Sweden (FoHM) regularly (previously annually and as of 2016, bi-annually) conducts a national health survey. The survey covers life habits, physical and mental health, contact with health care, dental health and social relationships.

The Public Health Agency of Sweden (FoHM) also publishes a survey based study on sexuality and health amongst young people in Sweden. The studies which were published in 2009 and 2015 and 2017, are supported by a randomised stratified national population survey conducted by Statistics Sweden (SCB) and covers questions on social circumstances, discrimination, violence, contraceptives and methods for birth control, sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancies and the right to knowledge and information. In 2015, the analysis was based on replies from 7 755 young people in the ages 16–29 in Sweden. The survey for example shows that there are differences in health and factors which affect sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) between various groups of young people, especially based on sex and gender identity. Significant groups of girls and youth who do not want to categorise their sex experience discrimination, sexual abuse or sex against their will.

Since 1975, Statistics Sweden (SCB) conducts an annual survey of living conditions in Sweden (ULF/SILC). The survey is conducted nationally through phone interviews with between 12.000–13.000 randomly selected people 16 years or older. The analysis is broadened with the help of national data on incomes, pensions, taxes, social subsidies etc. and the findings are disaggregated by sex, age, educational level, profession, socioeconomic group, income, Swedish/foreign background, civic state, etc. Broader surveys such as this one allows for studies of possible correlations between experiences of violence and socioeconomic factors, such as level of education, housing, income and occupation (<https://www.scb.se/hitta-statistik/statistik-efter-amne/levnadsforhallanden/levnadsforhallanden/undersokningarna-av-levnadsforhallanden-ulf-silc/>).

Amongst the findings of the survey of 2016 was that 23 percent of women had refrained from going out at night due to fear of being assaulted or threatened. The corresponding figure for men was six percent. It also showed that three percent of the population aged 16 years or older had been subjected to violence during the past twelve months. Five percent had been subjected to threats of violence or other types of threats which caused fear. The ratio of women and men who were exposed to threats or violence was about the same.

In 2011, a state-funded survey was carried out, with the purpose of describing the current situation for Swedish children and trends over time concerning various forms of humiliation, with special emphasis on events at home, but also those occurring at school. The 2011 national Swedish studies on corporal punishment and other humiliating behaviour towards children are a follow up of earlier studies performed in 1980, 2000 and 2006. The Swedish Government has decided to carry out another follow-up survey. This will be completed in 2018.

3. Prevention

A. Campaigns and programmes

Government commissions to assemble and spread knowledge and best-practices in how to prevent and counter men's violence against women which serve a permanent awareness-raising function on the national level are in part outlined under section 2 of this report. Furthermore, the Swedish

Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF) has been commissioned to actively pro-mote violence prevention to the municipalities and civil society organisations. Since October 2015, there is also an agreement between the Government and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL) to strengthen the integration of questions on men, boys and masculinity, including violence prevention, in gender equality work in municipalities. These measures align with the national strategy's goal to strengthen prevention work.

The Government through its budget allocations for preventive work also funds separate information campaigns, programmes and information resources. Direct campaigns are conducted on the level of the national authorities, municipalities or by the country administrative boards. Examples of such initiatives include the below:

The Swedish version of the Council of Europe No Hate Speech Movement which the Government commissioned the Swedish Media Council (SMR) to develop for a national audience in 2013 and which is still ongoing (A2013/2317/DISK, see <https://statensmedierad.se/nohate.1295.html>).

The Equality Ombudsman has the assignment to educate and raise awareness of the protection against discrimination. The Ombudsman shall also cooperate with stakeholders such as employers. For example, in 2016, the Ombudsman cooperated with the unions to inform about measures compulsory for employers to prevent discrimination and promote equal rights and opportunities in the work place in accordance with the national Discrimination Act.

The Police Authority provides information on its website, targeted towards victims and those who suspect others to be a victim of domestic violence and honour related crimes. In 2009, the Police Authority launched a campaign under the title "Come to us" (Kom till oss)⁵, in order to encourage the reporting of domestic crime. The active work with the campaign was ended in 2015 but all relevant material remains in use online. The information, which includes both texts and movies, is provided in 18 different languages. On the website there is information on how to report a crime, how a police investigation is carried out and what kind of support and

⁵ <https://polisen.se/Kom-till-oss/Startsida/>

help that is available. There are also links to other organisations where victims can receive help and support. The purpose with the campaign and the information online is to raise the tendency to report crimes and to facilitate participation in the investigation for victims. On the website, there is an “exit button” so that the user is able to leave the site quickly. There is also information on how to erase the traces of visits to the specific site in the computer.

At the local level, there have been various initiatives from the Police Authority for young people in schools, on information about crimes in intimate relationships and sexual crime. The police also work locally with a method called “pledges to citizens” (“medborgarlöften”) which entails commitments from the local police in agreement with the community to give priority to certain issues at the local level. In the municipality of Arjeplog, the police have given domestic violence a higher priority, through the pledges to citizens’ process.

A national awareness campaign called Travel Courage was launched by the County Administrative Board of Stockholm in 2014 and is still ongoing. The campaign aims to inform Swedish tourists that a Swedish citizen who sexually exploits children abroad can be convicted in Sweden as well. The campaign has raised awareness about the issue of sexual exploitation of children, according to a survey.

The site Hedersförtryck.se and related campaign material for multiple target audiences developed by the Country Administrative Board in Östergötland within the framework of the Government’s commission to work to counter honour related violence and oppression in its related forms of manifestation through child marriage, forced marriage, and female genital mutilation.

The Government has tasked the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF) to develop a gender perspective in the work to safeguard democracy against violent extremism (Ku2015/01868/D).⁶ As a result, The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF) created the publication series Young and Extreme and the publication Foreign is Frightening – four

⁶ The gender perspective in the work against violence – regardless of its type – is essential for shedding light on what can be thought to be behind violent deeds and how preventative work can be developed. The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society’s (MUCF) 2015 youth survey shows that the frequency of violent behaviour is 4.4 times higher amongst young men who agree with stereotypical statements about gender roles when compared to young men who do not agree with these statements or stereotypical norms.

publications about young people, gender and violent extremism (The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society, 2016a; b; c; d). In *Young and Extreme*, the authors expand on existing research. The four publications address violent left-wing extremist environments, violent right-wing extremist environments, violent Islamic extremist environments and young people's take on violent extremism. Together they provide a broad picture of violent extremism in Sweden from the perspective of young people and gender. There are also podcasts in Swedish at www.mucof.se that discuss violent left-wing, right-wing and Islamic extremism.

The site Youmo.se, run by the County Council of Stockholm on behalf of all county councils and regions of Sweden and is funded by the Government through the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF). The site which targets youth between 13 and 20 years old is available in 6 languages in addition to easy Swedish. It contains information in a range of formats about topics on the body, sex and health, including information on violence sexual violence, abuse and relevant support services. There is also information about gender equality, rights and assistance available to ensure physical and psychological wellbeing. Youmo.se also collaborates with young people, experts in the fields covered by the site, youth guidance centres, *elevhälsan*, national agencies and NGOs.

With support from the National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS), the County Administrative Board of Skåne in collaboration with the county administrative boards nationwide developed an information website called "Infogeneratorn.se" ("the information generator") in 2016. The site is a resource tool for professionals and municipalities and provides quality assured and adapted information in 24 languages to be used in the contact with victims of violence in intimate relationships in 24 languages.

Campaigns are also conducted on the regional level, e.g. the campaign "Välj att sluta", ("Choose to stop") conducted in the Stockholm region. It targets perpetrators or potential perpetrators of violence in intimate relationships to increase the number of perpetrators that seek assistance with their violent behaviour. The campaign is run by Operation Kvinnofrid which is a collaborative effort between the County Administrative Board of Stockholm, the County Council of Stockholm, *Storsthlm* (a non-profit organisation formed by the 26 municipalities of Greater Stockholm), the Stockholm regional branch of the Swedish Prison and Probation Service (KV), the

Police Authority in the Stockholm region and all the 26 municipalities of the region (#väljattsluta <http://www.operationkvinnofrid.se/valjattsluta>).

While public authorities primarily conduct information campaigns or awareness-raising campaigns focused around available services or the rights and needs of the individual which reflect norms that are formally entrenched in national legislation and regulations, civil society and political parties have a broader social role to play both for awareness-raising of a complementary kind but also in conducting direct advocacy on public opinion.

The Government, however, grants funds to civil society to conduct awareness-raising campaigns that align with public interests. E.g. this is done through the funding and instructions to the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF) and the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority (BrOM).

B. Inclusion of teaching material in education

Human rights, in the form of fundamental democratic values, constitute the basis of the Swedish school system. According to the Education Act (2010:800) and the national curricula each and every one working in the school should encourage respect for the intrinsic value of each person and the environment we all share. Furthermore, the teaching and all school activities should be carried out in accordance with fundamental democratic values.

The inviolability of human life, individual freedom and integrity, the equal value of all people, equality between women and men, and solidarity with the weak and vulnerable are the values that the school should represent and impart according to the national curricula. The school should also actively and consciously further equal rights and opportunities for women and men and has a responsibility to counteract traditional gender patterns. It should thus provide scope for pupils to explore and develop their ability and their interests independently of gender affiliation. These fundamental values and tasks of the school should be reflected in the teaching material used by the schools and in the education provided.

In April 2015 the Swedish National Agency for Education (NAE) was commissioned to evaluate the program Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) and its effects when used in schools. MVP is a program for working

with attitudes and norms of girls and boys, young women and men concerning masculinity, gender and violence.

The NAE was in June 2015 given the task to offer schools and education providers in compulsory and upper-secondary education extensive continuing professional development in different areas, so called national school development programs. One of these designated areas is the fundamental values in schools which includes gender equality and the prevention of degrading treatment and harassment. The Agency for example offers support material for schools for working with furthering equal treatment in and as part of the education.

Sex education is included in several of the course and subject syllabi for compulsory and upper secondary school as well as adult education. This means that the responsibility for this topic falls on several teachers and that it shall be brought up within the scope of a number of courses and subjects. According to the national curricula for compulsory and upper secondary school, the head teacher also has special responsibility for ensuring that the pupils receive knowledge on sex and intimate relationships.

The Government sees it as crucial that schools can impart both knowledge of sexual violence as well as fundamental values and human rights. It is therefore important that agencies and organisations have a relevant picture of the strengths and development areas of sex education to more effectively offer schools support. The Government has therefore tasked the Swedish Schools Inspectorate to perform a quality audit of sex education in compulsory and upper-secondary schools.

The Government has tasked the NAE to propose changes to the national curriculum for compulsory school to strengthen the task of the school to actively and consciously further equal rights and opportunities for women and men and to counteract traditional gender patterns. Part of this shall be to clarify that schools cannot systematically and over time organise their tutoring in gender separated classes.

The Education Act provides that all pupils in all forms of school, apart from preschool and non-mandatory preschool class for six year olds, shall have access to study and vocational guidance. The Government has commissioned the NAE to take action in 2016–2018 to strengthen quality

and gender equality perspectives in study and vocational guidance in schools, for both boys and girls.

The Swedish Government does not control the teaching materials used in higher education. The Government decides the qualifications ordinances that contain the descriptors for all qualifications. Within these parameters, the higher education institutions are relatively free to decide on their own organisation, allocation of resources and course offerings. The universities and university colleges under the Government are obliged by law to always take gender equality into account and promote it in their operations. There are also descriptors for certain degrees that concern for example equality and human rights. See further information under 3C.

C. Initial training of professionals

As mentioned under section 3B the Government decides the descriptors for all qualifications but then the Higher education institutions are relatively free to decide on the design of the courses in the study programme.

The Swedish Higher Education Authority was tasked by the Government with examining how issues of human rights, men's violence against women and violence against children are being taken into account in educational programs leading to degrees in different areas but primarily in education and health care. The report, which examined 188 educational programs, was presented at the end of 2015. The results showed that big emphasis is placed on the teaching of human rights in a broad sense. However, there are less trainings on men's violence against women and violence against children. It was found that education on men's violence against women and violence against children was usually included in most studied programmes, although in some cases the results are uncertain due to low response rates. Mainly, a lack of teaching about men's violence against women and violence against children was evident in certain programmes that lead to a degree in teaching.

The education programmes leading to degrees in teaching are all fairly new and are currently being evaluated for the first time by the responsible authority, the Swedish Higher Education Authority.

In august 2017 the Government decided to amend the qualification descriptors in the Systems of Qualifications for certain professional qualifications in higher education to include a learning outcome that the

student shall demonstrate knowledge of men's violence against women and domestic violence. The study programmes concerned are identified as leading to professions in which encounters occur with people who have been subjected to violence or have subjected others to violence. The qualification descriptors concerned are those for Degree of Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy, Degree of Master of Law, Degree of Master of Science in Medicine, Degree of Master of Science in Psychology, Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Degree of Master of Science in Dental Surgery, and Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work. These amendments will come into force 1st of July 2018. Some other qualification descriptors for these and other relevant degrees are outlined in further detail in annex A of this report.

According to the Swedish Social Services Act (2001:453, Ch 3, para 3) the municipalities are obliged to ensure that their social services are delivered by staff with appropriate training and experience. The act further contains specific provisions concerning aid for women subjected to domestic violence and children who have witnessed such violence. In addition, the National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) has issued regulations (mandatory rules) and general advice (strong recommendations) on work related to domestic violence by the social services and the health care system (SOSFS 2014:4). Amongst other things, it is strongly recommended that staff members handling all kinds of matters concerning individuals (adults and children) within the social services have knowledge of domestic violence and the ability to practice this knowledge in their work. Similar recommendations apply to the systems of health care and dental care.

Significant funds are allocated for the development of such expertise and know-how of the professional cadre through the Government commission on development funds to the National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) mentioned under section 2A of this report. Within this commission, the agency in addition to distributing funds for capacity development and strengthening of expertise and the development of qualitative working methods, collaborates with the Government supported The National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women (NCK), to support the County Councils and with the county administrative boards to support municipalities and non-profit actors providing services in this field.

The National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women (NCK) which has run initial as well as in-service trainings and courses in this field for over 20 years has noted a sharp increase in the demand for qualified training on men's violence against women in parallel to the strengthening of formal requirements of such expertise. The centre notes that this increase has also coincided with the ratification of the Istanbul convention and that the national funds made available by the Government for the development of such expertise has contributed to this increase.

In addition to pre-existing courses on men's violence against women for students pursuing degree programmes as well as for professionals, the centre developed a new training of trainers course in this field to meet the increased demand and during 2015 offered a specialised training of trainers course adapted for the health care services on two occasions. Other specially adapted courses for coordinators of social work in this field were offered in both 2015 and 2016. (See additional information under in-service training in section 2D).

The Courts of Sweden Judicial Training Academy provides training for both permanent judges and judges in training. There is no fixed training program for newly appointed judges. Instead they can, depending on their background (for instance as a lawyer or a prosecutor), choose from the various courses arranged by the Academy (see section 3D below for information on these courses). Many permanent judges have followed a specific career path that begins after graduation and entails working as a legal clerk at different courts for six years. For judges in training, the Academy holds ten courses (each course is one week). However, judges in training do generally not adjudicate in cases concerning more serious crimes such as sexual crimes or severe violence.

Please refer to section 5B under this report for additional training of prosecutors and police officers. Please also refer to annexes B and C for information on training within the Police Authority and for prosecutors.

Please refer to section 7C for additional information of training of Migration Agency personnel.

D. In-service training of professionals

The course “children and trauma” is given during spring 2017 by Karolinska Institutet together with the Erica foundation. The course is 7,5 higher education credits and is addressed towards professionals within the child- and youth psychiatry, social services, student health, habilitation and kindred disciplines.

Following a commission from the Government, the Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority in 2011–2014 conducted a training programme aimed at staff in the Police Authority, the Swedish Prosecution Authority and the courts system. Lawyers who are members of the Swedish Bar Association were also given the opportunity to participate. The purpose of the programme was to increase knowledge about victims of sexual crimes and improve the treatment of these crime victims in connection with reports to the police, preliminary investigations and trials. The report on the commission was presented in June 2014.

The Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority’s information and training activities are largely based on local, regional, and national cooperation. Through lectures, training courses, and study visits, the authority annually reaches approximately 6 000–7 000 people directly, primarily those active in professions which have a responsibility for crime victims, or volunteers. The webpages managed by the authority had in 2016 nearly 360 000 visits.

The National Centre for Knowledge on Men’s Violence Against Women (NCK) at Uppsala University offers, as part of the commission from the Government to the university, courses on violence. In addition to the work outlined under section 3C, the Centre offered a course for investigative methodologies in relation to violence in intimate relations for police officers and contributed to other courses offered for the police. A free web-based course on violence was launched in September 2016 that by the end of the year had had almost 4 000 registered users. The aim of the course is to increase the competence firstly in the Social services but the course is also relevant for staff in other sectors.

In 2015 and 2016, over 3 500 persons took part in the external training activities offered by NCK. They reached staff at Sweden’s Public Employment Agency, occupational therapists, midwives, probation officers,

employees of shelters, attorneys, prison officers, counsellors, physicians, teachers, police officers, priests, therapists, physiotherapists, nurses, social workers, prosecutors and dentists.

Since 2012, the county administrative boards are organising regional in-service trainings on work against domestic violence with the support of the National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS). The county administrative boards reported that in most regions these trainings were attended by professionals from nearly all municipalities in 2015. The participants represented a wide range of municipal and regional public services such as the social services, public health, education including pre-school, residential care homes for children and young people as well as the Swedish Prison and Probation Service (KV), the police and nearly 200 NGO:s.⁷

Within the framework for a government gender mainstreaming commission for public agencies, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (FK) has developed procedures and training for desk officers handling case files to identify violence as a possible cause of sick leave and enable referrals to support services.

Under the coordination of the County Administrative Board of Östergötland, the county administrative boards are also organising in-service trainings for various professional groups on honour-related violence and oppression including child marriages and forced marriages as well as female genital mutilation. The boards carried out nearly 160 training activities across the country in 2016, attended mainly by staff members of the social services, health care, schools, the justice sector and civil society organisations.

In 2014, the Government commissioned the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF) to promote the use of effective gender-aware programs of violence prevention among municipalities and civil society organisations. In 2015 and 2016 the agency organised regional conferences, workshops and seminars attended by more than 1000 participants from 60 municipalities and municipal districts. The three most populated regions – Stockholm, Skåne and Västra Götaland – were offered three-day seminars specifically targeting persons in strategic positions for promoting the

⁷ A report on the progression of these activities during 2016 will be submitted by the National Board of Health and Welfare by September 30, 2017.

development of violence prevention within municipalities and civil society. See also information under section 2F on training by the Centre for Andrology and Sexual Medicine (CASM) at Karolinska Hospital.

The Courts of Sweden Judicial Training Academy arranges various courses for judges where violence against women is an integrated part, for example courses regarding sexual crimes, gross violation of a woman's integrity and the judge's role (see annex D).

Please refer to section 5B under this report for additional training of prosecutors and police officers. Please also refer to annexes B and C for information on training within the Police Authority and for prosecutors.

Please refer to section 7C for additional information of training of Migration Agency personnel.

E. Support programmes for perpetrators

According to the Social Services Act (2001:453), social services on the municipal level have the overarching responsibility for the welfare of people within their territory. For convicted criminals, however, the Government in its authority instruction confers the responsibility for treatment of offenders nationwide to the Swedish Prison and Probation Service (KV) for as long as offenders are in their custody.

In this context, a diversity of programs for perpetrators of violence and sexual offenders are offered both on the national, regional and local levels across Sweden. In addition to the Swedish Prison and Probation Service, some are run directly by social services and others are offered by civil society. All programs are voluntary in nature but depending on the context, there are incentives to undergo treatment. Incentives can for example be linked to financial support and in cases where treatment is assessed to constitute a risk reducing measure, there can also be a possibility for special release. The Swedish Prison and Probation Service and the forensic care also offer therapy (compulsory or voluntary depending on the context). Examples include psychodynamic or cognitive behavioural therapy.

The Swedish Prison and Probation Service offers different treatment programs for convicted individuals to reduce the risk of relapse. Two nationwide treatment programs are currently offered to perpetrators

convicted for violence against women or sexual offences. A third programme is under development. The treatment programs are run by KV employees both in prisons and at the offices of probation. All treatment programs have passed a scientific review and a specialised KV HQ unit provides training of trainers and capacity development for KV staff to ensure consistent and high quality of all treatment programs.

Offenders convicted for violence in intimate relationships enrolled in the Swedish Prison and Probation Service abuse and violence courses					
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of offenders enrolled in the KV programs	473	475	451	420	362
Number of offenders who have completed the KV programs	351	347	353	315	266

Source: Swedish Prison and Probation Service (KV) (2011–2013 Ebbe, 2014–2016 KVR)⁸

Various operations across the country work with perpetrators of intimate partner violence that do not serve an ongoing sentence. In a pre-study in 2011, the National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) identified 63 such operations. The Nordic Countries Overview of Work with Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence 2017, commissioned by the Nordic Council of Ministers, found that most programs are of limited size and scope, and are mainly present in urban areas. Many municipalities collaborate to provide programs and the majority of the programs include a gendered understanding as part of the design.

The annual publication of how the social services on the municipal level are working with these issues, “Öppna jämförelser” (“Open comparisons”) (<http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/oppnajokforelser/valdinararelationer>), referred to under section 2E of the report, has a dedicated section for data on measures for safety and support. In 2016, these for example showed that

⁸ It should be noted that national statistics for persons convicted for violence are not disaggregated with regard to their relationship to the victim. Therefore, data on offenders undertaking treatment programs for this offence is therefore difficult to put in relation to the number of offenders serving a prison sentence for violence in intimate relationships nationwide.

70 percent of municipalities' social service personnel had received training to work with intimate partner violence including with perpetrators.

A government committee of inquiry (ToR 2017:26) appointed in 2017 and expected to deliver its findings in June 2018, is currently mapping and reviewing the experience of prevention programs for relapse aimed at men who are not in custody and will recommend how such services can be strengthened.

Both the Swedish Prison and Probation Service and the National Board of Health and Welfare in collaboration with social services and a number of civil society organisations have developed measures for safety and support for victims. The degree to which these measures are being implemented, as well as the models for doing so, vary greatly between regions. However, since the introduction of these measures, the National Board of Health and Welfare has noted an increased awareness of how to interview victims of violence and that risk assessments are more uniform across the country.

In addition to evaluations conducted in conjunction with specific measures or programmes, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service has an in-house research department which evaluates the impact of the authority's permanent treatment programs. The National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) commissions reviews and evaluations of treatment measures. The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) also evaluates the various aspects of programs under the Swedish Prison and Probation Service (KV) as well as crime prevention efforts by other actors including the municipalities nationwide. Likewise, The County Administrative Boards evaluate various ongoing aspects of support programmes.

F. Support programmes for sex offenders

As mentioned under 3E, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service (KV) offers a specialised program for convicted sex offenders entitled "relationships and cohabitation". The program, which targets adult men, is provided as individual- and/or group therapy according to the perpetrators risk and response assessment. Currently, the program is offered at all six correctional institutions where male sex offenders serve sentences. The program is also held in offices of probation, nationwide, both as an ordinary program and as a booster for those who have previously undergone

treatment in prison. Adult women sex offenders are offered individual therapy as this is a more rare conviction.

Perpetrators enrolled in “relationships and cohabitation” (KV)

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
InInitiated	286	261	293	290	280
Completed	208	192	236	222	224

a

Source: Swedish Prison and Probation Service (KV) (2011–2013 Ebbe, 2014–2016 KVR)

Sex offenders convicted to forensic psychiatric care are given therapy in the form of individual counselling, in accordance with an individual care plan based on the patient’s needs and problems.

Support programs for youth can be given as juvenile care in form of non-institutional care, as 24/7 care with placement in a family home or in a youth home (HVB), or as closed juvenile care. The care given to the youth in the closed juvenile care, which can be the result of a conviction of sexual assault, is tailored for the individual and provided in a special youth home.

For individuals who are not convicted for sexual offences but who themselves identify a need for care, the Centre for Andrology and Sexual Medicine (CASM) at the Karolinska Hospital has a nation based operation and offers treatment to prevent sexual crimes. The Centre provides emergency treatment of persons at imminent risk of committing acts of sexual abuse. The unit is linked with the helpline PreventTell for men with sexual abuse problem. (See further information under 4E).

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, so called BUP clinics, offer help to children that act sexually against others and are in a need of professional counselling. Referrals can for example be made from the school student care functions, the health care system or directly from parents. There are two special BUP clinics in Sweden that accept children and youth that have sexual behavioural problems for assessment and treatment. For boys and young men between ages 12 to 21, there are treatment programmes in non-institutional settings which is referred to as an integrative approach. The approach consists of the treatment program “relationships and cohabitation”, individual therapy and a program entitled “identity and sexuality”. Girls who act in a sexual manner towards children or have been

convicted for sexual crimes are placed in youth homes for youth with a mix of problems.

One private actor in Sweden has since year 2005 been specialising in children and youth with sexual abuse problems. The goal is for the child or youth to prevent itself from committing sexual assaults. The actor works nationally.

Several NGOs work with victims for sexual abuse in Sweden and a number of NGOs offer services for perpetrators of sexual offences.

G. The private sector and the media

The media sector in Sweden is granted independence in relation to the Government by the constitutional law. A fundamental part of the Swedish media policy is to provide for public service broadcasting with high quality and high integrity that functions as an important influence and bench mark for other actors within the media sector. Democratic values and the fundamental ideas of the Swedish society, such as the principle of equality and the freedom and dignity of individuals, are deep-rooted within the Swedish society and also in the Swedish media sector.

The remit of the public service broadcasters includes a requirement that all broadcasting activities should be conducted based on a gender equality and diversity perspective. For suppliers of media services including TV-broadcasts, on-demand TV or teletext, it is explicitly regulated in the Radio and Television broadcasting Act (2010:696) that programme activity in its entirety must be characterised by the principle of equality and the freedom and dignity of individuals (5 c 1 §).

Certain restrictions as regards the allowed content in radio and TV-programmes are stipulated by law. TV programmes with graphic violence or pornographic images must either be preceded by a warning signal or contain an ongoing warning on the screen throughout the transmission. Such programmes may not be aired during a time or in a way that leads to a high risk of children seeing it, unless there are special justifying reasons. The office of the Chancellor of Justice reviews whether programmes reported by the public contain graphic violence or pornographic images contradicting 5 c. 2–3 §§ of the radio and broadcasting act. The broadcasting licenses for the terrestrial networks include provisions to guarantee that consideration should be taken to the special impact of television when determining the

subject and character of programmes and the time they are broadcasted. This applies to shows containing or dealing with subjects such as violence, sex or drugs and means that broadcasters must exercise caution. The Swedish Broadcasting Commission monitors the compliance of these provisions. There have been some rulings of interest in this context. In 2011 for example, the Commission found that a reality show portrayed both women and men in a harmful stereotyping manner.

In relation to article 17.2 of the Convention, the Swedish Media Council (SMR) has as its mission to strengthen children and young people as conscious media users and protect them from harmful media influence. The SMR disseminates information and gives guidance regarding young people and children's media situation.

The Swedish Media Council has since 2013 implemented the No Hate Speech Campaign referred to under 3A which aims at counteracting and preventing online hate amongst children and young people. The campaign will be continued until the end of 2020. The campaign, which specifically addresses online sexism and hate speech through a gender equality perspective, includes educational material and podcasts for teachers, parents and children and young people about hate speech and rules and regulations that apply online.

As mentioned under section 2A, the Government in July 2017, adopted a national action plan to protect journalists, artists and elected officials, against hate speech and threats. The action plan, i.a., addresses the specific nature, and at times greater volume of, threats and hate that is targeted towards women in these professions. The Government in 2016–2017 already placed several commissions to implement this plan to Government agencies.

See also section 3I for additional information with regards to the private sector.

H. Self-regulatory standards

There are self-regulating ethical rules for press, radio and TV which have been agreed upon by the major stakeholders in the media sector such as the Swedish union of Journalists, the Swedish Media Publishers Association and the Swedish Magazine Publishers. The public service broadcasters have also agreed internally to follow the self-regulatory rules. The rules emphasise the

importance of a correct and all-round news service. Another key principle is that ethnical background, gender, nationality, profession, political affiliation, religion or sexual orientation of a person should not be exposed if it is not of particular importance to the context. Individuals feeling disadvantaged by published material can – if within the broadcaster's responsibility according to the Fundamental Law on Freedom of Expression and the Freedom of the Press Act file a complaint to the Press Ombudsman (PO) and cases can be referred to the Press Council (PON). PO and PON are independent self-disciplinary bodies established by the main organisations of the press. The media in general report on serious cases which have been assessed as non-compliant with the self-regulatory rules. Media also report on societal efforts in these areas and critically review them.

The Swedish Advertising Ombudsman is another self-regulatory organisation with the main task to review, after public report, commercial advertising and make sure advertising standards are kept high by self-regulating the industry. The Swedish Advertising Ombudsman applies the code set by The International Chamber Of Commerce (ICC) which states that marketing communications should respect human dignity and should not incite or condone any form of discrimination, including that based upon race, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability or sexual orientation. On a regular basis the Ombudsman finds that reported advertisement does not fully comply with the rules. In one of the more recent cases (2017-06-16) the Ombudsman found that an advertisement from a skin care company was discriminatory towards women with the motivation that it depicted women in a harmful stereotypical way.

I. Measures to encourage protocols or guidelines

According to The Work Environmental Act (1977:1160), employers are responsible for ensuring a good working environment. The employer shall systematically plan, direct and control activities in a way that leads to the working environment meeting the requirements for a good working environment in all areas.

The clarifying regulation from the Swedish Work Environment Authority about violence and threats in the workplace (AFS 1993:2) further specifies that workplaces should be designed and equipped to, as far as possible, prevent the risk of threats and violence. The provision applies to all workplaces.

Threats and violence, or the risk of being subjected to threats and violence, is addressed as a serious work environment problem in the Work Environment Strategy for Modern Working Life 2016–2020 (Govt. Comm. 2015/16:80). The strategy contains concrete measures to improve the work environment. Sexual harassment in working-life is forbidden according to the Discrimination Act (2008:567). The Act also demands employers to work on active measures. Active measures are prevention and promotion measures aimed at preventing discrimination in a given establishment and serving in other ways to promote equal rights and opportunities regardless of gender. The Equality Ombudsman is to supervise compliance with the Act. The Ombudsman has the assignment to educate and raise awareness of the protection against discrimination. The Ombudsman shall also cooperate with stakeholders such as employers. For example in 2016, the Ombudsman cooperated with the unions to inform about active measures.

As laws and regulations hold employers accountable for ensuring a safe work environment free from discrimination in a range of respects, The confederation of Swedish Enterprise (Svenskt Näringsliv), employer and workers unions collaborate to develop checklists and guidelines, information and resource material, trainings, capacity building measures and other services that help employers and unions to ensure compliance. An example of such collaboration is the website www.prevent.se

See also the answers under 3C and 4B for further relevant information.

J. Other measures to prevent violence against women

Within the Police Authority, there are national functions since 2015 that are responsible for developing the work to prevent and combat domestic violence, crimes against children, sexual crimes, human trafficking, victims of crime and general crime prevention.

4. Protection and support

A. Information on support services and available legal measures

When coming into contact with judicial authorities, the injured party's right to receive information on for example support services and legal measures available to them (amongst other things) is regulated in *Förundersökningskungörelsen* (a regulation which concerns public notice on preliminary investigation). The Police Authority has guidelines and routines

to support the staff in applying the regulation and information duties. Interpreters are used when needed.

The injured party should also be informed on the legal support stipulated in the Act concerning Counsel for the injured party (1988:60) and the Non-Contact Order Act (1988:688).

Victims of some crimes (i.a. violence and sexual offences) have, according to Swedish law, the right to obtain certain information concerning the perpetrator during his or her time within the Swedish Prison and Probation Service (KV). In addition, the authority has a working method for protecting the victims of these crimes, mainly when it comes to the contact between the victim and the perpetrator.

Similarly to when the victim comes into contact with judicial authorities, when either the victim or perpetrator of violence comes into contact with social or health care services, comprehensive information and referrals based on the need of the individual should be ensured as outlined in section 4B1below.

A government committee of inquiry (ToR 2017:26) appointed in 2017, is currently reviewing referral mechanisms and practices between authorities and is expected to publish its findings and recommendations in June 2018.

As mentioned under question 2F, Uppsala University is commissioned by the Government to disseminate evidence-based knowledge and information on violence against women with a nationwide and comprehensive approach. Within the framework of the mission, the University is to conduct training and provide support for government agencies and organisations regarding issues of violence against women. The University shall support the governmental agencies in their method development work and promote effective cooperation between the relevant authorities and organisations. This includes developing and disseminating evidence-based methods for the treatment and care of people who have been abused or raped. They offer, for example, an online service that helps those working against domestic violence to provide information to victims of violence in 24 different languages.

The Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden receives funding to continue to spread information to children about their rights and where they can turn if

they or a friend have been the victim of sexual abuse. The existing website “dagsattprataom.se” will be made even more accessible and also translated into more languages. A guide will be drawn up on the basis of children’s wishes that adults at school should be courageous enough to talk about these issues at school when the children wish to do so. The aim is for knowledge of the children’s own rights concerning issues regarding sexual abuse to reach more children and for adults at school to receive support on appropriate ways of talking and asking about children’s vulnerability.

The Government has granted the Children’s Welfare Foundation Sweden funding for a development project on the principle that all children who have been the victims of sexual abuse and/or physical violence have the right to an assessment and the right to support and rehabilitation according to need. The model will support providing good information to children and parents, a functioning care chain and the opportunity for children and parents to seek and obtain support and treatment when the need arises. Particular attention should be paid to children with disabilities, as international reports show that they are more frequently the victims of violence and sexual abuse, for example, than other children.

B.1. General support services

On the overarching policy level, the Government employs gender mainstreaming to all its work as a prerequisite to ensure that all policies, decisions, instructions and outputs of government considers the perspective and specific needs of women, men boys and girls equally. This methodology strengthens the safeguards to ensure that the directives of the general national support services meet the needs specifically also of women. With a national gender policy goal that men’s violence against women must end, the achievement of this specific objective is furthermore at the forefront of the formulation of all government instructions which pass through the substantive experts in each field as well as the Division for Gender Equality under the direction of the Minister for Gender Equality, before being finalised as part of the internal Swedish Government quality review process.

According to Chapter 5, 11 § of the Social Services Act (2001:453), “the social welfare committee should take steps to ensure that persons subjected to criminal acts and their next-of-kin are supported and helped”. The provision covers all victims of crime, regardless of age or gender. As outlined with respect to training under chapter 3C, the National Board of

Health and Welfare has further developed binding rules and general guidelines to cover social service workers and staff within national health care which come into contact with victims or witnesses of violence in close relationships (SOSFS 2014:4) These rules and guidelines outline a range of measures and structural processes that need to be in place in order to ensure that the needs of an individual exposed to domestic violence (whether directly or indirectly) receives the support that they are entitled to and adapted to their specialised needs.

Beyond expertise of personnel, there are also a number of local arrangements and collaborative efforts of authorities and support providers designed to ensure that victims of domestic violence receive specialised support organised in a “one-stop-shop” manner. Common to these arrangements is a structured cooperation between authorities and other actors designed with the individual’s best interest at heart. Often this involves co-hosting of personnel of multiple actors within the same facilities or enhanced channels of communication and joint work flows between multiple supporting services. The victim is taken care of in a safe environment and receives support on legal matters and social support. If needed, social support can be obtained both during and after the police investigation is finished. Examples of such collaborative arrangements are the “Concept Karin” in Malmö, “Relationsvåldscentrum” in Solna and Children’s Houses across the country (see further details under section 6I).

Another ongoing coordination and cooperation project serving as a pilot in the Gothenburg region 2017–2018, sees the police, the prosecutor, the social services and health care services work together. The purpose is to outline and institutionalise forms for enhanced coordination on the operative level in dealing both directly with cases as well as the follow-up on violent incidents in families where children have been exposed, as victims or witnesses to violence.

While this is a developing field and multiple positive integration mechanisms have been identified and operationalised, the need to strengthen and institutionalise coordination between supporting actors on the operative level across the country has been identified as an important field. Enhanced coordination is an objective of the new ten year national strategy to prevent and combat men’s violence against women, and amongst other measures, it is hoped that the mandate of the new Agency for Gender Equality will

strengthen coordinated and strategic governance to this effect for the operative level.

B.2. Health care and social services

According to the Swedish Social Services Act, the Social Services shall pay particular attention to the need for protection and support for women and children who are victims of violence. This involves various forms of psychological and social support, as well as financial and practical assistance. Please see the answer under sections 3C and 4B1 above.

The National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) has further published several guidelines:

- A handbook on how social services and health care can work with women who have experienced violence in close relationships, 2016.
- Guidelines how to ask questions about violence in domestic relationships in the health care and social services.
- Regulations concerning domestic violence.

The agency has also published a Study Guide to Female Victims of Violence with Disabilities and a Study Guide to Female Victims of Violence with Substance Abuse or Addiction Problems.

In the Government's separate agreement with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL), with the purpose to improve the maternity care and strengthening the health of women in general, the need for extra attention to methods to identify and reach patients in socioeconomically vulnerable areas and groups is identified. As part of this issue, it specifies that alternative organisational models and activities may be required to reach groups that for various reasons do not approach health care services themselves in spite of need. One part of the agreement sets out to promote innovative methods to reach socioeconomically vulnerable women, not least when it comes to preventive work and promoting health. Initiatives in this part also cover information and services to women and girls subjected to violence and female genital mutilation.

There are no certain statistics that show how many women victims of violence that have been assisted by health care. Statistics from the National Board of Health and Welfare's National Patient Register show that 441

women in 2015 and 457 women in 2014 were hospitalised due to assault by another person. Statistics for 2016 is not yet available.

C. Information on complaints mechanisms

According to the Legal Aid Act (1996:1619) it is possible for everyone to receive legal advice up to two hours in return for a fixed fee. Information regarding the possibilities to receive legal advice is available, for example, on the websites for the Swedish Courts and the Legal Aid Authority.

The Swedish Government's human rights website (www.manskligarattigheter.se) contains information about the European Convention on Human Rights as well as the European Court of Human Rights and its jurisprudence. The website also contains detailed information explaining the procedure before the Court and how to lodge an application, as well as links to the internet address of the Court and the Court's 'Practical Guide on Admissibility Criteria'. The website also contains information regarding UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies to which Sweden has acceded.

Information about the European Court of Human Rights, including a link to the Court's website, is also available on the website of the National Courts Administration (www.domstol.se).

D. Specialist women's support services

As outlined in section 3C and 4B1 in this report, the Social Services Act obliges municipalities to provide support to women and children subjected to violence in Sweden. The National Board for Health and Welfare (SoS) has issued general guidelines and produced reference material to facilitate coherence and quality assurance in this respect. Nevertheless, national evaluations have noted significant discrepancies between the nature and quality of services offered by different municipalities, as well as differences in the methodologies used for monitoring and evaluation, which present challenges to aggregating data and get a clear national overview. Nevertheless, data on this work on the municipal level is published every year in the annual report "Öppna jämförelser" ("Open comparisons") by the National Board for Health and Welfare (SoS).

New regulations that increase the requirements on expertise and know-how of personnel coming into contact with victims of violence, and the government funds allocated to provide training and education for relevant

personnel as well as to develop the quality of services and methodologies used in this field, aim to address some of these discrepancies. The new ten year national strategy and the new National Agency for Gender Equality are also intended to strengthen the strategic monitoring, guidance and governance in this field.

A significant work when it comes to support services is provided by the many women's (and girls') shelters in Sweden. There are around 200 women's shelters that provide support and protection to women subjected to violence around the country today. Most of them are associated with one of the two non-profit umbrella organisations for women's shelters ROKS and Unizon. Over 90 local victim support centres are also members of the umbrella organisation Crime Victim Support Sweden (BOJ) and provide support services to victims of violence, a majority of which they report are women.

There is a wide range of organisational models of women's shelters in Sweden. Some have hired personnel, offices and 24/7 hotlines whereas others have limited hours of operations and rely on volunteers. Professional training, knowledge and expertise of personnel also vary greatly, e.g. with regards to the capacity to receive women subjected to violence in same-sex relationships or women with disabilities.

As mentioned in section 2A and elsewhere in this report, the Government provides significant financial support to the operations of shelters with 425 million SEK (approximately EUR 42 million) allocated exclusively for their support through the National Board for Health and Welfare 2015–2019 in addition to the above mentioned funds for training and development of quality services which are available also to the shelters to apply for as well as for example grants from the Crime Victim Fund.

When it comes to sheltered accommodation, some municipalities run their own shelters but in practice, many rely on shelters run by the non-profit sector. The latest official mapping of sheltered accommodation in Sweden was conducted by the National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) in 2012 and published in 2013. At the time, 206 sheltered housing facilities were identified, located in half of Sweden's municipalities, mostly in the larger urban areas. Most shelters were small; almost 60 percent could receive four or fewer persons. At the time, 21 percent of shelters were run by

municipalities and 71 percent by the non-profit sector. 8 percent were privately run.

Of the 95 percent of the shelters that replied to a survey conducted in conjunction with the mapping, all received women and 172 shelters received accompanying children. Around 15 percent of respondents also received men. At the time, approximately 1 100 slots were available for adults and 1 300 slots for accompanying children nationally. During 2011, more than 4 000 adults and 2 700 accompanying children spent at least one night in sheltered accommodation. Most adults were women but 70 men also sought protection. At 76 percent of the shelters, some form of hired personnel was working. Around 26 percent of respondents had a general agreement concerning their activities in accordance with the Social Services Act (2001:453), SoL. A bit over 30 percent of shelters had the capacity to receive persons with ongoing alcohol or drug abuse. All shelters reported offering support services beyond accommodation. Most commonly, this comprised support with practical matters and with the contacts with public authorities. 84 percent of shelters also offered private counselling sessions with specialised and educated personnel and 86 percent had an in-house supporting focal point available and 69 percent offered a supporting focal point outside of the shelter. Further data can be found in the report of the national mapping, see

<https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/Lists/Artikelkatalog/Attachments/19029/2013-4-4.pdf>.

Since this mapping was conducted, indicators for measuring the quality of services provided by the shelters have been further developed, as commissioned by the Government. This was done in cooperation with a range of academic and professional actors in the field, both in the public and non-profit sectors. Based on these indicators, two national surveys of sheltered accommodation were conducted by the National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) during winter 2014–2015, published in a report July 2015, and in May–June 2016, published in October 2016.

The latter survey was sent to the 157 shelters known to the National Board of Health and Welfare at the time, but the agency observed in its report that there is a need for a new national mapping of sheltered accommodation to ensure reliable and representative data. The agency will consider this need when planning forthcoming activities and noted that a new mapping should

establish data on number of shelters, how they are run and managed, number of places in the shelters, their size, staffing, financing and existing agreements with the Social Services. It should further establish data on target groups of the shelters, the number of women, men, and children staying there disaggregated by e.g. age and sex. As a significant number of children and young people were found to live in sheltered accommodation, a need for knowledge around their situation was further noted. This included questions around their personal experience, their access to schooling and the types of support offered to these children and young people.

As only 64 percent of the shelters contacted in 2016 replied to the survey, and few of these included shelters run by municipalities, the findings may not be nationally representative. Nevertheless, the data available gives the following picture:

The 100 shelters that replied provide spaces for 578 persons in need of protection and 874 accompanying children. A weighted estimate of the nationally available spaces in the 157 known shelters would therefore be 900 spaces for persons in need of protection and 1 400 accompanying children. The practice, however, seems to indicate that children are accommodated together with their parents based on need regardless of whether there are formal slots available for them or not.

The 100 survey respondents reported that 1 847 adults and 1 865 children has stayed in their sheltered accommodation between 1 May 2015 and 30 April 2016. A national estimate based on the types of shelters known would therefore suggest that 3300 adults and a similar number of children had used sheltered accommodation during this period.

41 percent of survey respondents indicated that they had turned away applicants who had approached the shelters for accommodation directly themselves, due to a lack of available space. Around 72 percent of survey respondents had turned down applications for accommodation put forward by the social services on behalf of victims of violence, also due to a lack of space.

All shelters reported receiving women and around 16 percent receive men subjected to violence. Those who receive men do not place them in collective housing together with the women but in separate flats. 95 percent of respondents received accompanying children and the same percentage

also receive persons seeking protection in connection with honour related violence and oppression. Around 80 percent receive LGBTI-persons; however, 10 of the respondents added that they only receive LGBTI-persons who identify as women. Around 60 percent of shelters receive persons with disabilities, but some commented that they did not have the capacity to receive persons with grave disabilities in need of specialised care. Some differences in services available to different target groups were noted in relation to who they were run by. Most notably, only 9 percent of shelters run by NGOs, 13 percent of the privately run shelters and 43 percent of shelters run by the municipalities could receive persons with alcohol or drug abuse problems. There are also fewer of the non-profit run shelters that receive persons with disabilities than the municipal or privately run shelters. Further data and analysis can be found in the national surveys:

<http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/Lists/Artikelkatalog/Attachments/20367/2016-10-12.pdf>

The county administrative boards of the three most populous regions Stockholm, Skåne and Västra Götaland, were commissioned 2011-2016 by the Government to specifically support the development of sheltered accommodation for women with special needs due to for instance drug and alcohol abuse or addiction or disabilities. As of 2017, the Government has commissioned all country administrative boards to undertake similar work.

In addition to these official surveys, comprehensive and interesting data from the members of the umbrella organisations mentioned above are reported in their annual reports and are available on their websites.

Information on separate sheltered housing in relation to asylum seekers is also provided under section 7C of this report. At Uppsala university Hospital, Kvinnofridsmottagningen offers care and counselling by women counsellors, nurses and doctors for women over 18 subjected to threats, violence or sexual assault. Appointments can be made for weekdays; emergencies are handled immediately during office hours. See section 2F and 3C for additional information on the National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women (NCK).

E. Telephone helplines

Sweden has a general national emergency number 112, operated 24/7 and free of charge to call. Operators speak Swedish and English and have the

possibility to obtain help with other languages from external interpreters when needed. The linked website <https://www.sosalarm.se/> has information in 22 languages. Callers to this number are referred directly to other relevant hotlines and services when appropriate. Approximately 3,8 million calls are made to 112 a year in Sweden.

Other national hotlines with 24/7 operations are the police hotline/switch board 114 14 (charged like a regular call), the national health care guide hotline 1177 operated by the county councils and regions (also charged like a regular call). The caller has the possibility to remain anonymous and services are provided in Swedish, English and other languages depending on the county and time of day. The Healthcare Guide 1177 services build upon a common quality-assured medical database and comprise healthcare advice via telephone and Internet. In this manner, the general public is assured consistent, uniform advice across the country. The phone hotline answers approximately 4,5 million calls a year and the website 1177.se has around 7 million visitors per month. In both 2011, 2012 and 2015 the website received awards as Sweden's best public site. This is also the main national number with an overview and capacity to refer callers that are victims of violence to a range of other support hotlines depending on the needs in the specific case. Both the national and local versions of the website list some key helpline numbers in Sweden, the services they provide, and links to the websites of the services.

Amongst the ones listed can be mentioned: "Hjälplinjen", "BRIS" "Brottsofferjouren", "Föreningen storasyster", "Föräldrtelefonen", "Jourhavande kompis", "Jourhavande medmänniska", "Jourhavande präst" "Kvinnofridslinjen", "PrevenTell", "Rädda Barnens föräldrtelefon", "Rädda barnens orostelefon mot radikaliserings", "tjejjouren.se", "Äldretelefonen". Many of these are run by non-profit organisations and fill an important function in providing support services nationally. This list is by no means exhaustive and both government supported and non-profit helplines also have extensive capacity to refer callers to local support services.

As of December 2013, there is a 24/7 helpline for missing children (116 000). The call is free and will not appear on the phone bill, operators speak Swedish and English with interpreters available for other languages. The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs has engaged SOS Alarm to provide the hotline for missing persons pursuant to an agreement with the

Ministry of Justice. They collaborate with a number of public and volunteer organisations for children to ensure an effective service but all matters of a missing child are referred to the police.

Funded by the Government, the National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women (NCK) operates the above mentioned national helpline for women who have been subjected to threats and violence, Kvinnofridslinjen. Relatives and friends are also welcome to call. It is open 24/7, free of charge and in 2016 and 2015, 31 273 and 31 527 calls were answered respectively. On average, this meant 86 calls per day. Statistics show that most callers are women (96 percent) and most of them were women who themselves had been victims of violence and threats (84 percent). Eleven percent of the calls were from relatives and friends and three percent from personnel from other authorities and organisations who needed advice and support in their work with women who were victims of violence. The calls do not appear on the telephone bills. The line is operated by social workers and nurses with at least five years' of professional experience and who are used to dealing with people in crisis or in difficult life situations and with expertise in men's violence against women. They are bound by professional secrecy so the caller can remain anonymous. The helpline operators have knowledge of support services available to callers locally across the country. Every second year, a survey measuring public awareness of the national helpline is conducted. In 2016, 50,2 percent of women answering the survey were aware of the helpline's existence which was an increase of 4 percent from 2014.

Within the framework of the Government's commission to the County Administrative Board of Östergötland to counter honour related violence and oppression, a national support helpline is offered providing advice and assistance to professionals and volunteers coming into contact with situations of honour related violence and oppression, child marriage, forced marriage and female genital mutilation. The helpline is operated weekdays Monday – Friday 09:00–16:00. From 13 March 2014 until 9 November 2015, calls concerning 420 cases were received by the helpline. This concerned 616 persons subject to honour related violence and oppression, most of them children and young people. Most cases concerned individual persons but a few involved siblings or women with children. A large majority of those concerned were girls and young women (87 percent), and 13 percent were boys and young men. 53 percent of those concerned were children under 18

years old and at least 25 percent were under 15 years old. During 2016, 455 cases were reported to the hotline concerning 619 persons, mostly girls and young women. This was around a 50 percent increase in received cases since 2015.

The Government has provided support for the telephone helpline, a ‘stop line’ against sexual violence, PrevenTell mentioned above and run by the Centre for Andrology and Sexual Medicine (CASM) at Karolinska Hospital. This is also referred to under section 2F of this report. Calls to this helpline are free and do not appear on the telephone bill. The helpline is open Monday–Friday 12–14.30 and has an answering machine where it is possible to leave messages for the operators to return the call. Those answering the phone are licensed healthcare professionals — for example, nurses, psychologists, physicians, and psychotherapists. Between March 2012 and October 2014, a total of 1233 calls were documented and an increase in the number of visitors to the website was recorded with time.

The Government also provides financial support to for example BRIS, a non-profit organisation which offers support to children and young people via phone, chat, email, forums and group activities. The phone line, which is operated by professional counsellors, is open 14.00–21.00, 7 days a week. The calls are free of charge and do not appear on telephone bills. The callers have the right to remain anonymous. BRIS also operates an adult phone line on weekdays at 09.00–12.00, where adults can get assistance on issues related to children. The caller can remain anonymous and the line is operated by professional counsellors. The call is charged like a regular phone call.

In March 2017, the results of an Inquiry commissioned by the County Administrative Board in Stockholm with the support of funding from the Government through the National Board for Health and Welfare (SoS) was published, examining feasibility of setting up a national hotline also for perpetrators of violence. The findings of this report are currently under consideration by the ongoing Inquiry (ToR 2017:26) referred to above in section 4A.

F. Child protection aspects of services for women

A special commissioner is given the task to conduct an investigation in order to propose measures to strengthen the child rights perspective for children staying in so-called protected residence together with one of their guardians.

The commissioner will analyse and evaluate the expected consequences for both the child and for the equality between women and men. The investigation should be latest reported the 31st of December 2017 (ToR. 2016:99).

The Non-Contact Order Ordinance (1988:691) was amended on 1 January 2017. According to the amendment, the duty to inform social welfare committee (which until then only included decisions on Non-Contact Orders when the parties have joint children under the age of 18) now includes decisions on Non-Contact Orders when one of the parties lives together with a child under the age of 18 or when a child under the age of 18 has a right of access to one of them.

5. Substantive law

A. Legal framework

Swedish legislation on Violence against Women is integrated into the Penal Code (Brottsbalken [1962:700]), see annex E for all relevant provisions mentioned below.

Additional legal provisions target especially the protection and support to victims of violence. One such relevant act is the Non-Contact Order Act (lagen [1988:688] om kontaktförbud), see section 6D below.

Swedish legislation generally does not differentiate domestic violence from violence in other societal domains or between crimes by the sex of the perpetrator or the victim. The gender-biased crime gross violation of a woman's integrity is an exception, as it also exists in the gender neutral form gross violation of integrity (Chapter 4, Section 4 a of the Penal Code). The offence gross violation of a woman's integrity came into force in 1998 and deals with repeated criminal acts directed by men against women with whom they have or have had a close relationship. The provision is intended to increase the penal value of repeated violations of a woman's integrity. This is often the case regarding domestic violence. Alongside this specific provision, crimes such as assault, murder, and sexual crimes, including rape, may of course apply as well. These provisions are drafted in a gender neutral manner and apply irrespective of the personal relationship between the victim and perpetrator.

Before the ratification of the Convention, the Swedish Government examined the relevant national legislative framework. The Government's conclusion is that the civil law in this part complies with the Convention (Govt. Bill 2013/14:208).

An extract of relevant legal provisions outside of the penal code is provided in annex F.

B. Guidance on implementation

The Swedish Prosecution Authority has taken several measures to enhance its work to counter men's violence against women, violence in close relationships, crimes against children, sex crimes and honour-related crimes:

- The Authority is developing best practises concerning crimes in close relationships, crimes against children and sex crimes against adults.
- The Handbook on personal treatment was updated last year in order to include the issue of equality in all aspects.
- The Authority arranges recurrent education for prosecutors that are specialised in crimes against children, crimes in close relationships and sex crimes on the latest jurisprudence and up to date investigative methods.

Most Public Prosecution Offices are working closely together with the police in special projects or collaboration groups in order to build the capacity of both groups of professionals as well as to improve the quality of investigations.

Additional measures taken include:

- Prosecutors have educated police officers in these matters, to improve quality.
- Most Public Prosecution Offices have specialised teams that handle investigations and prosecution of sexual offences and domestic violence.
- The National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence against Women cooperates with the Prosecution Authority with the aim of enhancing the professional, suitable and relevant support to the victims.

The Authority is further reviewing procedures for how prosecutors provide motivations for a range of decisions, such as those for a restraining order. This will include best practises.

There is national guidance, recommendations and check-lists for Police authority personnel processing and investigating cases with domestic violence. The material is available to all police staff through an internal e-platform.

Starting in 2017, “Utvecklingscentrum Väst” within the Police, Department of National Operations (NOA), will arrange yearly conferences where professionals in the judicial system can meet and exchange experiences and deepen their knowledge in the field of domestic violence.

C. Civil remedies

A victim of a criminal offence may make a claim for compensation against the perpetrator for personal injuries (psychological or physical), loss of or damage to property or violation of personal integrity. The victim may choose to make the claim during criminal proceedings or in civil law proceedings. In the event of death of the victim, remedies are accessible also to the descendants.

A victim may take civil law action against state authorities for damages, i.a. based on the provisions in the Tort Liability Act on state liability due to error or negligence while exercising public authority. Claims for damages can also be submitted to the Chancellor of Justice.

The Equality Ombudsman is to supervise compliance with the Discrimination Act and may bring a case on discrimination to court on behalf on an individual. The court can decide that the natural or legal person who violates the prohibitions of discrimination shall pay compensation to the victim.

For further information on non-contact orders, please see section 6D.

D. Compensation

In addition to what was outlined under section 5C, it is possible to get compensation for criminal injuries also from the State. Criminal injuries compensation is primarily awarded due to personal injuries arising from the crime. The injuries can be both physical and psychological. For example, expenses for medical treatment, pain and suffering and loss of income can be compensated for. Compensation can also be rewarded for, i.a., violation of personal integrity and damages to property. For compensation to be

awarded, there has to be adequate causality between the crime and the injury, but it is not a requirement that the perpetrator is sentenced or even prosecuted. Applications for such compensation are handled by the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority, which is an authority subordinate to the Government. The process is free of charge and the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority provides both applications forms and other information materials.

There is a specific form of criminal injuries compensation meant for children who have witnessed violence in a close relationship. One prerequisite is that the crime would be assumed to harm the child's confidence and trust in a person with whom he or she has a close relationship. The Government has a responsibility to compensate children who have witnessed serious criminal acts towards persons close to them, even though the child cannot claim damages from the offender.

In conjunction with providing criminal injuries compensation to a victim, the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority requires the offender to pay the same amount of money to the authority, if possible. The revenues from the payments of convicted offenders amount to approximately 30 million SEK (approximately EUR 3 million) per year, and this money funds one third of the total amount of criminal injuries compensation awarded.

The below table shows the number of applications for state compensation made annually 2014–2015:

Year	Applications
2016	9 548
2015	10 091
2014	10 085

As shown above, approximately 10 000 applications are filed annually.

About 100 million SEK (approximately EUR 10 million) is awarded in criminal injuries compensation annually. Crimes of physical abuse against

adults make up the largest share of the disbursed compensation, almost a quarter or 25 million SEK (approximately EUR 2,5 million). Robbery and violence against women in close relationships also account for large shares of the total amount of compensation.

The below table shows the number of women victims who were awarded state compensation, with an indication of the timescale for granting such compensation and amounts.

Year	Total	Total amount (SEK)	Approximate amount in EUR
2016	664	13 037 000	1 290 000
2015	527	9 937 000	989 000
2014	667	14 506 000	1 443 000

At present it is not possible to get accurate figures on the total number of applications where compensation has been granted to women subjected to violence in line with the definition of the Convention. However, estimates show that it is about 70–75 percent for this category of crimes. On the basis of such estimations (75 percent), the number of women awarded state compensation in 2014–2016 is shown in the figure below.

Year	Women who have received compensation	Estimated average compensation (SEK)
2016	Approx. 500	26 000
2015	Approx. 400	25 000
2014	Approx. 500	29 000

At present it is not possible to obtain accurate figures on the turnaround time for errands concerning criminal injuries compensation to women for this category of crimes. The average turnaround time for errands concerning

criminal injuries compensation is at the moment less than two months from registration of an application to dispatch and payment of compensation.

E. Custody, visitation rights and safety

According to Swedish law, children are entitled to care, security and a good upbringing. Children shall be treated with respect for their person and individuality and they may not be subject to corporal punishment or any other humiliating treatment.

The best interest of the child is of paramount importance in all decisions on custody, residence and visitation rights. Particular attention shall be paid to the risk that the child or another member of the family – such as the mother – may be subjected to abuse or otherwise suffer significant harm.

Furthermore, when enforcing a decision on custody, residence or visitation rights, the best interest of the child is of paramount importance. An Inquiry has in February 2017 submitted proposals to the Government on how to further strengthen the child's rights and child rights perspective in custody disputes and how to reduce parental conflicts (SOU 2017:6). The proposals are currently being considered by the Government. In addition, there is currently an ongoing government inquiry which looks into how the perspective of the rights of the child in the context of sheltered accommodation can be ensured (ToR 2016:99).

If a parent, in the exercise of custody, has committed abuse or neglect or otherwise fails to take care of the child in a way that involves a permanent risk for the child's health or development, the court shall decide on a transfer of custody either to the other parent or, if both parents are guilty of neglect, to one or two specially appointed custodians. Such a transfer may be initiated by a parent, by the Social Welfare Committee or, in a divorce or custody case, by the court itself.

When the court makes an order on visitation rights to a parent with whom the child does not live, the court may, if the child needs it, decide on supervised access by ordering the social welfare committee to appoint a person to participate during the access ('access support').

Sweden does not collect specific data on the reasons for decisions regarding custody, place of residence or visitation rights.

F. Criminalisation of certain conducts

A new penal provision, unlawful persecution, Chapter 4, Section 4 b of the Penal Code, entered into force in October 2011; the provision is aimed at persecution that consists of repeated criminal acts against one and the same person who violates the victim's integrity. The purpose of this legislation is to strengthen the protection against harassment and persecution and to raise the level of penalties for crimes of this kind.

The conducts psychological and physical violence as defined in Articles 33 and 35 are criminalised through the following provisions.

The most central provisions in this regard can be found in Chapter 3 on Offences against Life and Health in the Penal Code, for example Chapter 3, Section 5 on assault and Section 6 on gross assault and exceptionally gross assault. A person who inflicts bodily injury, illness (including mental illness or other severe forms of psychological stress) or pain upon another, or renders him or her powerless or in a similar situation, shall according to its Section 5 be sentenced for assault. Assault can also be committed by an omission. The offence may, according to Section 6, be considered gross or exceptionally gross.

The conducts may also be covered by the provisions in Chapter 4 On Crimes Against Liberty and Peace, for example Section 4 on unlawful coercion and Section 5 on unlawful threat. Repeated criminal acts are dealt with in the provisions in Section 4 a on gross violation of integrity and gross violation of a woman's integrity, as well as in the provision in Section 4 b on unlawful persecution.

The conducts – sexual violence as defined in Article 36 – are criminalised through the provisions in Chapter 6 On Sexual Crimes of the Penal code. A fundamental basis for these provisions is the respect for each person's absolute right to sexual integrity and sexual autonomy. The lack of consent is fundamental in cases concerning rape or sexual coercion where the violence, intimidation or coercion that has occurred can be said to serve as proof that the sexual intercourse was not voluntary.

The conducts are covered by several provisions in Chapter 6, for example section 1 on rape, Section 2 on sexual coercion and section 3 on sexual exploitation of a person in a position of dependency. Special rules apply

when the victim is a child, such as Section 4 on rape of a child, section 5 on sexual exploitation of a child and Section 6 on sexual abuse of a child.

New legislation on sexual crimes entered into force on 1 April 2005. The purpose of this legislation is to further strengthen and clarify the absolute right of every individual to personal and sexual integrity and sexual self-determination, and to use various means to highlight and strengthen the protection of children and young people from sexual violation.

The definition of the crime of rape has been extended. More acts are to be judged as rape, i.a., because the requirement of force has been lowered and because the definition of rape has been widened to cover the most serious cases of sexual exploitation. The scope for regarding rape as aggravated rape has been extended to some degree. The provisions also make it clear that the crime is to be regarded as aggravated in cases of rape committed by more than one person.

The sexual crimes reform implemented in 2005 has been evaluated. Certain amendments have been made to the legislation in order to reinforce and sharpen the protection of sexual integrity and sexual self-determination. These amendments entered into force in 2013. For example, the crime of rape has been widened further. More cases of sexual exploitation will be assessed as rape because the term “helpless state” is being replaced by the term “particularly vulnerable situation”. In addition, the term “serious fear” has been added to the list of examples given in the text of the law. This will serve to ensure that situations in which a victim responds passively to an attack are covered by the crime of rape.

The 2014 Sexual Offences Committee has proposed that the criminal law protection of sexual integrity should be strengthened and modernized in several ways. The committee has, for example, proposed that sexual offences legislation shall be amended to ensure that the dividing line between punishable acts and acts exempt from punishment is determined by whether participation in a sexual act was voluntary or not. The proposals are currently being considered by the Government Offices.

Contact with a child for sexual purposes is criminalized in Chapter 6, Section 10 a of the Penal Code. This provision has been subject to review. The conclusions and proposals of the Inquiry were submitted in October 2015 and a bill proposing revised legislation has been presented in June 2017.

A Committee of Inquiry has evaluated the effect of the increase of the maximum penalty for the crime purchase of sexual services that was implemented in 2011. The purpose of the amendment was to enable a more nuanced assessment of the penal value in serious cases of purchase of sexual services, such as when the person selling sex is a victim of trafficking in human beings. Furthermore, the Inquiry has analysed the possible removal of the requirement for dual criminality for purchase of sexual services, and thereby allowing legal trial also when the purchase of a sexual service has been made abroad. The proposals in the interim report A strong protection in criminal law against the purchase of sexual services and the purchase of sexual acts from children (SOU 2016:42) are currently being considered by the Government Offices.

Application of the provisions is independent of whether victims and perpetrators have or have had any kind of relationship.

The age at which a person is considered to be legally competent to consent to sexual acts is 15 years.

Since 2014, marriage coercion is a crime under the Penal Code (Chapter 4, Section 4 c). To clarify the seriousness of the offense there were grounds for introducing a special penalty provision, a qualified form. Marriage coercion is committed if, by unlawful coercion or through exploitation of a person's exposed situation, someone forces that person to marry. A separate criminalization was at the same time introduced for any person who by deception induces a person to travel to another country for the purpose of marriage coercion (Chapter 4, Section 4 d).

Conspiracy to commit coercion to marry was criminalized on 1 July 2016 (Govt. Bill 2015/16:113).

A Committee of Inquiry has been given the task to evaluate the provisions on marriage coercion and to examine whether they should be amended in any way. The investigation is to be reported by 1 September 2018 at the latest (Committee directive 2017:25).

All forms of female genital mutilation (FGM) are prohibited in Sweden, regardless of consent. A special act prohibiting FGM was passed in 1982 (lagen [1982:316] med förbud mot kvinnlig könsstympning) and has

gradually become stricter. A breach of the law can result in up to ten years in prison.

More severe punishment for FGM was introduced on 1 July 1998 (Govt. Bill 1997/98:55). A new provision was also added after an amendment that entered into force on 1 July 1999 (Govt. Bill 1998/99:70). The new provision meant the removal of the requirement of dual criminality. Previously, FGM committed outside Sweden was adjudged in accordance with Swedish law and by a Swedish court provided that the act was also subject to criminal liability under the law of the country in which it was committed. The reason behind the amendment is that families living in Sweden have had their daughters genitally mutilated while visiting their countries of origin.

On July 1, 2010, the statutory limitation period for female genital mutilation committed against children was extended in the sense that the time period is reckoned from the date on which the child attains or would have attained the age of 18. New legislation on more severe punishment for FGM entered into force on 1 July 2017 (Govt. Bill 2016/17:108). The sentence is imprisonment for at least two years and at the most six years. If the crime is gross, imprisonment shall be imposed for at least five years and at the most ten years. If the crime under the circumstances is less gross, imprisonment shall be imposed for at the most four years.

To incite, coerce or procure a girl or woman to undergo FGM would likely in many cases be punishable as complicity. Preparation and conspiracy to commit FGM is also criminalized. Such an act might also be punishable as unlawful coercion according to Chapter 4, Section 4 of the Penal Code. The law against FGM includes the criminalization of failure to notify knowledge of the crime.

The Abortion Act (1974: 595) and the Sterilization Act (1975: 580) govern the conditions under which abortion and sterilization may occur. The rules are based on women's self-determination in these matters. They further set limits on when abortion's respective sterilization may occur and the requirement for who is to perform the surgery. Violations of these rules are punishable. Anyone who, without being authorized to practice the medical profession, intentionally performs abortion on another shall be sentenced for illegal abortion of fines or imprisonment for a maximum of one year. Is

the crime serious, convicted of prison, at least six months and no more than four years (Section 9 of the Abortion Act). The person who deliberately performs sterilization in violation of the law is convicted of fines or imprisonment for a maximum of six months (Section 8 of the Sterilization Act). The mode of action described in Article 39 also corresponds to provisions of the Penal Code. An abortion or sterilization of a woman without consent may also constitute e.g. assault according to Chapter 3, Sections 5 and 6 of the Penal Code.

G. Legislation against sexual harassment

The most central provision in this regard is the Penal Code provision on sexual molestation (Chapter 6, Section 10).

Sexual harassments, as defined in Article 40, could also be punishable under the Penal Code provisions on molestation (Chapter 4, Section 7), defamation (Chapter 5, Section 1) and insulting behaviour (Chapter 5, Section 3).

A Committee of Inquiry has proposed that the criminal law protection of the personal privacy should be strengthened and modernized in several ways, e.g. by modernising the provisions for molestation, defamation and insulting behaviour and by introducing a new penalty provision on unlawful violation of privacy (SOU 2016:7). The new provision is to apply to violations of privacy by spreading, i.a., images or other information about someone's sex life or naked body. The proposals are currently being considered by the Government Offices. A bill proposing revised legislation has been presented to the Parliament in September 2017.

Sexual harassment according to the Discrimination Act (2008:567) chapter 1 § 4 is a conduct of a sexual nature that violates someone's dignity.

H. Aiding or abetting

Punishment as provided for the acts in the Penal Code shall be imposed not only on the person who committed the act but also on anyone who furthered it by advice or deed (Chapter 23, Section 4). The same also applies to any other act punishable with imprisonment under another Law or statutory instrument.

The acts which live up to the requirements in the Convention and which are not included in the Penal Code are all punishable with imprisonment.

I. Attempt

With the exception of assault which is petty, attempt to commit all of the crimes covered by the obligation of criminalization in the Convention is punishable (Chapter 23, Section 1 of the Penal Code).

J. Unacceptable justifications for crimes

The circumstances referred to in article 42 of the Convention do not make an act of violence non punishable or considered less severe.

K. Application of criminal offences

Swedish law does not make exceptions for criminal liability due to the relation that might exist between the perpetrator and the victim, i.e. the offences are applicable notwithstanding this possible relationship.

L. Applicable sanctions and further measures against perpetrators

For information on applicable sanctions to relevant offences, please refer to the answers provided to section 5E and elsewhere in this report.

Sweden has not made extradition conditional on the existence of an agreement with the other state involved, which means Sweden can extradite a person without an agreement with the requesting state.

The Extradition for Criminal Offences Act (1957:668) regulates the conditions and procedures for extradition from Sweden. The Act is not applicable if the Act (2003:1156) on surrender from Sweden according to the European arrest warrant or the Act (1959:254) on Extradition for Criminal Offences to Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway is applicable in relation to the other state.

The Extradition for Criminal Offences Act prohibits the extradition of Swedish nationals to a state outside of the EU and the Nordic countries.

Extradition of foreign citizens to a state outside of the EU and the Nordic countries is permitted, provided that the act for which extradition is requested is equivalent to a crime that is punishable under Swedish law by imprisonment for at least one year. If sentence has been passed in the requesting state, the penalty must be imprisonment for at least four months and the act has to be punishable under Swedish law.

According to the European arrest warrant Act, a condition for the surrender of a person is that the offence according to the legislation of the requesting member state can lead to imprisonment for at least one year. If sentence has been passed in the requesting state, a sentence or order of at least four months is required. The act has to be punishable under Swedish law. However, surrender can also be approved if the offence is covered by the Annex to the Act (for example offences like gross assault and rape) and subject to a custodial sentence or detention order of three years or more according to the legislation of the requesting member State.

As a general rule, all that is required for extradition to another Nordic state is that the act is punishable by law in the requesting state. Under certain circumstances a Swedish national can be extradited but not if the act is only punishable by a fine in the requesting state.

The scale of punishment for the relevant offences ranges depending on the severity of the crime, see annexes E and F.

M. Aggravating circumstances

Several of the circumstances referred to in Article 46 are such circumstances that shall be given special consideration to when assessing if a crime is gross, see for instance Chapter 3, Section 6 paragraph 2 and Chapter 6, Section 2 paragraph 3 of the Penal Code.

There are also general rules on the determination of punishment applicable to all crimes. When assessing the penal value of any crime, consideration shall be given to the damage, wrong or danger caused by the criminal act. It shall also be considered whether the criminal act has implicated a serious offense towards the life, health or security of another person (Chapter 29, Section 1 paragraph 2 of the Penal Code). All the relevant circumstances shall thus be regarded when establishing the penal value of a crime.

Nevertheless, there are some aggravating circumstances, mentioned in Chapter 29, Section 2 of the Penal Code, which may be given special attention when assessing the penal value of a crime. For example, if a case has involved endangering of a victim's life, this may be considered under paragraph 2, according to which special consideration shall be given to the fact that the defendant has shown great ruthlessness. Moreover, according to paragraph 3, special consideration shall be given to the fact that the

defendant has taken advantage of another person's vulnerable situation or that person's special difficulty to protect him or herself. Under paragraph 4, it is possible to consider if the defendant has taken advantage of his/her own position or misused a special confidence. According to paragraph 8, special consideration shall be given to the fact that the offence was intended to harm the security and trust of a child in its relation to a related person.

Having said this, it should be underlined that the list of circumstances in Chapter 29, section 2 of the Penal Code is not meant to be exhaustive; all relevant circumstances may be regarded as aggravating. That means, whether or not a single circumstance mentioned in Article 46 is covered by the list, it may be seen as aggravating according to the legislation. If, in a particular case, one or several aggravating circumstances are applicable, this shall be considered within the scale of punishment of the offence.

Previous convictions could have influence on both the choice of sanction and the length of the imprisonment. According to Chapter 29, Section 4 of the Penal Code the court shall, in determining the appropriate punishment, besides the penal value of the crime, in a sharpening direction take into account if the accused has previously been guilty of crime, if sufficient consideration cannot be given to that fact through choice of sanction or forfeiture of conditionally granted liberty. When assessing this, special consideration shall be given to the extent of any previous criminality, to the time that has elapsed between the crimes, and to whether the previous and the new criminality are similar in nature or whether in both cases they are of an especially serious character. Under Chapter 30, Section 4 of the Penal Code previous convictions could have influence of the choice of sanction.

N. Prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes or sentencing

Mandatory alternative dispute resolution is not a part of Swedish law.

There are no mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes available within the Swedish framework of proceedings on custody, place of residence and custody rights of children. No alternative dispute resolution processes, mandatory or voluntary, are a part of divorce proceedings. Legal separation does not exist in Swedish law. If a marriage was concluded under force, the forced spouse is entitled to a divorce without a period for reconsideration.

Victim-offender mediation in Sweden is regulated by the Mediation Act (lag [2002:445] om medling med anledning av brott). Participation in mediation is always voluntary for both parties.

O. Administrative and judicial data on cases of violence

According to data from the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, a total of 29 cases of lethal violence⁹ against women were confirmed in 2016, 29 in 2015, and 25 in 2014.

The statistics on reported offences and person-based clearances are based on crime codes, which may include additional information about the crime, such as information on the victim's sex, age etc. The statistics on convictions and sanctions are based on the relevant act and only contain information on the type of crime. Those statistics may therefore not be disaggregated by sex and are therefore not included here.

Swedish statistics record all reported events as crimes, even if some of them are later found not to have constituted criminal offences. Also, several offences of the same kind against a single victim will be counted separately. And in most cases, attempted offences are counted together with completed crimes.

Person-based clearances are processed offences for which at least one suspect has been prosecuted through the commencement of a prosecution, the issuance of a summary sanction order or a waiver of prosecution.

The number of reported offences, 2014–2016. Source: the National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå).

	2014	2015	2016
Assault against girls of 6 years and under	1 581	1 706	1 849
Not acquainted with victim	80	116	120
Outdoors	46	69	58
Indoors	34	47	62
Acquainted with victim	1 501	1 590	1 729
Outdoors	107	110	122
Indoors	1 394	1 480	1 607
Assault against girls of 7–14 years	3 719	3 709	4 030
Not acquainted with victim	434	436	481
Outdoors	313	301	341

⁹ Murder, manslaughter and assault with a lethal outcome.

Indoors	121	135	140
Acquainted with victim	3 285	3 273	3 549
Outdoors	608	631	680
Indoors	2 677	2 642	2 869
Assault against girls 15–17 years	2 157	2 395	2 484
Not acquainted with victim	436	428	439
Outdoors	302	287	306
Indoors	134	141	131
Acquainted with victim	1 721	1 967	2 045
Outdoors	509	582	602
Indoors	1 212	1 385	1 443
Assault against women 18 years or older	28 456	28 967	29 047
Not acquainted with victim	6 557	6 742	6 647
Outdoors	3 549	3 811	3 516
Indoors	3 008	2 931	3 131
Acquainted with victim	21 899	22 225	22 400
Outdoors	3 925	3 921	4 223
Indoors	17 974	18 304	18 177
Within close relationship with victim	13 630	13 873	10 417
Not within close relationship with victim	4 344	4 431	7 760
Gross violation of integrity against girls under 18 years	672	595	634
Gross violation of integrity against women 18 years or older	257	198	245
Gross violation of a woman's integrity	1 997	1 844	1 886
Unlawful harassment against girls under 18 years	41	35	24
Unlawful harassment against women 18 years or older	475	413	477
Unlawful threat against girls under 18 years	2 582	2 659	3 247
Unlawful threat against women 18 years or older	20 467	20 876	20 896
Molestation against girls under 18 years	3 089	3 201	3 617
Molestation against women 18 years or older	30 521	29 945	29 038
Rape, aggravated rape against girls under 15 years	2 037	1 484	1 877
Completed rape	1 826	1 440	1 826
Outdoors	195	210	195
Indoors	1 631	1 230	1 631
Attempted rape	51	44	51
Outdoors	26	11	26
Indoors	25	33	25
Rape, aggravated rape against girls 15–17 years	872	644	765
Completed rape	844	607	711
Outdoors	132	127	129
Indoors	712	480	582
Attempted rape	28	37	54
Outdoors	16	17	22
Indoors	12	20	32
Rape, aggravated rape against women 18 years or older	3 395	3 333	3 559
Completed rape	3 076	3 056	3 282
Outdoors	450	457	455
Indoors	2 626	2 599	2 827
Attempted rape	319	277	277
Outdoors	127	133	108
Indoors	192	144	169

Sexual exploitation against girl under 15 years	284	247	194
Sexual exploitation against girl 15–17 years	16	21	20
Sexual abuse against girls under 15 years	630	603	473
Sexual abuse against girls 15–17 years	24	18	37
Sexual coercion/exploitation of a person in a position of dependence etc., against girls 15–17 years	103	81	71
Sexual coercion/exploitation of a person in a position of dependence etc., against women 18 years or older	206	213	241
Sexual molestation (excl. indecent exposure) against girls under 15 years	3 000	2 072	2 400
Sexual molestation (excl. indecent exposure) against girls 15–17 years	718	745	1 363
Sexual molestation (excl. indecent exposure) against women 18 years or older	4 189	4 173	4 907

The number of person-based clearances, 2014–2016. Source: the National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå).

	2014	2015	2016
Assault against girls of 6 years and under	108	121	107
Not acquainted with victim	4	9	5
Outdoors	3	6	1
Indoors	1	3	4
Acquainted with victim	104	112	102
Outdoors	13	16	11
Indoors	91	96	91
Assault against girls of 7–14 years	366	365	329
Not acquainted with victim	34	38	35
Outdoors	23	25	23
Indoors	11	13	12
Acquainted with victim	332	327	294
Outdoors	56	49	63
Indoors	276	278	231
Assault against girls 15–17 years	383	365	370
Not acquainted with victim	68	69	64
Outdoors	42	37	46
Indoors	26	32	18
Acquainted with victim	315	296	306
Outdoors	96	101	120
Indoors	219	195	186
Assault against women 18 years or older	4 190	4 243	3 764
Not acquainted with victim	771	715	607
Outdoors	448	389	324
Indoors	323	326	283
Acquainted with victim	3 419	3 528	3 157
Outdoors	615	646	571
Indoors	2 804	2 882	2 586
Within close relationship with victim	2 242	2 335	1 729
Not within close relationship with victim	562	547	857
Gross violation of integrity against girls under 18 years	88	99	76
Gross violation of integrity against women 18 years or older	55	48	43
Gross violation of a woman's integrity	361	310	311
Unlawful harassment against girls under 18 years	10	14	7
Unlawful harassment against women 18 years or older	181	124	85

Unlawful threat against girls under 18 years	282	255	259
Unlawful threat against women 18 years or older	2 239	2 460	2 123
Molestation against girls under 18 years	222	138	131
Molestation against women 18 years or older	1 022	1 073	850
Rape, aggravated rape against girls under 15 years	843	426	332
Completed rape	834	415	323
Outdoors	42	44	24
Indoors	792	371	299
Attempted rape	9	11	9
Outdoors	5	3	2
Indoors	4	8	7
Rape, aggravated rape against girls 15–17 years	163	73	46
Completed rape	162	70	42
Outdoors	10	11	10
Indoors	152	59	32
Attempted rape	1	3	4
Outdoors	-	-	1
Indoors	1	3	3
Rape, aggravated rape against women 18 years or older	291	286	262
Completed rape	259	258	236
Outdoors	34	39	32
Indoors	225	219	204
Attempted rape	32	28	26
Outdoors	13	6	5
Indoors	19	22	21
Sexual exploitation against girl under 15 years	111	82	77
Sexual exploitation against girl 15–17 years	1	1	-
Sexual abuse against girls under 15 years	282	193	224
Sexual abuse against girls 15–17 years	13	3	3
Sexual coercion/exploitation of a person in a position of dependence etc., against girls 15–17 years	93	10	12
Sexual coercion/exploitation of a person in a position of dependence etc., against women 18 years or older	9	34	50
Sexual molestation (excl. indecent exposure) against girls under 15 years	611	998	515
Sexual molestation (excl. indecent exposure) against girls 15–17 years	124	115	167
Sexual molestation (excl. indecent exposure) against women 18 years or older	292	568	455

The National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) has a legal duty (Act 2007: 606), to conduct investigations regarding certain children who died as the result of a crime and adults who died as the result of a crime from someone related or previously related (Death investigations, 2014–2015). The number of children that died year 2014 due to crime was one child according to The National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS). Year 2015, there was the same number, namely one child that died due to crime (Death investigations, 2014-2015). Data for 2016 is not yet published. Approximately five deaths of children and ten deaths of adults are investigated annually by the Agency.

There is currently an ongoing external ministerial inquiry reviewing how to strengthen the legislation in this field.

P. Other measures

The Swedish Tax Agency is responsible for the Swedish Population Register. Information kept in the population register is normally seen as harmless and is as a general rule public. However, the information entered in the register is confidential if it for special reasons can be assumed that disclosure of such information could be harmful to the person that the information pertains to or anyone close to them. This could be the case if a person stands the risk of being exposed to threats or violence from someone else and there is therefore a need to protect information about the person's residence. In order to prevent threats and persecution confidentiality can also apply to information, regardless of context, such as a residence address, telephone number and e-mail address of a persecuted person or anyone close to them. There are today three different ways to actively prevent personal data from being disclosed. The least invasive form is having the Tax Agency enter a secrecy marking into the register. In order to do so the Tax Agency requires that the applicant or anyone close to them is exposed to an actual and concrete threat. The marking serves as a signal, aimed at ensuring that a careful secrecy assessment is made before any information about the person is disclosed. If a secrecy marking in the register is not considered a sufficient measure to protect an individual it is possible for the Tax Agency to grant a person who has moved to a new residence, or intends to do so, the right to remain registered at the former place of residence. The third and most far-reaching way of protecting personal data is that a person, after permission by the Swedish Police Authority, may use a fictitious identity. Instead of having one's real personal data registered, the fictitious personal identification data will be entered into the population register. A prerequisite for being granted a fictitious identity is that the individual must risk being exposed to a serious crime threatening his or her life, health or freedom. Furthermore, it is required that other protective measures are deemed to be insufficient. On June 26th 2014 the Government appointed a special commissioner with the task to conduct an inquiry in order to propose measures to further strengthening the protection of personal data for threatened and persecuted individuals. The Inquiry was reported June 30th 2015 (SOU 2015:69) and has been remitted until December 1th 2015. The conclusions and proposals presented by the Inquiry are under consideration by the Government Offices.

6. Investigation, prosecution and procedural law and protective measures

A. Measures to ensure an appropriate response from law enforcement agencies

When a police report is filed, or investigation starts, threat and risk assessments are made. Based on these assessments, decisions are made on what actions should be taken in the individual case to ensure protection of and assistance to the victim. There are different degrees of protection depending on the kind of threats involved. The police can provide advice, protection and various technical aids, e.g. a protection package with things like a GPS-enabled emergency phone and acoustic alarm. The victim may also be given an individual point of contact, and access to information and safety talks.

Furthermore, contact bans can be sought and a counsel for the injured party is appointed as a standard measure. The police also work in partnership with other bodies in the community which can provide protection. For example, the municipality may provide safe accommodation and a victim support group can offer help. Help is also available from voluntary organisations.

For data on cleared offences and convictions, see section 5O.

B. Risk assessment procedures

As outlined under sections 4B1 and 4B2 the National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS) has specific provisions on violence within intimate relationships, Chapter 5, Section 1 (SOSFS 2014:4).

In order to establish an injured party's need for special safeguards during a preliminary investigation and a trial, the police shall make an individual assessment as soon as possible. The assessment shall take into account in particular the seriousness of the crime and the victim's personal circumstances. An injured party under the age of 18 should always be considered to have a particular protection requirement (Förundersökningskungörelsen Section 13 f).

C. Emergency barring orders

There are a number of measures available which offer such immediate protection as referred to in Article 52. For example, if it is required for the aversion of a punishable act, a police officer may, according to section 13 of the Police Act (1984:387), turn away or remove a person from a certain area or certain premises. If the measure proves inadequate, the person may be taken into temporary custody. Another available measure is detention (Chapter 24, Section 1 Code of judicial procedure). If someone is suspected of probable cause of an offence punishable by imprisonment for a term of one year or more he or she may be placed in detention, if in view of the nature of the offence, the suspect's circumstances or any other factor there is a reasonable risk that the person will 1. flee or otherwise evade legal proceedings or punishment, 2. impede the inquiry into the matter at issue by removing evidence or in another way; or 3. continue his criminal activity. When the court decides to remand a person in custody or to extend such detention, it shall simultaneously, at the request of the prosecutor, consider whether the remand prisoner's contact with the outside world may be restricted (Chapter 24, section 5 a Code of judicial procedure). Such restrictions may only be permitted if there is a risk that the suspect will remove evidence or in other ways impede the investigation. Women experiencing domestic violence also have access to non-contact (restraining) orders that do not have to be tied to a criminal prosecution, see below.

D. Restraining or protection orders – legal framework

The fundamental objective of the Non-Contact Order Act (lagen [1988:688] om kontaktförbud) is to prevent crimes against, and to increase the security for, individuals who are subject to stalking and harassment. The Act covers four types of non-contact orders: a restraining order, an extended restraining order, a specially extended restraining order and a domestic exclusion order.

A restraining order may be issued if there, due to certain circumstances, is a risk that the person against whom the order will apply will commit crimes against, persecute or otherwise seriously harass the person whom the order aims at protecting. In assessing whether there is such a risk, it should be particularly taken into account whether the individual concerned has committed offences against any other person's life, health, freedom or peace. If a basic restraining order is presumed not to be sufficient, an extended restraining order can be issued. Such an order means that a person is ordered to stay away from e.g. the victim's home or workplace. If a person has

breached an extended restraining order, a specially extended restraining order can be issued which expands the geographical area that the person is not allowed to visit. A decision on a specially extended restraining order shall be combined with electronic monitoring, if there are no special reasons against it. Under a domestic exclusion order, the victim's partner may be ordered to stay away from the couple's shared residence. In October 2011, amendments to the Non-Contact Order Act came into force, aimed at improving the situation for people who in various ways are at risk of being subjected, or have been subjected, to violence, threats or harassment, often repeatedly (stalking). The most significant amendment involved the possibility of using electronic monitoring in connection with specially extended restraining orders.

In January 2014, the possibilities to prevent violence against women were further increased by yet another amendment to the Non-Contact Order Act. The amendment meant that it is no longer required that a risk of a crime is obvious for a domestic exclusion order to be issued.

A commissioner has conducted a review of the conditions of electronic monitoring of non-contact orders. The report (Ds 2017:1) was presented on 17 January 2017. The proposals have been referred for consultation and the proposals are currently being considered by the Government Offices.

During an investigation, the injured party shall as soon as possible get information about the right to obtain a protection order.

E. Application of restraining or protection orders

The number of protection orders issued by the Swedish Prosecution Authority was 3449 during the year 2015 and 3252 during the year 2016.

The official crime statistics contain information on crimes against the Non-Contact Order Act. The data is not disaggregated by sex, and may therefore include cases where the victim is male. The numbers of reported violations of restraining orders were 5 125 in 2014, 5 322 in 2015 and 5 098 in 2016. The numbers of reported obstructions of electronic monitoring were 3 in 2014, 4 in 2015 and 4 in 2016. The numbers of person-based clearances¹⁰

¹⁰ Processed offences for which at least one suspect has been prosecuted through the commencement of a prosecution, the issuance of a summary sanction order or a waiver of prosecution.

were 1 643 in 2014, 1 894 in 2015 and 2 133 in 2016 for violations of restraining orders, for obstruction of electronic monitoring it was 0 in 2014, 3 in 2015 and 0 in 2016.

The number of court cases regarding restraining orders in 2015 was 158 and in 2016 it was 132. Summary of imposition of a fine corresponded to 42 during the year 2015 and 25 during 2016.

F. Ex officio proceedings

According to Swedish legislation, as soon as there is reason to believe that an offence subject to public prosecution has been committed, the police, the Swedish security service or prosecutor must initiate a criminal investigation. An investigation shall be initiated ex officio, regardless of the existence of a victim's complaint or if the victim is unknown.

The relevant criminal offences are all subject to public prosecution when committed in Sweden and are not supplemented by rules that presuppose that the prosecution must be in the public interest. The victim's participation in the legal proceedings is no prerequisite for prosecution.

G. Ex parte proceedings

The victim's participation in the legal proceedings is no prerequisite for prosecution.

As mentioned under question 6 F, the police, the security service or prosecutor shall, as soon as there is reason to believe that an offence subject to public prosecution has been committed, initiate a criminal investigation. The primary purpose of an investigation is to determine whether there are grounds to prosecute or not. If there is no longer reason to continue the investigation it shall be closed. The general rule in Swedish law is that witnesses should be heard in person before the court at the trial. There are no rules that prevent a women witness to withdraw her statements but if it is done, it can make it difficult for the police, the security service or the prosecutor to prove the case.

H. Support of victims in legal proceedings

Aside from the fact that many victims can have the right to receive legal support from a counsel for an injured party, the victims can also be supported by different NGO:s, such as Victim Support and the Women

Shelters, before, during and after the court proceedings. The NGO:s can also inform the victims on issues relating to the preliminary investigations, the court proceedings and how to claim and receive compensation. During the preliminary investigation, NGO:s or other civil society actors can be present at a hearing if it is not detrimental to the investigation. Support services are also offered by municipalities.

I. Measures of protection

Sweden has implemented Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime (Govt. Bill 2014/15:77). The purpose of the Directive is to ensure that victims of crime receive appropriate information, support and protection and are able to participate in criminal proceedings. The Directive covers all victims of crime. In order to fulfil the requirements in the Directive already existing sections has been amended or new sections have been inserted in the Public Notice on Preliminary Investigations (1947:948) in 2015. The injured party shall as soon as possible get information that the prosecutor under certain circumstances can represent him or her in claiming criminal injuries compensation, and about the possibilities to get compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act. If relevant, information shall also be given on the rules regarding the right to a counsel for an injured party and the right to obtain a restraining order. The injured party shall receive information on:

- the protective measures available,
- opportunities for alternative accommodation,
- the authorities, organizations and others who can provide care,
- the possibility of mediation,
- the contacts needed to obtain information about their case,
- the proceedings of the case and what role he or she will have in it,
- the right to interpretation and translation,
- the right to compensation for costs associated with the suspension of hearings and meetings,
- where the injured party can turn with complaints concerning the investigation of the case, and
- that he or she upon request can get information on the investigation of the case from the police, the prosecutor or the court, if it can be done without detriment to the investigation.

If an injured party is assessed to be in need of special protection measures as described above, and if the investigation is not discouraged or the police or prosecutor's work is not made substantially more difficult,

1. the questioning of the injured party shall be held in rooms provided for this purpose,
2. repeated questioning by the injured party shall be held by the same interrogator, and
3. questioning of an injured party concerning offenses such as human trafficking shall be held by a person of a certain sex if the victim requests it.

An injured party shall, if needed, as soon as possible be informed when a suspect that is apprehended, arrested or detained escapes or if the deprivation of liberty is lifted (Förundersökningskungörelsen Section 13 c).

If a suspect that is apprehended, arrested or detained has escaped, the person in charge of the detainee is also responsible for informing the injured party. The person who decides to cancel an apprehension is responsible for informing the injured party of the decision. The prosecutor is responsible for informing the injured party that a decision on arrest or detention is lifted.

Interrogations during the preliminary investigation should be held with everyone that can be assumed to provide relevant information for the investigation, including an injured party. A victim who is a party to the proceedings has the right to be heard and submit evidence in the proceedings in court.

An injured party or a witness who should be heard in a criminal trial can request that the suspect (or someone in the audience) does not attend the hearing but instead take part from another place by so-called audible (medhörning). Decisions on audible can be made by the court if there is reason to assume that the victim of fear or of any other reason does not freely tell the truth because of the suspect's presence (Chapter 36, Section 18 Code of judicial procedure). The court may decide that the parties and others who participate in a trial, instead of appearing in person, can participate by audio transmission or audio and video transmission. This would be achieved primarily through participation by telephone or video link. In the assessment, the court takes special consideration if someone who

should attend the meeting feels special fear to be present in the courtroom (Chapter 5, Section 10 Code of judicial procedure).

There are special rules for children. In a case where a custodian, or anyone who is a custodian, has a close relationship with a person suspected of committing an offence against a child, a special representative can be appointed for the child. The special representative shall protect the child's rights during the preliminary investigation and during the trial.

There are special rules for interrogation of persons under the age of 18. Such hearings should be scheduled so that there is no concern that the person being interrogated is harmed. The hearing will not be more detailed than the circumstances require, and may not take place more times than is necessary. The hearing should in these cases be held by a person with special qualification. Under certain circumstances, someone who has particular expertise in children or interrogation psychology may assist the hearing.

If the child is under the age of fifteen years, the court shall determine in accordance with the circumstances whether he or she may be heard as a witness.

At the hearing of children under the age of 15 the legal guardian should be present, if it can be done without detriment to the investigation. Questioning of children, especially children under the age of 15, relating to more serious crimes such as sexual crimes are regularly documented by a video recording.

Children's Houses ("Barnahus") are child-friendly, interdisciplinary centres within children's services where social welfare professionals work in partnership with police, state prosecutors and health practitioners in rigorous investigations of child abuse. These houses are designed to maximise comfort for the children, who can also access treatment services for themselves and their families there. Children's Houses have offices and meeting rooms for all the professionals and separate waiting rooms for children and young people which are furnished and designed for their needs.

The common national guidelines for collaboration on children suspected of being subject to crime and criteria for the Children's Houses contain recommendations which purpose is that in their contacts with children the authorities should have a clear child rights perspective and give children an opportunity to relate under safe and secure conditions what may have

happened to him or her. Currently, more than 30 Children's Houses are operating throughout Sweden.

J. Legal aid

For certain types of crimes, the injured party has the right to a legal counsel (Section 1 in the Act [1988:609] concerning Counsel for the injured party). The injured party does not have to pay anything for the counsel. The court can appoint a counsel for the injured party after a preliminary investigation has been initiated in cases concerning certain types of crimes:

- I. Sexual offenses under Chapter 6 in the Penal Code, unless it is clear that the injured party has no need of such assistance.
- II. Crimes against life and health or against liberty and peace under Chapters 3 and 4 in the Penal Code, for which imprisonment may be imposed on the person who committed the offence, and if it can be assumed that the injured party—with regard to his or her personal relationship with the suspect or other circumstances—has the need of such assistance.
- III. Other types of crimes on which imprisonment may be imposed, if, having regard to the injured party's personal and other circumstances, it can be assumed that he or she has a particularly strong need for such assistance.

In a case where a custodian, or anyone who is a custodian, has a close relationship with a person suspected of committing an offence against a child, the child may get a special representative. The special representative will be paid by the State and does not cost the child or the child's family anything.

Legal aid can also be based on the conditions set out in the Legal Aid Act (1996:1619). Legal aid is financial support provided by the State to those who are unable to pay for a legal representative. The legal aid covers part of the costs for the legal representative, but also costs relating to evidence and other expenditure.

7. Migration and asylum

The Swedish Migration Agency is responsible for receiving, examining and considering applications for, i.a., residence permits and asylum. Decisions by the Agency are in general appealable to the migration courts.

The Swedish Aliens Act (2005:716) contains, i.a., rules on visa, asylum, refugee status and subsidiary protection, residence permits and family immigration, work permits, returns and detention. (The Aliens Act in Swedish: <http://www.notisum.se/rnp/sls/lag/20050716.HTM>)

In 2015, a large number of asylum seekers arrived in Sweden. On 20 July 2016, a temporary act was introduced, adapting Sweden's asylum rules to the minimum levels under EU law. Under the temporary act, refugees and persons eligible for subsidiary protection are granted temporary residence permits and the opportunities for family reunification have been limited. Residence permits on the ground of particularly distressing circumstances (humanitarian grounds) are not granted according to the temporary act unless it would be contrary to Swedish commitments under international conventions. The same applies to cases of family reunification. This means that permits must not be refused if the decision should be contrary to the European Convention on Human Rights. The European Convention against Trafficking (Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings) is also referred to in the Government Bill introducing the act. The restricted access to being granted a residence permit in Sweden will be maintained for a period of at most three years. When the act has been in force for two years, the Government will consider the need for it to apply also during the last period of validity. (The Temporary Act, in Swedish: http://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/lag-2016752-om-tillfalliga-begransningar-av_sfs-2016-752.)

A. Residence permits

The Migration Agency decides upon applications for residence permit. A decision is prepared by an Agency official and the decision is made by a decision maker. A residence permit shall be granted to a spouse or cohabiting partner to someone who is resident in or has been granted a residence permit to settle in Sweden. The same applies to an unmarried child who a) has a parent who is resident in or has been granted a residence permit to settle in Sweden or b) has a parent who is married to or cohabiting

partner of someone who is resident in or has been granted a residence permit to settle in Sweden (Aliens Act Chapter 5, Section 3). Exceptions for not granting a residence permit exist, i.a. due to criminal activity.

A residence permit granted to a spouse or partner shall be temporary in the first decision if the spouses or partners have not lived together on a permanent basis abroad. This also applies to the spouse's or partner's child (Aliens Act Chapter 5, Section 3 a). Usually, a temporary residence permit is granted for a period of two years. After two years, the Migrations Agency may grant a permanent residence permit. This two-year rule with deferred immigration examination exists to prevent abuse of the right to family reunification and at the same time avoid restrictive assessments of this right.

If the marriage or relationship has ended before the end of the two-year period, it is the main rule that the applicant shall return to the country of origin. However, the Aliens Act contains three exceptions from the main rule. These exemption rules shall counteract the negative consequences of the two-year rule and exist to protect persons who come to Sweden for a relationship and end up in a vulnerable situation, primarily that women of fear of expulsion remain in a situation where they are subjected to abuse or offenses. One of the exception rules addresses the case when the relationship has been terminated mainly because the applicant, or the applicant's child, has been subjected to violence or other serious violation of liberty and peace (Aliens Act Chapter 5, Section 16, paragraph 3 point 2).

It should be noted that exceptions from the rules of family reunification are in force under the Temporary Act. Swedish commitments under international conventions must be upheld.

In 2014, the Ministry of Justice commissioned a survey on the application of the exception rule about residence permit on the grounds of violence or other serious violations. According to the survey report, the application of the law was substantially in agreement with the designed legislation, the *travaux préparatoires* and the case law. In the majority of the cases in the survey, the applicant had been granted residence permit according to the rule. See Ministry Publication Series Ds 2014:38, in Swedish: <http://www.regeringen.se/49bb5a/contentassets/f315597fbcea4f168b444b481bcda7b6/fortsatt-uppehallstillstand-vid-brusten-anknytning-pa-grund-av-vald-eller-allvarlig-krankning---en-kartlaggning-av-tillampningen-ds-201438>

A temporary residence permit valid for at least six months shall be granted a foreigner staying in Sweden, upon application from a person in charge of a preliminary investigation. The conditions are that

- the permit is necessary to enable a preliminary investigation or a main hearing in a criminal case to be carried out,
- the foreigner has shown a clear intention to cooperate with the investigating authorities,
- the foreigner has severed all relations with the persons who are suspected of crime concerned in the preliminary investigation, and
- considerations of public order and security do not indicate that a permit should not be granted.

Furthermore, if the foreigner wants a reflection period so as to recover and be able to take a decision on whether he or she wants to cooperate with the investigating authorities, a temporary residence permit valid for 30 days shall be issued upon application from the person in charge of the preliminary investigation provided the permit is necessary for the investigation and there are no objections due to order and security. The permits may be renewed upon request (Aliens Act, Chapter 5, Section 15). The rule applies to all criminal cases, not only trafficking in human beings.

In addition, the right to stay in Sweden can be examined from the need for international protection (asylum rules, Aliens Act Chapter 5, Section 1) or if there are particularly distressing circumstances (Aliens Act Chapter 5, Section 6). The risk of becoming an outcast in the country of origin upon return is mentioned in the preparatory work as an example of situations that may be particularly distressing circumstances. However, residence permits on the ground of particularly distressing circumstances (humanitarian grounds) are not granted according to the temporary act unless it would be contrary to Swedish commitments under international conventions. This means mainly the European Convention on Human Rights. The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings is also referred to. See the *travaux préparatoires* – Govt. Bill with proposal of the act 2015/16:174, page 49–55. (In Swedish: <http://www.regeringen.se/contentassets/075968fdd8c94788977dba14bae16444/forslag-om-att-tillfalligt-begransa-mojligheten-att-fa-uppehallstillstand-i-sverige-prop.-201516174>)

For examples of planned activities under the Action Plan, see section E below.

For statistics, please refer to annex G.

B. Gender-based asylum claims

As gender is a specific ground for asylum in the Aliens Act (Chapter 4, Section 1), the issue of gender-based violence against women is a central part of the assessment of the protection needs in Sweden.

The assessment of gender dimensions is continuous throughout the asylum process with regards to the asylum seeker's preference of male or female interpreter, case officer or public counsel. In all cases, the asylum seeker is asked for possible preference of gender of the interpreter, case officer or public counsel. Interviews are carried out with one applicant at a time, i.e. spouses are separated while interviewed. Information is given about code of secrecy between spouses, for example may information given by a wife in confidence not be shared with the husband. If the Migration Agency's officer becomes aware of any suspicion of there being violence within a marriage or relation, the applicant is given information about where to receive help or assistance, i.e. the police or support groups. There are furthermore internal operating procedures to follow if there is a suspicion that trafficking in human beings has occurred. All adult applicants receive information about the asylum process, access to health care and rules and regulations in Sweden.

For statistics, please refer to annex G.

C. Gender-sensitive procedures

A basic principle of accommodation for asylum seekers is that single women are placed with other single women, men with men and the families by themselves or together with other families. An asylum seeker is entitled to accommodation adapted to individual needs if the applicant is in a particularly vulnerable situation due to special needs as a result of, for example, Trafficking in Human Beings (THB), torture, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), rape or other forms of sexual violence. In October 2016, the Migration Agency issued an internal standard for identifying persons in need of special accommodation. The standard is a support for operational activities when identifying individuals in the reception system with the need for special accommodation such as sheltered housing, but also in assessing the appropriate placement (I-67/2016). A Standard issued by the Migration

Agency contains agreed operation procedures for increased efficiency and quality.

Sheltered housing is accommodation centres run by the Migration Agency within urban areas. This form of accommodation was decided by the Agency in 2016. They allow applicants placed in sheltered housing access to network and social support that is not always available within smaller villages, where asylum accommodation facilities usually are located. The aim of sheltered housing is to provide an alternative for applicants who do not feel safe within other provided accommodation. Sheltered housing is an individual-based accommodation for asylum seekers in vulnerable situations (e.g. this can be provided for women, LGBTI-persons or persons from religious minorities where a need is established). There are currently at least 45 places available at three accommodation centres. In addition, one accommodation centre is used for vulnerable women with or without children, though not formally a sheltered housing.

The Migration Agency's task is to identify vulnerable persons early and meet their specific needs. The Agency can support police notifications and is able to interact with the social services and the Police.

If a woman is exposed to violence, the Migration Agency can take the following measures:

- Offer new accommodation elsewhere.
- Classify address as confidential.
- Offer sheltered housing run by the Migration Agency.
- Offer safe housing or a place at a women's shelter for protection due to specific violence and threats if the needs cannot be met in another way. Places at women's shelters may be directly procured. See further information under section 4D for this type of shelters nationally.

Adult asylum seekers and persons staying in Sweden without necessary permits or legal support are entitled to one free health examination and subsidised emergency or urgent medical and dental care. Care under the Communicable Diseases Act is for free. Children up to the age of 18 are offered full health and medical care (subsidized and often for free) including regular dental care. Furthermore, women within these categories have the right to preventive maternity care given by a public health care provider, as well as childbirth care and contraceptive counselling.

As for gender-specific support and services, applicants receive contact information on hotlines for support and advice at a common information meeting shortly after arrival and during interviews at the Migration Agency. Information for staff on this issue is provided by the Migration Agency's internal network of hotlines for support and advice.

The Migration Agency calls all new asylum seekers for a group meeting where information is given by the Agency's staff. The information is interpreted to the language of the asylum seekers. The group information is, i.a., about the asylum process, reception of asylum seekers, healthcare and other rights and obligations. During the meeting, there are opportunities to ask questions. A script has been devised to provide the same information all over the country. Equality and violence within the family are some of the issues that are being addressed. Information leaflets are provided, including the topic of accommodation with the Migration Agency. They are available in several languages on the Agency's website:

<https://www.migrationsverket.se/Ovriga-sidor/Samlade-faktablad.html>

The Migration Agency provides training programmes for case-officers and decision-makers in asylum cases through courses at the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), and with regard to the subject, "Interviewing Techniques" and "Gender and Sogi" (Sexual orientation gender identity). The Migration Agency has a collection of case files used for educational purposes which includes cases relating to gender specific issues, for example, "Women claiming gender related protection needs" and "Women without a male network". These are used as tools of education and discussion for employees. All new employees also receive training through the course in "Norm criticism". Training for Migration Agency staff on gender-related issues, for newly employed as well as experienced officials, is a part of the Action Plan, see below section E.

The Migration Agency's internal Manual for Migration Cases (Utlänningshandboken) and the internal Standard Operational Procedures contain guidance to how, among other things, the issue of gender, transgender identity or sexual orientation can affect the applicant ability to present his or her case. Information about access to support groups and organizations is available at the Asylum Examination Units and given upon request or when considered being of interest to the applicant.

In order to ensure equal treatment, information given to women and men should be adapted so that there are no irrelevant differences due to gender. This is stated in a steering document on standard for information in the asylum process.

In accordance with the Action Plan for gender mainstreaming 2016–2018 (see below section E), the Migration Agency made a survey to follow up the quality in the asylum process from a gender-equality perspective, with a focus on how women’s grounds for asylum are examined. The result was presented in an internal report on 28 November 2016 (dnr. 1.3.4–2016–178398). Within a selection of 166 asylum cases, gender-related persecution was invoked in 43 cases (26 percent). In most of the 43 cases, the women had stated either forced marriage, followed by honour-related violence, FGM, domestic violence, child marriage, THB and prostitution, sexual abuse and molestation and the general situation for women in Somalia and Afghanistan. As a result of the survey, the Migration Agency identified the need to develop legal support for the examination and assessment of women’s grounds for asylum. On 26 June 2017, the Migration Agency published a Legal Position on examination and assessment of persecution due to gender concerning women. The document also sets out more important cases, including from the European Court of Human Rights. The document in Swedish:

<http://lifos.migrationsverket.se/dokument?documentSummaryId=39741>

D. Non-refoulement

The principle of non-refoulement has long been part of Swedish law. It is expressed in the Aliens Act, both in its provisions on residence permits for refugees and other persons in need of protection (Chapter 4) and in the provisions on legal impediments to enforcement of a refusal of entry or an expulsion order that has become final and non-appealable after a rejected asylum application (Chapter 12). Foreign nationals may not be refused entry or expelled if they risk persecution in the receiving country or lack protection against being sent on to a country where they risk persecution. This includes gender specific persecution and persecution on the grounds of gender. There is an absolute prohibition on enforcing a refusal of entry or expulsion order if there are reasonable grounds for assuming that the foreign national concerned would be in danger of suffering capital or corporal punishment, torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment.

If new impediments to enforcement of such a decision or order should occur, or is invoked by the applicant, the Migration Agency must take appropriate measures: consider staying the enforcement, examining the circumstances, granting a re-examination and granting a residence permit. Re-examination is appealable to a migration court (Chapter 12, Section 18 and 19).

E. Other measures of protection

The Migration Agency has developed an Action Plan for gender mainstreaming 2016–2018, as mandated in the Appropriation Directive for 2015 issued by the Government. (See document in Swedish: Migrationsverkets handlingsplan för jämställdhetsintegrering 2016–2018 <http://www.jamstall.nu/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Migrationsverkets-handlingsplan-för-jämställdhetsintegrering-2016-2018-pdf.pdf>.)

The Migration Agency's gender mainstreaming work is done within the framework of the Agency's regular structures. The gender mainstreaming work has three objectives:

- Equal treatment, service and assessments for female and male permit applicants and asylum seekers.
- Actively counteract men's violence against women and honour-related violence.
- Activities are permeated by a gender perspective.

Examples of activities within the Action Plan: Develop procedures for handling cases where violence in close relation or honour-related violence occurs. Develop methodological support to address violence and support within the framework of the Migration Agency's mission. Ensure that questions about men's violence against women and questions about honour-related violence and oppression are integrated into ordinary investigation methodology. Carry out a risk analysis on how to pay attention to particular vulnerable groups. Carry out an in-depth review of cases in which violence or other serious violation is invoked, in order to improve processing and information disclosure.

The Migration Agency has had internal instructions for a long time concerning i.a. vulnerable asylum-seeking women within the reception system and legal positions on gender and asylum. Gender issues and vulnerability among asylum seekers are topics that have been included in

training for the Agency's officials since several years. The on-going activities within the Action Plan will enhance this work.