

Sweden's update on previously submitted information on male violence against women

1. On April 1, 2005, several amendments were made to the provisions regarding the chapter on sexual crimes in the Swedish Penal Code. The main purpose of the amendments is to strengthen the protection of victims and give more emphasis to the right of every human being to personal and sexual integrity and sexual self-determination. Another important purpose is to further protect children and youths from being subjected to sexual violations.
2. The legislation criminalizing rape was extended to include in the criminalized area several different conditions and by lowering the level of violence used required for a crime to be considered rape. Also, a new section criminalizing the rape of a child was added, according to which violence or threat of violence is not a requisite.
3. A new section on sexual exploitation of children was added, as was a new section prohibiting exploitation of children for sexual posing.
4. The legislation prohibiting the purchase of sexual services was extended to also include cases where the payment has been promised or made by a third party.
5. A new section criminalizing the purchase of a sexual act of a child was added. This legislation also applies to cases where the payment has been made or promised by a third party.
6. The maximum sentence for gross procuring was raised from six to eight years of imprisonment.

Part 2 - Measures taken and ongoing measures

D. Violence against women

Eliminate violence against women through legislation and preventive work

1. In spring 1998 the Riksdag passed the government bill on Violence against Women (Kvinnofrid 1997/98:55) with an extensive programme of measures to fight violence against women. A detailed account of the contents of the bill was given in the previous report. A description is given below of what has happened since then.
2. On 1 September 2003 amendments were made to the Restraining Order Act. The new provisions meant that a restraining order could be extended to a greater geographical area than today, and also that a restraining order can refer to the joint dwelling.
3. A National Council for the Protection of Women against Violence was established in 2000. The purpose was to constitute an advisory body and a forum where the government could exchange experiences and ideas with representatives of organisations and researchers involved in these issues, as well as drawing attention to areas that still need to be dealt with. The Council submitted a final report in 2003 with advice on how the government should work to combat violence committed by men against women.
4. In 2001 the 1998 Sexual Crimes Committee submitted its report "*Sexualbrotten Ett ökat skydd för den sexuella integriteten och angränsande frågor*" (Sexual crimes: Increased protection of sexual integrity and associated questions) to the government. In 2003 the Minister for Justice presented the main outline in a draft bill for new sexual crime legislation. One of the changes proposed is that the concept of rape will be extended. Further, a number of important changes concerning children are proposed, see section L. The objective is that the government should decide on a proposal to the Council on Legislation before summer 2004.
5. The Personal Safety Committee presented an interim report in 2002 "*Nationell handlingsplan mot våld i nära relationer*" (National plan of action against violence in close relationships). This proposes a number of measures intended to increase protection primarily for women exposed to violence. The proposals are at present being processed within the government offices.
6. The National Board of Health and Welfare has taken the initiative of formalised co-operation between agencies, in which agencies within the judicial system, for example, are included. A website has been opened, "*Kvinnofridsportalen*" with information on violence against women and examples from various activities within the area. The portal is mainly directed towards the occupational groups that meet vulnerable women in their work, for example police, health care professionals and social workers. In spring 2004 a six-week long internet conference was held at the "Kvinnofrid" portal.
7. The National Prison and Probation Administration's survey of existing methods of treatment of men found guilty of violent and sex crimes shows that programmes are being run for men sentenced at seven non-institutional treatment units and five

- correctional institutions. Sweden arranged an international research conference on treatment methods in 2000.
8. Within the judiciary educational measures are being taken on gender equality issues. An area given particular priority is information on crimes of human trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation and the courts' treatment of vulnerable women, such as victims of different forms of sexual crime.
 9. The police have improved education and forms of co-operation. Several family violence units and special investigators have been added to the police authorities. Preventive work is being carried out, for example by making threat scenario analyses in order to be able at an early stage to determine the risks existing that a woman victim will encounter repeated violence from a relation.
 10. The government has been fighting violence against women and girls in the name of honour for several years and supports the girls and women who risk exposure to this violence from their families. The situation of boys and men is also examined. The government has, for example, instructed authorities to spread knowledge and improve the situation for families with concepts of honour, as well as allocating project funds to enable voluntary organisations and religious communities to work preventively. The government has also carried out a series of knowledge seminars with representatives of government agencies, religious communities, women's crisis centres and immigrant organisations. The Marriage Act has been amended so that the same age limits apply to everyone who wishes to be married under Swedish law, i.e. 18 years.
 11. The county administrative boards have made a survey on behalf of the government of the need for protected housing for girls at risk of being exposed to violence in the name of honour. Surveys show that there are about 1500-2000 young people at risk of exposure to violence in the name of honour and of these 10-15 percent are assessed to be in need of protected housing. In 2004 60 new places in protected housing will be ready for use.
 12. The government gives financial support to women's crisis centres, men's crisis centres and other organisations that work against violence against women, both in Sweden and abroad. In 2002 the government also allocated funds to women's crisis centres for projects for girls and women of foreign origin exposed to violence, women with functional disabilities and women with problems of substance abuse.

Prostitution and trafficking in women and children for purposes of sexual exploitation

13. New legislation against trafficking in human beings for sexual purposes came into force on July 1, 2002. The legislation imposed criminal liability for cross-border trafficking in human beings with the intention of subjecting people to sexual crime, exploiting them for prostitution purposes or otherwise exploiting them for sexual purposes. Through amendments to the law that will come into force on 1 July 2004, the penal liability will be extended to include all forms of trafficking in human beings, including trafficking within national borders and trafficking for purposes other than sexual exploitation, such as for forced labour and for the removal of organs. The

amendments are being made in order to expand the protection against trafficking in human beings and to ratify the United Nation's Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Protocol against Organized Crime (the "Protocol") and to implement the European Union Framework Decision on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The Riksdag (the Parliament) has approved Sweden's ratification of the Protocol.

14. The Government has long given priority to combating prostitution and trafficking in human beings for purposes of sexual exploitation. Public support for the 1999 Law that Prohibits the Purchase of Sexual Services (the "Law") is widespread. The number of individuals in street prostitution has decreased according to information from both the Police and Social Service agencies. In the year 2000, The National Board of Health and Welfare (the "Board") published its first report on the extent of prostitution in Sweden during the years 1998 and 1999. The Board will present a new report for the following time period by the beginning of July 2004. The Law is an important factor in the preventive work to combat trafficking in human beings for purposes of sexual exploitation and for protecting the women and children who are or are at risk of being drawn into prostitution. According to the National Criminal Investigation Department of the National Police (the "NCID"), the criminalisation of the purchase of sexual services, functions as an effective barrier against trafficking in human beings for sexual purposes to Sweden.
15. A Swedish national campaign against trafficking in women and children took place in the year 2002. The purpose was to increase general awareness in Sweden about prostitution and the global trafficking in women as well as giving public authorities and non-governmental organisations better knowledge of these issues in order to strengthen their efforts . The campaign focused on those men who buy women and girls for prostitution purposes in Sweden as well as on those men who travel to other countries to use and exploit women and children in prostitution.
16. In 2003 the Government decided to earmark funds for the National Police to be used for combating trafficking in human beings. The funding totals SEK 30 million spread over three years (2004 – 2006).
17. The NCID of the National Police has been appointed as the Swedish national rapporteur against trafficking in human beings following a 1997 European Union declaration concerning trafficking in women. The NCID compiles and analyses material and information concerning trafficking in human beings collected from the twenty-one police authorities. All police authorities have appointed contact persons who co-operate with the national rapporteur. Some police authorities have created special units that work specifically against human trafficking and prostitution.
18. The Government is also making considerable efforts as regards spreading information and knowledge about prostitution and trafficking in human beings.
19. In 2002, a Nordic-Baltic campaign against trafficking in women took place following an initiative of the Swedish Government. The participating governments agreed on a resolution on long-term measures of co-operation between the eight Nordic and Baltic countries. These measures focus on prevention, support to and protection of victims,

as well as measures to discourage the demand. In addition, the participating countries agreed to approve and ratify the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children. The Nordic-Baltic campaign was implemented in close co-operation with non-governmental organisations. A final report on the Nordic-Baltic Campaign was published in 2004.

20. Several action groups against human trafficking have been set up, including a Nordic-Baltic Task Force and a Task Force within the Barents region.
21. Within the framework of the European Union, regional co-operation with Africa and Asia, as part of the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM), the Government has taken the initiative for joint measures against human trafficking.
22. In spring 2003, the Swedish Government decided to put into place a strategy for fighting trafficking in human beings within the framework of Sweden's development co-operation. SIDA (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) has been instructed to follow up the strategy in concrete terms by strengthening relevant parts of the operative development co-operation.

Part 4 – Future measures

D. Violence against women

1. A special investigator has been instructed to follow up and evaluate from a gender power perspective the terms of reference jointly applicable to individual agencies issued in connection with the bill on Violence against Women. A report is to be submitted in autumn 2004.
2. A special investigator has also been instructed to find forms for a reorganisation of the Swedish National Centre for Raped and Battered Women into a national institute. A report is to be submitted in autumn 2004.
3. After the proposals in the above reports have been presented, the government will determine how the work of combating violence committed by men against women is to continue. A national action plan will be drawn up.
4. The government has decided to allocate a total of SEK 120 million in the period 2003 – 2006 to stimulate the establishment of protected housing for young people at risk of exposure to violence in the name of honour. The funds may also be used for personnel training, efforts to change attitudes etc. Attention is also to be drawn to the situation of young people threatened due to their sexual orientation. A high-level international conference is planned to take place in Stockholm in December 2004.
5. As mentioned above in part 2, section D, a legislation project is in progress to further strengthen the protection of women's sexual integrity and rights of self-determination.
6. The police report annually to the government as to what measures have been taken and what results have been achieved to prevent and combat violence against women. Educational measures concerning gender equality questions within the judiciary will be intensified in the coming years.

7. New amendments to the Aliens Act will be introduced on 1 October 2004, covering human smuggling and temporary residence permits for plaintiff and witnesses.
8. The government is planning to set up a working group within the Government Offices with the task of preparing a proposal for a national plan of action for the continued work against prostitution and human trafficking, particularly women and children. The plan of action is to contain measures at national, regional and international level. A proposed plan of action is to be presented in spring 2005.
9. Sweden has been granted funds from the Nordic Council of Ministers to carry out a survey in 2004-2005 of measures against trafficking in women in northern Sweden, Norway and Finland as well as in north-west Russia. The project is a co-operation project between the four countries.
10. The government is allocating a further SEK 9 million to the running of women's and men's crisis centres from 2004 in order to prevent violence and protect vulnerable women.

