



Government steps up efforts to combat racism

The Government has adopted five action programmes against various forms of racism during 2022–2024. The action programmes outline concrete measures aimed at combating afrophobia, antisemitism, antigypsyism, islamophobia and racism against the Sami people. These action programmes will follow up on one of Sweden’s commitments from the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism.

“We must never accept any form of racism. It’s a question of human dignity. Racism divides people and contributes to dangerous polarisation. That’s why we’re raising the level of ambition to emphasise everyone’s equal value,” says Minister for Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter.

These action programmes will help draw attention to and counter various forms of racism. They supplement the national plan to combat racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crime. The action programmes were developed based on dialogues with representatives of civil society, reports on the occurrence of racism and hate crime in Sweden and recommendations from regional and international human rights bodies.

“Racism, discrimination and hate crime are harmful not only to the victims, but society as a whole. For this reason, efforts to combat racism and discrimination are also important for breaking segregation,” says Johan Danielsson, Minister for Housing and Deputy Minister for Employment with responsibility for efforts to combat discrimination.

Within the framework of the action programmes, the Government has tasked several Government Agencies to counter racism within health and medical care, to increase knowledge about the relationship between the vulnerability

of certain groups and work-related stress, and to enhance knowledge about hate crime against the Sami people. Children and young people's vulnerability to racism is given special attention through remits aimed at the schools.

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Government Offices of Sweden

Sweden hosts international Holocaust remembrance conference

On 20–23 June, around 300 experts, researchers, diplomats and politicians from around the world are gathering in Stockholm to collaborate on Holocaust research and education. As President of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), Sweden is hosting the international Plenary Session with a focus on following through on the promises of the 2021 Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism.

“There are very few remaining Holocaust survivors who can share their experiences with us. We need international collaboration, dialogue and education for remembrance, and to counter the antisemitic and antidemocratic forces that are growing around the world,” says Minister for Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter.

Sweden is President of the IHRA, an intergovernmental organisation comprising 35 Member Countries working together for Holocaust remembrance, research and education.

The primary focus of Sweden’s Presidency is to follow up on the commitments made by 60 delegations at the Malmö Forum and to strengthen the IHRA as an organisation.

Sweden is hosting the IHRA’s Plenary Session on 20–23 June in Stockholm, where around 300 experts, researchers and diplomats from IHRA Member Countries and affiliated organisations are gathering. They are following up on the commitments made at the Malmö Forum to ensure that they are kept,

and to shore up continued engagement and international collaboration for Holocaust Remembrance.

Published 21 June 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

SEK 30 million to civil society's humanitarian work in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine

On Thursday 17 March, the Government decided to allocate SEK 30 million for civil society's efforts related to reception of refugees in Sweden.

“Civil society organisations and faith communities are key to successfully receiving refugees. This became clear in the 2015 refugee crisis, when civil society demonstrated a strong capacity to act swiftly and flexibly. It is therefore vital that we can now allocate these funds and make them available as soon as possible,” says Minister for Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has forced millions of people to flee. On Wednesday 16 March, the Government invited civil society actors to roundtable talks to hear their perspectives of the situation, gain an overview of the initiatives that are under way and investigate the need for support.

“The civil society organisations and faith communities in question have outlined their initiatives and needs in this pressing situation. I am certain that the funds we are allocating will be of great value,” says Ms Gustafsdotter.

The Government will announce how the funds are to be distributed at a later date.

Published 23 March 2022



Government proposes equitable rules concerning parenthood in international situations

The Government has presented a bill to the Riksdag containing proposals for equitable and inclusive rules concerning parenthood in international situations.

The Swedish rules concerning parenthood in international situations were established more than 30 years ago. Since then, only a few minor amendments have been made to address developments in the area. There has been a need to re-examine the rules with the aim of equality between parents in same-sex and different-sex relationships.

“The Government’s efforts to create more inclusive legislation for different family constellations will now also benefit international situations,” says Minister for Justice and Home Affairs Morgan Johansson.

The bill includes a proposal to introduce a new presumption of parenthood in international situations. This means that a woman who is married to or has been married to the child’s mother, will, under certain conditions, automatically be considered the child’s parent in Sweden. It is also proposed that foreign court decisions and rulings on parenthood for a woman who is or has been married to the child’s mother, or is the cohabiting partner of the child’s mother, will, under certain conditions, be recognised in Sweden. In addition, a number of other rules under international private and procedural law governing parenthood for the woman who is or has been married to the child’s mother or is the cohabiting partner of the child’s mother are also proposed.

“The proposals are long-awaited and will make a difference for many rainbow families that move to Sweden,” says Minister for Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter.

The proposals mean that more children will have two legal parents in Sweden. The proposals also lead to increased equality between parents in same-sex and different-sex relationships.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 August 2022.

Published 22 March 2022



Sweden's cooperation with Russian and Belarusian cultural actors

Sweden condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked, illegal and unjustifiable aggression against Ukraine. Russia's actions are an attack on the European security order, and European countries now stand in solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. Extensive sanctions have been imposed in a short period of time against Russia and the Russian central government. The Government is now continuing to push for sanctions against Russia, support to Ukraine and strengthening Sweden.

“Culture plays a key role for freedom of expression and democratisation, not least in times of war. Support must therefore be given to those who voice support for democracy, including artists, journalists and cultural actors. That's why as Minister for Culture, it is one of my top priorities to support free speech, artistic freedom and individual artists and journalists in every way that the Government and I can,” says Minister for Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter.

The following applies regarding cultural cooperation between Swedish cultural institutions and public authorities and Russia and Belarus:

- The Government encourages immediately stopping all contacts and cooperation with state institutions in Russia and Belarus, and that no new contacts or undertakings be initiated.
- There are, however, individual contacts between cultural actors in Sweden, Russia and Belarus. Many individual cultural actors, journalists

and artists in Russia and Belarus are part of a grassroots and sometimes open opposition to the Russian central government and its actions. It is not possible to equate individual Russian and Belarusian cultural actors with state institutions and categorically urge breaking all contacts with cultural actors.

- The Government's starting point is that Swedish cultural institutions and public authorities ensure, in each individual case, whether potential individual contacts and cooperation are appropriate. We encourage Swedish cultural institutions and public authorities to take particular account of the security policy aspects of such cooperation.
- The recommendation from the Government is that Swedish cultural institutions and public authorities should maintain a very strict position regarding payments, managing applications, implementing projects, concluding agreements, etc. that involve Russian and Belarusian recipients.

Published 08 March 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Together for Impact – the Swedish Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

The Swedish Presidency of the IHRA – Together for Impact – begins on 1 March 2022 and will continue until the end of February 2023. Sweden will be holding the Presidency twenty plus years after former Prime Minister Göran Persson initiated the organisation and one year after the Malmö Forum, Remember – ReAct. Sweden assumes the Presidency at a time when the IHRA is more needed than ever given that anti-democratic forces are gaining ground and spreading antisemitism, antigypsyism, disinformation and distortion, not least on social media platforms.

“It is with a great sense of historical responsibility that the Swedish Government assumes the Presidency of the IHRA. Holding the Presidency of the IHRA constitutes a new link in our long chain of efforts to counter the forces that threaten democracy and human rights – efforts that are particularly important today, since these principles are being increasingly challenged,” says Minister for Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter.

The Swedish Government has appointed Ambassador Ann Bernes as Chair of IHRA during the Swedish Presidency of the organisation

“The Presidency will have two major priorities; One will be to follow up on the many important pledges that were made at the Malmö Forum; and the other will be to strengthen the IHRA as an institution, so that it can continue its vital work,” says Ambassador Bernes.

The Swedish Presidency will, inter alia, hold two plenary meetings to gather

the many different actors taking part in the unique work of IHRA, including government representatives, international organisations, and leading experts.

The motto of the Swedish Presidency of the IHRA is “**Together for Impact – Promoting Holocaust remembrance and combating antisemitism and antigypsyism through cooperation and dialogue.**”

Published 01 March 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Sweden joins international Media Freedom Coalition

Sweden has joined the global Media Freedom Coalition (MFC). Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde will represent Sweden at the MFC's Third Global Conference for Media Freedom, which will take place in Tallinn on 9–10 February.

“It is with pleasure that I can announce that Sweden has joined the Media Freedom Coalition. The negative trend in recent years of intimidation and harassment of journalists is a threat to democracy. Sweden has a long tradition of standing up for freedom of expression and freedom of the press internationally,” says Ms Linde.

“As the minister responsible for media and democracy, I see the value in exchanging experiences internationally on issues relating to freedom of the press and freedom of expression. This is a shared concern and I therefore welcome Sweden's membership of the Media Freedom Coalition,” says Minister for Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter.

The MFC was founded in 2019 at the initiative of the United Kingdom. The MFC currently has 50 members.

Members of the MFC have signed the Global Pledge on Media Freedom, a written commitment to improving media freedom domestically and working together internationally, including by taking action when journalists or other media actors are threatened, and working for accountability when media freedom is curtailed.

Published 10 February 2022



Distribution of SEK 1 billion in crisis funds to culture

On 7 February, the Government decided on the distribution of the SEK 1 billion in crisis support allocated to culture, as previously announced in the additional amending budget. The crisis support concerns independent cultural life, individual cultural creators, film, regional culture, certain publicly supported cultural institutions and public venues.

“The diversity of cultural life as a whole has been severely affected by the pandemic and the consequences are likely to persist for a long time to come. It is important that the support is delivered as quickly as possible, and we know that intensive work has already begun at our grant-distributing agencies and institutions,” says Minister for Culture, Jeanette Gustafsdotter.

SEK 650 million will go to support general cultural activities, distributed via the Swedish Arts Council. The funds will be distributed with the aim of alleviating the acute economic crisis and ensuring a broad range of cultural expression throughout the country.

SEK 200 million will go to individual artists and cultural creators. Of this, SEK 170 million will be distributed by the Swedish Arts Council to artists in the fields of art and design, music, film, theatre and dance. SEK 30 million will be distributed by the Swedish Authors’ Fund to authors, translators, cultural journalists and other artists involved with the written word.

SEK 40 million will be set aside for regional cultural activities and the cultural cooperation model. SEK 20 million will be distributed by the Swedish Film Institute to support film. SEK 60 million will go to public venues. SEK 30 million will go to certain publicly supported cultural institutions, to museums and the performing arts.

The Government is following developments in the culture sector closely and is maintaining continued close dialogue with the relevant actors.

Published 07 February 2022



Enhanced support to civil society

The Government is proposing enhanced support to civil society in an additional amending budget to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. The proposal involves temporary support of SEK 50 million to civil society child and youth organisations. In addition, special investments of SEK 80 million are proposed for civil society organisations working with particularly vulnerable groups. According to the Riksdag's preliminary schedule, the budget will be adopted on 24 February.

Support to civil society's work with particularly vulnerable groups

Civil society organisations have a central role in reaching groups that in various ways have been particularly affected by restrictions and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government will therefore provide SEK 80 million to strengthen civil society's social and humanitarian activities for society's most vulnerable people.

A total of SEK 150 million was set aside for this purpose in 2021, and SEK 50 million was set aside in 2020.

Support to child and youth organisations

The pandemic has also made it difficult for youth movements to conduct their normal activities. The Government will therefore provide SEK 50 million to child and youth organisations to enhance their ability to conduct their work.

The funds will be allocated through the Ordinance on government grants for child and youth organisations (2011:65). Child and youth organisations have previously received extra support as a consequence of the pandemic, amounting to an increase of SEK 50 million for the years 2020–2022. This

entails a total increase of SEK 100 million for 2022, from SEK 212 million to SEK 312 million.

According to the Riksdag's preliminary schedule, the budget will be adopted on 24 February.

Published 03 February 2022



Increased crisis support for culture and sport

On 18 January, the Government will submit an initial additional amending budget for 2022 to the Riksdag. The budget includes, among other things, increased crisis support to culture and sport. In addition to the proposals presented earlier, an additional SEK 100 million is now being allocated to culture and sport.

To mitigate the effects of the new restrictions and the new general guidelines, the Government previously proposed that SEK 200 million be allocated to culture and sport. This is now being increased by an additional SEK 100 million, of which SEK 60 million will be allocated to culture and SEK 40 million to sport. The Government will provide information on the precise allocation of the support following its adoption by the Riksdag.

“As more infection control measures are introduced, continued crisis support is needed for Sweden’s cultural life. A diversity of activities and actors have been severely affected, and the consequences are likely to persist for a long time to come. We know that the need is great and urgent, and that is why the Government is now proposing additional funds,” says Minister for Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter.

In addition, actors in the field of culture and sport can also benefit from extended turnover support in the form of reorientation support and event support. See separate press release.

“The pandemic has caused great difficulties for the sports movement. Conditions have been very tough and I have great respect for all those involved in adapting their activities to the situation in which we find ourselves. It has been a difficult time – not least financially. The Government is therefore now proposing to provide sport with more resources,” says Anders Ygeman, Minister for Integration and Migration,

with responsibility for sport.

The Riksdag previously adopted a SEK 940 million stimulatory package for culture in the budget for 2022. In 2020, the cultural sector received various crisis support packages, totalling more than SEK 2.5 billion. In 2021, SEK 3.9 billion in crisis support was distributed.

Earlier in the pandemic, the Government added SEK 1.5 billion to the additional amending budget for 2020, SEK 1.955 billion to the additional amending budget for 2021, and SEK 400 million to the Budget Bill for 2022.

Published 17 January 2022



More than SEK 1 billion in support to culture and the creation of a new consultation forum

Cultural activities and actors throughout the country have been severely affected by the pandemic. The Government is now setting up a new consultation forum for the cultural sector and is investing more than SEK 1 billion in culture through the distribution of previously announced support and proposals in the additional amending budget.

“We have a good sense of what kind of support is effective. The close dialogue the Government has had so far with the relevant actors will continue, including through a new consultation forum for crisis and restart,” says Minister of Culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter.

It will be called the Crisis and Restart Consultation Forum. The Government will send invitations to its first meeting in early 2022.

In view of the expanded infection control measures now being introduced, the Government is proposing to provide crisis support of SEK 120 million in the additional amending budget to mitigate the economic impact on culture throughout the country. The Government will provide information about how the funds will be distributed at a later date.

“Sweden’s cultural life will emerge stronger from the crisis. The diversity of cultural life as a whole has been severely affected. As the pandemic continues and more infection control measures are introduced, the possibility of restarting is reduced. The Government is continuing to stimulate and strengthen sustainability in the cultural sector – we are contributing to production, creating jobs and securing skills,” says Ms Gustafsdotter.

The Government has today decided on the appropriation directions and the distribution of the SEK 940 million that the Riksdag passed in the 2022 budget. The funds will be used to stimulate and strengthen culture in the long term. The Swedish Arts Council will distribute most of the support to independent cultural life.

The Government previously announced an extra SEK 100 million per year to incentivise film production and permanent increases of SEK 100 million for regional culture.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Government has taken far-reaching measures to support cultural life. In 2020, the cultural sector received various crisis support packages, totalling more than SEK 2.5 billion. In 2021, SEK 3.9 billion in crisis support was distributed.

Published 22 December 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Change of government, 30 November 2021

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government takes place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty the King. The Council of State begins at 13.00.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 22 ministers.

Prime Minister's Office

Magdalena Andersson, Prime Minister

Hans Dahlgren, Minister for EU Affairs

Ministry of Employment

Eva Nordmark, Minister for Employment and Gender Equality

Johan Danielsson, Minister for Housing and Deputy Minister for Employment

Ministry of Finance

Mikael Damberg, Minister for Finance

Max Elger, Minister for Financial Markets

Ida Karkiainen, Minister for Public Administration

Ministry of Defence

Peter Hultqvist, Minister for Defence

Ministry of Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth, Minister for Infrastructure

Khashayar Farmanbar, Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Ministry of Justice

Morgan Johansson, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Anders Ygeman, Minister for Integration and Migration

Ministry of Culture

Jeanette Gustafsdotter, Minister for Culture

Ministry of the Environment

Annika Strandhäll, Minister for Climate and the Environment

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Anna-Caren Säterberg, Minister for Rural Affairs

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren, Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Ardalan Shekarabi, Minister for Social Security

Ministry of Education and Research

Anna Ekström, Minister for Education

Lina Axelsson Kihlblom, Minister for Schools

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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Government Offices of Sweden

Speech by Minister for culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter at Stockholm IHRA plenary

Stockholm, 21 June 2022. Check against delivery.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

It is a real pleasure to welcome you to Stockholm. I am particularly glad that we are meeting here, at the Swedish History museum.

Museums in general are indispensable, since they help societies learn and broaden their understanding. But history museums are perhaps the most important of them all, since they help societies deal with the past.

Dealing with the past is crucial in itself, since we can't allow historical facts to be eroded, or forgotten.

But history also helps us to identify patterns that must not be repeated. This is one of many reasons why it is so important to safeguard the history of the Holocaust and to pass it on to new generations.

We simply must not forget! And this underlines the essential role of the IHRA.

To help Sweden remember, I just inaugurated the Swedish Holocaust Museum. That Museum will help preserve the memory of the Holocaust through the documented experiences of Swedish survivors.

Some of their stories deal with the horrors of concentration camps. Others focus on how they were rescued, and who it was who saved them.

My own father – Gustaf – was one of those who went by boats to the island Ven outside Landskrona, between Danmark and Sweden, to save those who escaped from Denmark when it was occupied.

The message of the Swedish IHRA Presidency is “Together for Impact”, and I believe that it is more important than ever that we join forces, since we have fewer survivors every year and Holocaust distortion is on the rise.

I hope that your discussions on the pledges from the Malmö Forum will help galvanize work and progress.

I wish you all a positive and productive meeting under the auspices of the Swedish IHRA Presidency.

And now it is my pleasure to give the floor to Ann Bernes, Chair of the IHRA.

Published 29 June 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech by Minister for culture Jeanette Gustafsdotter at the launch of the third edition of the UNESCO report "Re | Shaping Policies for Creativity – Addressing culture as a global public good"

Stockholm, 8 February 2022. Check against delivery.

Dear Assistant Director General,

Dear Excellencies, Colleagues,

Dear friends sharing my interest and passion for culture,

It is my great pleasure to be with you here today as we launch the third edition of the UNESCO global report: Re:Shaping Cultural Policies for Creativity, addressing culture as a global public good.

The report at hand is unique in its kind. In this report, data points out emerging trends in cultural policies at a global level and suggests recommendations to foster cultural and creative ecosystems. It is the only global report that provides an overview of cultural development world-wide.

At the same time, it monitors state action to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions. This report isn't just another report.

A report like this takes commitment, ambition and frankly – a lot of hard work. Therefore, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to ADG Ottone and his entire team at UNESCO.

As Minister for Culture in Sweden, I am very proud to represent a Government that puts artistic freedom and gender equality at the top of the

agenda.

It is my hope and conviction that this report will help us all make better decisions. And better, informed decisions are something the global community especially needs at this point in history. The past two years have been very tough. Not least for people working with culture. We have seen cultural institutions closing down, artists and cultural workers losing their jobs, and in some cases, artists being deprived of their social and economic rights.

At the same time, we as citizens, communities, and decision makers, have been reminded of the importance of Culture for our wellbeing. The importance of culture for society is fundamental especially in times of crises, worries and sorrow.

The right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community and to enjoy the arts is manifested in the universal declaration of human rights. This right is accompanied by the right to freedom of expression, including artistic freedom, and freedom of information and communication.

The important role that culture plays in society, the intrinsic value of culture and the importance of a diversity of cultural expressions cannot be underestimated, in particular not when recovering from the pandemic.

This report includes data from what we have experienced during the pandemic. We can use this data to learn and, in turn, enhance the implementation of the 2005 Convention. This data will be crucial.

The monitoring framework of the 2005 convention puts a particular focus on gender equality and artistic freedom.

Gender equality, freedom of expression and artistic freedom are key dimensions when promoting human rights and protecting fundamental freedoms. Equality creates creativity, and creativity is the foundation of a thriving culture.

I was very pleased to read in the report that gender equality is increasingly being recognized as a priority for the cultural and creative industries. At the same time, many challenges still remain.

A worrying trend shown in the report is that attacks on freedom of artistic expression continued to rise in 2020. On the other hand, we can see that labour protection has been improved in many parts over the world, for

example through ensuring social welfare for artists.

Global problems call for global solutions. We know the challenges, but we also have the tools for change. Multilateral cooperation is more important than ever.

Therefore, I would like to call on the global community to increase public investment in culture, at a national level as well as at a global level. We cannot stay on the same path as we have done for the last ten years where public investment in culture has been on constant decline.

Culture is key to achieving the sustainable development goals set out in the 2030 Agenda. We need to continue to support sustainable systems of governance for culture with the framework of the 2005 convention. We see very good results from the countries that have taken part in the Re:Shaping Cultural Policies programme. Dialogue and cooperation with civil society, artists and cultural workers are of great importance to build sustainable governance for culture.

The number of countries reporting on their implementation of the 2005 Convention is increasing, which is fantastic news. A continued support for state parties to report on their implementation is important to increase global data about culture.

I would like to conclude by encouraging us all to promote the uptake of this report's findings among relevant stakeholders.

Thank you for your kind attention and for inviting me to speak at this important launch.

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