



Press release from Ministry of Employment

Substantial investments in the budget to prevent and combat men's violence against women

Published 16 September 2021

Men's violence against women must stop. This is a priority issue for the Government. In the Budget Bill for 2022, the Government proposes a range of measures to prevent and combat men's violence against women and honour-based violence and oppression. This involves permanent funds and government grants, and a sheltered housing reform for adults and children who are subjected to violence.

Stopping men's violence against women has been a priority for the Government in both the current and previous electoral periods. In June this year, the Government presented a package of 40 measures to step up efforts to combat men's violence against women. The package includes measures to prevent the use of violence, support and protection to those affected and stricter legislation on prosecuting those who subject their partner or former partner to violence. In the Budget Bill for 2022, the Government proposes extensive resources to help implement the package of measures as well as additional measures that – together with the package of measures – will constitute the action programme to be presented later this autumn.

“Men's violence against women must stop. Permanent funds and government grants will allow us to create stable and long-term conditions for efforts to prevent men's violence against women, honour-based violence and oppression, domestic violence, and the efforts to protect those who are subjected to violence. Now we can build on the package that was presented

last spring,” says Minister for Gender Equality and Housing Märta Stenevi.

Permanent funds to combat men’s violence against women and honour-based violence and oppression

To ensure that the measures are long-term and that the actors in the area can better plan their activities, the Government proposes allocating SEK 215 million in 2022 to efforts to combat men’s violence against women, which means that a total of SEK 350 million will be available during the year. The Government also proposes that from 2024, the funds be made permanent at a level of SEK 300 million per year.

This investment will make it possible to move away from short-term projects and instead conduct long-term and sustained efforts, which this type of social problem requires. The measures cover all the areas described in the national strategy to prevent and combat men’s violence against women, including LGBTIQ people and men’s vulnerability to domestic violence, and prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes. Children are also severely affected by men’s violence against women and domestic violence, both through witnessing violence and being subjected to violence. The rights of the child and the best interests of the child are basic premises of the national strategy.

Permanent government grants to women’s and girls’ shelters

The Government proposes that government grants to women’s and girls’ shelters, their national organisations and other organisations that provide similar support to those subjected to violence be made permanent. For 2022, the Government proposes additional funding of SEK 50 million on top of the SEK 100 million allocated earlier. Starting in 2023, the Government proposes providing SEK 150 million annually.

Non-profit organisations working with victims of crime have long been an important complement to the public commitment of providing protection and support to victims of crime. The non-profit shelters conduct outward-looking preventive work, and they embody knowledge, competence and experience that is valuable in the development of public activities to support victims of crime.

Reform of sheltered housing for adults and children who are subjected to violence

The initiative regarding sheltered housing for people subjected to violence (usually women) and their children is currently not clearly regulated by law and there are no specific quality or permit requirements. The rights of children in sheltered housing are not always respected when it comes to support, initiatives from health care and schooling. It is therefore necessary to strengthen the child rights perspective for children accompanying a custodial parent being subjected to violence to sheltered housing. The Government intends to present legislative proposals aimed at enhancing the child rights perspective in such housing. The Government plans to present the government bill on this in 2022 and expects that the reform will be able to enter into force on 1 January 2023.

The proposal will require application of the financing principle. The Government will allocate SEK 30 million for preparations in 2022. For 2023, the reform is expected to cost SEK 345 million and thereafter SEK 375 million annually.

Stricter quality requirements based on new legislation may mean that some non-profit organisations that run sheltered housing may have to adapt their activities to comply with the new requirements. The Government therefore proposes allocating funds for a temporary targeted government grant aimed at supporting the non-profit organisations that run sheltered housing and that need to improve the quality of their activities. The temporary government grant is expected to amount to SEK 50 million in 2022, SEK 50 million in 2023 and SEK 20 million in 2024.

Investment in permanent housing for women and children subjected to violence

Women and children subjected to violence should not have to leave sheltered housing and return to the perpetrator simply because they lack permanent housing. In the Budget Bill for 2022, the Government therefore proposes appointing an expert group to strengthen efforts by municipalities to provide people subjected to violence with permanent housing. To establish this expert group, it is proposed that SEK 15 million be allocated in 2022 and SEK 30 million in 2023 and 2024. Some of these funds will go to activities in a number of pilot municipalities.

Funds to Kvinnofridslinjen and PrevenTell to be made permanent

It is of the utmost importance that people subjected to violence have someplace they can turn to for help and further guidance on how they can extricate themselves from their situation. One such opportunity is the national helpline for women subjected to violence, Kvinnofridslinjen. It is run by the National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women (NCK), based at Uppsala University. The Government therefore proposes allocating SEK 8 million annually to Uppsala University to provide long-term and favourable conditions for operating Kvinnofridslinjen.

In 2012, the Government helped launch the national helpline PrevenTell to prevent sexual violence. Support for treatment against sexual violence is part of the Government's crime prevention efforts to prevent serious crime targeted primarily at women and children. PrevenTell focuses on perpetrators, who are offered adequate treatment programmes, and relatives and care providers, who need advice and assistance in dealing with issues concerning sexual violence and sexual abuse. The Government wants to establish long-term conditions so that PrevenTell's activities can continue and – in the Budget Bill for 2022 – proposes that SEK 5 million be allocated annually to PrevenTell.

Increased resources for the Swedish Prison and Probation Service, the National Board of Institutional Care and health care

The 2020 Sexual Offences Inquiry was tasked with reviewing the scales of penalties for sexual crimes. Last summer, the Inquiry presented its findings, which have been circulated for comment. The Inquiry proposes tightening the scales of penalties for most sexual offences. In light of the proposals, the costs for the Swedish Prison and Probation Service are expected to increase. In the Budget Bill for 2022, the Government proposes increasing the appropriation to the Swedish Prison and Probation Service by SEK 8 million in 2022. The appropriation is expected to increase by SEK 23 million in 2023 and by SEK 155 million in 2024.

In view of some of the proposed stricter penalties, the Government considers that more young people will be sentenced to institutional youth care, which in turn will result in increased costs for the National Board of Institutional

Care. For this purpose, the Government proposes that the National Board of Institutional Care be allocated SEK 8 million for 2022 and SEK 17 million annually from 2023.

The Sexual Offences Inquiry also proposes introducing a new act instructing health care services to secure evidence following sexual offences. In view of the proposal on securing evidence following sexual offences, it is expected that expenditures for health care services will increase. The Government therefore proposes increasing the general grant to municipalities by SEK 2 million from 2022.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence

Sweden's new Government

Published 09 July 2021

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government will take place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty The King. The Council of State will begin at 14.15.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 21 ministers.

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister

Stefan Löfven

Minister for EU Affairs

Hans Dahlgren

Ministry of Employment

Minister for Employment

Eva Nordmark

Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, with responsibility for urban development, anti-segregation and anti-discrimination

Märta Stenevi

Ministry of Finance

Minister for Finance

Magdalena Andersson

Minister for Public Administration

Lena Micko

Minister for Financial Markets and Deputy Minister for Finance

Åsa Lindhagen

Ministry of Defence

Minister for Defence

Peter Hultqvist

Ministry of Infrastructure

Minister for Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth

Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Anders Ygeman

Ministry of Justice

Minister for Justice and Migration

Morgan Johansson

Minister for Home Affairs

Mikael Damberg

Ministry of Culture

Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport

Amanda Lind

Ministry of the Environment

Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister

Per Bolund

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Ibrahim Baylan

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren

Minister for Social Security

Ardalan Shekarabi

Ministry of Education and Research

Minister for Education

Anna Ekström

Minister for Higher Education and Research

Matilda Ernkrans

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde

Minister for International Development Cooperation

Per Olsson Fridh

Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Anna Hallberg



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Justice

The Government presents package of measures to stop men's violence against women

Published 24 June 2021

Men's violence against women must end. The Government is today presenting a package of measures for future work to prevent and combat men's violence against women. The package includes measures to prevent the use of violence, support and protection to those affected and stricter legislation regarding prosecuting those who subject their partner or former partner to violence.

Stopping men's violence against women has been a priority for the Government in both the current and previous electoral periods. In 2016, the Government adopted a ten-year national strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women, with an accompanying programme of measures for 2017–2020. Since then, the focus has been building a long-term sustainable structure at national, regional and local level. The package of measures now being presented intensifies this work.

“As long as one single woman is murdered by her partner or former partner, we have not done enough. No teenage girl should be subjected to violence by their boyfriend. The Government is today presenting measures to put an end to violence here and now, give affected women support and protection, and take preventive action so that no more women are beaten and no men resort to violence,” says Märta Stenevi, Minister for Gender Equality.

The package of measures to stop men's violence against women that the

Government is now presenting contains 40 points. It includes measures to help achieve all four of the objectives in the national strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women:

- Increased and effective preventive work to combat violence
- Improved detection of violence and stronger protection for and support to women and children subjected to violence
- More effective law enforcement
- Better knowledge and methodological development.

“In recent years, the Government has taken a number of important measures to impose stricter punishments on men who commit crimes against women. The punishment should reflect the seriousness of the crime, and further proposals in line with this are presented here. Men's violence against women can never be accepted, and the judicial system must take a severe view of these crimes,” says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

“Men's violence against women is a high priority for the Government. The authorities in the judicial system are central to the efforts to combat men's violence against women. Making progress in these efforts requires our authorities to join forces and cooperate, based on their different areas of responsibility. It is important that the authorities have the right tools and the right expertise so that we can put our full strength into achieving the objectives in the package of measures and stopping the violence,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Employment, Ministry of the Environment,
Ministry of Infrastructure

Swedish and French Ministers agree to step up efforts to enhance green transition

Published 08 June 2021

Swedish Minister for Environment and Climate, Per Bolund, Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, Märta Stenevi, and Minister for Energy and Digital Development, Anders Ygeman, met with French Minister for Ecological Transition, Barbara Pompili, on her visit to Stockholm, to discuss joint efforts to enhance the green transition at national, European and global levels.

Building on the Swedish-French partnership for innovation and green solutions, signed by Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and French President Emmanuel Macron in 2017 and updated in 2019, the Ministers discussed among other things how to deepen the collaboration in the areas of smart sustainable cities and renewable energy.

The Ministers expressed their continued support to the 1,5-degree objective of the Paris Agreement and their joint ambition for a successful COP26 in Glasgow, notably by promoting the European Green Deal and the EU Climate Law that will be a part of the French and Swedish future presidencies of the EU. They also discussed the topic of biodiversity, especially in the perspective of COP15 and a post 2020 global biodiversity framework.

Focusing on innovation systems, the Swedish-French partnership for

innovation and green solutions is a valuable platform to jointly develop innovative solutions to global challenges by bringing together Swedish and French decision-makers, national agencies and the business community. The partnership includes areas such as green transition, digitalisation and health.

Friday's discussions prepared for the upcoming review and update of the partnership, foreseen to take place later this year by Prime Minister Löfven and President Macron.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Employment

Government appoints Inquiry Chair to develop national strategy to prevent and combat violence against children

Published 01 June 2021

The Government has appointed an Inquiry Chair who will propose a national strategy to prevent and combat violence against children, including honour-based violence and oppression. The strategy should take an integrated and coherent approach to preventing and combating violence against children over the next ten years. The decision is based on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

Sweden is, and aim to continue to be a pioneer in preventing and combating violence against children. Although much has been done to ensure the right of the child to be protected against all forms of violence and abuse, many children continue to be exposed to violence and the number of unreported cases is probably high. The Government sees a need to take a coherent approach to prevent and combat violence against children.

“It’s unacceptable that children are forced to grow up in violent and abusive environments. We need a coherent, long-term and strategic approach to safeguard children’s rights and address the issues that don’t work in practice. That’s why this inquiry is so important,” says Minister for Gender Equality Märta Stenevi.

The Inquiry Chair will propose long-term goals to prevent and combat

violence against children, and identify shortcomings and possible measures.

Taking these goals into account, the Inquiry Chair will propose measures in the following areas:

- collaboration between government agencies, municipalities, organisations and other relevant actors
- prevention of violence against children and detection of violence against children
- protection, support and treatment for children exposed to violence
- criminal proceedings involving children exposed to violence
- knowledge, methodological development and monitorability

The assignment is to be conducted in dialogue with relevant government agencies and other relevant actors. When developing the strategy, the Inquiry Chair will listen to children and young people and take their views and opinions into account.

“The Liberal Party has long pushed for a national strategy to prevent violence against children and I am pleased that we are now taking further steps to make this a reality. It’s important that the strategy take an integrated approach to preventing and combating violence against children, including honour-based violence and oppression,” says Liberal Party member Juno Blom.

Fredrik Malmberg has been appointed Inquiry Chair. Malmberg has extensive experience in child rights and was the Ombudsman for Children between 2008 and 2017. In June 2017, he was appointed Director-General of the National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools.

“In view of both my current assignment related to rights for people with disabilities and my earlier role as the Ombudsman for Children, I am delighted at the confidence the Government has placed in me by appointing me Inquiry Chair to lead the work on a national strategy to prevent and combat violence against children. I’m convinced that a long-term national strategy will ensure that combating violence against children has higher priority and a greater impact. In developing the strategy, it will be important to give visibility to the violence that children are subjected to specifically because they are children, regardless of what form that violence takes,” says Malmberg.

The Inquiry Chair will present the final report by 31 May 2022.



Press release from Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Justice

Amended regulations in the Aliens Act

Published 09 April 2021

The Government has decided to refer proposals to the Council on Legislation for amendments to the Aliens Act. The amendments are being proposed to ensure that Swedish migration policy is sustainable in the long term and provides a humane, legally secure and effective regulatory framework that is not materially different from migration policies in other EU Member States.

The proposals referred to the Council on Legislation are based on the report of the Cross-party Committee of Inquiry on Migration. Among other things, the Government proposes that as a general rule, residence permits are to be temporary, and that permanent residence permits are not to be granted until the applicant has had a temporary residence permit for three years and only if certain specific requirements are met, including a maintenance requirement. A maintenance requirement for family member immigration will also be introduced.

The Government is also proceeding with supplementary proposals that have been referred separately. In the proposal referred to the Council on Legislation, the Government considers that – in connection with the return to the Aliens Act – it should still be possible to grant children residence permits under the provisions on particularly distressing circumstances. It is also proposed that a possibility be introduced to grant adults a residence permit on humanitarian grounds. This means that it may be possible to grant an adult who has a residence permit to stay in Sweden and has developed special ties to Sweden a residence permit if the circumstances are

particularly distressing.

“We will not return to the migration legislation from 2015. With these proposals, we ensure a regulatory framework that is sustainable in the long term, at the same time as we – in line with many of the comments from referral bodies – ensure that the system where temporary residence permits are the general rule does not have unreasonable effects,” says Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

“Migration legislation must be humane, legally secure and effective. We are therefore presenting the proposal for a humanitarian ground that makes it possible for vulnerable young people with special ties to Sweden to stay,” says Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, with responsibility for urban development, anti-segregation and anti-discrimination Märta Stenevi.

It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 20 July 2021.



Press release from Ministry of Employment

New human rights institute to be located in Lund

Published 01 April 2021

The Government has today decided that the new agency proposed by the Government, the human rights institute, is to be located in Lund. An Inquiry Chair has been instructed to prepare for and carry out the formation of the new agency. The agency is to be established on 1 January 2022.

On 18 March 2021, the Government adopted a government bill on a human rights institute. The government bill proposes a new act and legislative amendments to regulate the activities of a new human rights institute. The aim of the institute is to promote the protection of human rights at national level.

- I am delighted that we have been able to adopt this decision today, which means that the practical work to establish the human rights institute can begin. Setting up an institute that will be able to monitor, investigate and report on how human rights are respected and protected in Sweden is of great significance, says Minister for Gender Equality and Housing Märta Stenevi.

In deciding on the institute's location, account was taken of various factors that can be considered beneficial to the Institute's activities. Lund is home to academic institutions with cutting-edge human rights expertise, for example. Proximity to Denmark and the Danish Institute for Human Rights can also promote the exchange of knowledge and experience that can be of great benefit to the Swedish human rights institute.

- Central government must have a presence throughout the country. It is

gratifying that the institute will be established in Lund, where there are good prospects for it to take advantage of the cutting-edge expertise in the region, says Minister for Public Administration Lena Micko.

An Inquiry Chair has now been instructed to prepare for and carry out the formation of the new agency. The Inquiry Chair will propose and take all necessary measures to establish the agency on 1 January 2022. Among other things, the Inquiry Chair will present proposals for instructions and appropriation directions, as well as appoint some of the agency's staff. The final report is to be delivered by 31 December 2021.

Anna-Karin Lindblom has been appointed as Inquiry Chair.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Employment

Märta Stenevi to take part in UN session on the status of women

Published 15 March 2021

On 15–19 March, Minister for Gender Equality Märta Stenevi will take part digitally in the sixty-fifth session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65). The priority theme is women’s opportunities for participation and decision-making in public life, and the elimination of violence against women.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed inequalities and also increased the gap between women and men. It is therefore more important than ever to consistently have a gender perspective when we rebuild a society that is stronger and more sustainable than before the crisis.

- I look forward to representing Sweden at the CSW65 in these challenging times and welcome this year’s priority theme. Women’s empowerment and participation, and the elimination of violence against women, are priority issues for the Swedish Government. This is in line with Sweden’s interim objectives of an even division of power and influence, and ending men’s violence against women, says Ms Stenevi.

Ms Stenevi will give an opening address at two side events hosted by Sweden. Tuesday’s side event will focus on rights and sexuality education, and Wednesday’s event will focus on strengthening economic gender equality.

Ms Stenevi will also take part in a Nordic ministerial meeting together with UN Women’s Executive Director, with focus on involving young people in gender equality efforts.

Ms Stenevi will lead the Swedish delegation that, in addition to representatives from the Government, comprises representatives from government agencies, the Riksdag, civil society organisations and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions.

- This year, twelve civil society organisations will be part of the Swedish delegation, which is considerably more than usual and very gratifying. We place great value on civil society's engagement, says Ms Stenevi.

State Secretary Karin Strandås will also take part in CSW65, and will speak at a side event on the Istanbul Convention and how it has helped strengthen Sweden's efforts to combat men's violence against women.