



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

Gustav Fridolin key person in launch of new global sexuality education programme

Published 11 January 2018

Sexuality education and reproductive health on the agenda when Minister for Education participates in launch of UNESCO's new handbook for sexuality education during visit to South Africa and Zambia on 12–16 January.

Sweden has been active in the work to produce the handbook, which is part of Sweden's efforts for qualitative and gender-equal sexuality education globally. The handbook will contribute to strengthened and improved sexuality education, and is based on scientific studies and the efforts of the working group which included prominent roles for RFSU and Sida.

During the visit, emphasis will also be placed on the regional launch of the Swedish-funded UNESCO initiative 'Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future', which aims to provide more young people in southern Africa with access to qualitative sexuality education. Mr Fridolin will be keynote speaker at this event.

During the visit he will meet representatives of the South African Ministry of Basic Education, government agencies from Ghana, Swaziland, Côte d'Ivoire and Namibia, as well as youth organisations and civil society. In Zambia, Mr Fridolin will meet government representatives as well as members of civil society.

"All young people, regardless of gender, are entitled to good and unprejudiced knowledge about sexuality and reproductive health. Education

in this area leads to increased awareness and gender equality, and therefore means an investment in development and democracy. This is an example of feminist foreign policy in practice," says Mr Fridolin.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Eight Swedish cabinet ministers to the Social Summit in Gothenburg

Published 15 November 2017

The Prime Minister, together with the EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has invited to a social summit focusing on the promotion of Fair Jobs and growth, in Gothenburg on Friday 17 November. Heads of State and heads of Governments together with other EU-member ministers will be in place.

Apart from the Prime minister the Swedish Government participates are:

- **Minister for Employment and Integration Ylva Johansson**
- **Minister for Health and Social Affairs Annika Strandhäll**
- **Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin**
- **Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde**
- **Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg**
- **Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality Åsa Regnér**
- **Minister for Upper Secondary School and Adult Education and Training Anna Ekström**

All government ministers will be available for media during the summit, contact respective press secretaries. In addition to the Swedish government, representatives from the EU Commission and EU countries, more than 30 different organizations and actors will attend the Summit on Fair Conditions and Growth in Göteborg, November 17, 2017.

The summit will bring together EU leaders, the social partners and other key stakeholders to discuss how to promote fair jobs and growth.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

Gustav Fridolin to take part in Nordic annual review with UNESCO in Paris

Published 11 May 2017

Today, Thursday 11 May, Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin is in Paris to take part in an annual dialogue on and follow-up of the financial support that Sweden, via the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), has given to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

This support goes to UNESCO's work to strengthen freedom of the press and freedom of expression, sex education and the freedom of expression of artistic practitioners. The support also goes to measures to build up research capacity in developing countries to address the growing impact of climate change, for example.

This year, the review has been coordinated with the other Nordic countries.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

Gustav Fridolin to visit London

Published 29 March 2017

Today, Wednesday 29 March, Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin will travel to London to take part in meetings on inequality in education.

Mr Fridolin will meet with Nick Clegg, Chair of the Commission on Inequality in Education, and Caroline Dinenage, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Women, Equalities and Early Years. Mr Fridolin's programme also includes meetings with young Swedish students in London.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

Gustav Fridolin to address and attend Education International Migration Conference in Stockholm

Published 21 November 2016 Updated 21 November 2016

Today, Monday 21 November, Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin will deliver the opening address at the Education International Conference in Stockholm on the theme schooling for newly arrived pupils. During the week, Mr Fridolin will take part in a number of conference activities.

The global federation of teacher unions Education International will gather delegates from around the world in Stockholm for a conference on the theme education for newly arrived children who come from Syria and other conflict areas in the Middle East. The conference is being held in Stockholm since the federation considers Sweden to be a world leader when it comes to newly arrived pupils.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice

Swedish Government presents feminist policy for a gender-equal future

Published 18 November 2016 Updated 18 November 2016

The Swedish Government has presented a gender quality policy communication entitled *Power, goals and authority – a feminist policy for a gender-equal future*, including a ten-year National strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women. As one of the measures in the strategy, the Government intends to amend the degree descriptions in the Higher Education Ordinance for educational programmes where it is most necessary and where students will encounter perpetrators and victims of violence in their future careers.

"People who encounter perpetrators of violence and their victims in their work must have knowledge of how violence can be uncovered and prevented, and of the most effective measures. This should therefore be included in the teaching of particularly relevant higher education programmes. This measure is part of the first long-term national strategy to combat men's violence against women, which prioritises preventive efforts. This communication shows the Government moving up a gear in its efforts to make a difference in people's lives," says Minister for Gender Equality Åsa Regnér.

"So-called honour-related crimes are unacceptable. More offences must be

uncovered and more must be done to prosecute the perpetrators. It must be clear that society takes a very serious view of these offences. We are therefore appointing an inquiry to investigate the possibilities of introducing honour-related motives as special grounds for tougher penalties," says Minister for Justice Morgan Johansson.

"Many people, often young women, are now confined by a pressure to achieve that is creating growing mental ill health. Many people, often young men, lack motivation to study and faith in the future. The gender structures and norms that constrain both girls and boys must be broken; we must strengthen young people's self-esteem and self-confidence if we are to improve school performance. This is the basis of the Government's major investments in school health and welfare services, special needs education support, and study and vocational guidance," says Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin.

Highlights of the gender equality communication

The communication Power, targets and agencies – a feminist policy for a gender-equal future encompasses political objectives, an organisational structure for implementation and a follow-up system. It also includes a national strategy with a programme of measures to prevent and combat men's violence against women. The programme of measures will apply from 2017 to 2020. Parts of the strategy are based on an agreement between the Government and the Left Party.

Gender equality agency and national assignments

The Government intends to establish a new agency in 2018 to help ensure strategic, cohesive and sustainable governance and effective implementation of gender equality policy. The Left Party supports the proposal and has been keen to establish a gender equality agency.

The three national assignments concerning honour-related violence and oppression, prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes, and the assignment on support to authorities (including higher education institutions) for gender mainstreaming of their activities, will be made permanent.

Two new interim targets for gender equality policy

The Government is introducing two new interim targets – gender-equal

education and gender-equal health – to give these areas greater space in gender equality policy.

Focus on men's participation and responsibility

Men's participation is a prerequisite if a gender-equal society is to be realised. The Government intends to implement measures to strengthen the gender equality work focus on men and boys with respect to violence prevention, health and use of parental benefits.

Strategic, cohesive and long-term agency governance

During this electoral period, the Government intends to analyse which agencies' instructions require strengthened requirements and governance with respect to gender mainstreaming.

National strategy to combat men's violence against women

The communication includes a ten-year national strategy on men's violence against women, including honour-related violence and oppression, as well as prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes. To strengthen the prospects of achieving the interim gender equality policy target of ending men's violence against women, the Government will focus particularly on preventive measures.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

Gustav Fridolin in New York

Published 07 June 2016 Updated 07 June 2016

Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin is in New York this week for meetings with representatives of the UN, the New York City Department of Education, and others.

Tomorrow, Mr Fridolin will meet Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Jan Eliasson and the Deputy Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, Phil Weinberg.

On Thursday Mr Fridolin will visit a branch of the organisation StreetSquash, which supports thousands of young people from socially vulnerable areas by combining squash with academic tutoring, leadership development, etc.

Mr Fridolin will also take part in a seminar on the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Isabella Lövin discusses peace at UN Security Council

Published 07 June 2016 Updated 07 June 2016

Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin is visiting the United Nations headquarters in New York from 7 to 10 June. There she will take part in a debate in the UN Security Council on protection of civilians and peacekeeping operations, and a seminar on the UN Global Goals and education, together with Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin.

"At a time when large parts of the world are experiencing war and conflict, as well as the largest refugee flows since the Second World War, I will talk about the importance of respecting the fundamental humanitarian principles. This also applies to the UN's own peacekeeping troops, who must be well prepared for the operations they are to undertake and trained in ethics, gender equality and human rights. The world must be able to trust the UN to do its job," says Ms Lövin.

Her speech to the Security Council will be delivered in connection with an open debate on 10 June. Alongside Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin, Ms Lövin will also take part in a seminar on the UN's new Global Goals and Sweden's First Generation campaign, which is about highlighting the particularly important role of young people and teachers in achieving the goals, on 9 June.

On 8 June – World Oceans Day – Ms Lövin will take part in a ceremony to welcome the Polynesian voyaging canoe Hōkūle'a alongside UN Secretary

General Ban Ki-moon. Alongside a number of small island nations, Sweden has taken the lead on a follow-up mechanism to ensure the global implementation of Global Goal 14 on sustainable seas. Sweden and Fiji will jointly host a conference on sustainable seas in Fiji in June 2017.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

Gustav Fridolin and Anthony Lake to visit Blackeberg School today

Published 20 May 2016 Updated 20 May 2016

Today, Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin and Executive Director of UNICEF Anthony Lake will visit Blackeberg School to find out how the school is working with newly arrived pupils. Véronique Lönnerblad, Secretary-General of UNICEF Sweden, will also take part in the visit.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

Gustav Fridolin to take part in education conference in Paris

Published 02 May 2016 Updated 02 May 2016

Tomorrow, Tuesday 3 May, Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin will take part in an education conference in Paris.

Gustav Fridolin was invited by the French Minister for Education, Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, to a seminar to discuss France's education reforms. Portugal's Minister of Education, Tiago Brandão Rodrigues, will also attend.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

Gustav Fridolin to take part in 25th Council of Europe ministers of education conference in Brussels

Published 11 April 2016 Updated 11 April 2016

Today, Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin will travel to Brussels to take part in the 25th Session of the Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education. The theme of the conference is how to secure democracy through education.

"Schools have a key role to play in preventing radicalisation, but they can also become the victims of it. This is what we saw with what happened in Trollhättan last autumn. Sweden is doing a great deal to combat radicalisation and build safe school environments. There is a lot of interest in what we're doing and at the same time we have a lot to learn. The Council of Europe is a good forum for this kind of exchange of experience. Building our society begins in preschool and school. Here we have to manage to stand up to and prevent radicalisation and extremism," says Mr Fridolin.

The conference is taking place on 11–12 April.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

Gustav Fridolin to take part in OECD summit in Berlin on importance of teachers to learning outcomes

Published 02 March 2016 Updated 02 March 2016

On 3–4 March, Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin will attend the OECD's International Summit on the Teaching Profession (ISTP) in Berlin. The focus of the conference will be the importance of the teaching profession to learning outcomes.

This will be the 6th ISTP, with political, academic and professional representatives all in attendance. Ministers, experts and teachers' union leaders from the different countries will discuss and debate the development of the teaching profession.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

Gustav Fridolin to lead Swedish Delegation at UNESCO General Conference in Paris

Published 03 November 2015 Updated 03 November 2015

Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin is leaving for Paris today to take part in the 38th Session of the UNESCO General Conference. Mr Fridolin will lead the Swedish Delegation on 3–6 November and deliver Sweden's national address.

During the week, Mr Fridolin will also take part in a high-level meeting on the new Education 2030 agenda. In addition, Mr Fridolin will take part in a seminar on vocational education and training and liberal adult education that Sweden is arranging, as well as a seminar on LGBTQ issues. Mr Fridolin will have several bilateral meetings during the General Conference.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

OECD presents Swedish school review

Published 17 May 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

Today, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) presented the Government with its report ‘Improving schools in Sweden: An OECD Perspective’. The review was conducted in light of Swedish pupils’ falling performance in the OECD’s PISA survey. Work began in March 2014, the OECD presented its preliminary conclusions in Stockholm in December the same year, and the final report was presented today.

In April 2015, the Government appointed a schools commission, headed by Anna Ekström.

“We welcome the OECD’s report and will now pass it to the schools commission. Partly based on the OECD’s recommendations, the schools commission will submit proposals aimed at improving learning outcomes, teaching and equity in Swedish schools. The commission will present its proposals by January 2017,” says Aida Hadzialic, Minister for Upper Secondary School and Adult Education and Training.

The recommendations of the OECD report focus on three priorities: conditions that promote quality and equity across Swedish schools, a long-term human resource strategy to build capacity for improved teaching and learning, and strengthened policy steering and accountability with a focus on improvement.

“The Government is already investing in many of the measures that the

OECD recommends. For instance, the Government has announced a primary school pledge with targeted efforts for the early school years and a long-term strategy to make the teaching profession more attractive by investing in higher teachers' salaries, an educational research institute and measures to reduce teachers' administrative burden," says Gustav Fridolin, Minister for Education.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

Press invitation: OECD presents school review

Published 30 April 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

On 4 May, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) will present the Government and the schools commission with its report ‘Improving schools in Sweden: an OECD perspective’.

The OECD will present its results and recommendations at the press conference. The review was conducted in light of Swedish pupils’ deteriorating performance in the OECD’s PISA survey. Work began in March 2014, the OECD presented its preliminary conclusions in Stockholm in December the same year, and now the final report will be presented.

In April 2015, the Government appointed a schools commission, which among other things based on the OECD’s recommendations, is to submit proposals aimed at improving learning outcomes, teaching standards and equity in Swedish schools.

Andreas Schleicher, Director of the OECD Directorate of Education and Skills, Graham Donaldson, professor at the College of Social Sciences at Glasgow University, and Marco Kools, analyst at the OECD, will participate.

Schools commission chair Anna Ekström, Minister for Education Gustav Fridolin, and Minister for Upper Secondary School and Adult Education and Training Aida Hadzialic will also take part in the press conference.

The report will be available on the OECD website on Monday 4 May at 09.45.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Time: 4 May at 09.45

Location: Bella Venezia, Rosenbad.