



Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden's submission to the report on the Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers (A/HRC/RES/43/1)

National plan to combat racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crime

Sweden aims to be a country free from racism and hate crime. Racism contradicts the principle of the equal value of all persons and ultimately poses a threat to all the fundamental values on which democracy rests. In 2016, the Swedish Government therefore adopted a National plan to combat racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crime (the National plan). The National plan presents the Government's comprehensive approach to the important work on these issues carried out by a number of agencies, regional and local actors and civil society organisations. The National plan is a tool for preventing and combating racism and polarisation in society and paving the way for a cohesive Sweden characterised by solidarity. The governmental agency The Living History Forum has been responsible for coordinating and following up the National plan since 2016.

The National plan states the importance of working on a broad front against racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crime and at the same time have a particular focus on different forms of racism such as Afrophobia, a term that the Government uses in the sense of ideologies, opinions or values that express hostility towards Afro-Swedes. The work includes regular consultations with civil society organisations on issues relating to racism and similar forms of hostility.

The implementation of the National plan has, according to the Government's assessment, contributed to a positive development. The National plan has led to a more systematic coordination and improved conditions for exchange of experience between authorities. The overview of efforts in society to combat racism and similar forms of hostilities has become clearer, thus identifying needs and improving work efficiency. The Government's assessment is that the efforts under the National plan have contributed to an increased knowledge of racism in Sweden, today and throughout history, which is important for improving the understanding of how structural racism and similar structures occur in society.

The Government is strengthening the National plan with SEK 10 million per year from 2020. This will provide scope for continued and new measures within the framework of the plan's five strategic areas: more knowledge, education and research, improved coordination and monitoring, civil society: greater support and more in-depth dialogue, strengthening preventive measures online and a more active legal system. Some of the ongoing measures are outlined below.

Since 2015, The Living History Forum has been tasked with carrying out a major education initiative on different forms of racism, i.a. Afrophobia. The Agency produces information material on racism, and school staff are being trained in partnership with the Swedish National Agency for Education as part of the initiative. In addition to school staff, occupational groups such as employment office staff, social workers and police employees also have the opportunity to participate in this training. Within the scope of its duties, the Agency has produced educational material about Afrophobia and conducted different activities linked to this.

The Stockholm County Administrative Board has been tasked to develop measures against racism in the labour market. In its work, the County Administrative Board will increase knowledge and awareness about racism, with a focus on Afrophobia, among actors in the labour market.

On the basis of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Ombudsman for Children is tasked to produce and compile knowledge about children and young persons' exposure to racism, i.a. Afrophobia.

The Equality Ombudsman completed a government assignment for awareness raising measures against Afrophobia in 2017. The Ombudsman

designed an assignment to the Institute for Futures Studies to develop methods in a pilot project to clarify how discrimination affects access to equal rights and opportunities. The work has been carried out in close consultation with Afro-Swedish organizations.

The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society allocates annual funding under the Ordinance on government grants to activities combating racism and similar forms of intolerance. The Government has allocated more resources to the Agency to increase government grants to activities specifically intended to combat Afrophobia and other forms of racism.

Since 2016, the Swedish Research Council has been running a research programme on racism amounting to SEK 20 million a year in partnership with the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte). In early 2019, the Swedish Research Council made a further call for proposals for grants under this programme.

Discrimination due to ethnic origin

A society free from discrimination is a goal for the Swedish Government. The Discrimination Act prohibits discrimination on the ground of eg. ethnicity. This ban covers many areas of society, such as working-life, education and healthcare.

The Equality Ombudsman is a government agency that works on behalf of the Swedish parliament and Government to promote equal rights and opportunities and to combat discrimination. The Ombudsman is tasked to supervise compliance with the law and can take an individual case to court and claim compensation. The Ombudsman has noticed that the complaints in a number of cases include discrimination on more than one ground (multiple discrimination). The following URL contains more information about the Ombudsman, discrimination and how to make a complaint: <https://www.do.se/other-languages/english/>.

Employers and education providers must take preventive and promotive measures aimed at preventing discrimination and in other ways contribute to the promotion of equal rights and opportunities.

At the local level, Anti-discrimination offices offer support and legal advice to individuals. These offices have an important role in combatting discrimination.

Data, analysis and statistics on composition of the population

Statistics Sweden and the Swedish Migration Agency have guidelines for presenting statistics on persons with a foreign background. The guidelines can be found on Statistics Sweden's website (<http://www.scb.se>). Basic divisions are country of birth, citizenship and foreign and Swedish background. There is available data on persons of African descent, specifically the groups: foreign-born with two foreign-born parents (foreign-born with native-born adoptive parents are excluded) and descendants (native-born with two foreign-born parents). Consequently, there is no compiled data or statistics that on a regular basis specifically address people of African descent in Sweden. However, in the Nordic Statistics database (<https://www.nordicstatistics.org>), funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers, certain data based on national or regional origin, such as Africa, can be found.

The Equality Ombudsman has compiled quantitative and qualitative information on how Afrophobia affects the access to equal rights and opportunities for Afro-Swedes. The results show that there is information on the situation for Afro-Swedes in a number of important areas of society, but that there is no knowledge about how discrimination affects the situation and how discrimination impedes the access to equal rights and opportunities for Afro-Swedes.

A recent study focuses on the differences between Afro-Swedes and the rest of the population in terms of gross salary, disposable income and career opportunities in the Swedish labour market. The report is titled "Anti-Black Racism and discrimination in the labour market" and was produced in 2018 by the Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies on Racism, CEMFOR, at Uppsala university, on behalf of the County Administrative Board of Stockholm County. The report shows a clear connection between a person's income and a person's skin colour, despite the possession of equivalent qualifications.

Another example is the report “Afrophobia – A research review of the situation of Afro-Swedes in contemporary Sweden”, based on qualitative data, that was published by the Multicultural Center in 2014.

The Swedish Police Authority’s raised ambitions to combat hate crime and other crimes that threaten human rights and fundamental freedoms

The Swedish Police Authority has raised its ambitions in tackling hate crime and other crimes that threaten human rights and fundamental freedoms. This includes introducing a national contact point on these issues, democracy and hate crime groups in the three metropolitan police regions and additional resources have been allocated all over the country in every police region. Besides investigating crimes, the designated resources will be used to provide support to victims of crime, internal training, collaboration and other measures to create reassurance and trust.

From 2018 onwards, the Swedish Police Authority allocates SEK 10 million in special funding for measures including strengthening existing efforts to increase bringing the perpetrators of crimes against democracy and hate crime to justice, clearer coordination, strategic work and follow-up. The Swedish Police Authority has also stepped up efforts to combat IT-related crime, including hate crime. National resources are being further expanded and regional IT crime centres are being set up.