

*Dear Secretariat to the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women,
Please find below the Swedish contribution to your request from the 30 October -18 "OHCHR - SPB - Letter from Special Rapporteur Violence against Women".*

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention and The National Board of Health and Welfare are commissioned by the Government to provide information in this area.

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention is in charge of providing Sweden's official crime statistics. The agency publishes annual information on the number of confirmed cases of lethal violence, including the total number of cases where the victim was a woman. However, data on gender-related killings of women is produced within the scope of specific studies. The latest data from the agency on gender-related killings of women includes information up until the year 2014. The agency is about to publish another such study in 2019.

The National Board of Health and Welfare has a legal duty (Act 2007: 606) to conduct investigations on children who have died as the result of a crime and adults who have died as the result of a crime by someone next-of kin or previously next-of-kin. In both cases, a prerequisite for investigation is the establishment of a likely connection between the crime and the child's or adult's need of protection. The aim of the law is to provide the government with helpful information on how to take further actions in order to prevent violence against children and intimate partner violence. Each investigation is initiated by the police or prosecutor who have a legal duty to report to the board in cases of legally binding judgement in this area. The National Board of Health and Welfare has so far published five investigations - the latest report (<https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/Lists/Artikelkatalog/Attachments/20860/2018-1-37.pdf>) includes data from 2016-2017.

As for the latest report (data from 2016-2017), the Board has investigated 18 cases of female adults who have been killed by their male partner or former male partner and two more cases where a woman and a man was killed by another family member. Further, six cases of killed children have been investigated. In one of the child-cases, the legal prosecutor had been able to prove that the death was a result of a crime but not who the perpetrator was. The other perpetrators were sentenced – all men. Starting in 2008, the National Board of Health and Welfare have so far investigated altogether 46 children as victims, of which 45 percent were girls and 55 percent boys. With regard to adults, 52 investigations have been carried out of which 95 percent of the victims were women and 98 percent of the perpetrators men.

Due to an amendment in the Act 2007:606, the duty of the National Board of Health and Welfare to conduct investigations will, with the beginning of January 2019, be extended to including gross violence against children if carried out by a next-of-kin. Also, stamp to murder or manslaughter will be included both for children and adults as victims.

Experts from Governmental Agencies are under certain conditions obligated to participate in the investigations and also to undertake an internal investigation connected to the investigation carried out by the Board (<https://www.regeringen.se/artiklar/2018/04/fler-fall-av-vald-mot-barn-och-narstaende-ska-utredas/>).

Sweden has a national strategy that spans a ten year period to prevent and combat men's violence against women that came in to force 1 January 2018. The strategy has four objectives:

- i) Increased and effective preventive work to combat violence,
- ii) Improved detection of violence and stronger protection for and support to women and children subjected to violence,
- iii) More effective crime-fighting,
- iv) Improved knowledge and methodological development. The investigation that shows persons killed in gender-related violence is one of many important information for the strategy.

<https://www.government.se/information-material/2016/11/fact-sheet-national-strategy-to-prevent-and-combat-mens-violence-against-women/>

Yours sincerely,

Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations
82 Rue de Lausanne
1202 Geneva
Phone: +41(0)22-9080800
Email: mission.sweden@bluewin.ch