



Information on Sweden's follow-up of the recommendations in paragraphs 9, 17 (d) and 19 (b) of the concluding observations on the combined twenty-second and twenty-third periodic reports of Sweden

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted the concluding observations on the combined twenty-second and twenty-third periodic reports of Sweden on 10 May 2018 (CERD/C/SWE/CO/22-23). In paragraph 33 of these observations, the Committee requests that Sweden provides information within one year of the adoption of the concluding observations on its follow-up to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 9, 17 (d) and 19 (b). Sweden therefore wishes to provide the following information.

Paragraph 9

The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (see CERD/C/SWE/CO/19-21, para. 10) that the State party establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, and provide it with sufficient human and financial resources to discharge its mandate effectively and independently, without further delay.

Information from Sweden:

The government appointed in March 2018 a ministry inquiry on the establishment in Sweden of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. The inquiry's report entitled *Förslag till en nationell institution för mänskliga rättigheter i Sverige* has been published in the Ministry Publication Series (Ds. 2019:4). It is currently being

circulated for formal consultation. The consultation responses should be submitted to the government no later than 22 of May.

Paragraph 17 (d)

Implement the predator policy of 2013, compensate reindeer herders fully for damage caused to reindeer by predators and continue consultations on the 10 per cent compensation limit;

Information from Sweden:

In 2013 the government adopted a predator policy, under which the level of tolerance for loss of reindeer to large carnivores must not exceed 10 per cent of a Sámi village reindeer herd. The policy is implemented.

According to Swedish legislation and international obligations a strict protection regime must be applied to large carnivores, that are a natural component of Swedish wildlife. Reindeer husbandry is a bearer of Sámi traditions and culture. The government has a responsibility and an obligation to promote ways and means for the indigenous Sámi people to retain and develop their culture. Reindeer husbandry is protected by the Constitution and by individual laws.

Thus, the coexistence of large carnivores and reindeer husbandry as a Sámi indigenous right is a challenge. The system for financial compensation as well as the management tool, a cooperation between County Administrative Boards and Sámi villages, are facing different challenges, one of which is signals from the Sámi villages and the Sámi Parliament of deteriorating trust in the management tool. The Sámi villages consider the tolerance level of maximum 10 per cent losses to be exceeded. On the other hand, the management tool itself and the cooperation and interaction it entails, comprises that new knowledge should be gathered and taken measures evaluated – as a basis for improvement and further development of the tool.

Despite efforts made the government is aware of the demanding challenges in working towards coexistence between the large carnivores and reindeer husbandry as a Sámi indigenous right. There are reports on decreasing populations of large carnivores as well as of worrying reindeer losses due to predation by large carnivores. There is an ongoing dialogue between the Government Offices and the Sámi Parliament, in these matters.

Paragraph 19 (b)

The Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Take immediate measures and improve existing ones to guarantee the security of property belonging to Muslim ethno-religious minority groups against hate crimes and damage and ensure that funding and affordable insurance are provided to guarantee the safety of mosques and other common property;

Information from Sweden:

Security

Measures to combat hate crime, both within the judicial system and in other parts of society, is a matter of priority for the government. The Swedish Police Authority plays an important role in these efforts and has intensified its work to combat hate crime.

The Swedish Police Authority and the Swedish Security Service always work closely together with corresponding authorities in other countries. The authorities continuously assess potential threats and are prepared to take measures when deemed necessary. This includes both safety-enhancing measures and arrangements to heighten security. For example, in conjunction with the heinous crime in New Zealand in March 2019, the Police Authority increased presence and visibility in connection to mosques and Muslim assembly rooms to meet the perceived insecurity that people or groups staying in such premises could experience.

One of the main tasks of the Swedish Police Authority is to prevent crime. On 1 January 2015, the National Police Board and the 21 police authorities were merged into a single unified agency. The aim of the reform was to improve the organisation of the Swedish Police and, consequently create better opportunities to prevent, take measures against and investigate crime. This also enables national strategies and decisions to be spread and implemented throughout the whole organisation. In conjunction with the police reform the Authority raised the level of ambition regarding the ongoing and ever evolving crime prevention work.

The development in our society has led to increased expectations on the Police Authority within several spheres of activity. In order to meet these requirements, the government has decided to strengthen the resources of the police. The government's goal is to increase the number of employees

within the Police Authority by 10 000 by 2024. The actual number of employees today is approximately 30 000 employees.

The government considers that the Police Authority's new organisation and its expansion of personnel enable the local crime prevention work to further improve and thereby contribute to increased safety and security.

One of the central missions of the new Police Authority is to strengthen the cooperation between the authority and the citizens. The work at the local level must therefore be the foundation of the agency's activities, with increased presence in the local community and accessibility based on local conditions and needs.

Swedish Police's crime prevention work requires close cooperation with other actors, such as municipalities, companies and organisations. Crime prevention work may involve both short- and long-term measures, primarily executed by the police officers in the local community who also work in close collaboration with people living and working in the area. A great deal of the crime prevention work is addressed to young people to prevent them at an early stage from turning to crime.

In order to build trust and to involve the citizens and the social partners of local communities, and to create transparency of and local influence over the work of the police, different methods are being used. Collaboration agreements between the police and the municipalities, commitments to the citizens and citizens' dialogues were all introduced in conjunction with the police reform.

Coordinated efforts between the police and the municipalities ensure a more effective crime prevention work, putting the parties' resources to more efficient use. By formalising the cooperation in a document, Collaboration Agreement, the police and the municipalities are provided with a clearer assignment in relation to crime prevention and to matters the parties have agreed to collaborate on.

Commitments to the citizens are about listening, but it's also about communicating what the police do and the results they achieve. The aim is to bring the police closer to the citizens and highlight its collaboration with the local communities and to enable a dialogue with the citizens concerning the police's remit and priorities. In addition, the commitments to the citizens also seek to ensure a more effective crime prevention and public safety-enhancing work. Through dialogues and

commitments to the citizens, the police enable the transparency of and local influence over the work of the police.

The police should be present, to a higher extent, in the local communities, and listen to the citizens' problems, such as they may be perceived, i.e. the things they worry about and the things that make them feel unsafe. The aim of a citizens' dialogue is to provide an in-depth picture of how security and safety in their direct environment is perceived by the citizens, to strengthen the relationship between citizens and the police and to increase the citizens' confidence in the police.

The citizens' dialogue should lead to the citizens' becoming more involved in the crime prevention and public safety-enhancing efforts. Moreover, that this leads to the police's participating more in the life of the local communities and that this provides a better understanding of the citizens' law enforcement needs.

A new Video Surveillance Act came into force on 1 August 2018. The new Act involves several improvements regarding the possibility to use video surveillance in public places for law enforcement or security purposes. Furthermore, permit for video surveillance will no longer be required when it comes to, for example, religious communities' premises. In December 2017, the government appointed an Inquiry to propose further simplification in relation to video surveillance for law enforcement purposes. The Inquiry has reported its findings and propose that the permit requirement is abolished for law enforcement authorities.

Funding

The government has since 2015 allocated grants to the religious faith communities for security-enhancing measures. It has been the task for the Swedish Agency for Support to Faith Communities to independently decide which of the 40 religious communities eligible for state funding that would receive grants.

On 1 October 2018 a new ordinance on state grants for security-enhancing measures to civil society organisations entered into force. According to the ordinance, state grants can be awarded when an organisations' activities are affected by fear of threats, violence or harassment related to skin colour, national or ethnic origin, creed, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression or other similar circumstance. Religious communities, non-profit associations and certain trusts can be granted support under certain conditions.

According to the new ordinance, the Police Authority is a mandatory consultation body to the decision-making authority for such state grants The Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency. In this way, the Police Authority receives information about perceived insecurity or ongoing threats that, for instance, an organisation experiences. The Police Authority thus can consider whether the authority itself must act to increase security or when deemed sufficient, contribute with their knowledge and assess what kind of measures that seem relevant in that particular case. When considered necessary the police also consult the Swedish Security Service.

Insurance

The Insurance Business Act (2010:2043) governs the regulatory aspects of Swedish insurance companies conducting of insurance business. The Act does not in detail regulate the premiums for insurances, as this is one venue for insurance companies to compete with each other. However, different policy holders bring different risks to the collective and it is still necessary to take those risks into consideration. This is since under the Act, insurance operations must be conducted with satisfactory consideration to inter alia liquidity and control over insurance risks, so that commitments to policyholders and the insured may be fulfilled at all times.

Hence, in cases of higher than ordinary risks, it may be necessary to set the insurance premiums in relation to new policyholders higher than compared to other insurances. The reason for this is partly that no insurance company should be allowed to end up in a situation where policyholders (neither those with low risks nor those with higher risks) have paid for an insurance, which turns out to be useless since the insurer is out of funds. In that context it may be noted that insurance companies may not rely on contribution of external funds (e.g. from an owner) in order to live up to its commitments. Furthermore, it is considered to entail serious system effects, if large financial institutions such as insurance companies went bankrupt.

However, the difficulties to overcome the problem within the regulatory legislation regarding insurance companies does not mean that the problems should be ignored. On the contrary, the government has taken measures directed at the root of the problem. As stated above several measures have been taken directed at preventing and investigating crime. Such measures, for example the Police Authority's new organisation and

its expansion of personnel will enable the local crime prevention work to further improve and thereby contribute to increased safety and security. The grants to the religious faith communities for security enhancing measures should also lead to increased safety and security. Such measures should in turn make the insurance risk lower and, hence, lead to more affordable insurance.