



Fourth cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Sweden 2025

LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

**Factsheet on the status of the human rights
situation in Sweden**



**SWEDISH
FOUNDATION
FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS**

Background:

Sweden’s dualistic legal system requires international law to be translated into national law before it can be applied in domestic courts. Only the ECHR and the CRC have been incorporated. Thus, there is no independent assessment to ensure that legal interpretations align with international obligations, and the judiciary and public authorities rarely apply human rights treaties in their decision-making.

Recommendation:

Incorporate ratified treaties into national law and conduct a comprehensive gap analysis to ensure alignment with these standards

Recommendation:

Ensure that all legislation is preceded by a human rights analysis to identify potential impacts and compliance issues, fostering a legal framework that upholds human rights principles

Challenge:

The Government’s follow-up of recommendations from international monitoring bodies is ad hoc and needs to be strengthened by way of increased cooperation between and among duty bearers, civil society and independent actors such as the NHRI.

Recommendation:

Establish a national mechanism for follow-up and reporting in line with OHCHR guidelines before the UPR 5th cycle review.

Challenge:

Individuals facing human rights violations have limited access to legal remedies, including financial restraints to securing legal representation, hindering the rectification of human rights violations. Sweden has not ratified the CESC-OP.

Challenge:

In 2022, the National Human Rights Institute (NHRI) was established by law as a governmental agency, following the Parliament’s rejection to assume it as a parliamentary agency. The underlying inquiry suggested that the Government investigate constitutional protection for the NHRI.

Recommendation:

Ratify CESC-OP before the next review in the Committee for economic, social and cultural rights.

Recommendation:

Ensure constitutional protection of the NHRI to safeguard its independence and ensure sustainable funding to carry out its mandate effectively.