

# A national action plan for human rights, 2006–2009

**The communication A National Action Plan for Human Rights, 2006–2009 (Government Communication 2005/06:95) sets out a coherent approach to human rights issues in Sweden. The communication contains a number of measures aimed at promoting respect for human rights during the period 2006–2009. In connection with the presentation of the action plan in March 2006, the Government established the Delegation on Human Rights in Sweden (ToR 2006:27).**

## Objectives and intentions

The Government's long-term objective is to ensure full respect for human rights in Sweden. This means that human rights, as expressed through Sweden's international commitments, must not be violated. The Swedish legal system must comply with the international human rights conventions that Sweden has acceded to and these conventions are to be followed at both central and local government levels. To achieve the objective of full respect for human rights, it is important to conduct regular reviews of the possible problems that exist with regard to the protection of different rights in Sweden. A key task is to increase knowledge and awareness of human rights. It is also essential that efforts to protect and promote human rights are coordinated. In the national action plan the Government adopts a coherent approach to human rights issues in Sweden, both specific rights issues and issues related to knowledge, information and organisation.

## The communication in brief

The communication A National Action Plan for Human Rights, 2006–2009 (Government Communication 2005/06:95) was presented to the Riksdag in March 2006. The communication contains an action plan for human rights for the period 2006–2009 (Part I) and a survey of the human rights situation in Sweden in 2005 (Part II). The survey intends to shed light on the shortfalls that may exist with regard to the protection and promotion of human rights in Sweden and thus provides a basis for the action plan.

Using the survey as its point of departure, the ac-

tion plan details measures aimed at strengthening a number of rights. The focus of the action plan is on protection against discrimination. Other issues include the rights of disabled people, the rights of the child, national minorities and the indigenous Sami people, men's violence against women including violence in the name of honour and human trafficking, the right to work, housing, health and education, rule of law issues and asylum and migration. Other measures aimed at increasing knowledge and information on human rights, both within the educational system and among the general public, are announced. Finally, the action plan addresses issues concerning the organisation of human rights efforts and methods, and follow-up and evaluation of the action plan.

An extensive amount of material was used to select the human rights issues to include in the survey and the action plan. This material comprised, first of all, comments and criticism from international treaty-monitoring bodies; secondly, comments from the evaluation of the first action plan; and thirdly, viewpoints and proposals for subjects to include in the survey and action plan received from a large number of actors, including parties in the Riksdag, government agencies, municipalities and county councils, institutions of higher education and NGOs.

## Delegation on Human Rights in Sweden

In conjunction with the presentation of the action plan, the Government established a Delegation to support the long-term task of securing full respect for human rights in Sweden based on the action plan (ToR 2006:27). Within the framework of its remit the Delegation is responsible for

- supporting government agencies, municipalities and county councils in their work to secure full respect for human rights in their areas of activity,
- developing and implementing strategies to increase information and knowledge about human rights in special target groups in the community,
- stimulating public discussion on human rights, and
- presenting proposals on how to support the task of ensuring full respect for human rights in Sweden when the Delegation has completed its assignment.

The Delegation consists of a chair and ten representatives with expertise in various fields of human rights. It is required to have a reference group made up of representatives of NGOs. It also has a secretariat staffed by three full-time secretaries. The Delegation is to deliver its final report to the Government by 31 March 2010.

### **Background**

At the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, all states were recommended to consider drawing up national action plans in order to identify measures to improve the promotion and protection of human rights. The Government presented its first national action plan for human rights in

2002. This action plan for the period 2002–2004 has been followed up and evaluated. Since the experience gained from the first action plan proved to be predominantly positive, a new action plan has now been drawn up.

### **The Government's human rights website**

At [www.manskligarattigheter.se](http://www.manskligarattigheter.se), you can read more about human rights and the Government's efforts to protect and promote human rights both nationally and internationally. There you will also find the most important human rights conventions and other significant documents such as Sweden's reports to international treaty-monitoring bodies.



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