

This is
the Ministry of Culture





“Culture and democracy policy is part of the work towards a Sweden that keeps together.”

Alice Bah Kuhnke, Minister for Culture and Democracy

More culture for more people throughout the country and an active democracy policy that contributes to a Sweden in which people live, learn and develop: this is the foundation of the policy that I will be prioritising during this electoral period.

My task is to create the conditions for culture to have a place in our society based on its own inherent value. Culture is meaningless if it is not free. Anybody who wants to engage in and access culture must have that chance. Our task is to give cultural creators better prospects of supporting themselves, and to ensure that children and young people throughout the country have better conditions to try out different forms of culture.

Free culture is dependent on stable and robust democracy. Sweden must be a country in which many different voices have the opportunity to be heard and examined. Nobody should

be restricted by racism and similar forms of hostility. It is therefore more important than ever to defend the freedom of the media, the independence of art, and enabling conditions for civil society.

Culture and democracy policy is part of the work towards a Sweden that keeps together.



Alice Bah Kuhnke
Minister for Culture and Democracy





The Ministry of Culture at work

The Ministry of Culture is headed by Minister for Culture and Democracy Alice Bah Kuhnke. Around 110 people work at the Ministry.

Political leadership

Minister for Culture and Democracy Alice Bah Kuhnke is head of the Ministry. State Secretary Per Olsson Fridh works directly under the Minister and leads the day-to-day work. The political leadership also includes political advisers and a press secretary, who support the Minister. Unlike other officials at the Government Offices, the Minister and political appointees leave their posts when there is a change of government.

Director-General for Administrative and Legal Affairs

The Director-General for Administrative and Legal Affairs is the senior

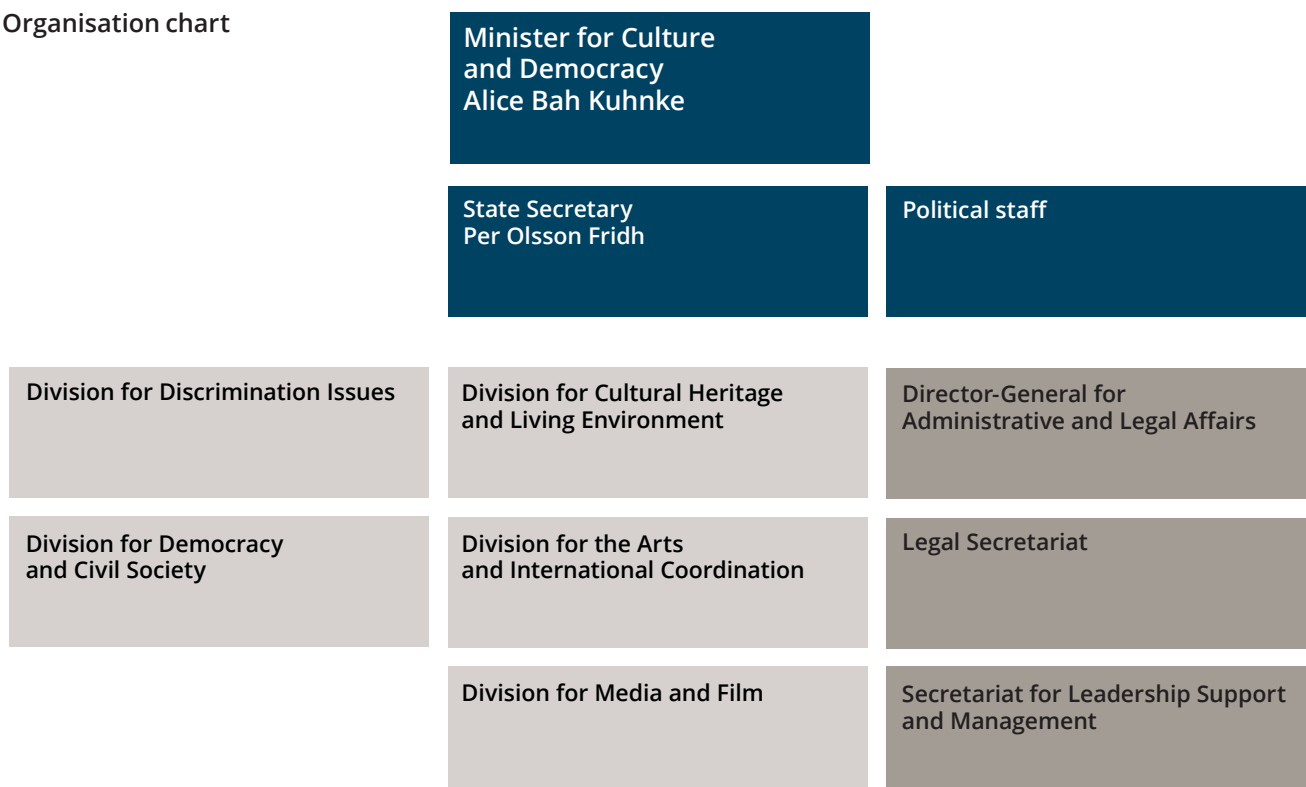
non-political official and assists the political leadership in managing and coordinating activities in the Ministry. The Director-General is also responsible for the formulation of proposals for laws and other legislation and ensuring that matters are handled correctly.

Secretariats and policy divisions

The Ministry includes two secretariats and five policy divisions. The secretariats work on the Ministry's legal matters and provide managerial and operational support to the entire Ministry and its committees. The policy divisions handle day-to-day work in the various policy areas, including culture, media, film,

democracy and human rights. These divisions process matters ahead of government decisions, and they also follow up implementation of decisions. One of the most important tasks of the policy divisions is producing background material for government bills and budget proposals. The divisions also handle contacts with government agencies under the Ministry and assist the Minister by providing background material on policy issues.

Organisation chart



Areas of responsibility

Culture

The area of culture policy includes support to authors, visual artists, musicians and other cultural creators, measures to increase people's access to culture in all its forms, and policies for preservation, use and development of cultural heritage. It also includes film policy, which aims to promote the production and development of Swedish films of high quality, support distribution and screening of films throughout the country and preserve and develop film heritage. The objective of Swedish culture policy is that culture should be a dynamic, challenging and independent force based on freedom of expression. Everyone must be given the opportunity to participate in cultural life. Creativity, diversity and artistic quality are to influence the development of society.

Media

The aim of media policy is to support freedom of expression, media diver-

sity and the independence and accessibility of the mass media and to empower children and youth as conscious media users and protect them from harmful media effects. This should create conditions for the free formation of opinion, free exchange of ideas and real opportunities to scrutinise society. Media policy covers the daily press, radio and TV.

Democracy

Democracy policy aims to promote a living democracy in which the individual's opportunities for influence are strengthened. Democracy policy concerns issues of elections and electoral participation, political representation and opportunities to exercise influence, transparency and participation between general elections. It also concerns increased democratic awareness, safeguarding democracy against violent extremism and preventing threats and hatred towards the democratic dialogue.

Human rights in Sweden

Human rights apply to all, everywhere and without exception. The most important task of human rights policy is to ensure full respect for Sweden's international human rights commitments.

The Ministry of Culture is responsible for coordinating and developing human rights issues at national level, and also for measures against racism and similar forms of hostility and initiatives to strengthen lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights.

Discrimination

The objective of the Government's anti-discrimination policy is a society free from discrimination. Anti-discrimination policy is to prevent and combat discrimination on grounds of sex, transgender identity or expression, ethnic origin, religion or other belief, impairment, sexual orientation or age.



National minorities

Sweden's policy on national minorities is to protect the national minorities, strengthen their opportunities to exert influence in the community and support the historical minority languages to keep them alive.

Sweden's national minorities are Jews, Roma, Sami, Sweden Finns and Tornedalers. The national minority languages are Yiddish, Romani Chib, Sami, Finnish and Meänkieli. This policy area includes special measures for Roma inclusion.

The language and culture of the Sami people

The Sami are a people, recognized both as an indigenous people and a minority. The objective of Sami policy is to promote a thriving Sami culture based on ecologically sustainable reindeer husbandry and other Sami livelihoods. Responsibility for Sami policy is divided between the Ministry of Culture, which is responsible for issues concerning the lan-

guage and culture of the Sami people, and the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, which is responsible for issues concerning reindeer husbandry and other Sami livelihoods.

Civil society

Civil society includes everything from networks and non-profit organisations to foundations, in which people organise and act together in pursuit of common interests. The Government's objective for civil society policy is to improve the conditions for civil society. This policy area covers all general issues to do with civil society, including opportunities to form organisations, state aid and encouraging people to participate and run activities.

Religious communities

Sweden enjoys great religious diversity. Central government support to religious communities is to create the conditions for religious communities to conduct long-term religious

activities in the form of worship, pastoral care, teaching and social services.

This policy also includes government initiatives to promote inter-faith dialogue and to stimulate religious communities' work for democracy and human rights and to combat religiously motivated polarisation in society.

Burials and cremations

The term 'burials and cremations' covers the tasks and services for which society is responsible in connection with funerals. Central government is ultimately responsible for ensuring that funerary services in Sweden function. In most cases, the parishes of the Church of Sweden are responsible for performing these services.



The Ministry of Culture in the world

The Ministry of Culture works together with other countries in a large number of international organisations. In addition to joint commitments, this often involves exchange of experience and working to ensure that high-priority issues achieve international attention. National measures and international engagement go hand in hand.

The Nordic and Baltic regions

The Ministry of Culture's activities in the Nordic region and its neighbourhood build on close cooperation between countries. Much of the work is carried out within the framework of the Nordic Council of Ministers, and there is a strategy for Nordic cultural cooperation in place for the period 2013–2020. There is also Nordic cooperation on democracy and Sami issues. The Ministry of Culture also acts in other organisations and networks, including the Council of the Baltic Sea States, the EU Baltic Sea Strategy, Barents cooperation and the Northern Dimension.

European Union

The Ministry is primarily involved in the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council, the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council and the Justice and Home Affairs Council. There are several EU directives on equal treatment that govern work to combat discrimination. The Audiovisual Media Services Directive regulates television and on-demand broadcasting throughout the EU. The Ministry is also involved in work for fundamental rights. This includes initiatives for Roma inclusion and LGBT rights. Culture policy falls under the competence of the Member States, but the EU can support, coordinate and supplement their initiatives.

UNESCO

UNESCO is a specialised agency within the UN with the task of contributing to peace and security in the world via cooperation on four pillars: education, science, culture and communication. UNESCO is the UN body with an explicit mandate to protect and promote freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

The 1972 World Heritage Convention, the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (which works for increased international cultural exchange and cultural diversity) and the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (which broadens the concept of 'cultural heritage') are three key conventions.

Council of Europe

The Council of Europe's primary role is to promote and strengthen democracy, human rights and the rule of law in all of its 47 Member States. The Ministry of Culture is involved in the Council's work on matters including culture, cultural heritage and landscape, media and information society, and Roma inclusion. The Ministry is also responsible for work concerning the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), and the Framework Convention for the

Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.

United Nations

The Ministry of Culture is responsible for coordinating Sweden's activities related to several of the UN's human rights conventions. In cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture is also responsible for issues relating to the United Nations Human Rights Council reviews of Sweden's human rights efforts. In the implementation of Agenda 2030, which involves the whole of the Government Offices, the Ministry of Culture gives particular attention to the role of culture in development cooperation.

Counsellors for Cultural Affairs abroad

Sweden's Counsellors for Cultural Affairs are stationed at Sweden's Embassies in Beijing, Berlin, London, Moscow and Washington, at the Consulate-General in Istanbul and at the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union in Brussels. There is also a Counsellor for Cultural Affairs who is answerable to the Swedish Institute stationed in Paris. The overall task of these Counsellors is to promote cultural exchange and stimulate cultural dialogue between the countries.

Production: Gullers Grupp
Article no: Ku15.002
Print: Edita, December 2015
Photo: Anders Wiklund/TT, page 2
Kristian Pohl/Government Offices of Sweden, page 3
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Agencies, companies and foundations

Each ministry is responsible for a number of government agencies tasked with carrying out the activities decided on by the Riksdag and the Government. The Ministry of Culture's area of activities includes responsibility for a number of government agencies, companies and foundations.

Government agencies

The Government decides on objectives, guidelines and the allocation of resources for agency activities. The government agencies under the Ministry of Culture include the National Archives, the Swedish National Heritage Board and the Swedish Arts Council. The Swedish Press and Broadcasting Authority, the Election Authority, the Sami Parliament and the Equality Ombudsman are other examples. Several of the state museums – including the Swedish Museum of Natural History and Moderna museet – are also government agencies.

Companies and foundations

The Ministry of Culture is responsible for the management of several state-owned companies, including Kungliga Operan AB (the Royal Opera). The Ministry is also responsible for a large number of foundations, including the Skansen Foundation and the Nordiska museet Foundation.

Government inquiries

When the Government needs more information on a current issue, for example, when preparing for an important decision, it may appoint an inquiry. Inquiries are conducted

by a committee of inquiry or an inquiry chair. Inquiries have the status of autonomous agencies, but they only exist for the duration of the inquiry. The responsibilities of the Ministry of Culture include several ongoing inquiries.

Want to find out more?

Websites

Website of the Ministry of Culture:

www.government.se/ministry-of-culture

Sweden Abroad: www.swedenabroad.com

Printed material

Information materials produced by the Ministry of Culture can be ordered via

www.government.se.

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