<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Sweden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SIGI 2019 Category</td>
<td>Very low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGI Value 2019</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Discrimination in the family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework on child marriage</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage of girls under 18 married</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework on household responsibilities</strong></td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proportion of the population declaring that children will suffer if mothers are working outside home for a pay</strong></td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female to male ratio of time spent on unpaid care work</strong></td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework on inheritance</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework on divorce</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Restricted physical integrity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework on violence against women</strong></td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proportion of the female population justifying domestic violence</strong></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prevalence of domestic violence against women (lifetime)</strong></td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex ratio at birth (natural =105)</strong></td>
<td>105.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework on reproductive rights</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female population with unmet needs for family planning</strong></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Restricted access to productive and financial resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework on working rights</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proportion of the population declaring this is not acceptable for a woman in their family to work outside home for a pay</strong></td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Share of managers (male)</strong></td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework on access to non-land assets</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Share of house owners (male)</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework on access to land assets</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Share of agricultural land holders (male)</strong></td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework on access to financial services</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Share of account holders (male)</strong></td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Restricted civil liberties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework on civil rights</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework on freedom of movement</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage of women in the total number of persons not feeling safe walking alone at night</strong></td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework on political participation</strong></td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Share of the population that believes men are better political leaders than women</strong></td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage of male MP's</strong></td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework on access to justice</strong></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Share of women declaring lack of confidence in the justice system</strong></td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Higher values indicate higher inequality. Percentages range from 0 to 100, while legal variables are categorised as 0%, 25%, 50%, 75% or 100%. See data source [here](https://oe.cd/ds/GIDD82019).
1. Discrimination in the family

a) Overarching legal framework for marriage

Women have the same rights as men to enter into marriage under the Swedish Marriage Code (Äktenskapsbalk, Art. 230). Since 1974, the Swedish law has contained specific enactments for informal relationships between couples living habitually together and sharing a household (Commission of European Family Law, 2015). The Swedish Cohabitation Act regulates how a couple’s joint home and household goods are to be distributed upon the termination of the relationship, in addition to protecting a cohabitee’s interests in this property against unilateral actions taken by the other cohabitee (Sambolag, Art. 376). In addition, special provisions addressing informal relationships are found in other enactments, including the Social Insurance Code as regards to the right to adjustment pension following the death of the other partner (Commission of European Family Law, 2015).

On 1 July 2014 a new crime, the coercion to marry, was introduced in the Penal Code (Brottsbalken, Art. 700). It applies to a person who, by unlawful coercion or exploitation of another person’s vulnerable situation, induces a person to enter into marriage or a marriage-like relationship. The maximum penalty for coercion to marry is 4 years’ imprisonment. Under the new legislation, attempt and preparation to commit coercion to marry are punishable and cases of coercion to marry may be examined by a Swedish court even when the act is not punishable in the country where it was committed (Brottsbalken, Art. 700). The provision on coercion to marry has been supplemented with the new offence of luring someone to travel abroad with the purpose of forcing them to enter into marriage for which the penalty is imprisonment for a maximum of two years (Brottsbalken, 1962). In March 2017, the Government appointed a Commission to investigate whether there is a special need to take additional protective measures against child and forced marriages and honor-related crimes (Government of Sweden 2017 (a)).

There is no information to suggest that harmful practices against widows are an issue in Sweden.

b) Child marriage

The legal age for marriage is 18 years and this applies to both women and men (Äktenskapsbalk, Art. 230). Following legislative amendments in 2014, it is no longer possible for children under the age of 18 to marry before a Swedish authority (Government of Sweden, 2014 (a)). The possibility of recognizing foreign child marriages in which at least one of the parties has ties to Sweden, can only be recognized if exceptional grounds exist (Äktenskapsbalk, 1987). In its reporting to the CEDAW Committee in 2015, the Swedish Women’s lobby noted with concern that the law still allows exceptions to be made to recognizing child marriages, and that forced and child marriages still exist, although few cases are prosecuted (Swedish Women’s Lobby, 2015).
c) Household responsibilities

The law provides women with the same rights as men to be the legal guardians of their children during marriage (Föräldrabalk, 1949). With regard to informal unions and parental rights, the legislative trend since the 1970s has been to place couples cohabiting informally with each other on an equal footing with married couples (Commission of European Family Law, 2015). However, under Swedish law only married couples and couples in a registered partnership may jointly adopt a child (Commission of European Family Law, 2015). Furthermore, if the parents are not in a formalized relationship with each other at the time of the child’s birth (or later), parental rights belong to the birthmother alone (Commission of European Family Law, 2015). Shared parental rights require in that case a parental agreement or a court decree (Föräldrabalk, 1949).

The Government has also introduced a gender equality bonus intended to improve the conditions for gender equal parenthood and gender equal participation in working life (Government of Sweden, 2014 (b)). In this connection, the Government has set a target for the Swedish Social Insurance Agency concerning information about parental insurance to ensure that both parents are given good knowledge of the rules for parental insurance, thus enabling them to have freedom of choice, gender equal parenthood and power over their life situation (Government of Sweden 2014 (b)). In 2013 the Swedish Social Insurance Agency implemented a range of measures to strengthen information to parents and to develop services that make it easier to plan parental leave (Government of Sweden 2014 (b)).

Egalitarian gender roles of women and men have been reported to have long-term societal support in Sweden (Olah and Gähler, 2011). Swedish women have a higher labour market participation rate, are less economically dependent on their husbands, and do a smaller share of household work than women in most other countries. Nonetheless, women in Sweden still perform more household work than men, and take more days off from paid work for parental leave, care for sick children and sick relatives than men do (Swedish Women’s Lobby, 2016).

There are no restrictions for women to freely choose their place of residence (Freedom House, 2015).

There is no information that suggests that there are religious, customary or traditional practices that discriminate against women’s rights to be legal guardians over their children or freely choose where to live.

d) Divorce

Women have the same rights as men to initiate and finalise annulment of marriage and divorce (Äktenskapsbalk, 1987).

Women have the same rights as men to be appointed legal guardians of their children following divorce (Förlärdrabalk, 1949). On 1 July 2006, legislative amendments intended to strengthen the child’s perspective in cases concerning custody, residence and contact entered into force (Government of Sweden, 2014 (b)). The best interests of the child shall now be the decisive consideration for all decisions in these cases (Government of Sweden, 2014 (b)). It was also expressly provided that when assessing whether the parents shall have joint custody, the court shall pay
particular attention to the ability of the parents to cooperate in matters concerning the child (Government of Sweden, 2014 (b)).

e) Inheritance

Under the Inheritance Code, women have the same rights as men to inherit land and non-land assets and to make a will, both as daughters and as spouses (Ärvdabalk, 1958). The surviving spouse inherits before joint children or other successors. While the surviving spouse's inheritance rights may be overridden by a will, basic protection for the surviving spouse is provided for when there are separate children, other heirs or legatees who are entitled a share of the inheritance (Ärvdabalk, 1958). For informal unions, the surviving partner does not enjoy any rights of inheritance in the case of intestate succession (Commission of European Family Law, 2015)

Customary and religious law is not recognized as a valid source of law in Sweden. There is no information that indicates that there are customary, religious or traditional laws that promote discriminatory inheritance practices towards women and girls.

2. Restricted Physical integrity

a) Violence against women

Sweden ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention) in 2014. Sweden adheres to a dualistic system, and ratified conventions do not automatically become part of national law (Government of Sweden, 2011). International conventions are usually transformed into Swedish law by the enactment of equivalent provisions in an existing, or a new, Swedish statute (Government of Sweden, 2011). To this end, following the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, legal amendments, including relating to forced marriage and stalking, were introduced (European network of Legal Experts, 2016).

The Act on Violence against Women, amending the Penal Code, came into force in 1998 (Lag om ändring i Brottsbalken, 1998; European network of Legal Experts, 2016). The law establishes that the violence and abuse to which a woman is subjected should be assessed cumulatively and that each act of violence against the woman be taken into account. The maximum sentence for a violation of a woman’s integrity is six years of imprisonment (Brottsbalken, 1962). As of 1 July 2013, amendments to the Penal Code increased the minimum penalty for crimes of violation of integrity – covering various types of violent crimes, such as crimes against liberty and peace, sexual crimes, offences of inflicting damage and breaches of non-contact orders – and the scope of their application was widened to strengthen protection against repeated violations and to better facilitate criminal proceedings against perpetrators (Government of Sweden, 2014 (b)).

Survivors of violence have the right to health-care and protective services under the 2001 Social Services Act which establishes municipalities’ obligation to provide various measures to assist a victim of violence and his or her next of kin (Socialtjänstlag, 2001). An amendment to the Social Services Act that entered into force on 1 July 2007 clarified the responsibility of municipal social welfare committees for crime victims, especially women who are subjected to violence and children who witness violence. A 24/7, free of charge, telephone hotline (Kvinnofridslinjen) has been running since
In 2016, the Government presented its national strategy to prevent and combat gender-based violence, which covers all forms of violence, including physical, emotional, sexual violence, threats of violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage (Government of Sweden, 2016 (a)). The national action plan also addresses honour-related violence and oppression (Government of Sweden, 2016 (a)).

The plan includes a series of goals and benchmarks, including with regards to capacity-building and awareness raising, measures to strengthen protection for and support to women subjected to violence, measures to combat violence in same-sex relationships as well as measures that counteract destructive masculinity and notions of honour (Government of Sweden, 2016 (b)).

The Policy entered into force on 1 January 2017, and spans ten years (2017-2026) (Government of Sweden, 2016 (b)). To ensure practical implementation of the plan, the Government allocated SEK 600 million to an action plan containing new measures for 2017–2020, in addition to SEK 300 million in development funds to municipalities and county councils (Government of Sweden, 2016 (b)). The Plan foresees the establishment of a separate gender equality agency which as of 2018 oversees activities related to the elimination of gender-based violence (Government of Sweden, 2016 (b)).

In 2017, the Government announced that courses on gender-based violence would become a compulsory part of a range of University courses aimed at future professionals that encounter victims of violence, including doctors and lawyers (Government of Sweden, 2017 (b)).

b) Domestic violence

Domestic violence is an offence and punishable of up to 2 years’ imprisonment under the Penal Code (Brottsbalk, 1962). If the act of violence is considered particularly severe, increased penalties of up to ten years’ imprisonment apply (Brottsbalk, 1962). Special provisions apply in the case of domestic violence against women, which is addressed under a separate provision of the Penal Code (Brottsbalk, 1962). The provisions apply to former partners and members of the family in which the maximum punishment increases to six years (Brottsbalk, 1962).

In 2016, the Government presented its national strategy to prevent and combat gender-based violence which covers physical, emotional, sexual violence and threats of violence (Government of Sweden, 2016 (a)). The plan includes a series of goals and benchmarks, including capacity-building and awareness raising measures to strengthen protection for and support to women subjected to violence (Government of Sweden, 2016 (a)). The Policy entered into force on 1 January 2017, and spans ten years (Government of Sweden, 2016 (a)). The Government allocated SEK 600 million to ensure practical implementation of the plan, in addition to SEK 300 million in development funds to municipalities and county councils (Government of Sweden, 2016 (b)). The Plan foresees the establishment of a separate gender equality agency which as of 2018 will have the overall responsibility to oversee the work to end gender-based violence (Government of Sweden, 2016 (b)).
Significant discrepancies between municipalities have been reported in terms of accessibility and quality of services available to survivors (Amnesty International, 2016; National Board of Health and Welfare and the County Administrative Boards, 2014).

Despite these efforts, the level of gender-based violence against women and girls remains high (Amnesty International, 2016; Fundamental Rights Agency, 2014).

c) Rape

Sexual violence is a criminal offence under the Penal Code and carries a maximum penalty of six years’ imprisonment (Brottsbalk, 1962). Rape is defined as forcing another person to have sexual intercourse or to undertake or endure another sexual act by assault or other violence or by threat of a criminal act (Brottsbalk, 1962). The provision further establishes that a person who engages in sexual intercourse with a person or in a sexual act which is comparable to sexual intercourse by inappropriately exploiting that person, due to unconsciousness, sleep, severe fear, intoxication or other drug influence, illness, physical injury or mental disturbance, or who is in a particularly vulnerable situation in view of the circumstances, shall also be convicted of rape (Brottsbalk, 1962). The law provides for increased penalties for aggravated forms of rape and sexual violence (Brottsbalk, 1962).

Legal amendments relating to the crime of sexual violence entered into force on 1 July 2013 (Brottsbalk, 1962). Through the revisions, the crime of rape was widened further by replacing the term “helpless state” with “particularly vulnerable situation” (Government of Sweden, 2014 (b)). In addition, the term “serious fear” has been added to the list of examples given in the text of the law with a view to make it clearer that situations in which a victim responds passively to an attack are covered by the crime of rape (Government of Sweden, 2014 (b)).

Consent is neither explicitly defined, nor mentioned in the provisions on rape or any other provisions on crimes of sexual violence (Amnesty International, 2016). The legal definition of rape against persons aged 15 or above still links criminal liability to the ability to prove that the sexual act involved the use of violence, threat or inappropriate exploitation of a victim in a particular vulnerable situation (Amnesty International, 2016).

According to Amnesty International, the attrition rate – the filtering process whereby alleged offences do not come to the attention of the criminal system, either because they are not reported, or because cases are dropped at various stages of the legal process – remains high and recent studies suggest that only a small proportion of rapes are reported to the police (Amnesty International, 2016). Amnesty International has raised concerns that the assessment of the credibility of the victim’s version of events by the police is often influenced by prejudices and stereotypes (Amnesty International, 2016). It noted that the victim’s verbal skills and social status have been of decisive importance in this context. Young women, foreign women, women in prostitution, homeless women, women suffering from substance abuse or mental illness, and women who previously had reported rape face particular challenges (Amnesty International, 2016).

By a government decision in August 2014, an official Committee to examine how rape investigations are dealt with by the police and justice system was established with a mandate to recommend further measures to improve the legal process in rape cases (Amnesty International, 2016). The commission
was also tasked with the review of rape-related legislation, including considering a consent-based definition (Amnesty International, 2016). In October 2016, the Committee recommended the introduction of a consent based definition of rape, and liability for negligence for sexual offences (Amnesty International, 2016).

d) Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment is covered by the prohibition to discriminate under the Discrimination Act (Diskrimineringslag, 2008). Sexual harassment is prohibited in employment, education, health and medical care and social services, social insurance systems, national military and civilian service (Diskrimineringslag, 2008; Commission of Europe Network of Legal Experts, 2016). Cases of sexual harassment can be brought before the court (Diskrimineringslag, 2008; Commission of Europe Network of Legal Experts, 2016). Sexual harassment claims relating to employment may also be brought in front of a labour court (Diskrimineringslag, 2008; Commission of Europe Network of Legal Experts, 2016).

An EU-wide survey of the extent of violence against women (2014) suggests that Sweden has one of the highest prevalence rates of sexual harassment among EU countries (Fundamental Rights Agency, 2014).

e) Female genital mutilation

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is prohibited, including in cases where the victim has consented to the act and where FGM happened outside of Sweden (Lag med förbud mot könsstympning av kvinnor, 1982). FGM carries a maximum penalty of six years’ imprisonment. Aggravated forms of FGM increase the penalty to a maximum of ten years (Lag med förbud mot könsstympning av kvinnor, 1982). The law places a positive obligation for citizens to report to the police when they have knowledge about pending FGM and failure to do so is a punishable offence under the Penal Code (Lag med förbud mot könsstympning av kvinnor, 1982). Despite specific legislation on FGM, only two cases have been tried in courts in Sweden (ActionAid, 2017). A 'National Action Plan against FGM' was passed in 2003 but has, at the time of writing, expired and has not been replaced.

Sweden is one of the European countries with the largest population originating from FGM risk-areas (ActionAid, 2017). As of February 2012, there was no representative FGM prevalence study available in Sweden (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2013). Three studies have been done (in 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively) to assess the number of women who have been subjected to FGM (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2013). However, it has been noted that these studies were not representative and therefore do not provide reliable prevalence data on FGM for Sweden (European Institute for Gender Equality, 2013).

f) Abortion

Since 1975, women in Sweden have the legal right to an abortion during the first 18 weeks of pregnancy and may decide so without having to give a reason (Abortlag, 1975). After week 18, an abortion may be performed if there are special reasons for doing so, up to week 22 (Abortlag, 1975). In such cases, an investigation is conducted and the National Board of Health decides whether to allow the abortion or not (Abortlag, 1975).
A woman who marries or cohabits with a Swedish citizen is granted a temporary residence permit for the first two years, however, if the relationship ends during those two years the woman must leave the country (Amnesty International, 2016). This two-year rule has been found to influence women’s decision to not leave violent partners out of fear of being deported and consequently many do not report violence or contact women’s shelters for support (Amnesty International, 2016).

3. Restricted Access to productive and financial resources

a) Secure access to land and assets

Under the Constitution, women have the same rights as men to own land and non-land assets and may own, use, make decisions and use these as collateral on equal terms (Regeringsformen, 2010).

The Marriage Code provides that the marital property regime is one of deferred community property where each of the spouses own his/her property independently (Äktenskapsbalk, 1987), and that which is not considered individual property automatically falls within the scope of marital property (Äktenskapsbalk, 1987). Each spouse has the right to dispose freely of his and her property during the marriage (Äktenskapsbalk, 1987). In the event of divorce, the spouses maintain the right to their individual property and the shares in the marital property will be calculated to a nominal value of half of the net value of joint marital property (Äktenskapsbalk, 1987).

The Swedish Cohabitation Act regulates how the informal couple’s joint home and household goods will be distributed upon the termination of the relationship (Sambolag, 2003; Commission of European Family Law, 2015).

Sweden has not ratified ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (1989), despite recommendations from international human rights monitoring mechanisms to do so (Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 2013; Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2016; Human Rights Committee 2016; Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2016). The limited protection for the Sami people of their right to their lands and resources and the lack of concrete action, including the adoption of specific legislation, continues to be subject to criticism by the United Nation’s human rights mechanisms (UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2016).

b) Secure access to formal financial resources

The Discrimination Act prohibits discrimination based on gender in access to credit (Diskrimineringslag, 2008). There is no information to suggest that women's access to formal financial services, including credit, is an issue.

c) Workplace rights

Sweden has ratified ILO Conventions 100 (equal remuneration), 111 (discrimination (employment and occupation) and 156 (workers with family responsibilities) but has not acceded to ILO Conventions 183 (revision of the maternity protection convention) and 189 (domestic workers).
Discrimination on grounds of sex is mainly regulated in the Discrimination Act which mandates non-discrimination on the basis of sex in employment (Diskrimineringslag, 2008; Commission of Europe Network of Legal Experts, 2016). The prohibition to discriminate is broadly phrased and does not specifically address job advertisements, selection criteria, terms and conditions, promotions, assignments and termination of employment.

Equal pay for work of equal value is mandated (Diskrimineringslag, 2008; Commission of Europe Network of Legal Experts, 2016). Under the Discrimination Act, employers must carry out pay surveys every three years and companies with more than 25 employees are obliged to draw up an action plan for equal pay following the surveys (Diskrimineringslag, 2008; Commission of Europe Network of Legal Experts, 2016). In its reporting to the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations in 2014, Sweden indicated that no information on the number of action plans for equal pay was available.

In 1974, Sweden became the first country in the world to introduce gender-neutral parental benefits (Government of Sweden, 2016 (c)). Parents are eligible for 480 days of parental leave in total, including 420 days paid at 77.6% of earnings (Social Insurance Act, Chapter 12, Section 12, Chapter 12, section 19, Chapter 28, section 7). Of these, 90 days of leave are reserved for each parent exclusively and cannot be transferred. A ‘Gender Equality Bonus’ – introduced in 2008 – offers an economic incentive for families to divide parental leave more equally between the mother and the father (Duvander, Haas, Hwang, 2016). It however has not been effective (Swedish CEDAW Network, 2016, Försäkringskassan, 2011).

The Parental Leave Act establishes that an employer may not disfavour an employee for reasons related to parental leave with regard to pay or other terms of employment (Föräldraledighetsbalken, 1995).

The Discrimination Act establishes the Equality Ombudsman with a mandate to receive and investigate complaints based on sex discrimination in employment (Diskrimineringslagen, 2008). Sanctions – compensation for discrimination – are provided for by the Act (Government of Sweden, (a), 2016). The Equality Ombudsman can apply to the Board against Discrimination for an order imposing a financial penalty to companies that do not fulfil their obligation to take active measures (Government of Sweden, 2016 (a)). The Equality Ombudsman can also impose financial penalties on business operators that refuse to provide information about circumstances in their activities that is of importance for the supervision exercised by the Ombudsman (Government of Sweden, 2014 (b))

The Swedish Corporate Governance Board administers guidelines to be followed by publicly listed companies (Swedish CEDAW Network, 2015). A corporate governance code has been in effect since 2008 (European Commission, 2013). With its “comply or explain” guidelines, the Code has established an instrument to achieve a more gender balanced composition of the boards of public companies (European Commission, 2013). In 2014, a target of 40% female board members was established, to be achieved by 2020 (Swedish CEDAW Network, 2015). The share of women in decisive management positions has been increasing very slowly over the last decade (European Commission, 2013). The Swedish CEDAW Network has noted that the effectiveness of the Code is limited due to its non-binding nature (Swedish CEDAW Network, 2015).
The distribution of women and men across the sectors of the economy shows a strong gender segregation, which has been noted to hinder the development of the workforce's full potential (European Commission, 2013). According to the Swedish CEDAW Network, involuntary part-time work and insecure employment conditions in the form of hourly-pay, and temporary and short-term contracts remain more widespread among women and within female-dominated sectors, compounding the gender wage gap (Swedish CEDAW Network, 2016). Certain groups of women suffer discrimination based on two or three grounds at work (Swedish CEDAW Network, 2016). With regards to employment and income, in 2014, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities noted with concern the persistent gender gap between women with disabilities and men with disabilities, and recommended that the Government put in place measures to narrow the employment and pay gender gaps (Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2014).

4. Restricted Civil liberties

a) Citizenship rights

The Act on Swedish Citizenship provides women with equal rights as men to acquire, change, retain and confer their nationality to their children and, if married, to their spouses (Lag om Svenskt Medborgarskap, 2001).

The most recent amendment to the Act, which entered into force on 1 April 2015, establishes that a child with at least one parent with Swedish citizenship always acquires Swedish citizenship at birth (Government Offices of Sweden, 2015). In addition, whether a child's parents are married is no longer of any importance for the child’s acquisition of citizenship (Government of Sweden, 2015). Under the previous legislation, children born abroad to unmarried Swedish fathers did not automatically become Swedish citizens and had to register for citizenship (Government of Sweden, 2015).

There are no restrictions for women to travel outside of or return to the country, and there are no reports that indicate that women’s right to freedom of movement is restricted.

There is no information to suggest that birth registration is an issue in Sweden, and the Swedish legal and policy framework does not provide for any specific measures in this regard.

Neither the concept of multiple discrimination nor that of intersectional discrimination is expressly addressed by Swedish law (European Commission Network of Legal Experts, 2016).

b) Voting

The constitution outlines the general principles of equal and universal suffrage and the right of all citizens, women and men, to run and hold public office and be appointed to the judiciary (Regeringsformen, 2010).

c) Political voice

Women have the same rights as men to exercise public and political office in the executive and legislative. The Constitution establishes that public power shall be exercised with respect for the equal worth of all and the liberty and dignity of the private person (Regeringsformen, 2010).
The legal framework does not contain special measures to encourage women’s political participation. However, internal gender equality quotas are established voluntarily by many political parties and set forth in party statutes (OSCR/ODHIR, 2010).

In June 2014, the Government appointed an inquiry on democratic participation and influence (Government of Sweden, 2014 (b)). The inquiry had the mandate to review the prevailing conditions for elected representatives and present proposals for measures that could encourage more women and other underrepresented groups to choose to become involved as elected representatives (Government of Sweden, 2014 (b)). The inquiry was also tasked with presenting recommendations on how gender equality can be improved in municipal and county council executive boards (Government of Sweden, 2014 (b)).

In 2016, the CEDAW Committee expressed its appreciation of the consistently high rate of representation of women in political and public life (CEDAW Committee, 2016). It recommended that Sweden continue to take targeted measures to maintain its achievements in ensuring a high rate of representation of women in political and public life, including in the parliament, at the national, provincial and municipal levels (CEDAW Committee, 2016).

d) Access to justice

There is no information to suggest that women are discriminated against in terms of legal capacity or testifying in court.

The Ombudsman has the mandate to provide advice and other support so as to help enable anyone who has been subjected to discrimination to claim their rights, including through bringing a court action on behalf of an individual who consents to this (Diskrimineringslagen, 2008; European Commission Network of Legal Experts, 2016). The Ombudsman may also, within his or her sphere of activities, inform, educate, discuss and have other contacts with government agencies, enterprises, individuals and organizations, follow international developments and have contacts with international organizations and propose legislative amendments or other anti-discrimination measures to the Government (Diskrimineringslagen, 2008; European Commission Network of Legal Experts, 2016).

The Swedish CEDAW Network expressed concern over the revised anti-discrimination legislation whereby the then Gender Equality Ombudsman was merged with the Equality Ombudsman, which may have resulted in a weakening of the Governments’ operative gender equality work (Swedish CEDAW Network, 2016).

In 2016, the CEDAW Committee expressed concern over the complexity of the legal proceedings foreseen under the Discrimination Act, which may hamper access to justice for women victims of rights violations, in particular for victims belonging to disadvantaged groups (CEDAW Committee, 2016). The Committee urged Sweden to take all necessary measures to remove barriers for women victims of discrimination and enable them to effectively use the Discrimination Act to claim their rights, including by allocating adequate human, technical and financial resources (CEDAW Committee, 2016).
The Official Statistics Act (2001) and the Ordinance of official statistics (2001) regulate the collection of sex-disaggregated and gender data. Among other things, the Ordinance specifies that official statistics related to individuals are to be disaggregated by sex, unless there are special reasons for not doing so (Art. 14). The Ordinance concerning the Annual Reports and Budget Documentation (2000) furthermore specifies that all statistics related to individuals reported in the performance report of the annual reports of Swedish public authorities and agencies are to be disaggregated by sex, unless there are special reasons for not doing so (Art. 605).
Sources


Äktenskapsbalk 1987:230 (Marriage Code)


