

Sweden

Sweden is a Member State of the Council of Europe (COE) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at the regional and universal levels.

Regional: European System



As a Member of the COE, Sweden has ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and is subject to the jurisdiction of the [European Court of Human Rights](#). Sweden has ratified the Revised European Social Charter, and has authorized the [European Committee of Social Rights](#) to decide collective complaints against it. Its human rights policies and practices are also monitored by the [COE Commissioner for Human Rights](#), who identifies gaps in human rights protection, conducts country visits, engages in dialogue with States, and prepares thematic reports and advice.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Sweden to the European Court of Human Rights. For example, the Court held that the State's deportation of a family to Russia would breach its obligations to prevent degrading punishment and would violate their right to life. See ECtHR, [I v. Sweden](#), no. 61204/09, ECHR 2014, Judgment of 20 January 2014. Additionally, the Court may grant [interim measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Sweden.

As a State party to the Revised European Social Charter, Sweden must submit regular reports to the European Committee of Social Rights on its implementation of the Charter's provisions. The Committee has also decided collective complaints against Sweden. For example, the Committee considered national legislation that inhibited the right to collective bargaining and to freedom of association. See ECSR, [LO and TCO v. Sweden](#), Complaint No. 85/2012, Merits, 3 July 2013.

Sweden is a [party](#) to the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- European Convention on Human Rights and several of its [protocols](#)
- Revised European Social Charter
- COE Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
- COE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
- European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities



United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Sweden is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Sweden's policies and practices are monitored by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of five treaty bodies.

Sweden has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Sweden has submitted reservations that modify its obligations under the [ICCPR](#) and [ICESCR](#).

Sweden has also ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty, and optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Sweden has a duty to submit **State reports** to the UN treaty body associated with each UN human rights treaty Sweden has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis and describe the steps taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Sweden has also ratified [optional protocols](#) and made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR, CAT, CEDAW, CRPD, and CERD. Additionally, certain UN treaties contain **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Sweden has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CEDAW, and CRPD.

In March 2001, Sweden extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any such mandate holders are welcome to conduct visits in Sweden. For example, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women went on a mission to Sweden in 2006 and published a visit [report](#) in 2007.

For more information on Sweden's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/ENACARRegion/Pages/SEIndex.aspx>.

Last updated: February 2020