



**Statement by Mr. Christer Hallerby,
State Secretary at the Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality,
Head of Delegation of Sweden at the UN Commission on the Status of
Women**

Mr./Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

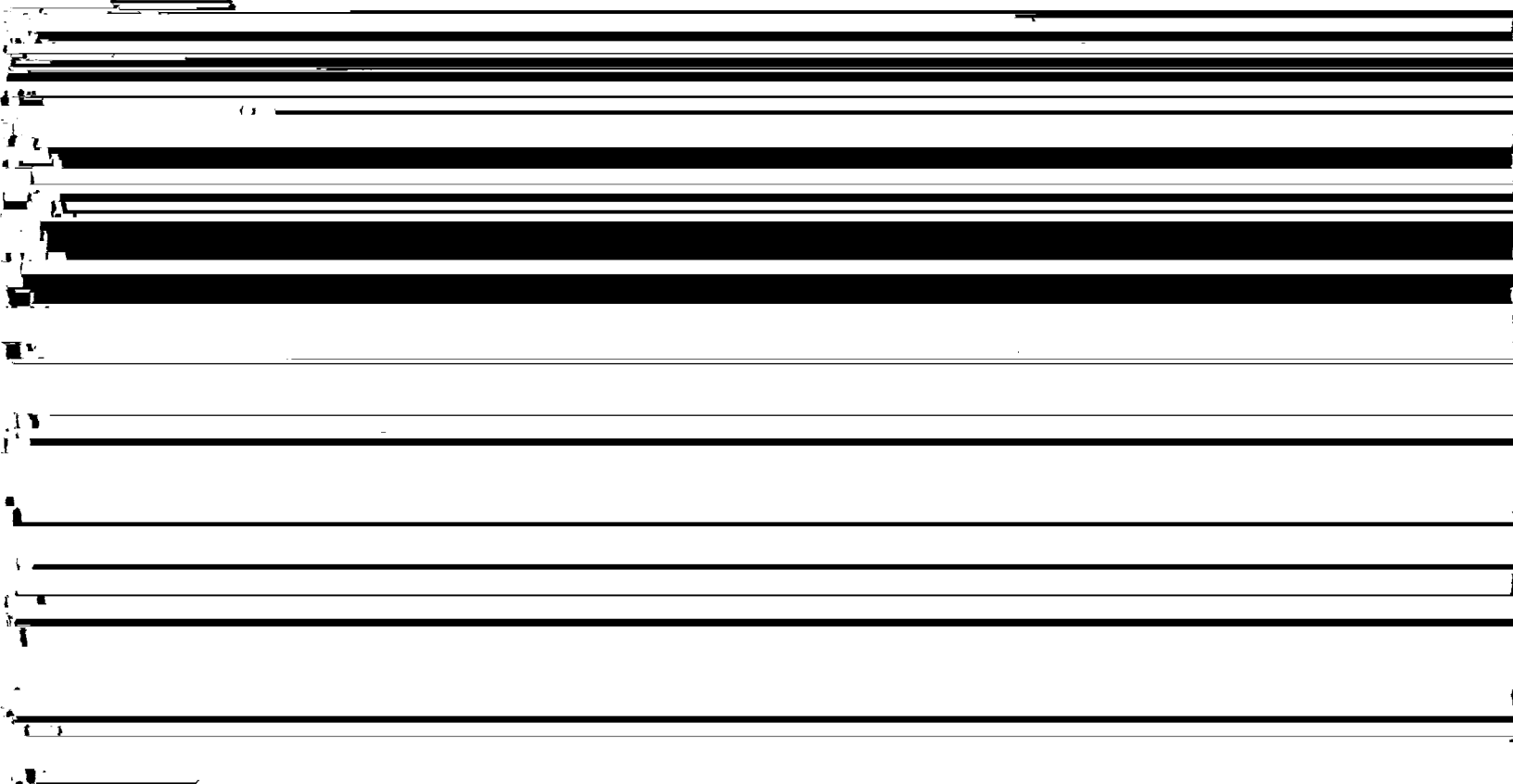
I am honoured to speak here today and I would like to commend the Commission on its important work. Sweden aligns itself with the statement made by the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

Priorities shift – especially during an economic downturn. Everything seems to be about the economy. Human rights seem less important. This is not acceptable. Human Rights must not be neglected anywhere, anytime and under no circumstances.

To strive for equality between women and men is an obligation for any society. But today, while the headlines mostly are about financial crisis and economic recession, we

must remind ourselves and others, that gender equality is also a necessity for sound and sustainable economic development.

Despite progress, gender *inequality* is still a fact in all our countries. Despite the fact that most countries have prohibitive legislation, domestic violence is widely spread. Despite the fact that most countries have ratified the



young girls are still severely restricted.

Mr./Madam Chairperson,

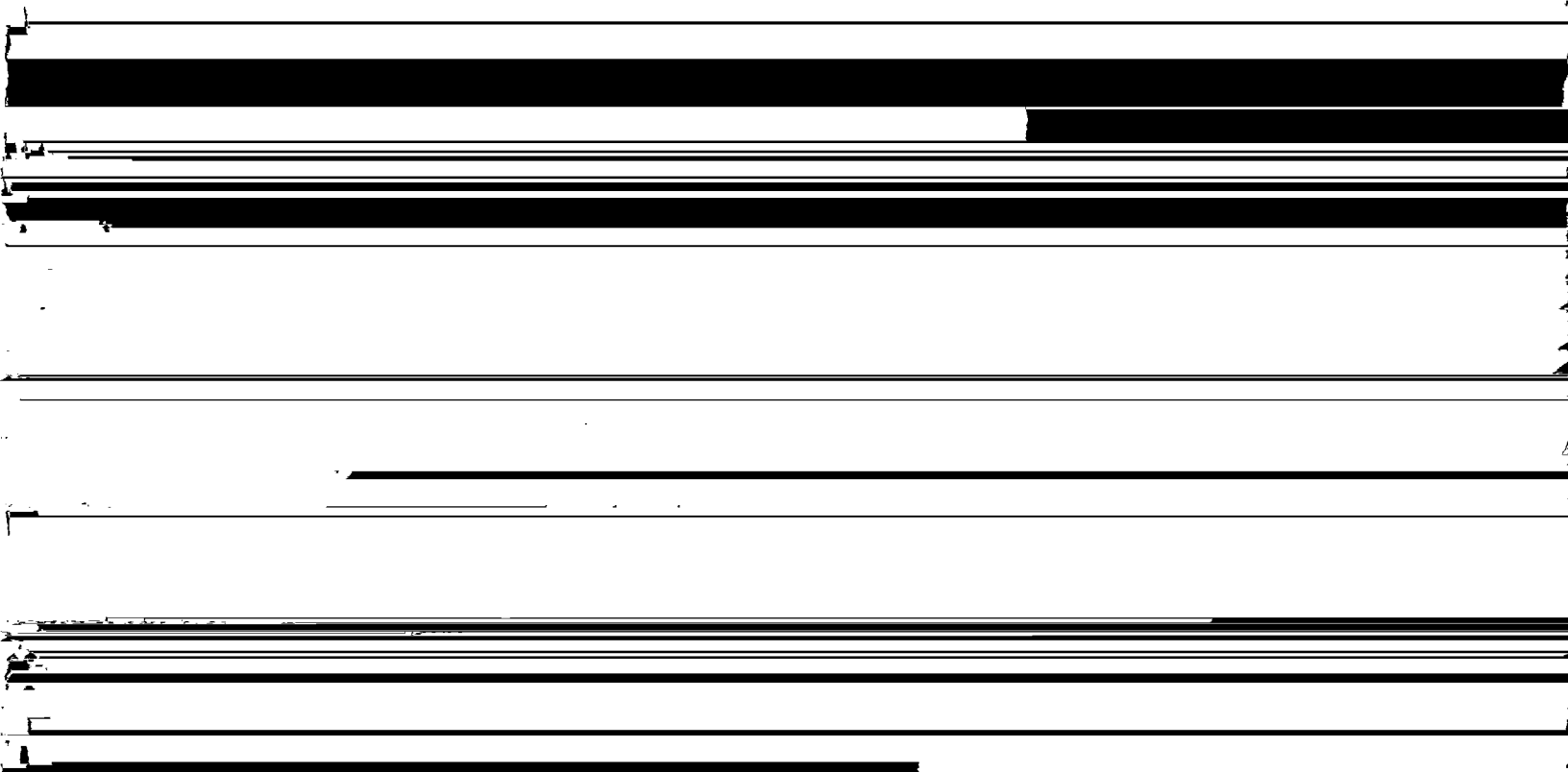
Women's entry into the labour force has meant a rethinking about gender roles. If we want both men and women to

participate in working life

world. The bonus is a tax relief that is paid to parents who share their paid parental leave more equally.

Mr./Madam Chairperson,

All forms of discrimination are obstacles to democracy and development. The basic principle is simple: every person, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, disability,



Sweden will continue to strive for the rights of all girls and women as well as of all men and boys to sexuality education and to sexual and reproductive health and rights and access to care and services, including contraception. Women need to

pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, in particular HIV. Women must have access to childbirth attended by skilled health personnel, as well as to safe, legal abortions.

Ms. M. J. ...