

Denna rapport är preliminär.

The material posted here was provided to the Division for the Advancement of Women by the Government in response to the Secretary-General's Questionnaire on Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. It has been made available in electronic format from the form received. In cases where it was not possible to reproduce charts and tables supplied, these can be obtained by contacting the Division for the Advancement of Women directly.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Women and poverty	3
Education and training of women	4
Women and health	6
Violence against women	7
Women and armed conflict	13
Women and the economy	13
Women in power and decision-making	17
Institutional mechanisms and mainstreaming	18
Human rights of women	20
Women and the media	21
Women and the environment	21
The girl-child	22

Introduction

A. Women and poverty

- In 1997, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs initiated a project for the integration (mainstreaming) of a gender perspective into Sweden's development cooperation, *inter alia* by supporting training and skills development among the Ministry's personnel. The project continues.
- Through measures such as comprehensive in-house training of senior officials and desk officers, both Sida (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs have built up knowledge levels in regard to equality in development cooperation.
- Sida has compiled Country Gender Profiles, one for each of Sweden's partners in development, in order to analyse the situation of women. In 1997 Sida presented an Action Programme for equality in development cooperation for the period 1997-2001, comprising an experience analysis, policy and an action plan.
- The Swedish Government communication "The Rights of the Poor", presented in 1997, clearly points out that the majority of the poor are women and that measures to combat poverty must take the often feminine face of poverty as a point of departure when problems arise.

- Through a number of activities in development cooperation at large and in efforts to help eradicate poverty, Sweden is addressing not only poverty but all twelve areas of concern in

ment between teachers and students and between students. The possibility of implementing disciplinary measures in cases of sexual harassment was also introduced in the Act.

- In 1998 the Equal Opportunities Ombudsman initiated a project in cooperation with two compulsory schools in order to promote equality and prevent sexual harassment at school. Both teachers and pupils are educated in questions of gender equality and gender-based harassment and the schools have been given the task of preparing an action plan to provide against sexual harassment against both pupils and teachers. Parents are also involved in the project. With the project as a base, the Ombudsman will compile a handbook on how to prevent and provide against sexual harassment at school.
- In 1996 the Government appointed two parliamentary committees, one for compulsory schools and one for upper secondary schools, with the task of following and evaluating internal work and development in schools. The two committees focused to a great extent on the gender perspective in their work. The committees were not required to propose new rules etc. but submitted two reports to the Government in 1997. The findings are under consideration in the Cabinet.
- The Government has given the National Agency for Education the task of promoting and evaluating equality in schools. The National Agency for Education is currently preparing a strategy for equality issues and is working on a comprehensive project which, *inter alia*, aims to promote the development of equal opportunities in schools and, specifically, to ensure that equality issues are considered in connection with the Agency's evaluation and development work.
- The Government has taken the initiative to implement a five-year adult education programme with 100,000 new places. The adult education programme, which commenced on 1 July 1997, is especially important for women and men in fields affected by economic and structural changes, e.g. within health care and the manufacturing industries. The programme will also actively contribute to breaking the gender imbalance within the labour market.
-

- One of the priorities in the Government's gender equality work is the efforts to break sex-typed choices of education. Efforts to this aim will be continued.
- The Government has allocated funds to the University College Administration in order to develop courses on gender equality as part of the training in law schools and schools of economics.
- The University College Administration will in soon be required to follow up and evaluate the new regulations stipulating that questions of gender equality and violence against women should be highlighted in the training for certain professions and subjects, for example, teaching, law, medicine and social care. These regulations are a consequence of the Government Bill on Violence against Women, presented to Parliament in the spring of 1998 (see below).
- The Government's initiative to implement a five-year adult education programme with 100,000 new places continues. The adult education programme, which commenced on 1 July 1997, is especially important for women and men in fields affected by economic and structural changes, e.g. within health care and the manufacturing industries. The programme will also actively contribute to breaking the gender imbalance on the labour market.

C. Women and health

- As a consequence of the Government Bill on Violence against Women (see below), the Social Welfare Act has been supplemented with a new provision which entails that the social welfare services must act to provide women, who are or have been exposed to violence or other abuse in the home, with help and support in order to change their situation. The National Board of Health and Welfare has also been required to draw up general guidelines for social work in the light of the new provision.
- Also as a consequence of the Government Bill on Violence against Women, the term "genital mutilation" has replaced that of "circumcision" in Swedish legislation. The serious nature of the offence means that fines have been removed from the scale of punishment. The scale has also been made more severe by making imprisonment for at most four years the general sanction instead of the present two years. For the gross offences the minimum punishment is two years, instead of the previous one year. Preparation and conspiracy to commit the offence, together with neglecting to report or reveal genital mutilation have also become punishable.
- The Government has charged the National Board for Health and Social Welfare with the task of initiating projects to prevent genital mutilation. The Government has allocated SEK 3 million for this aim.
- As regards health, one priority issue is reproductive health and rights, both in a bilateral context and in the follow-up to the world conferences in Cairo and Beijing. In 1998, Sweden had extensive discussions on methods for gender mainstreaming in health analyses and

operations, and Sweden provided extra funds in order to promote a more active role for the World Health Organization (WHO) in this area. In the autumn of 1998, funds were given to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for a study through the International Reproductive Rights Research Action Group (IRRRAG) aimed at demonstrating different views among women and men regarding reproductive issues such as the right to have - or not to

perpetrator (*gross violation of a woman's integrity*). In short, *gross violation of a woman's integrity*, means that if a man commits certain criminal acts (assault, unlawful threat or coercion, sexual or other molestation, sexual exploitation, etc.) against a woman to whom he is or has been married or with whom he is or has been cohabiting, he shall be sentenced for gross violation of the woman's integrity, instead of for the crime that each of the acts comprise. A necessary condition for sentencing for the new offence is that the acts were part of a repeated violation of the woman's integrity and were suited to seriously damage her self-confidence. The punishment is imprisonment for at least six months and at most six years. Thereby, the new crime makes it possible for the courts to increase the penal value of the above-mentioned acts, in situations where they are part of a process which constitutes a violation of integrity, which is often the case with domestic violence. It will thus also be possible, more easily than with present legislation, to take the **entire** situation of the abused woman into account. The new crime does not exclude that the perpetrator simultaneously can be indicted for, for instance, aggravated assault or rape. The new provision entered into force on 1 July 1998 and a number of judgements have already been pronounced on the basis of the provision. Several more judgements are pending.

- Under certain circumstances, neglecting to report or otherwise reveal gross sexual offences (rape, aggravated rape, aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor or grave procuring) has been made punishable.
- Obtaining casual sexual services (prostitution) against payment is prohibited by a special act. The punishment for this offence is fines or imprisonment for up to six months. Attempted offences are also made punishable. The offence comprises all forms of sexual services, whether they are purchased on the street, in brothels, in so-called massage-institutes, etc. This new prohibition marks Sweden's attitude towards prostitution. Prostitution is not a desirable social phenomenon. The Government considers, however, that it is not reasonable to punish the person who sells a sexual service. In the majority of cases at least, this person is a weaker party who is exploited by those who want only to satisfy their sexual drives. It is also important to motivate prostitutes to seek help to leave their way of life. They should not run the risk of punishment because they have been active as prostitutes. By prohibiting the purchase of sexual services, prostitution and its damaging effects can be counteracted more effectively than hitherto. The Government is however of the view that criminalisation can never be more than a supplementary element in the efforts to reduce prostitution and cannot be a substitute for broader social exertions. The Government estimates that the new law will mean increased costs for the police and therefore allocated SEK 10 million from January 1999, when the prohibition entered into force.
- The rules concerning sexual harassment in the Equal Opportunities Act have been strengthened. First, a definition, as follows, has been inserted into the Act: *Sexual harassment means such unwanted conduct based on sex or unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, that violates the integrity of the employee at work.* Improvements have also been made to the act to make it fully evident that every employer is obliged to take active measures to prevent and hinder an employee from being exposed to sexual harassment. The employer must make clear in a general staff policy statement that sexual harassment involving employees cannot in any way be tolerated. This policy must be made known to the employees. It is equally important that routines are devised for dealing with alleged or factual sexual harassment. The employer who does not fulfil his or her obligations runs the risk of having to do so under the penalty of a fine. Furthermore, an employer who receives

information that an employee has been exposed to sexual harassment by another employee must investigate the circumstances surrounding the alleged harassment. Where necessary, the employer must take such steps as can be reasonably required to prevent continued sexual harassment. An employer who fails to fulfil these obligations is liable to pay damages to an injured employee. Damages are payable for the violation which the neglect of required measures occasioned. Already under the present Equal Opportunities Act, an employer may not subject an employee to harassment because the latter has rejected the employers sexual advances or lodged a complaint about the employer for sex discrimination. In cases where the employer is the one sexually harassing an employee, the rules in the Penal Code concerning molestation or sexual molestation are applicable.

- By a special decision in December 1997, the Government charged certain authorities and administrations to undertake common tasks concerning violence against women. The aim is to give concrete expression to the authority's responsibility and duty to take appropriate

search, however, still lacks a gender perspective. The National Council for Crime Prevention is a governmental expert body, which works as a centre for research and development in the field of crime prevention within the judiciary and is also responsible for official crime statistics. The Council is now charged, *inter alia*, with developing research on violence against women as well as with incorporating a gender perspective into its present research and development work. This means, *inter alia*, that the Council must set aside resources for development of methodologies, and arrange for an increased exchange of information with those conducting women's studies.

- The National Police Board is charged with making an inventory of efforts by the police concerning violence against women and reporting them to the Government. The inventory will also include an investigation into the extent to which correct and good information is provided for victims of crime.
- The National Council for Crime Prevention has been charged with making a study of the practical and technical conditions necessary for electronic monitoring of men who breach a restraining order. The increased risk of detection which such a form of monitoring implies, can have a deterrent effect as well as providing greater security for the woman concerned. It would also mean a limitation of the freedom of movement of the perpetrator, instead of, as is often the case today, the woman bearing the responsibility of reporting the breach to the police. However, the setting up of such a project necessitates having reliable technology and that the surveillance can be carried out practically. The National Council for Crime Prevention submitted its report to the Government in March 1999.
- The National Board of Health and Welfare is charged to undertake development work on questions concerning violence against women and on prostitution. The work will seek to facilitate the expansion of competence and improvement of methods within the social and health services. Included in this task is the initiation and support of collaborative projects and of the dissemination of information and the following of international developments. For the above mentioned tasks, the Board will be allocated extra financial support for the period 1998-2000. Thereafter, the tasks are to become a part of the Board's routine work.
- Increased attention must be given to those men who commit acts of violence against women. The National Prison and Probation Administration is therefore charged, in consultation with the National Board for Health and Social Welfare, to *survey* existing methods of treatment for men sentenced for violent offences against women. Consideration shall also be given to the need to provide more adequately for such treatment. In order to ascertain what methods are suitable and effective, the Government will also initiate and fund *evaluation* of existing methods of treatment for men who commit violent offences against women. In the forthcoming evaluation it will be especially important to direct attention to available international experience. Knowledge of the causes of male violence against women which has been acquired by women's studies in Sweden and other countries must obviously be taken into account in such an evaluation.
- The question of trafficking in women for the purposes of their sexual exploitation, has recently been on the agenda of the European Union. It has been recommended that all member states appoint a national rapporteur on this question, in accordance with a declaration signed jointly by the Ministers of Justice and the Ministers of Equality Affairs. The National Police Board has been assigned the task of being the national rapporteur for Swe-

den. The National Police Board shall *inter alia* collect information on the extent of trafficking in women in Sweden, as well as between Sweden and other countries, including outside the EU, and shall consider how such trafficking can be prevented and counteracted. It shall report regularly to the Government.

- The Government considers it important to support preventive work among men. In recent years, several men's organisations have been created in Sweden for the purpose of helping and supporting men running the risk of or having committed violent crimes against women. Among these, emergency centres, run by men for men, and a Male Network against Male Violence, can be mentioned. As a result of the Bill on Violence against women the Government has allocated financial support (SEK 1.5 million) to these organisations for projects with the aim of further developing ways and means, including information, to men about violence against women.
 - It is especially important to reach out to young people on questions concerning violence against women. Funding (SEK 2 million) is therefore available for projects that relate to, and are initiated by, young people and their organisations on issues related to violence against women.
 - Organisations working on behalf of immigrant and disabled women have also received financial support (SEK 1 million) for projects and other efforts in this field.
 - In the future, female victims must be receive better support and understanding from the professional groups with which they come into contact in various ways. This can be achieved if personnel receive training in matters concerning violence against women, the mechanisms behind this violence and on ways and means to prevent it and support women
- ag(

funding of SEK 3 million for 1998. The Centre has also received SEK 1 million in additional funding from the Parliament.

- A Parliamentary Law Committee on Sexual Offences has been established. The Committee is to undertake a complete review of the provisions on sexual offences in the Penal Code. A certain number of recently rendered judgements concerning rape and sexual exploitation of young women have attracted much attention. They have given rise *inter alia* to questions about where the boundary lies between different offences in the chapter on sexual crimes in the Penal Code. The Committee will also examine to what extent the offence of rape should focus on consent rather than force. The provisions on rape in relation to children will be reviewed. Furthermore, the Committee will consider whether there is a need for penal provisions on trafficking in human beings, despite the fact that such trafficking may already be a crimi.8(prt su)-10udo rathact thp3.8(whe)4.9(e)4.9(s)0jthe-4.423.7156 Tm0 Tc0 Tw()Tj/TT6

- Sida (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) continues to support

of 1998. An additional increase has been proposed by the Government for 1999 for the Ombudsman's work concerning pay differentials.

- On 17 June 1998, the Government appointed a Committee on Recruitment of Staff for Health Care and Social Services. The background is the altered situation in the labour market for staff in health care and social services and the new resources allocated to the municipalities by the Government. The task of the Committee, which is headed by the Minister of Industry, Employment and Communications, and comprises ministers and representatives of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities, the Federation of County Councils and the trade unions affected, is to survey educational requirements and propose measures to facilitate the recruitment of staff for the health-care and social-services sector. The Committee is charged with attaching particular importance to reducing the gender gap in this sector, i.e. by increasing the proportion of men. The Committee's remit also includes analysing working hours and the impact of work organisation on scope for recruiting staff. Today, full-time employment is no longer regarded as the norm in the health-care and social-services sector which, *inter alia*, has resulted in a gender gap. The Committee's work is to be concluded by 31 July 1999.
- For 1998, as for previous years, the National Labour Market Board received SEK 30 million for its work to combat gender segregation in the labour market. These funds are distributed to the county employment boards. The National Audit Office's report to the Government on how labour-market policy programmes help to reduce gender segregation in the labour market has added to knowledge of the subject. At the Umeå County Employment Board, a pilot project is currently under way to incorporate a gender equality perspective into the agency's work. This project is to be completed and reported on early in 2000. The intention is for the lessons thereby learnt to be disseminated nationwide.
- Women and people with an immigrant background are underrepresented among those who start their own businesses. In 1997, special inputs directed at these groups were therefore introduced. The basic rule is that the business start-up grant is provided for six months. This can now be extended to a maximum of 12 months for people with an immigrant background and women. The reform for people with an immigrant background was introduced on 1 January 1998, and it has not yet been possible to assess the effects. Scope for extension of grants for women was introduced on 1 July 1997. The outcome is favourable: 40 per cent of those involved in the scheme when the reform was introduced were women, but by the end of May 1998 the corresponding share was 48 per cent.
- Besides the scope for extension of business start-up grants, several measures have been

- The Government is considering how to follow up the work and proposals made by the Commission on the Distribution of Economic Power and Financial Resources between Women and Men that submitted its final report to the Government in December 1997. Efforts to disseminate the findings of the commission have already started.
- A preliminary study on a gender equality labelling system was presented to the Govern-

- During 1996, the Government granted funds to the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and the Federation of County Councils for a project conducted in three municipalities and two county councils aimed at stimulating, *inter alia*, increased female representation on municipal committees and boards. The experience gained from this project will be disseminated throughout the country and an evaluation will be presented in the spring of 1999.

Women and men as managers in the public and private sectors

-

- Since 1994 the Government has organised training in gender equality for ministers, state secretaries, heads of department and other civil servants within the Government Offices, and also for other civil servants in the public sector. The aim is to increase the knowledge of women and men's conditions in society and to highlight individual responsibility in integrating a gender perspective in all areas. In order to respond to the increased demand for these training courses, the Government is training more future instructors.
- In order to support the different ministries in their efforts to integrate a gender perspective into all proposals and decisions, the Division for Gender Equality has in 1998 elaborated a simple method of gender analysis. This instrument is currently being tested by several divisions in different ministries.
- In late 1997, the Government set up a working group charged with the task of speeding up and facilitating the development of methods for gender equality work. The working group, which will continue its tasks for at least two years, is chaired by the State Secretary for Equality Affairs. The group includes representatives of the public sector at central and regional levels.
- In 1998, special efforts were taken, *inter alia*, through a course to, in the development6858 -2.42w.r

•

- Many of the measures taken domestically in this field are described under other headings in this report. For example, the work to prevent violence against women, measures in regard to the Equal Opportunities Act, legal provisions relating to women in education, etc. are dealt with in the respective chapters.
- Over the years, Sweden has worked actively to promote the integration of women's human rights into the United Nations human rights programmes and for the full enjoyment by women worldwide of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) supports projects and other measures to strengthen the human rights of women, including issues related to female genital mutilation, within the framework of Sweden's development cooperation.
- In 1998 Sida published a handbook on CEDAW, the UN Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. The handbook (by Dr Katarina Tomasevski) explains the convention in the context of other human rights instruments and also gives an update of how some thirty countries have actually lived up to the convention, according to their own reports and to comments made by the CEDAW Committee. In several cases the Committee has recommended countries to take action to end violence against women, to secure land rights of women and so on. The booklet has been disseminated widely for use in bilateral development dialogues and in October 1998 it was presented by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs at a UN/DAC seminar in Rome on a rights-based approach to gender equality.

Continued measures

- For domestic measures, see the other chapters in this report.
- Sweden continues its work to actively promote and protect women's full enjoyment of human rights throughout the world, in international fora as well as bilaterally.
- Sweden continues to closely monitor reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and to object to such reservations that run contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention, as stipulated in international law.
- Sweden supports efforts to strengthen the CEDAW Committee, and will participate in efforts to render the Committee's work more effective.
- Sweden continues to support the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.
-

J. Women and the media

- As mentioned in Sweden's last report to the UN World Conference on Women, Parliament decided on new legislation concerning radio and television in 1996. According to the Radio and Television Act, the public service broadcasting companies (radio and television) shall ensure that their broadcasting activities as a whole are characterised by the fundamental democratic constitutional concepts and principles concerning the equality of people and the individual's freedom and integrity. This includes, *inter alia*, an obligation to promote equality between women and men.
- The Government has in recent years supported efforts to promote equality between women and men in the media. Financial support to various projects has been given. The Government has also allocated funds to departments of journalism, communication and mass communication at Swedish universities, in order to stimulate more active efforts to integrate a gender perspective into the activities.
- With EU-funding the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation conducted a project entitled *Editorial Broadcasting Teams, Women and Men Journalists and Trainers* in cooperation with Danish and Greek counterparts. The project aimed at raising gender awareness within the world of broadcasting and focused on training to ensure that women are not left behind in the

- A national coordinator for further support for local Agenda 21 activities has been appointed. A special reference group - a Forum for Ecological Adjustment - has been appointed to assist the coordinator. Its activities will be closely linked to local investment programmes.

Continued measures

- As regards sustainable development, in particular, resource and water management, Sweden continues to strengthen the gender perspective in analysis and operations, *inter alia*, by providing special funds in these areas.
- The Government intends to continue its work on local investment programmes. The programmes for which grants have already been made will be monitored and evaluated on an annual basis. The results of the evaluation will be of great interest to many parties, and the Government considers it important that measures should be taken to disseminate information about evaluations.

L. The girl-child

- It is a criminal offence to produce child pornography with intent to circulate the material. In December 1997 the Government presented a proposal prohibiting virtually all association with child pornography images, including the possession of such images. Making possession a criminal offence will necessitate amendments to the Constitution. In the spring of 1998 Parliament adopted the Government's draft amendments to the Constitution as a dormant proposal.
- On 1 January 1999 new legislation on extended criminal liability for association with child pornography entered into force. Only ordinary statute law (mainly the Penal Code, Chapter 16, Section 10 a) is now applicable to child pornography. Virtually all association with child pornography images, including possession, constitutes a criminal offence. The legislation applies to all kinds of media and therefore also to the electronic environment. In addition, import and export of child pornography are prohibited. The definition of child pornography is a depiction of a child in a pornographic picture. There is no demand that the picture depicts a child involved in a sexual activity of any kind. Also a picture that, in any other way, depicts a child in a way likely to appeal to the sexual urge, is regarded as child pornography. This can, for example, be the case in nudist films when close-ups of nude children are explicit.

A person committing a child pornography offence shall be sentenced to imprisonment for at most two years or, if the crime is of a petty nature, to a fine or imprisonment for at most six months. A person committing an aggravated child pornography offence shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than six months and at most four years. In judging whether the offence is aggravated, special consideration shall be given e.g. to whether it has been conducted on a large scale, for profit reasons or whether the children in question have been subjected to particularly ruthless treatment.

However, punishment for child pornography offence shall not be imposed if the act, in view of the circumstances, is defensible. This exception basically applies to research and formation of public opinion purposes. It will therefore be possible for e.g. journalists and NGOs to possess child pornography for the sole purpose of formation of public opinion. According to the new legislation punishment for attempt to commit a child pornography offence that is not of a petty nature or attempt to commit or preparation of an aggravated child pornography offence shall be imposed. Punishment shall also be imposed for instigation of or accessory (aiding and abetting) to any child pornography offence.

- The National Criminal Investigation Department is responsible for police work in cases of sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography. The Special Objects Unit, which is responsible to the Criminal Intelligence Service, deals with such cases. This division informs Interpol when an investigation reveals data with international ramifications. The National Criminal Investigation Department has issued an action plan for international police work on child sex offences and child pornography.
- According to a law on criminal liability for persons who maintain electronic bulletin boards, the supplier of such a service has an obligation to prevent further distribution of a message if it is obvious that the message contains child pornography. This law entered into force on 1 May 1998

-

