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The Ombudsman for children in Sweden's Submission: Report on the rights of the child and inclusive social protection - Human Rights Council Resolution 49/20

The Ombudsman for Children in Sweden is a government agency established in 1993 representing children's rights and interests on the basis of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Ombudsman is an independent national institution based on the Paris Principles that monitors the implementation of the Convention in municipalities, regions and government agencies. The Ombudsman identifies weaknesses in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, proposes changes to laws and ordinances, collects and disseminates knowledge and information about the situation of children and advocates and participates in the public debate.

1. In answering question number 2 the Ombudsman for Children in Sweden would like point out increasing lack of equity/equality as one of the main challenges to address when it comes to children's enjoyment of inclusive social protection.
2. The Ombudsman for Children in Sweden emphasized this in a Supplementary Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in August 2022.¹
3. Many children and youth in Sweden grow up in a safe, healthy and positive environment and have access to social protection. Swedish laws concerning social protection also to a great extent set high standards and are improved regularly. However, Sweden faces major challenges in implementing the laws and there are significant differences in the realization of the right to social protection depending on where in Sweden you live, which is linked to factors such as segregation, socio-economy and regional conditions. There are also significant differences depending on personal circumstances such as country of birth and parents' educational background. Furthermore, the differences seem to increase.
4. There are for example differences when it comes to the right to education, the right to health and the right to support.
5. Much of the decision-making in Sweden, and thereby also implementation of law, takes place in regions and municipalities. This in many ways constitutes a challenge in achieving equality/equity in social protection.

¹ The Ombudsman for Children in Sweden, 2022, Supplementary Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (https://www.barnombudsmannen.se/globalassets/dokument/barnkonventionen/fns-barnrattskommitt/2022/supplementary_report_sweden_final_2208015.pdf).

6. For more information and examples please see the above-mentioned Supplementary Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

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