



**Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden**

*Department for International Law, Human Rights
and Treaty Law*

**Progress report on the implementation of the World
Programme for Human Rights Education – input from
Sweden**

In response to the letter from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights dated 10 February 2012, Sweden is pleased to provide the following information:

Increasing awareness of human rights is a constant priority of the Swedish Government's human rights work. A number of measures have been taken to expand human rights training for the judiciary and public officials at all levels as a result of Sweden's two National Action Plans for Human Rights¹. One example is that human rights training is now mandatory for all new officials within the Government Offices. Another example is the production of a handbook on human rights in municipal activities. The new Education Act² puts an even greater emphasis than before on human rights as one of the fundamental values on which the school system is founded. The Act and the national curriculum both stipulate that everyone who works in schools is obliged to promote respect for human rights and to very clearly disassociate themselves from anything that conflicts with these values.³

In 2002 the Government established a special human rights website www.manskligarattigheter.se. Information posted on the website

¹ In May 2006 the Swedish parliament adopted 'A National Action Plan for Human Rights 2006–2009'.¹ This was Sweden's second National Action Plan for Human Rights.

² *Den nya skollagen - för kunskap, valfrihet och trygghet*, Ds 2009:25 (Chapter I, Sections 1–2).

³ In 2009, the National Agency for Education was assigned a task concerning the fundamental values of the school system. The task includes informing schools about work done to promote the fundamental values and research and surveys done in the area.

includes, for example, key human rights conventions translated into Swedish, Sweden's reports to various international monitoring mechanisms and concluding observations from such bodies.⁴ It also includes all judgments delivered by the European Court of Human Rights in cases brought against Sweden. The website has been made accessible for people with disabilities and certain sections have been translated into indigenous and minority languages. The website is visited by app. 35 000 visitors every month. The government has also established a special website on the rights of persons belonging to national minorities www.minoritet.se.

Two governmental agencies, the Discrimination Ombudsman and the Forum for Living History, are tasked by the Government to undertake measures to increase knowledge and awareness of human rights, both among the general public, and among specific communities, such as the Roma.

In 2011, the Government tasked a special inquiry to study and make recommendations on how the Government's work against xenophobia and related forms of intolerance can be strengthened. The results of the inquiry will be presented to the Government in October 2012.

⁴ A compilation of all concluding observations from UN treaty bodies was produced this year. These publications are available to the public free of cost.