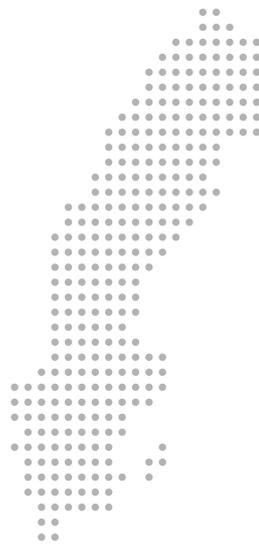


# Sweden

Women in decision-making: **2.14/5**  
Socio-economic position of women: **2.35/5**  
Violence against women: **2.5/5**



## Highlights

**54%**

women senior ministers

**43%**

women in parliament

**94%**

children between 3 and school age in formal care

**100%**

of dependent elderly receive formal care

**15.8%**

gender pay gap

**21.6%**

poverty rate for women over 65

NAP on all forms of violence against women with a gender perspective

## UNDERSTANDING SWEDEN

Political will for the realisation of gender equality is strong in Sweden. In the sphere of political decision-making, Sweden joins its neighbour Finland in presenting a consistently strong performance for women parliamentarians and ministers. Legislation to promote parity does not exist. However, Sweden has effective parity in national, regional and local parliaments.

Gaps remain however in the share of paid and unpaid work. While women are well-integrated into the labour market in Sweden, 40.4% work part-time, as compared to 14% of men.

Women's working time is influenced by the number of children and the age of the child, but men's working time is not affected by this. Also, women in Sweden continue to take 76% of the 480 days allocated for parental leave, although men's share is increasing. The paid parental leave system means that children under the age of 1.5 years are almost never in formal childcare, although all Swedish children are by law offered formal childcare.

100% of dependant elderly receive formal care. A gender divide also persists in occupational segregation of the labour market. Among the 30 largest occupations by number of employees, only 3 have at least 40% of each sex. In 9 of the 10 largest occupational groups, men have a higher monthly salary than women. Sweden has strong policies for combating violence against women and developed comprehensive action plans addressing all forms of male violence, including prostitution. The Swedish approach to prostitution proved to be successful: through the criminalisation of the purchase of sex and the support to prostituted persons, the Swedish model gained increased support from the population and succeeded in substantively deterring procuring and trafficking. However, Sweden needs to continue to prioritise the fight against all forms of violence against women. The number of reported cases of male violence has risen over the years as more women speak out, but there lacks new action plans to coordinate efforts.

## TRENDS:



The current Swedish government is unique in the EU in that it includes more women than men ministers. The majority of managers in municipal, county council and central government are women (52 %). In the private sector, the proportion of women in top posts is also increasing. The proportion of women on boards has risen from 6% in 2002 to 25% in 2012. However, 61% of women on boards are deputy members. The corresponding figure for men is 21%.

In Sweden, gender mainstreaming, already advanced at national level, is now being applied to the regional level.

The 2009 very positive 10 year review of the Swedish law on prostitution has increased the attractiveness of this model elsewhere in Europe. Iceland introduced a law penalising demand for sexual services in 2009. Similar measures are expected in Ireland in 2013 and discussions have started in France.



Sweden is witnessing a rise of anti-feminist hate speech. Other negative developments concern the implementation of tax breaks for household help which structurally reinforce the unequal labour market and undermine the welfare state. Also, the current public policy for research grants has a strong gender-bias, with only 12% of grants being awarded to female researchers. This has provoked a substantial backlash against the equality of women and men in higher education.