

Submission to The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)

Written submission regarding 1 st thematic evaluation round:
Building trust by delivering support, protection and justice.
The evaluation of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence by Sweden

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Submitted by the Swedish disability movement including FQ - Forum Women and Disability in Sweden - FQ is a women's organisation, works to combat all forms of discrimination, threats and violence against women and girls with disabilities. The members are individual women with disabilities and groups/organisations/committees formed by women with disabilities, www.kvinnor-funktionshinder.se

The Swedish Disability Rights Federation is a federation for 52 national disability organizations with a little over 400 000 individual members. Our goal is a society for all based on human rights
www.funktionsratt.se

Article 7 – Comprehensive and co-ordinated policies

Since 2017, a ten-year national strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women has been in effect in Sweden. After an analysis¹ of the follow-up to the strategy, the state's expert authority in the field of disability rights - the Swedish Agency for Participation (MFD) - notes that:

- The perspective of disability has had limited impact in the implementation of the national strategy, both in individual tasks, in specific action plans, and in the follow-up of the outcomes of the strategy.
- The indicators of the strategy, in their current form, provide limited opportunities to monitor the development for people with disabilities.
- An overly general knowledge and method development in the field of violence risk making the particularly vulnerable situation of people with disabilities invisible.

In February 2023, the Swedish Agency for Participation (MFD) published two surveys that deepen the understanding of the vulnerability to violence against individuals with disabilities and confirm what has been known for a long time.² They indicate that the risk of experiencing violence and threats is almost twice as high compared to the rest of the population. Vulnerability is even higher for individuals with intellectual disabilities and for women and children with disabilities. They also confirm the experiences of Disability Rights Sweden regarding Sweden's efforts to prevent and combat violence against women and other individuals with disabilities; despite a higher risk of being victims of violence, women and other individuals with disabilities have been marginalized in the efforts to prevent and combat violence. This needs to change. Concrete measures and allocation of resources are now needed to address these shortcomings.

MFD emphasizes the importance of the government specifically highlighting individuals with disabilities in its efforts concerning

¹ P. 28 [Att förebygga och bekämpa våld mot personer med funktionsnedsättning - samhällets kunskap, åtgärder och insatser \(2023\), MFD](#)

² [Våld mot personer med funktionsnedsättning - om utsatthet och förekomst av våld \(2023\), MFD](#) and [Att förebygga och bekämpa våld mot personer med funktionsnedsättning - samhällets kunskap, åtgärder och insatser \(2023\), MFD](#)

men's violence against women and violence in close relationships, including honor-related violence and oppression, as well as prostitution and human trafficking. It is particularly crucial to address violence and abuse that may affect children and young people.

The Swedish Disability Rights Federation has welcomed the government's proposal for strengthened rights for both victims of violence and accompanying children regarding sheltered accommodation.³ It is good that the rights of children are strengthened, that sheltered accommodations are regulated with permits, quality requirements, and supervision, and that an authority is proposed to be able to develop regulations specifying the requirements for the accommodations, such as competence and accessibility. It is important that the proposals are implemented and that the disability rights movement is involved in the development of regulations. It is also crucial that the quality development in sheltered accommodations, including accessibility for victims of violence with specific needs due to disabilities, is followed up, as stated by the government.⁴

Today, women with disabilities seeking refuge due to violence cannot rely on getting support in sheltered accommodations.⁵ As early as 2014, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern to Sweden about the violence faced by women with disabilities and the low percentage of sheltered accommodations accessible to people with disabilities. This reform can finally address this discrepancy and is an example of a concrete measure where the disability rights perspective is taken into account.

Recommendations for Article 7

Given that individuals with disabilities are particularly vulnerable, the group should be explicitly highlighted in the strategy and action

³ <https://funktionsratt.se/vart-arbete/remisser/ett-fonster-av-mojligheter-starkta-rattigheter-for-barn-och-vuxna-i-skyddat-boende/>
<https://funktionsratt.se/funktionsratt-sverige-valkomnar-reformen-om-skyddat-boende/>

⁴ P. 247 [Stärkta rättigheter för barn och vuxna i skyddat boende, Prop. 2023/2024:31.](#)

⁵ For example, [a survey from the County Administrative Boards in Stockholm, Skåne, and Västra Götaland \(2015\)](#) shows that it is very difficult for social services to arrange a place in a sheltered accommodation for individuals with special needs, even when there are available rooms.

plan currently being developed by the government. Ensure that the strategy and action plan include specific measures regarding women and individuals with disabilities, and that the disability perspective becomes an integral part of mandates and actions.

Involve the disability rights movement in the development of regulations that specify the requirements for accommodations, such as competence and accessibility. Ensure follow-up based on accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Article 11 Data collection and research

Despite an increased risk of violence, there is a lack of knowledge regarding the prevalence of violence against women and individuals with disabilities, as well as statistics and data. There is a lack of systematically collected and disaggregated data to conduct an intersectional analysis. The ten-year strategy to combat and prevent men's violence against women, in effect in Sweden since 2017, in its current form, provides limited opportunities to monitor the situation for individuals with disabilities.

According to the Swedish Gender Equality Agency's follow-up from 2020, considering the quantity of measures in the field of violence during the period 2017–2021, a smaller number of measures encompass a disability perspective.⁶ The action plan on prostitution and human trafficking highlights individuals with disabilities as particularly vulnerable but lacks measures that address this perspective. The Swedish Gender Equality Agency follows up and compiles data on 32 of the 75 indicators proposed by the National Board of Health and Welfare to monitor the goals of the national strategy. Only three of the 32 indicators are trackable regarding the disability perspective.

The CEDAW committee has also expressed concern about the overall lack of disaggregated data on gender-based violence against women and girls, especially concerning women with disabilities.⁷ The CEDAW committee also recommends that the state party ensures the collection and analysis of data, disaggregated by age, nationality,

⁶ P. 24 [Att förebygga och bekämpa våld mot personer med funktionsnedsättning - samhällets kunskap, åtgärder och insatser \(2023\), MFD](#)

⁷ CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/10. S. 23 f.

country of origin, disability, and the victim's relationship to the perpetrator, on gender-based violence against women.⁸

In Sweden, the exposure to crime is measured annually in The Swedish Crime Survey (Nationella trygghetsundersökningen, NTU), conducted by the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brottsförebyggande rådet, Brå). NTU includes questions about background variables that may influence the risk of experiencing various types of crime, allowing for the breakdown of data to better understand how different individuals are affected differently. However, NTU does not include questions about disability. Brå has, in a report to the government⁹ presented an analysis of the extent to which background information related to various discrimination grounds, not already included in the Swedish Crime Survey, can be incorporated into the survey. According to Brå's analysis, there are good methodological opportunities to include background questions, for example, regarding disability.

There are recurring surveys that do not inquire about experiences of disabilities, such as the School Crime Survey conducted by the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå), Attitudes to School Survey by the Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket), and the School Survey by the Swedish Schools Inspectorate (Skolinspektionen).¹⁰ As a result, the findings from these surveys cannot provide any information about the situation for students with disabilities.

There are groups of children, youth, and adults who are never reached by recurring population surveys that include questions about various aspects of violence and safety, such as students in compulsory School for Pupils with Intellectual Disabilities and Upper Secondary School for Pupils with Intellectual Disabilities and secondary schools or Compulsory special needs schools.¹¹ Furthermore, when students engage in the workforce or daily activities, there are no systems in place to follow up on their vulnerability. According to MFD's survey, the vulnerability of

⁸ Ibid 24 f)

⁹ [Redovisning av uppdraget att analysera möjligheterna att i NTU inkludera bakgrundsinformation om hbtqi-identitet och andra diskrimineringsgrunder](#), Brå

¹⁰ P. 28 [Våld mot personer med funktionsnedsättning - om utsatthet och förekomst av våld \(2023\)](#) MFD

¹¹ P. 28-29 [Våld mot personer med funktionsnedsättning - om utsatthet och förekomst av våld \(2023\)](#) MFD

students in Compulsory and Upper Secondary School for Pupils with Intellectual Disabilities, users of services regulated by the Swedish Act concerning Support and Service for Persons with Certain Functional Impairments (LSS), and especially individuals without conventionally spoken language, remains largely invisible. There is a lack of tools and methods for systematic data collection and follow-up.

There is uncertainty in all societal sectors, including healthcare and LSS services, about asking about experiences of violence among individuals with disabilities. MFD highlights in its survey that there are target groups among people with disabilities that pose a particular challenge.¹² Detecting violence in interactions with individuals with disabilities, especially in situations where a legal guardian (god man), a personal assistant, or a family member is present in the meeting and/or advocates for the person, poses a particular challenge. This can result in situations where questions about violence may not be raised.¹³

Recommendations for Article 11

Develop and ensure clear indicators and statistical reportings that enable monitoring of the trends over time regarding violence against

¹² P. 62, 86, 110 [Att förebygga och bekämpa våld mot personer med funktionsnedsättning - samhällets kunskap, åtgärder och insatser \(2023\), MFD](#)

¹³ "An example of this is as follows, see Ibid. p. 36. For the past couple of years, the Swedish Public Employment Service, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, and the Migration Agency, in collaboration with the Swedish Gender Equality Agency and the National Board of Health and Welfare, have been tasked by the government to work towards improved detection of domestic violence. This has resulted in the authorities now asking about violence to a greater extent than before. The authorities state that they have created favorable conditions for employees to inquire about violence, both generally and, in some aspects, specifically targeting individuals with disabilities.

The MFD report indicates that: "The Swedish Social Insurance Agency has set specific goals regarding cases about activity compensation. All officers should ask about violence when there are indications and manage information that emerges during the case handling. However, an internal follow-up shows that questions about violence were asked in few activity compensation cases and that about one-fifth of the employees assessed that they lacked knowledge and competence on how to ask about violence. The follow-up also identifies other obstacles to finding effective working methods. One such obstacle is that clients in activity compensation often have a representative, proxy, or someone else accompanying them to personal meetings. Since the Swedish Social Insurance Agency's guidelines for asking about violence specify that employees should only ask about violence in private contact with clients, representatives can be an obstacle to asking about violence.

women and individuals with disabilities. Involve the disability rights movement in the development of indicators and data collection.

Ensure that disability is included in surveys on violence and safety, such as The Swedish Crime Survey (NTU), conducted by the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå).

Establish procedures that enable individuals with various disabilities, with or without support needs, to participate in surveys.

Initiate collaboration among relevant authorities to ensure that the development of violence and abuse against girls/women/people with disabilities can be tracked through statistics and indicators.

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Article 12 General obligations och article 15 Training of professionals

Despite individuals with disabilities, especially women and girls, living with a higher risk of exposure to violence compared to the general population, there is a lack of effective preventive measures to reduce this vulnerability.

MFD's assessment reveals that government agencies, regions, and municipalities, in part, lack the appropriate conditions to address vulnerability to violence among individuals with disabilities.¹⁴ This involves both a genuine lack of knowledge among professionals interacting with individuals with disabilities and challenges in implementing and disseminating the knowledge already developed in the field. There is a need for advanced knowledge of violence against individuals with disabilities in all examined activities at the national, regional, and municipal levels.¹⁵ Violence against individuals with disabilities can manifest differently and, in many cases, be more challenging to detect.

In addition to the need for more knowledge about vulnerability to violence, there is also a need for more methods and work procedures preventively and in terms of recidivism concerning violence regarding individuals with disabilities. This applies both to efforts

¹⁴ P. 8 [Att förebygga och bekämpa våld mot personer med funktionsnedsättning - samhällets kunskap, åtgärder och insatser \(2023\), MFD](#)

¹⁵ P. 109 ff

focused on not becoming a victim of violence and to prevent individuals with disabilities from perpetrate violence against others.

MFD's survey indicates a general need for government agencies, regions, and municipalities to continue developing and implementing procedures, method support, and standardized assessment tools to prevent, detect, and remediate violence against individuals with disabilities. The absence of these elements complicates the identification and risk assessment of violence.

Recommendations for articles 12 and 15

Ensure that general competence-building efforts include specific knowledge and skills about individuals with disabilities and the consequences of disabilities in various everyday situations. This is crucial to avoid the risk of certain individuals who are exposed to or perpetrate violence remaining invisible.

Initiate a task to develop the work in municipalities and regions to prevent, detect, and remediate violence, with the aim of avoiding threats, coercion, restrictions, and other forms of violence in the future.

Children and Adults in Society's Care and Support

A number of reviews, inspections, and other reports have, for an extended period, documented serious misconduct within society's care and support services, including cases of physical violence, abuse, and sexual assaults against children. These incidents have been particularly noted within the special youth homes managed by The Swedish National Board of Institutional Care (SiS).¹⁶ Young women with disabilities are significantly overrepresented in SiS. They also feel more insecure, are more exposed to seclusion, and more reports on abuse concerning girls than boys.¹⁷ Statistics from the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare show that 52 percent of the girls have ADHD, and 17 percent have autism.¹⁸

¹⁶ Both the Parliamentary Ombudsmen (JO) and IVO have directed severe criticism towards the operations at several youth homes. This concerns, among other things, staff using coercive measures against young individuals without legal support, and employing more forceful actions than what is justifiable and proportionate. However, it also pertains to how the staff treat the youth. See p. 7 i "[SiS vård av barn och unga enligt LVU – förutsättningar för en trygg och ändamålsenlig vård](#)", Statskontoret 2022:4.

¹⁷ Ibid s. 41.

¹⁸ [Vård för barn och unga i HVB utifrån deras samlade behov. Förutsättningar och former för integrerad och annan specialiserad vård](#), Socialstyrelsen 2019.

According to a study¹⁹ conducted by the Barnrättsbyrå in 2021, there is extensive and systematic use of violence in connection with the seclusion of children within SiS. The study asserts that the method No Power No Lose (NPNL), and its techniques used by SiS personnel during seclusion and excessive physical force are equivalent to violence. The method involves police-style and pain-inducing grips used to gain control over a child, posing significant risks of harm. Grips according to NPNL, such as restraint, takedown, and transport grips, have been used in over 80% of all seclusions. The study also demonstrates that the use of seclusion and violence systematically affects certain groups more than others, particularly young girls. Primarily, it is the youngest children, girls, and children with disabilities who are affected. Generally, it is about children with extensive disabilities falling under the scope of LSS (mainly children with autism and intellectual disability). According to a follow-up presented in 2022, the situation for girls at SiS remains alarmingly concerning.²⁰

A report from the Barnrättsbyrå and the World Childhood Foundation highlights serious issues of sexual abuse and violations against children in the state-run youth homes in Sweden.²¹

The Health and Social Care Inspectorate (IVO) conducted, at the government's request, enhanced supervision of The Swedish National Board of Institutional Care's (SiS) special youth homes.²² The supervision indicates that primarily girls are subjected to violations and unauthorized coercive measures, such as restraints and seclusions. IVO noted that there is a connection between deficiencies and the staff's competence. According to IVO, the staff's knowledge of disabilities is a crucial factor for placed children and young people to receive care and treatment according to their needs.

¹⁹ ["... och jag kunde inte andas" – en granskning av våld mot barn på de statliga ungdomshemmen](#), Barnrättsbyrå, 2021

²⁰ [Avskiljningar, våld och missförhållanden inom SiS ungdomsvård 2021 Trots stora satsningar och positiva budskap från myndigheten – situationen för flickor på SiS fortsatt alarmerande under 2021](#), Barnrättsbyrå 2022

²¹ [Vem ska tro på mig? – En granskning av sexuella övergrepp på de statliga ungdomshemmen](#), Barnrättsbyrå och Childhood, 2023

²² [Tillsyn av SiS särskilda ungdomshem 2021-2022 Redovisning av regeringsuppdrag S2021/03345, IVO jan-2023](#)

Despite the longstanding existence of the situation, problems with violence and coercive measures persist. At SiS Youth Homes, young individuals with significant challenges are treated, yet the educational level required for working with these young people remains low. To be employed as a treatment assistant, an Upper secondary school education may be sufficient.²³

These girls and boys are also subject to domestic violence, as the institution they are placed in becomes their home during their stay. They have no opportunity to move and are in an absolute dependent position on the staff at the facility. For this reason, but also for reasons that may be related to their disabilities, they cannot defend themselves.

The government has initiated an investigation regarding Children in society's care and Children's ability to enforce their rights. SiS's mission is also under review.²⁴ We welcome and monitor this.

Rekommendations for Articles 12 and 15

Ensure that children (or adults) are not involuntarily institutionalized solely due to their disabilities, in accordance with CRPD Article 14(b). Introduce requirements for adequate preventive measures to avoid the placement of children (in SiS). Without the right knowledge of disabilities and their consequences in various situations, professionals in the surroundings risk misunderstanding situations and providing inadequate support. This leads to devastating misunderstandings, poorer treatment, and insufficient or directly harmful support.²⁵

Funktionsrätt Sverige supports a prohibition on seclusion (within involuntary care) of children.²⁶

²³ <https://www.stat-inst.se/jobba-hos-oss/du-som-vill-arbeta-som-behandlingsassistent/din-bakgrund-som-behandlingsassistent/>

SiS erbjuder också obligatoriska grundutbildning: <https://www.stat-inst.se/om-sis/kompetensforsorjning/sis-grundutbildning/>

²⁴ <https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2023/09/omfattande-satsning-pa-statens-institutionsstyrelse-sis/>

²⁵ An all too common example is LVU (Care of Young Persons Act) placement due to the misunderstanding of parents' support around the child to adapt to the consequences of a disability, being mistaken for inadequate parenting. This is devastating and can be avoided with better knowledge of disabilities and their consequences.

²⁶ According to recommendation 26 (b) 2015 (UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Sweden, 6

Ensure possibility for children to appeal.

Elevate the status and education requirements for personnel caring for placed children and youth, ensuring staff competence in the consequences of various disabilities and how treatment need to be designed and adapted based on the needs of those in care.

Violence and Restrictions in Society's Care

For several years, IVO has noted that individuals in society's care are subjected to coercive measures, restrictions, and other violations, despite legislation not permitting such actions. In 2019, IVO reported an increase in incidents of coercion and restrictions within LSS residences compared to previous years.²⁷ It involves everything from outright physical abuse, incarcerations, or taping the mouth shut to disciplinary threats of canceling activities if the person does not behave. Additionally, reports indicate that residents have been subjected to violence in four out of ten Swedish group homes.

During 2022 and 2023, IVO conducted targeted inspections of 90 group housings for adults with disabilities and found deficiencies in 80 of these homes. In two-thirds (64 percent) of the facilities, unauthorized coercive measures and restrictions are used, such as forced physical interventions, restrictions on freedom of movement, and surveillance and eavesdropping on users. It occurs that users are medicated without their knowledge, locked in, restrained, prevented from leaving their apartments, have limited access to the group housing's spaces or their belongings, and are supervised in various ways. Restrictive measures are also sometimes applied universally to all users, instead of based on individual needs assessments, and without the facilities first trying less intrusive measures.

The conclusion of the inspection is that a large proportion of users in facilities that have undergone inspection do not have their right to live like others fulfilled. IVO assesses that one of the reasons is that municipalities and other responsible entities have not ensured sufficient competence in the management and staff of the facilities.

March 2015, CRC/C/SWE/CO/5). Children's Ombudsman supports a prohibition on seclusion, [För barnets bästa? Utredningen om tvångsåtgärder mot barn i psykiatrisk tvångsvård \(SOU 2017:111\)](#) .

²⁷ P. 63 [Vad har IVO sett 2019? Iakttagelser och slutsatser om vårdens och omsorgens brister för verksamhetsåret 2019, s. 56 Kompetens i LSS-boenden Socialstyrelsen](#)

Another reason is that the management has not always taken its full responsibility as a guarantor of the quality of the operation.

Violence within municipal care facilities, as well as violence committed by care personnel outside the home, such as personal assistants, and by other professionals who provide services to an individual on a daily or recurring basis, for example, transportation services, we believe must be considered domestic violence. Many individuals with disabilities have an absolute dependency on relatives and personnel in various forms and often lack the physical and cognitive ability to defend themselves against violence and sexual abuse. They often have no opportunity to make choices, know how to seek help, file a police report, or understand what is right or wrong due to the lack of sexual education and relationships.

Recommendations for article 12 och 15

Ensure a national competence enhancement within LSS (Act Concerning Support and Service for Persons with Certain Functional Impairments), so that all personnel working in LSS operations are provided with basic knowledge about the purpose and values of LSS, disabilities such as autism and intellectual disabilities, as well as Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC).

Implement a national competence center for intellectual disabilities and autism, as proposed by the National Board of Health and Welfare.²⁸

Introduce binding regulations specifying the knowledge required for personnel within LSS. All personnel in LSS operations should have access to supervision in handling challenging work situations, discussing work tasks, and finding alternative solutions. The goal is to avoid situations that may involve coercion, restrictions, and, in the worst case, violence.

Ensure that the caregiving facility has policies and action plans creating safe environments to prevent violence and sexual abuse, as well as clear procedures responding if violence occurs.

²⁸ [Ett nationellt kompetenscentrum för frågor om intellektuell funktionsnedsättning och autism – Socialstyrelsens bedömningar och förslag](#), Socialstyrelsen, oktober 2022.

Article 49 General obligation and immediate response, prevention and protection and article 15 Training of professionals

People with disabilities do not have equal access to the legal system as others and therefore do not have the same right to a fair trial as others. For example, research²⁹ indicates that the legal process for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities (including intellectual disabilities) is not legally secure, despite these children being overrepresented in statistics on exposure to physical and sexual abuse. Children with diagnoses are not believed to the same extent as other children, and the interviews are rarely adapted to the individual, with experts seldom being consulted.³⁰ Even if the perpetrator confesses to the crime, there are instances where the preliminary investigation is closed. When cases proceed to prosecution, there is less often a conviction for crimes against children with neurodevelopmental disabilities (NPF) compared to crimes against other children.

Shortcomings, such as individuals in need of legal representation not always receiving it, have been highlighted previously without being addressed.³¹ In a report from 2017, the MFD observes that previous follow-ups have indicated that individuals with disabilities do not have access to the same legal security as others. This issue,

²⁹ [Sämre rättstrygghet för barn med NPF | Special Nest](#), Lainpelto, K., Isaksson, J., Lindblad, F. [Does Knowledge about a Neuropsychiatric Disorder Influence Evaluation of Child Sexual Abuse Allegations?](#) Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 35:3., p 276–292, 2016.

<https://www.brottsoffermyndigheten.se/kunskap/hitta-forskning/rattsvasendets-bemotande-av-brottsutsatta-barn-med-neuropsykiatriska-funktionsnedsattningar/>
<https://www.specialnest.se/lagstod/rattsprocessen-behover-anpassas-personer-med-npf>)

³⁰ Another study "[Rättsväsendets bemötande av unga lagöverträdare med neuropsykiatriska funktionsnedsättningar](#)", Matilda Strandberg, suggests that the legal security is lacking for young offenders with neurodevelopmental disabilities. The design of police interrogations with young offenders does not meet the requirements for trained personnel according to Swedish regulations and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This results in shortcomings in the treatment of young offenders, especially those with neurodevelopmental disabilities.

³¹ [Mäns våld mot kvinnor med funktionsnedsättning](#), Myndigheten för delaktighet, 2017

particularly from a gender equality and child rights perspective, may require special attention.³²

In the new survey from MFD, the legal system is also identified as an area that still requires significant improvement. The assessment highlights development needs for all surveyed entities: the Swedish Police, the Swedish Prosecution Authority, and the Courts of Sweden. The need for increased knowledge and the removal of obstacles in the investigation and prosecution of crimes against persons with disabilities is emphasized.³³ This includes aspects such as interrogation situations, access to information and to counsel for an injured party. MFD has previously concluded, in earlier assessments, that accessibility throughout the entire legal process and within legal proceedings must be increased.³⁴

It is also evident from a survey conducted by the Swedish National Courts Administration that almost half of the courts have participated in knowledge-enhancing activities related to violence in general over the past two years, while a small proportion have been involved in initiatives specifically addressing the vulnerability of individuals with disabilities.³⁵ Responses from the Prosecution Authority and the Swedish Police also indicate a need to improve knowledge and access to education and methods for addressing violence against individuals with disabilities.

The assessment also reveals obstacles when it comes to the use of communication aids during interrogations. It must be ensured that individuals participating in an interrogation can make themselves understood, regardless of their communication needs.³⁶

Recommendations for article 49

³² Ibid s. 56

³³ P. 47-48 [Att förebygga och bekämpa våld mot personer med funktionsnedsättning - samhällets kunskap, åtgärder och insatser \(2023\), MFD](#)
According to FUB, The Swedish National Association for People with Intellectual Disability, there is a lack of interrogation methods within the police with the competence to interrogate individuals with intellectual disabilities. Instead, they often encounter a police officer specialized in interrogating children.

³⁴ [Mäns våld mot kvinnor med funktionsnedsättning \(mfd.se\)](#), p. 56

³⁵ P. 32 [Att förebygga och bekämpa våld mot personer med funktionsnedsättning - samhällets kunskap, åtgärder och insatser \(2023\), MFD](#)

³⁶ P. 47 [Att förebygga och bekämpa våld mot personer med funktionsnedsättning - samhällets kunskap, åtgärder och insatser \(2023\), MFD](#)

Ensure and follow up that basic and continuing education related to functions within the legal system includes quality-assured courses based on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Allocate budget funds for ongoing professional development within the legal system to increase knowledge of a rights perspective and the legal security of individuals with disabilities.

Appoint a legal representative with training in disabilities and their consequences in various situations that are relevant within the legal system for crime victims with disabilities who cannot assert their rights on the same terms as others already in connection with the decision to initiate an investigation.

Ensure that individuals with disabilities in contact with the legal system receive support and accommodations based on their needs.

Instruct the state actors within the legal system to investigate, from a perpetrator, victim, and witness perspective, the occurrence of obstacles for individuals with disabilities in the legal chain that may impair the legal security. The work should be conducted in collaboration with disability rights organizations.

Med vänlig hälsning

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