

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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SWEDEN: MORE ACTION NEEDED ON RAPE, VULNERABLE EU MIGRANTS AND SAMI PEOPLE

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADOPTS UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OUTCOME ON SWEDEN

Amnesty International welcomes Sweden's acceptance of recommendations to prioritize the fight against sexual violence against women and address causes of under-reporting, and to ensure access to support for all survivors, including those who do not report to the police. We remain concerned that rape is pervasive and that access to counselling and trauma care is not available to all rape survivors.

Vulnerable EU migrants, most of whom are Roma, often lack health insurance in their home countries due to systemic discrimination. Sweden reinforces this discrimination, as undocumented people in Sweden have access to some subsidized health care, unlike EU migrants without EU health insurance.

Amnesty International welcomes Sweden's acceptance of the more general recommendation to strengthen efforts to protect the human rights of Roma and other vulnerable EU citizens living in Sweden, but regrets the rejection of recommendations 156.257 and 156.258 on more specific rights.¹ Amnesty International calls on the Swedish government to ensure that all people in Sweden have access to subsidized health care.

In 2015, the government of Sweden announced that it would work towards ratification of ILO Convention 169. The Convention is not ratified and representatives of Sami people testify that violations of indigenous rights, such as failure to respect the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), continue.

Amnesty International regrets Sweden's rejection of the recommendations to ratify the Convention, and calls on the government to present a legislative proposal to parliament on ratification.

BACKGROUND

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Sweden on 29 September 2020 during its 45th session. The above text is Amnesty International's statement on the outcome prior to the adoption of the report of the review. Amnesty International also contributed to the information basis of the UPR review through its submission on Sweden, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur42/0974/2019/en/>.

¹ [Response from the Swedish Government regarding UPR recommendations](#), Ministry of Employment