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Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Department for International Law, Human Rights
and Treaty Law

Office of the High Commissioner for
Human Rights

Questionnaire to States on Antisemitism

1. Judaism within the State: The Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief

r) Is there any anti-discrimination law in general? How does the law deal with discrimination based on religion or belief?

2. Antisemitism in Law and Policy

d) Are there laws about discrimination against Jews? What are those laws? Who is bound by those laws? Who is protected by those laws?

The Discrimination Act prohibits six forms of discrimination: direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, inadequate accessibility, harassment, sexual harassment and instructions to discriminate.

A simplified description of the legal definition of discrimination is when a person is treated disfavouredly or when a person's dignity is violated. The disfavoured treatment or the violation of a person's dignity must also be related to one of the seven grounds of discrimination:

- sex
- transgender identity or expression
- ethnicity
- religion or other belief
- disability
- sexual orientation
- age

Religion refers to religious beliefs, such as Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity or Islam. Other beliefs include convictions which are based on or connected to a religious belief, such as Buddhism, atheism and agnosticism. Political convictions and ethical or philosophical values that are not related to religion are not covered by the Discrimination Act.

A number of measures are under way or being planned to combat antisemitism and increase security. These are being carried out both by the Government and by government agencies on the Government's instructions.

Examples:

- A National plan to combat racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crime, adopted in November 2016
- The Swedish Media Council is working to empower children and young people as knowledgeable and informed media users through media and information literacy. The Council is also carrying out the 'No Hate Speech Movement' among children and young people to combat racism on the internet
- In 2020, Sweden will host a new international conference on remembrance of the Holocaust. Prime Minister Stefan Löfven has announced that the Government will hold the conference in Malmö on 27–28 October 2020
- The Swedish Police Authority has raised its level of ambition with respect to hate crime. A national contact point is now in place for these issues, as well as democracy and hate crime groups in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. When deemed necessary, the Swedish Police Authority will increase its surveillance efforts and take other security measures to protect Jewish interests.

More examples of the Swedish Government's efforts against antisemitism and increase security can be found at:

<https://www.government.se/government-policy/democracy-and-human-rights/measures-to-combat-antisemitism-and-increase-security/>

2. Antisemitism in Law and Policy

m) Are there specific educational measures to address antisemitism in educational environments and/or to prevent antisemitism through education?

The Living History Forum (LHF) is a Swedish public authority which, using the Holocaust and other crimes against humanity as a starting point, works with issues on tolerance, democracy and human rights.

<https://www.levandehistoria.se/english>

As for the content concerning the Holocaust it is mainly found in the syllabus of history for grade 7-9 and in the syllabus in history for grades 10-12.

Worth mentioning in this context is that there is also a specific subject called *Jewish studies* which has its own syllabus in grade 7-9 where the Holocaust is one part of it. But this part, is not mandatory; it is a special course that is optional on top of all the mandatory courses. It is offered at one of the public schools in Stockholm which offers a so called Jewish profile for its students.¹

The LHF is also a producer of educational exhibition material on different themes. These exhibitions, together with the specific educational methods developed by the educators of the LHF, are touring the country through a system of cooperation with several regional museums. The LHF produces teaching material for the classroom as well as for teachers training and for supporting travelling groups to the sights of the Holocaust.

¹ In the syllabus for Jewish studies, the Holocaust is part of the content, described as follows: Different forms of antisemitism throughout history. Jewish reactions on the Nazi politics and the Holocaust. Reactions in Sweden to the Nazi-German oppression of Jews and other groups. In this context it may be worth mentioning that mother tongue, ie a student's first language, is also offered. As one of five national minority languages Yiddish is offered. In this syllabus, the Holocaust is a core content matter in grade 7-9: *Consequences of the Holocaust for Yiddish and Yiddish culture*. However, there is a general problem with access of teachers in this language.

There is one university department *specialised* in studies of the Holocaust and genocide; the Hugo Valentin Centre at Uppsala University. The centre is an inter-disciplinary forum and has research as its primary task.

n) Is there a Holocaust Memorial Day commemorating the genocide of the Jewish people at the hand of Nazi Germany and its allies and collaborators recognized as part of the official state calendar? If so, in which ways is this day marked and commemorated? On which date/s does commemoration take place and what is the official name of the day/s?

o) At which level do government officials participate in the Holocaust commemorative event/s? Are Jewish community groups and representatives of other groups persecuted by the Nazis and their collaborators involved in the event/s in terms of organization and participation?

Yes, on 27 January, the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, is marked and commemorated at the highest political level. This year, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven delivered a speech at a memorial ceremony in Great Synagogue of Stockholm and the Minister for Culture and Democracy, Ms Amanda Lind, delivered a speech at a memorial ceremony arranged by the Living History Forum at the Raoul Wallenberg Square in Stockholm (not available in English). Furthermore, the 27 August is marked as the Raoul Wallenberg Day.

[Prime Minister Stefan Löfven's speech on International Holocaust Remembrance Day 27 January 2019](#)

[Introductory remarks at the 2018 Holocaust Remembrance Lecture by the Minister for Foreign Affairs 26 January 2018](#)

[Speech by the Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Swedish Committee Against Antisemitism 10 November 2016](#)

In Parliament there is a network of parliamentarians called *Parliamentarians for the Memory of the Holocaust*. This network arranges annually, with the support

of the Living History Forum, an open ceremony in the Parliament building in conjunction with the International Day for Holocaust Remembrance.

In the very center of Stockholm, on the Raoul Wallenberg Square and very close to the Great Synagogue, an annual public ceremony takes place on 27 January. It is arranged by the Living History Forum. It is usually attended by the Prime Minister or another prominent representative of the government, who addresses the event. A government representative, usually the Prime Minister, members of cabinet and party leaders attend the commemorative event held the same day in the Great Synagogue of Stockholm, arranged by the Jewish Community of Stockholm. On the same day there is also a public memorial event arranged by a Roma civil society organisation, with the support by the Living History Forum.

p) Are there any public memorials of Nazi crimes that specifically mentions the Jews? Are there any public museums that have exhibitions about Nazi crimes and that specifically mentions the Jews?

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The government will establish a new museum to preserve and pass on the memory of the Holocaust, as per a decision in 2019. A national inquiry will be tasked to present a proposal for the establishment of the museum, including its scope, activities and organization.

The Living History Forum has since its inception in 2003 continuously produced and showed exhibitions on different themes, always with a connection to lessons from the Holocaust and always composed so that a certain perspective of the history of the Holocaust is a crucial part of the exhibition and the starting point for its educational program. All these exhibitions are on display in the premises of the LHF in central Stockholm. After these leave LHF's premises, they are always sent on tour to regional museums. The educators of these museums have been trained to convey the special educational program that comes with the exhibition.

In Malmö Museum there is a permanent exhibition showing the so-called White Buses of the Swedish Red Cross, which brought Jews from some of the concentration camps in Germany at the end of the war.

The main regional museum in the city of Lund, Kulturen, is housing a permanent collection of items brought to Sweden by Rawensbrück concentration camp survivors; mainly Polish women interviewed soon after their arrival by a Polish journalist living in Sweden named Lacocinski. The University library of Lund owns the original interviews translated into Swedish.

The Jewish cemeteries in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö have permanent memorial monuments for the memory of relatives of Swedish Jews who were perished in the Holocaust.

In the center of Stockholm, on Raoul Wallenberg Square, there is a monument in memory of Raoul Wallenberg and another monument in memory of those who perished in the concentration and extermination camps.

At the Jewish Community building in Stockholm, next to the Great Synagogue of Stockholm, there is a Holocaust memorial monument including an inscription of more than 8 000 names of relatives to Swedish Jews.