

# English summary

Trends, Analyses, and Assessments  
Regarding the Development in the Field  
of Honour-Based Violence and  
Oppression

**Bilaga med engelsk sammanfattning av Omvärldsanalys – Trender, analyser och bedömningar gällande utvecklingen på området hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck**



Nationellt centrum | mot hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck



LÄNSSTYRELSEN  
ÖSTERGÖTLAND

Titel: Bilaga med engelsk sammanfattning av Omvärldsanalys – Trender, analyser och bedömningar gällande utvecklingen på området hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck

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Diarienummer: 3058-2025

Utgivningsår: 2025

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# English Summary

## Introduction

The *National Centre against Honour-based Violence and Oppression* (NCH) works on behalf of the Swedish government to support and contribute to strategic, preventive, and knowledge-based efforts against honour-based violence at the national, regional, and local levels in Sweden.

Since 2023, NCH has systematically monitored four key areas related to honour-based violence with focus on developments at the national level: public debate and politics, legislation and legal practice, authorities' assignments and work, and academic research and other studies related to honour-based violence. This monitoring is part of NCH's mandate to assess society's efforts in combating honour-based violence in Sweden. It also serves as a foundation for NCH's strategic and knowledge-based work.

NCH has published a summary and analysis of the outcomes from the monitoring conducted between November 2023 to December 2024, available in Swedish (see [here](#)).<sup>1</sup> The report provides an overview of political, practical, and knowledge-based developments related to honour-based violence. However, it is not exhaustive and does not include original data collection; instead, it is a meta-analysis of existing materials in the field. The English summary at hand provides an overview of the Swedish report, highlighting the key developments identified by the authors.

## Public debate and politics

### **Honour-based violence continues to be a priority in the government's gender equality policy**

The monitoring suggests that honour-based violence remains a priority within the Swedish government's gender equality policy. This is reflected in the government's action plan *Free and Safe from Violence and Oppression*<sup>2</sup> under the *National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Men's*

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<sup>1</sup> Nationellt centrum mot hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck (2025). *Omvärldsanalys. Trender, analyser och bedömningar gällande utvecklingen på området hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck*

<sup>2</sup> Regeringen (2024) *Fri och trygg utan våld och förtryck: Åtgärdsprogram för att förebygga och bekämpa mäns våld mot kvinnor, våld i nära relationer och*

*Violence against Women*.<sup>3</sup> The plan outlines four areas of development, two of which address honour-based violence: one focuses on coordinated efforts to combat honour-based violence, while the other aims to strengthen support for children and young people affected by violence, including those taken abroad in honour-based contexts.

In addition to the action plan, a relatively large number of assignments to various authorities focus on combating honour-based violence. During 2024, the monitoring has identified around 30 assignments to authorities that are related to the subject area. However, the long-term organizational and financial conditions for these efforts remain unclear, as the government has announced plans to reduce the budget for gender equality measures. The proposed funding cuts in the coming years risk undermining efforts against honour-based violence, which deviates from the current trend of prioritizing this issue.

For examples of assignments, please refer to the section on *Authorities' assignments and work* in this summary.

## **Growing disagreement whether honour-based violence should be distinguished from other types of violence**

The monitoring also indicates a growing emphasis in public debate and politics on distinguishing honour-based violence from other forms of men's violence against women and related forms of violence. This shift is reflected in the Swedish government's proposal to introduce a seventh gender equality policy goal specifically addressing honour-based violence, announced in January 2025.<sup>4</sup> Up until now, Sweden's gender equality policy was guided by six sub-goals, with honour-based violence categorized under the broader goal of ending men's violence against women.<sup>5</sup> The details of the new goal against honour-based violence are yet to be clarified.

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*hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck samt prostitution och människohandel 2024–2026*. See also: [Free and safe without violence and oppression - Government.se](#) (accessed 2025-02-21)

<sup>3</sup> Regeringen (2016) *En nationell strategi för att förebygga och bekämpa mäns våld mot kvinnor*. See also: Prime Minister's Office (2016) *Summary: National strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women*, [minister-for-education-gustav-fridolin-articles-2014-2019.pdf](#) (accessed 2025-02-21)

<sup>4</sup> [Honour-related violence and oppression given its own sub-goal | Swedish Gender Equality Agency](#) (accessed 2025-02-20)

<sup>5</sup> For more information about the six goals see Ministry of Employment, *Gender Equality Policy in Sweden*, published March 7, 2019, updated February 29, 2024 [Gender equality policy in Sweden](#) (accessed 2025-02-20)

Notably, an inquiry appointed by the government to assess the need for such a gender equality goal advised against separating honour-based violence from other forms of violence against women.<sup>6,7</sup> It stresses the importance of coordinating policies against different forms of violence, as required by the Istanbul Convention. The inquiry further highlights that a cohesive approach against all violence against women is necessary because individuals are often exposed to multiple forms of violence, and organizations are structured to address various forms of abuse in their responsibilities and practical work. Despite the inquiry's recommendation—and the clear support for it from most of the consultation bodies—the government has announced to proceed with the new gender equality goal.

### **Honour-based violence is linked to migration and integration policy, with a focus on 'Swedish values'**

Another development, which has been ongoing but has intensified during the monitoring period, is the increasing linkage between honour-based violence and migration and integration policies. Discussions increasingly frame honour-based violence as being incompatible with fundamental values in Swedish society. These fundamental values are now being proposed to be prerequisites for residence permits, as well as grounds for revoking them.<sup>8</sup>

The focus of migration and integration policy on Swedish values has sparked criticism. Opponents argue that adherence to Swedish laws, rather than Swedish values, is what is central in a democracy and a state governed by the rule of law.<sup>9</sup> Relevant to this discussion is also the criticism that Sweden received from the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), in November 2024. GREVIO recommends Swedish authorities to ensure that Sweden's measures against honour-based violence policies do not stigmatize migrant groups.<sup>10</sup>

Starting in 2025, the government plans to regularly assess the values of people moving to Sweden. The goal is to identify values that deviate from

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<sup>6</sup> Dir 2023:117 *Stärkt långsiktig styrning av arbetet mot könsrelaterat våld och hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck*. See also: [Time to step up efforts to combat violence and promote gender equality - Government.se](#) (accessed 2025-02-20)

<sup>7</sup> SOU 2024:21 *Ett inkluderande jämställdhetspolitiskt delmål mot våld*

<sup>8</sup> Dir 2023:158 *Skärpta krav på hederligt levnadssätt och ökade möjligheter till återkallelse av uppehållstillstånd; tilläggsdirektiv 2024:110*

<sup>9</sup> "I vårt land gäller svenska lagar, inte svenska värderingar" (Dagens Nyheter 2024-05-05, accessed 2025-02-07)

<sup>10</sup> GREVIO (2024) *Building trust by delivering support, protection and justice. Sweden – First thematic evaluation report*

liberal democratic ideals, such as views on equality and LGBTQ+ rights. This assessment is proposed to serve as a basis for integration policy measures.<sup>11</sup>

## Legislation and Legal Practice

### Continued confidence in new legislation as a tool to combat honour-based violence

There has been a long-standing belief in the power of legislation as a tool to combat honour-based violence. This has led to the ambition to make the legislation as comprehensive as possible. In 2024, several investigations into new laws against honour-based violence were initiated and finalized.

### Strengthened focus on preventing abductions with honour-related motives

In June 2024, a law was enacted that extends the scope of travel bans for children.<sup>12</sup> Previously, travel bans were limited to situations where there was a substantial risk that a child might be taken abroad for purposes like forced marriage or genital mutilation. The new law extends travel bans to situations where there is a significant risk that the child's health or development will be harmed during the stay abroad due to circumstances that could lead to care under the *Act on Special Provisions for the Care of Young People*.<sup>13</sup> The extended travel bans are considered an effective tool that now addresses more cases of harmful trips abroad. However, it does not prevent all cases of children being abducted. For example, more than a third of the children in the county Skåne who had been issued temporary travel bans were taken out of Sweden (6 out of 16).<sup>14</sup> This indicates a need for further measures in the area.

### Other legislation and investigations

Legislative proposals during 2024 include:

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<sup>11</sup> [Regeringen ska kartlägga invandrares värderingar](#) (Aftonbladet 2024-10-11, accessed 2025-02-07)

<sup>12</sup> Prop. 2023/24:72 Ett utvidgat utreseförbud för barn. See also: [Yes to an extended travel ban for children | Sveriges riksdag](#) (accessed 2025-02-20)

<sup>13</sup> Lag (1990:52) med särskilda bestämmelser om vård av unga. See also: [FAQ om omhändertaganden av barn enligt LVU – på engelska](#) (accessed 2025-02-20)

<sup>14</sup> [Många barn fördes utomlands – trots spärrade pass - P4 Malmöhus | Sveriges Radio](#) (SR P4 2024-09-17, accessed 2025-02-07)

- a civil law forbidding marriage between cousins that is proposed to take effect in July 2026 <sup>15</sup>
- a law that protects children against being deprived of their Swedish citizenship against their will <sup>16</sup>
- a law that clarifies that incitement and aiding of crimes can be punished within the criminal offences *gross violation of integrity*, *gross violation of a woman's integrity* and *honour-based offence*; even perpetration or conspiracy to commit a crime can be included in the criminal offences *gross violation of integrity*, *gross violation of a woman's integrity* or *honour-based offence*.<sup>17</sup> This law is proposed to take effect in July 2025.

Investigations that have been proposed or started during 2024:

- an investigation to expand regulations related to various forms of honour-based violence <sup>18</sup>
- an investigation into strengthening the child rights perspective within the *Act on Special Provisions for the Care of Young People* <sup>19</sup> that can be expanded to those subjected to honour-based violence and other domestic violence <sup>20</sup>
- a clarification that victims of honour-based violence have the right to victim support <sup>21</sup>
- a suggestion that the social welfare committee should be able to intervene without individual needs assessments and that those can be done without the guardian's consent, if the child is 15 years or older <sup>17</sup>
- a permission that social services are to report attempts, preparations, and conspiracy to commit crimes such as child marriage <sup>22</sup>

## Authorities' assignments and work

This section presents an overview of the main tasks assigned to authorities and reports on previously assigned tasks during the monitoring period. The primary focus is on national-level assignments

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<sup>15</sup> Ds 2024:20 *Förbud mot äktenskap mellan kusiner och vissa andra nära släktingar*

<sup>16</sup> SOU 2025:01 *Skärpta krav för svenskt medborgarskap*

<sup>17</sup> SOU 2024:13 *En effektivare kontaktförbudslagstiftning – ett utökat skydd för utsatta personer*

<sup>18</sup> Dir. 2024:8 *Förstärkta åtgärder mot hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck*

<sup>19</sup> Lag (1990:52) med särskilda bestämmelser om vård av unga. See also: [FAQ om omhändertaganden av barn enligt LVU – på engelska](#) (accessed 2025-02-20)

<sup>20</sup> Dir. 2023:160 *Stärkt barnrättsperspektiv i LVU och en översyn av grunderna för vård*

<sup>21</sup> Prop. 2024/25:89 *En förebyggande socialtjänstlag – för ökade rättigheter, skyldigheter och möjligheter*

<sup>22</sup> Prop. 2024/25:65 *Ökat informationsflöde till brottsbekämpningen*



and efforts.

## Shortcomings of social services' support for victims

During the monitoring period, reports from the *Swedish Agency for Health and Care Services Analysis*, the *Swedish Gender Equality Agency* and the *Health and Social Care Inspectorate* have highlighted shortcomings in social services' efforts to address honour-based violence.<sup>23, 24, 25</sup> These deficiencies include issues in case handling, weaknesses in organizational and legal frameworks, and insufficient cooperation between authorities handling honour-based cases. The reports suggest that shortcomings are especially severe in cases involving children, where social services' focus on reunification can inadvertently perpetuate the children's subjection to honour-based violence.<sup>24</sup> Furthermore, the reports emphasize the need to strengthen professionals' knowledge of honour-based violence and cooperation to ensure effective intervention. As a response, the Minister for Gender Equality has proposed that education on honour-based violence becomes a mandatory component of social work education.<sup>26</sup>

In contrast, a report by the *Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions* suggests that victims of honour-based violence receive more interventions and undergo risk assessments more frequently than other victims of violence.<sup>27</sup> In addition, honour-based violence is more often classified as severe than violence that occurs outside an honour-context. Overall, the circumstances deteriorated less after seeking help from social services for individuals subjected to honour-based violence compared to other types of violence.

To support social services in detecting and addressing cases of honour-based violence, an assessment tool, *Heva*, was developed.<sup>28</sup> This tool is designed to help social services identify if children between 12 and 17 years of age are exposed to honour-based violence, assess the children's

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<sup>23</sup> Myndigheten för vård- och omsorgsanalys (2023). *Bära eller brista - Erfarenhet av socialtjänstens stöd vid hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck*

<sup>24</sup> Jämställdhetsmyndigheten (2023). *När barn tvingas ta ansvar för sitt eget skydd - Slutredovisning av uppdrag att kartlägga och sprida kunskap om erfarenheter av hedersförtryck samt annat våld och förtryck kopplat till utlandsvistelse*

<sup>25</sup> Inspektionen för vård och omsorg (2024). *Tillsyn av socialtjänstens och hälso- och sjukvårdens arbete mot mäns våld mot kvinnor, våld i nära relationer och hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck*

<sup>26</sup> [L: Socialtjänstens brister förvärrar för hedersutsatta barn](#) (TV4 2025-01-24, hämtad 2025-02-07)

<sup>27</sup> Sveriges Kommuner och Regioner (2024). *Socialtjänstens stöd till våldsutsatta vuxna - Lärdomar från individbaserad systematisk uppföljning, SU-Kvinnofrid 2021-2023 s. 45-48*

<sup>28</sup> [Heva - nytt bedömningsstöd för utredningar av barn i en hederskontext - Socialstyrelsen](#) (accessed 2025-02-11)

current situation and evaluate the risk of (continued) exposure to honour-based violence.

## **Impact of disinformation and the need for improved outreach**

Since 2021, Sweden has been the target of a disinformation campaign falsely alleging that children with a foreign background, especially Muslim children, were systematically subjected to abuse and abduction by social services.<sup>29</sup> This misinformation may make it more difficult for social services to reach individuals affected by honour-based violence.

To address these concerns, the *National Board of Health and Welfare* conducted a register study assessing child placements.<sup>30</sup> The findings showed that children with foreign-born parents are less likely to be placed in care than those with Swedish-born parents from similar socioeconomic backgrounds. Children with two foreign-born parents where the parents come from countries with a Muslim-majority population generally have a lower likelihood of being placed in care compared to children with parents born in other countries. When these children are placed in care, their placements tend to be shorter. The study concluded that social services, together with other agents, need to strengthen outreach efforts to ensure that all children and young people receive adequate support.

## **Attention to shortcomings in preventive work, particularly regarding preschool's efforts against honour norms**

Preventive efforts targeting honour-based violence have also faced criticism during the monitoring period. Despite honour-based violence and offences being a national priority, they are less prioritized at the local level. Several reports published in 2024 indicate that only a small percentage of municipalities, local police districts and counties implemented preventive measures against honour-based violence.<sup>31, 32</sup> Shortcomings are reported in crime prevention measures, possibly due to reallocation of resources to combat serious crimes and the lack of formal guidelines concerning preventive work against honour-based

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<sup>29</sup> For more information see [Disinformation campaign against Swedish public authorities regarding social services - Government.se](#) and [Government taking strong action against disinformation and rumour-spreading campaign - Government.se](#) (accessed 2025-02-11)

<sup>30</sup> Socialstyrelsen (2024). *Socialtjänstens placeringar av barn och unga med svensk och utländsk bakgrund – Registerstudie av placeringar 1991–2022*

<sup>31</sup> Brottsförebyggande rådet (2024). *Det brottsförebyggande arbetet i Sverige – Nuläge och utvecklingsbehov 2024*

<sup>32</sup> [Enkät svar 2024 \(mfof.se\)](#) (Accessed 2025-02-11)

violence. Additionally, one of the reports emphasize the need to enhance professionals' knowledge about honour-based violence and effective long-term preventive strategies.<sup>32</sup>

In response, the *Swedish Agency for Family Law and Parental Support* has introduced *Nexum*, a tool designed to support professionals working in parental support services by implementing a systematic preventive approach to assist families in honour-based contexts.<sup>33</sup>

In addition, during the monitoring period the *Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society* gathered and disseminated knowledge on honour-based violence and violence prevention for recreation leaders and youth leaders.<sup>34</sup> The agency concludes that there is potential to expand the role of leisure activities in violence prevention efforts. However, municipalities require support in knowledge-building initiatives, financial assistance, and clearer collaboration mandates between open leisure activities, schools, social services, police and civil society.

Preschools' ability to address and counteract honour-based violence has also been investigated in several reports. One report suggests that preschool boards fail to ensure that employees receive the necessary education to recognize honour-based violence, often due to concerns that staff may not be prepared to handle the issues.<sup>35</sup> It also indicates insufficient collaboration between preschool boards and committees that work to ensure children receive the support and assistance they need according to the Social Services Act. Additionally, according to the report, both staff and management frequently avoid addressing potential cases of honour-based violence, possibly due to concerns about damaging relationships with parents, fear that the child may be withdrawn from preschool, threats from the child's family members, or, in some cases, because staff themselves uphold honour-based norms. Another report suggests that preschool staff may accommodate guardians' demands for, for example, gender segregation—at the expense of children's rights and the preschool's mission to promote equality and integration.<sup>36</sup> It also suggests that staff is uncertain about when to report cases of honour-based restrictions.

Based on these reported shortcomings, politicians have proposed mandatory training for all preschool staff on honour-based norms. The equality minister further suggested that a national survey on the culture

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<sup>33</sup> [Nexum-verktyget \(mfof.se\)](https://mfof.se) (Accessed 2025-02-11)

<sup>34</sup> MUCF (2024). *Våld, förtryck och heder – tidiga insatser för en trygg fritid*

<sup>35</sup> Stadsrevisionen Malmö stad (2024). *Arbetet mot hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck – Fördjupad granskning*

<sup>36</sup> Rexvid (2024). *Förskolans möte med hederskulturen*. Länsstyrelsen Norrbotten och Gävleborg

of silence surrounding honour-based oppression within preschools and schools is conducted.<sup>37</sup> In addition, *Barnafrid*, the national center for knowledge about violence against children, has developed a tailored educational program for preschool staff about violence against children.<sup>38</sup> In December 2024, *Barnafrid* has received funding to further develop and disseminate materials on honour-based violence in preschools<sup>39</sup>, as well as funding to disseminate information about reports of concerns for a child's welfare in schools and preschools with focus on subjection to honour-based violence.<sup>40</sup>

The government parties further plan to strengthen the guidelines to better support staff in preschools, schools, and leisure activities in situations where parents demand their children to wear religious symbols. Related to this, there has also been a debate about whether the wearing of a headscarf by children is a symbol of honour-based oppression. The government parties have expressed their intention to criminalize the forced wearing of religious clothing and symbols.<sup>41</sup>

## Several new assignments focus on newly arrived migrants and areas of social exclusion

As highlighted in the section on *Public debate and politics*, there has been an increased focus on honour-based violence and migration. Consequently, various tasks distributed to authorities focus on newly arrived migrants and emphasize the core values of Swedish society: It is being investigated how civic orientation should become mandatory for newly arrived migrants and how it should be linked to state support.<sup>42</sup> Here, special emphasis is put on the importance of equality in Sweden, as well as children's rights and honour-based violence. Another assignment aims to strengthen sexual and reproductive health and rights, with a special focus on geographical areas with significant segregation.<sup>43</sup> The assignment is supposed to also strengthen freedom

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<sup>37</sup> [Ministern efter Sydsvenskans avslöjande: Kartlägg tystnadskulturen kring hedersförtryck – Sydsvenskan](#) (Sydsvenskan 2024-03-06, accessed 2025-02-07)

<sup>38</sup> [Förskolan får eget gruppspår i basprogram våld mot barn och unga - Linköpings universitet](#) (accessed 2025-02-07)

<sup>39</sup> [Medel till Barnafrid för att motverka och förebygga hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck i förskolan - Regeringen.se](#) (accessed 2025-02-07);

<sup>40</sup> [Nationell spridning av kunskap för att hjälpa barn utsatta för hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck - Regeringen.se](#) (accessed 2025-02-11)

<sup>41</sup> [L, KD, M, SD: Tvång till religiös klädsel kan kriminaliseras](#) (Svenska Dagbladet 2024-02-16, accessed 2025-02-07)

<sup>42</sup> Dir. 2023:169 *En förbättrad samhällsorientering för nyanlända*

<sup>43</sup> Regeringsbeslut II:3. *Myndighetsgemensamt uppdrag att stärka och främja sexuell och reproduktiv hälsa och rättigheter*. A2024/01236

from, amongst others, honour-based violence.

## **Authorities' assignments to measure the extent of honour-based violence and enhance support materials for professionals**

During the monitoring period, the government highlighted that challenges remain in measuring the extent of honour-based violence.<sup>44</sup> Accordingly, approximately one-third of the assignments NCH has monitored has been related to investigating the extent of honour-based violence among different groups. Additionally, several assignments focused on compiling support materials and reviewing existing support materials related to honour-based violence for professionals. These assignments included:

- Assessing the prevalence of men's violence against women, including honour-based violence, amongst Sweden's national minorities<sup>45</sup>
- In-depth assessment of the prevalence of honour-based violence against individuals with disabilities<sup>46</sup>
- Developing national statistics on missing and abducted children in an honour context within the operations of social services<sup>47</sup>
- Investigating and proposing how a national reporting and tracking system for cases where children or adults have been abducted can be designed<sup>48</sup>
- Mapping existing knowledge on the digital and technological aspects of various forms of violence, including honour-based violence<sup>49, 50</sup>
- Adapting materials on domestic violence to ensure applicability to honour-based violence<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Regeringens skrivelse 2024/25:69 *Fördjupad uppföljning av arbetet med att förebygga och bekämpa mäns våld mot kvinnor*

<sup>45</sup> Regeringen (2024). *Uppdrag till Jämställdhetsmyndigheten om Mäns våld mot kvinnor, annat våld i nära relationer samt hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck mot barn och vuxna som tillhör de nationella minoriteterna*. Ku2024/00383

<sup>46</sup> Regeringsbeslut III:2 *Uppdrag att kartlägga och utveckla stödmaterial om våld mot barn och unga med funktionsnedsättning samt fördjupad kartläggning av hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck mot personer med funktionsnedsättning*. S2023/02178.

<sup>47</sup> Regeringsbeslut II:4 *Regleringsbrev för budgetåret 2024 avseende Socialstyrelsen*.

<sup>48</sup> Regeringsbeslut II:10 *Regleringsbrev för budgetåret 2024 avseende Jämställdhetsmyndigheten* 2023/01754

<sup>49</sup> Regeringen (2024). *Uppdrag om de digitala dimensionerna av mäns våld mot kvinnor, våld i nära relationer, hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck samt prostitution och människohandel*. A2024/00815

<sup>50</sup> Regeringen (2024). *Uppdrag att undersöka användning av digitala enheter i skolan och fritidshemmet* U2024/01728

<sup>51</sup> Regeringsbeslut II:4 *Regleringsbrev för budgetåret 2024 avseende Socialstyrelsen*.

- Assessing the need for specialized support measures, particularly for young LGBTQI individuals facing honour-based violence <sup>52</sup>
- Developing educational resources for youth leaders and sports coaches <sup>52,52</sup>
- Updating age-appropriate materials for teaching about sexuality, consent, and relationships <sup>53</sup>
- Developing support materials on violence against children with disabilities <sup>54</sup>

The *Swedish Agency for Participation* has published an interim report of the assignment to develop support materials on violence against children with disabilities.<sup>55</sup> The agency concludes that it is crucial that existing support materials are disseminated and implemented, as well as that professionals are comfortable using the support materials.

Approximately one-fourth of the assignments in NCH's overview focus on preventing honour-based violence, and one-fourth on supporting subjected individuals and professionals. There is a noticeable shift in the focus of assignments, moving from detection to prevention. This trend aligns with the broader public debate, which has largely centered on crime prevention efforts. However, towards the end of the monitoring period, several assignments refocused on detecting honour-based violence, which has somewhat tempered this shift.

## Academic research and other studies

It is important to note that, in Sweden, the knowledge base regarding honour-based violence is marked by significant gaps, despite the growing and broadening interest in this research area.

A recent development in the field is a growing interest in the perspective of perpetrators. However, much of the research conducted in Sweden remains focused on the concept and definition of honour itself, with insufficient attention given to the prevalence, various expressions and management of honour-based violence from diverse perspectives. NCH has conducted an analysis on these knowledge gaps in Sweden, which

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S2020/05537

<sup>52</sup> Regeringsbeslut I:14 Regleringsbrev för budgetåret 2024 avseende Myndigheten för ungdoms- och civilsamhällefrågor. S2023/03224 (delvis)

<sup>53</sup> Regeringsbeslut II:2 Uppdrag till Folkhälsomyndigheten och Statens skolverk att uppdatera stödmaterial för undervisning inom kunskapsområdet sexualitet, samtycket och relationer, A2024/01235.

<sup>54</sup> Regeringsbeslut III:2 Uppdrag att kartlägga och utveckla stödmaterial om våld mot barn och unga med funktionsnedsättning samt fördjupad kartläggning av hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck mot personer med funktionsnedsättning, S2023/02178.

<sup>55</sup> Myndigheten för delaktighet (2024). *Motverka våld bland barn och unga med funktionsnedsättning – En kartläggning av stödmaterial*, s. 10–11.

will be published separately.

## **Common with commissioned and evaluation research in the field**

Noticeably, much of the research on honour-based violence in Sweden is commissioned by authorities and organizations. These projects are often shorter, more directed and do not have the same requirements as traditional academic research. Given the relatively small research base on honour-based violence in Sweden, these publications gain significant attention in the field.

Several commissioned reports have assessed the knowledge base as well as working methods within the field. Hiring researchers to evaluate working methods can be seen as an indication of the need to gather evidence for the methods being used. Examples of commissioned research reports that were published during the monitoring period are:

- an evaluation of the counseling support provided by a joint authority resource center, *Origo*, against honour-based violence in Stockholm County <sup>56</sup>
- mapping knowledge about honour-based violence and oppression and other types of violence linked to stays abroad <sup>57</sup>
- an overview of the prevalence of norms related to honour-based violence in youth in a selection of schools in Gothenburg <sup>58</sup>

## **Focus on mental health issues, multiple victimization and particularly vulnerable groups**

During the monitoring period, significant emphasis has been placed on assessing mental health issues, multiple victimization, and particularly vulnerable groups in relation to honour-based violence.

The *Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society* has published a report based on interviews with professionals and LGBTQ+ individuals, highlighting the insecurity, violence, and mental health issues faced by young LGBTQ+ individuals in families with honour-based norms.<sup>59</sup> The report points out that ignorance and inability of society to recognize their vulnerability prevent these individuals from having their rights

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<sup>56</sup> Jonsson, Svedin, Jenstav och Länsstyrelsen Stockholm (2024). *Origos samtalsstöd för ungdomar som växer upp i en hederskontext*.

<sup>57</sup> Linell & Lundberg (2023). *Hedersförtryck samt annat våld och förtryck under utlandsvistelse*, Stockholms universitet

<sup>58</sup> Baianstovu & Enelo (2023). *Ungas livsvillkor i Göteborg. Enkätundersökning för uppföljning av Göteborgs stads plan mot hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck 2020-2023*. Örebro Universitet

<sup>59</sup>MUCF (2024). "Det får inte existera". *Om unga hbtq-personers utsatthet för hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck samt omvändelseförsök*.

fulfilled.

A commissioned report examined mental health issues in relation to norms associated with honour-based violence.<sup>60</sup> This report is based on a national questionnaire assessing violence against children, conducted among 16-year-old students. Approximately one in five students who responded to the questionnaire live under the expectation to abstain from sexual intercourse until marriage. Those living with this requirement were more frequently exposed to violence from their parents and other adults, had worse mental health and experienced multiple forms of victimization.

Even the evaluation of the counseling support provided by *Origo*, named above, shows that individuals subjected to honour-based restrictions have worse mental health and are often subjected to several forms of violence, including psychological, physical and sexual violence.<sup>61</sup>

In the interim report about the subjection to honour-based violence among individuals with disabilities, the *Swedish Agency for Participation* highlight the dependence and invisibility of individuals with disabilities as characteristic for the subjection to violence.<sup>62</sup> Additionally, individuals with disabilities often face challenges in expressing their own will and making independent decisions. In honour-based contexts, disabilities are often associated with shame, preventing some individuals from accessing habilitation services and, in turn, from having their experiences of violence discovered.

## **Continued emphasis in research on the understanding and complexity of honour-based violence**

A common thread in the academic research published during the monitoring period was a focus on the understanding of honour-based phenomena from the perspective of subjected individuals. Academic research publications within the field of honour-based violence are listed below:

- An interview study assessed opinions and experiences of honour-based violence among youth and perpetrators.<sup>63</sup> The

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<sup>60</sup> Jernbro & Landberg (2024) *Våld i ungas nära relationer och hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck*

<sup>61</sup> Jonsson, Svedin, Jenstav och Länsstyrelsen Stockholm (2024). *Origos samtalsstöd för ungdomar som växer upp i en hederskontext.*

<sup>62</sup> Myndigheten för delaktighet (2024). *Delrapportering om metodstöd om våld mot barn och fördjupad kunskap om hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck*

<sup>63</sup> Cinthio (2023) *Rörelser i gränslandet. Om komplexa hedersnormer och samhällliga markeringar.* Malmö universitet



study examined and analyzed the interviewees' experiences of norms and norm conflicts around various phenomena such as family loyalty, valuation and regulation of relationships and sexuality, gender and gender roles, violence, and (non-) Swedishness.

- People convicted for crimes related to honour-based violence were interviewed for a study that assessed the relation between the victim and the perpetrator. It further assessed the norms and beliefs of individuals convicted for honour-based offences.<sup>64</sup>
- Two studies describe young people's engagement with and critical examination of the concept of honour.<sup>65, 66</sup>
- Women's self-understanding of female genital mutilation during the migration process and in encounters with professionals was assessed.<sup>67</sup>
- An article highlights honour-based violence as a complex phenomenon, characterized by a polarization of different perspectives.<sup>68</sup> The authors argue that honour-based violence is both a real phenomenon and one that is shaped by stereotypes, which can hinder social services' ability to support those who are subjected to violence.
- A study assessed the circumstances that lead women subjected to honour-based violence to seek help from social services, and their experiences of support.<sup>69</sup> The study highlights that social services need to better address threats related to divorce, the systematic harassment women face in public spaces, and the perspectives of vulnerable children.

## Conclusion

Based on the systematic monitoring conducted between November 2023 and December 2024, NCH concludes that honour-based violence is still a prioritized political issue in Sweden. During the monitoring period, a

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<sup>64</sup> Grip & Dynevall (2024). "Honour-based violence in Sweden – an offender perspective." *Nordic Journal of Criminology*. Volume 25, no. 1-2024, 1-17

<sup>65</sup> Vogel & Raattamaa Visén (2024) *Om du hade levt det livet som din pappa vill, hade du ångrat dig då? Analyser av elevfrågor i ett temaarbete om hedersnormer*. In Sigrell, Ohlsson, Strand, Sundby (reds). *Femtonde nationella konferensen i svenska med didaktisk inriktning. Språk och litteratur – en möjlig eller skön förening*. Lund: Lund universitet.

<sup>66</sup> Vogel, A. (2024). "Honour. Youths' negotiation regarding a loaded concept." *Språk och stil* NF 34, 2024, s. 210–242

<sup>67</sup> Palm (2024) *Navigating conflicting norms on body and sexuality*. Malmö universitet

<sup>68</sup> Baianstovu & Strid (2024). "Complexities facing social work: Honour-based violence as lived reality and stereotype." *Journal of Social work*. 1-19

<sup>69</sup> Olsson, H. (2024). "Voices of Women Exposed to Honour- Based Violence: On Vulnerability, Needs and Support from Social Services." *British Journal of Social Work*

shift has been observed from the field being solely related to equality politics to also including migration and integration politics.

Furthermore, there is a disagreement about what the term “honour-based violence” entails and its relation to other types of violence. This is not a new development but has gained significance during the monitoring period.

Within the field of legislation and legal practice it is observed that the confidence in legislation is confronted with the reality that implementing legislation progresses relatively slowly.

The reports published during the monitoring period emphasize the need for knowledge dissemination across all sectors and the translation of knowledge into practice. Additionally, there is a strong need to broaden the research base with different disciplinary perspectives.



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