

SWEDEN

Region: Scandinavia (Global North)

Population (2022): 10.5 million (88th)

Life Expectancy at Birth (Women): 83.97 years (18th) Major Languages: Swedish

Governance System: Constitutional monarchy with a democratic parliamentary system

Capital: Stockholm

Land Area (km²): 407,284 (57th)

Select Global Rankings

GDP (2022): 23rd (585,939 US\$ Millions)

Human Development Index: 7th (Very High)

Fragile States Index - Inverted: 10th (Cat. 2)

Good Country Index: 1st

Human Freedom Index: 9th

World Happiness Ranking: 6th

Select Global Rankings (Gender-Focus)

Gross National Income Per Capita (Women): 9th

Gender Social Norms Index: 2nd

Women's Power Index: 10th

Social Institutions and Gender Index (World Cup rank): 2nd

Gender Inequality Index: 4th

Global Gender Gap Index: 5th

Women Peace & Security Index: 7th

Elite Sport System Rankings

2020 Summer Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): 3.5 (39% of 9)

2022 Winter Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): 10.5 (58% of 18)

Global Cup Ranking (Women): 11th

Football/World Cup Profile

FIFA Region: UEFA

FIFA Ranking: 3

World Cup Appearance: 9th

Best World Cup Performance(s): 2nd (Finalist 2003)

Qualification: 1st UEFA Qualifying Group A

World Cup Group: G

Last World Cup Appearance: 2019

SWEDEN in International (Gender) Affairs (by Alanna Harman)

Sweden has been lauded as “one of the world’s most highly developed post-industrial societies” with low unemployment and a strong economy. Sweden is often used as an exemplar when discussing socialism as Sweden did embrace this ideological perspective from the 1970s - 1990s. However, more recently Sweden has moved closer to the centre adopting “stricter immigration policies, tightened eligibility requirements for welfare benefits systems, taken a tougher stance on crime, and carried out business-friendly policies”.

With the evolving international political landscape Sweden’s approach to neutrality has also shifted. In light of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine Sweden applied to join NATO in 2022. As of July 2023, Sweden’s application to join NATO remains in limbo as the Turkish President resists Sweden’s application over accusations that Sweden is “giving free rein to supporters of a Kurdish terrorist organization and to members of a religious group that Turkey has accused of plotting a failed coup against Mr. Erdogan in 2016”. To address these concerns Sweden has altered its constitution, enhanced its antiterrorism laws, and agreed to extradite individuals as per Turkey’s

request. Turkish President Mr. Erdogan further stated that the Turkish parliament would ultimately make the decision and they would not take the matter up until [October](#).

Gender Equity

In [2018](#) Sweden launched the Gender Mainstreaming in Government Agencies (GMGA) programme. The goal of this program is to integrate gender equality in all governmental agencies. The novelty and newness of this initiative has not led to real change yet. In 2022 it was reported that “[10](#) percent of the companies listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange had women chairpersons, with 36 percent of board members women. Thirteen per cent of the companies had female CEOs”. While these statistics indicate lots of room for improvement the World Economic Forum has never ranked Sweden lower than fifth in its [Global](#) Gender Gap report.

“In [2011](#), the General Assembly of the Swedish Sports Confederation approved objectives for gender equality in Swedish sports”. The impact of this initiative was that as of [2021](#) it was reported that 45% of sport leaders and 55% of total sport employment in Sweden are female. While Sweden has made great strides towards gender equity, there have also been reports of antiquated approaches to gender. “[Swedish](#) football player Nilla Fischer has revealed that the women’s national team were forced to strip and ‘show their genitalia’ for doctors to prove they were female at the 2011 Women’s World Cup”. This form of gender verification has been used previously beginning in the 1960s at other sporting events and colloquially referred to as a ‘[nude](#) parade’ to certify “femininity”.