

SWEDISH WOMEN'S LOBBY

Statement to the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
submitted by the Swedish Women's Lobby

Ensure women's rights in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Swedish Women's Lobby would like to emphasize the strong need to recognize women's full and universal human rights as a key perspective in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We call for a stand-alone goal on gender equality and for gender mainstreaming in all goals, targets and indicators.

The implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls have not succeeded. In order to make the new goals a sustainable reality, it is necessary that they emanate from a framework based on a women's rights perspective. The priorities highlighted within the Beijing Platform for Action have to play a major role in shaping the new agenda.

It has been proved in many reports and discussions that women's rights are intimately linked to the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social, environmental. A standalone goal is needed to set the targets to be mainstreamed into all spheres of society.

As gender inequality is structural, existing from community level right up to national institutions, a stand-alone goal has to be accompanied by mainstreaming equality between women and men in all goals, targets and indicators. Moreover, adequate and sustainable financing for women's rights and gender equality should be guaranteed in regional, national and local government budgets.

It is of absolute necessity that states recognize women's right to education and work that enables economic self-sufficiency as well as the equal representation of women and men in all aspects of decision-making.

We further want to highlight the links between gender equality, an end to violence against women and the importance of sexual and reproductive rights. Ending violence against women should be a priority, with targets and indicators enabling real progress on women's lives. In particular, we would like to see prostitution recognized as a form of violence against women and purchase of sex as a crime. It constitutes an obstacle to equality between women and men, is a violation of women's dignity and detrimentally impacts on women's sexual and reproductive rights. Language such as "sex work" should not be used; it does not refer to international agreements such as the UN 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, or to The Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The Swedish Women's Lobby and its member organizations urges States Governments and the United Nations to ensure:

- **A stand-alone goal on gender equality and the rights of women and girls, with clear gendered targets and indicators.**
- **A cross cutting gender equality perspective throughout the Post-2015 Development Agenda: gender mainstreaming in all goals, targets and indicators.**
- **Adequate and sustainable financing for women's rights and gender equality in regional, national and local government budgets.**

The Swedish Women's Lobby recognizes the need to mobilize the global women's rights movement and to make adequate use of the knowledge and experience that the movement holds. To further focus our efforts and to ensure the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and a sustainable and gender equal development, the Swedish women's Lobby together with the Nordic women's rights movement, has initiated a Nordic Conference on Women Rights: Nordiskt Forum Malmö 2014 - New Action on Women's Rights: <http://nf2014.org>

The Nordic conference will take place on the 12-15 June 2014 and aims at critically reviewing how the implementation of Beijing Platform for Action can be accelerated in a changing environment. The conference will make recommendations on new action on women's rights to the Nordic governments. It is further our intention to empower women organizations and renew efforts towards gender equality. Given that the process of developing a new universal development agenda beyond 2015 runs in parallel to the preparation for the Nordic conference, women's organizations in the Nordic region recognize their historic possibility to contribute with new ideas and innovative approaches.



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The Swedish Women's Lobby (SWL) is a politically and religiously independent umbrella organization for women's organizations in Sweden. We work to fulfill women's full human rights and towards a gender equal society within Sweden, the EU and internationally. The SWL gather nearly 40 member organizations with the mutual aim to improve the status of women in the Swedish society. The organization is based on feminist grounds. The foundations of our activities are the UN Convention of the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (**CEDAW**) and the **Beijing Platform for Action**.