

# CSW60

Commission on the  
Status of Women

14-24 March 2016

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



## REVIEW THEME: THE ELIMINATION AND PREVENTION OF ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

### VOLUNTARY PRESENTATIONS

**The Swedish experience of preventing men's violence against women and the involvement of  
men and boys in promoting gender equality**

**15 March 2016, 16.00–17.00pm**

*Draft February 25, 2016*

Over the past two decades, numerous international agreements such as the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action have called for measures to combat violence against women and girls and for the meaningful involvement of men and boys in promoting gender equality and ending violence. Gender equality promotion was highlighted as one of eight Millennium Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda specifies the need to involve more men and boys in violence prevention. The 2013 Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women urges governments and other relevant actors to *“create, develop and implement a set of policies, and support the establishment of rehabilitative services, in order to encourage and bring changes in the attitudes and behaviours of perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to reduce the likelihood of reoffending”*. They should also *“develop national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess policies and programmes, including preventive and response strategies to address violence against women and girls in both public and private spheres”*.

Sweden believes that these obligations are critical if we are to end men's violence against women. Despite extensive efforts, we have only seen a slight reduction in violent crimes committed against women and girls by men. It is essential to ensure that victims of violence receive support and protection. And it is also essential to focus on the perpetrators of violence and to invest in preventing violence before it occurs.

Domestic violence is still largely perpetrated by men. Research shows that individual factors and constructions and stereotypes of male identity and masculinity play a crucial role in men's violence against women. We therefore need to work on the resistance that perpetuates traditional gender roles. These roles are not static. Naturally men can change and so can social norms.

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· The views in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.

This work involves investments in measures that challenge gender norms through universal, selective and indicated violence prevention measures and in the provision of treatment for perpetrators of violence. To succeed, a wide range of relevant actors need to be involved, alongside key partners such as the social services, the police and schools. It is also important to involve centres providing counselling for perpetrators and civil society representatives.

In addition, the women's shelter movement and men's organisations such as Men Engage are important advocates for early violence prevention interventions. In advocacy and policy making for primary prevention the question of accountability towards the survivors of men's violence has to be a priority and the knowledge in the women's movement around the world must be taken into account.

Today, many municipalities in Sweden offer counselling services for men who use violence. These include motivational counselling or cognitive-oriented group programmes containing educational and therapeutic elements. Both men's understanding of violence and their behaviour patterns have to be changed. As a next step, we are developing various forms of treatment that take into account causes of violence and the extent of violence used by a perpetrator. All treatment interventions need to be monitored and evaluated to ensure that they result in a reduction in violence against women and children.

Men and boy's involvement in challenging destructive masculinity norms and violence can reduce both human suffering and societal costs. Even for men, negative masculinity norms can have negative consequences in terms of morbidity and mortality, while men who are actively involved in parenting, contribute to better health outcomes for themselves and their children and partners.

At the presentation will be two important actors partnering with the Government to end men's violence against women: Alternative to Violence (ATV) and UNIZON, the women's shelter movement.

## **Outline**

The event will focus on the following perspectives:

- Increased gender equality in society has a positive impact on reducing men's and boy's violence against women.
- Violence prevention and treatment programs should be evidence-based and treatment should ensure that perpetrators take responsibility for their violent actions. Treatment programmes for violent men should also include measures that ensure the safety of victims of violence.
- Early violence prevention is critical to reducing the incidence of violence before it occurs.
- Men and boys should be involved in violence prevention activities and in gender equality measures.

## **Participants:**

- Ms Åsa Regnér, Swedish Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality,
- Mr Marius Råkil, Specialist in clinical psychology and Director of Alternative to Violence (ATV), a professional research and treatment centre in Norway for violent offenders and people witnessing or being exposed to violence. ATV is also involved in treatment programmes in Sweden.
- Ms Olga Persson, Secretary-General, Swedish Association of Women's Shelters and Young Women's Empowerment Centres (UNIZON)