



Welcome

Important information for new arrivals to Sweden

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Welcome

Добро пожаловать!

Välkommen

مرحبًا



VÄSTERÅS STAD



Welcome to Västerås!

We are proud of a lot of things in our city and in our country. We would like to tell you about some of the things we work particularly hard to protect. As a new arrival to Sweden you are important and can contribute to our society.

Living in Sweden means that you have a lot of freedom, but you also have a duty to respect our values. It is important that you know what rights and obligations we have here.

Equality **Freedom of opinion**

Equal value of all people

Freedom of religion

Freedom of the press

Freedom of expression **The rights of the child**



Democracy

Sweden is a democracy. Living in a democracy means that you have rights and the freedom to express your opinions. However, you also have a responsibility to respect other people and to allow them to express their opinions.

Every four years there is an election when everyone who is entitled to vote can vote for the politicians and parties they want to govern the country at national, regional and local level. You must be over 18 years of age to be able to vote in these elections. In order to be able to vote in any election, you must be a Swedish citizen. If you are not a Swedish citizen but have lived in Sweden for a minimum of three years, you may be entitled to vote in local and regional elections.



Human rights

All people are of equal value and have to be treated equally. This is the cornerstone of our society and of our way of life in Sweden. It is also an element of the United Nations' (UN) Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Each and every person has fundamental rights – but also obligations. You are entitled to protection against discrimination and oppression, but you also have a responsibility to respect other people's opinions and their way of life.

No one, not even your family, has the right to restrict your personal freedom provided you comply with applicable laws and regulations.

In Sweden, men and women must have the same rights and opportunities. Everyone has an equal right to work and everyone must also have equal power to contribute to society and to shape their own lives.

If someone is treated less well because of their gender, gender identity, age, religion, ethnic affiliation, sexual orientation or disability, this is considered discrimination. It is illegal to discriminate against someone.



**Freedom and
responsibilities**

**Everyone is of
equal value**





Sweden is an open society

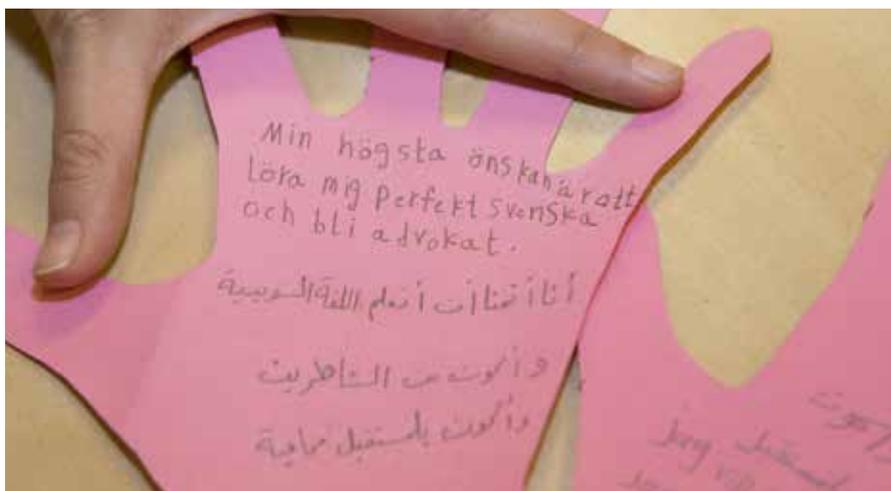
Our society is open to people living their lives in different ways. Everyone in Sweden who has reached the age of majority (is over 18 years old) is entitled to enter into whatever mutual loving relationship they want.

Some couples marry, while others live together without marrying. It is entirely up to the couple in question.

In Sweden you can marry and have children whatever your sexual orientation and gender identity. This means, for example, that homosexual, transsexual and heterosexual people all have the same legal opportunities.

No one is entitled to harass you or discriminate against you because of your choice of partner or way of life. Similarly, you are not entitled to harass someone on account of their choices.

*All people have the right to say
what they think, believe in whichever god they want
and choose whichever partner they want to live with.*



Children

- Everyone must always consider what is best for the child.
- All children are entitled to an education.
- All children have the right to be listened to.
- All children have the right to protection from all forms of violence.
- It is illegal to smack children in Sweden. There are no exceptions to this rule.

In Sweden there are rules that aim to protect the rights of children. The same rules apply in a number of other countries. These rules are based on the idea that all children are of equal value and have a right to life and development. The right to development means that the child has a right to a good childhood and to develop at his/her own pace.

The rules that aim to protect the rights of children are included in the UN's Convention on the Rights of the Child. These rules apply for all children in Sweden. In Sweden you are considered a child until you reach your 18th birthday.

You can read more about the rules here: [unicef.se/barnkonventionen](https://www.unicef.se/barnkonventionen)

Religion

In Sweden we have freedom of religion. This means that everyone who lives here can belong to whichever religion they want. Everyone also has the right to change religion and to leave a religion.

You are not permitted to harass someone because of their religion or to force someone to live in accordance with customs associated with your own religion.





We are proud of our country and our city and hope that you will be happy here! Together we make Sweden fantastic!

Welcome – You can play a part! Sweden is a fantastic country

More information is available on the website Information om Sverige about your rights and obligations when you come to live in Sweden. Information is available in a lot of different languages. The City of Västerås website provides information about Västerås.



Link to
informationsverige.se



Link to
vasteras.se



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