

**Committee:** United Nations Commission on the status of women(UNCSW)

**Portfolio:** Sweden

**Agenda:** Combatting global human trafficking of women: Addressing exploitation and forced labour.

## **1. DESCRIPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Female human trafficking is a global phenomenon that affects **more than 60%** of the victims who are women and girls, who are mostly compelled **into commercial sex or forced labour** such as domestic work and even into crime. **Poverty, gender inequality, conflict, and dangerous migration** are the drivers of the crisis. With the advent of online platforms, it became simple for traffickers to prey on vulnerable people. Despite international agreements such as **Palermo Protocol**, most states remain beset by **weak law enforcement, weak protection for victims, and insufficient policies for survivors**. Most urgently needed is collective global action- **tough legislation, addressing causes, guaranteed assistance to survivors, enhanced international cooperation, and more intelligent use of technology** to prevent and prosecute traffickers. To correct this problem is not simply a human rights issue- it's also essential to advance gender equality, sustainable development and global justice.

## **2. Sweden's Stance**

Sweden's strong, fact-based resistance to human trafficking of women

is centered on **gender equality and support for victims**. In 2024, the Swedish Migration Agency detected **684** suspected human trafficking cases, including forced labor. Sweden **criminalizes buying—but not selling—sex services** to curb demand, seeing trafficked women as victims in need of comprehensive support, not punishment. In spite of the advancements, low prosecution rates of labor trafficking, in particular, are an issue and a call has been made for **stronger legal enforcement and also for identification of victims**. The government has enhanced assistance for the victims, for instance, **SEK 10 million** in 2025 to enhance assistance for victims of prostitution and more national helplines. The Swedish approach is built on prevention, successful prosecution, and care to survivors with survivor-specific care included in promoting gender equality and protecting human rights.

### **3. Expectations from the UN**

Sweden respectfully calls on the United Nations and its Member States to embrace a **survivor-centered, gender-sensitive, and inclusive approach** to the existing global action against human trafficking, with a focus on women and girls. We urge the UN to establish **greater international cooperation**, to **encourage national legislation** to be brought into harmony with global standards, and to **follow the call for sexual and labor exploitation suppression** by targeting legislation towards criminalizing traffickers' beneficiaries and instigators—consumers of sexual acts included—and **protecting and assisting victims**. Sweden supports mainstreaming anti-trafficking goals in the broader UN pledge on gender equality, migration, and sustainable development, taking into consideration that actions to address the root causes such as poverty, conflict, and gender-based violence should be

achieved to ensure long-term progress. We also support enhanced support systems for survivors, **improved identification strategies, and improved stakeholders' coordination, with additional monitoring and open evaluation under UN mandate.** Sweden is dedicated to backing effective and enforceable UN resolutions rooted in accountability, respect for human rights, and the promotion of gender equality, reservations towards proposals that would weaken these core goals.