



Ministry of Employment

## Contribution to the consultation of EU Member States - 2023 Report on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: Effective Legal Protection as a Precondition for the Full Application of Fundamental Rights

Sweden appreciates the opportunity to provide a contribution to the work of the Commission to compile the 2023 Report on the Application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The below information has been compiled by the different Ministries within the Government Offices of Sweden.

### **1. Which judicial and non-judicial remedies are available in your Member State:**

#### a. In criminal, civil and administrative cases;

The legal remedies available in the Swedish legal system are designed to protect fundamental rights. Legal proceedings are usually decided by ordinary courts and general administrative courts, and in some cases by administrative authorities. Which court handles a case relating to fundamental rights will depend on various factors, such as the right that has been infringed and the context in which this occurred. Whether it is a private or a public body that has infringed the right can also affect which court hears the case.

For further information in this regard, please refer to European E-Justice portal, [European e-Justice Portal - National ordinary courts \(europa.eu\)](https://e-justice.europa.eu) and [European e-Justice Portal - National specialised courts \(europa.eu\)](https://e-justice.europa.eu).

Criminal injuries compensation – In Sweden crime victims may be entitled to criminal injuries compensation from the state if they are unable to get full compensation from the perpetrator or via insurance. Applications for Criminal injuries compensation are handled by the Swedish Crime Victim Authority (Brottsoffermyndigheten). Further information can be found on the authority's website (<https://www.brottsoffermyndigheten.se/other-languages/english/>).

b. in cases of discrimination;

The legal remedies in cases of discrimination is that a natural or legal person who violates the prohibitions of discrimination under the Discrimination Act (2008:567) shall pay compensation for discrimination for the offence resulting from the infringement. When compensation is decided, particular attention shall be given to the purpose of discouraging such infringements of the Act. The compensation shall be paid to the person who has been offended by the infringement. The Equality Ombudsman, or a non-profit organisation or employees organisation may bring an action to court. It is a civil law process. Further information can be found on the Equality Ombudsman's website ([www.do.se/choose-language/english](http://www.do.se/choose-language/english)).

There are provisions on unlawful discrimination in the criminal law. It is punishable by law for a trader to discriminate in their business based on a person's race, colour, ethnicity, belief, sexual orientation or transgender identity or expression. The penalty is a fine or imprisonment for a maximum of 1 year.

c. in the field of consumer legislation;

Consumers can sue traders in general courts and claim compensation for damages or other redress measures such as repair, replacement, price reduction or contract termination. If the dispute concerns a general consumer interest or is of importance to clarify a certain legal situation, the Consumer Ombudsman can grant support to the consumer. This means that the Consumer Ombudsman will represent the consumer in court and that the state will cover the consumer's legal expenses. It is also possible for a group of consumers to file a representative action against a trader.

Furthermore, there are several different boards for alternative dispute resolution in the field of consumer legislation, according to directive

2013/11/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on alternative dispute resolution for consumer disputes. The main board is the National Board for Consumer Disputes (ARN). ARN is a public authority that functions similarly to a court. The main task is to impartially try disputes between consumers and traders. ARN submits recommendations on how disputes should be resolved. The recommendations are not legally binding, but the majority of traders follow them.

Except ARN, there are six other boards for alternative dispute resolution, trying disputes in various areas that ARN does not cover.

#### d. in the field of employment legislation;

In the field of employment rights, the most important methods of regulating working conditions is through legislation, general principles of law and court decisions, as well as collective agreements and individual agreements.

Although legislation is the principal source of law, collective agreements are important as a major source of law. The combination of legislation and collective agreements is of fundamental importance in order to adjust the regulations to the different conditions and traditions in different industries. Some rules in labour law are semi-compulsory, which means that it is possible to agree on a deviation from the law to the advantage of the individual employee through a collective agreement. Since Sweden's entry into the EU, European union law has become an important source of law. The European Convention on Human Rights was implemented into Swedish law in 1995. The convention has had a growing impact as a source of law in Sweden, even in matter concerning employment.

To ensure the effectiveness of employment rights and ensure access to justice there are provisions in, amongst other, The Labour Disputes (Judicial Procedure) Act (1974:371). This Act applies to judicial procedure regarding disputes concerning collective bargaining and agreements as well as other disputes relating to the relationship between employers and employees (labour disputes).

As stated in the Labour Disputes Act the Labour Court (Arbetsdomstolen) is a special court set up to hear and rule on labour-related disputes. A labour dispute is any dispute which affects the relationship between employers and employees. Certain types of labour dispute may be brought directly before

the labour court, while in other types of dispute claims must first be brought before the ordinary district court. In either case the judgement of the labour court is the final judgement since labour court judgements cannot be appealed. The labour court is a normal court in the sense that it is financed from public funds. Members of the court are appointed by the government after an application procedure. The individual parties in a dispute have no influence whatsoever over the composition of the court. In addition, the court also follows largely the same judicial process as the general courts. The Code of Judicial Procedure applies to the labour court.

The Labour court can request a preliminary ruling from the Court of justice of the European Union.

Important acts in the field of employer rights are, inter alia, The Co-determination Act (1976:80), The Work Environment Act (1977:1160), The Employment Protection Act (1982:80), The Working Hours Act (1982:673) and The Whistleblower Act (2021:890). Many law acts can be of importance and thereby influence employer rights. An example of such an act is The Discrimination Act (2008:567).

Common for the law acts and for rules in collective agreements and individual agreements is that they enable the employee, employer and the Unions to, in various ways, enforce their rights and claim a dismissal or an other decision as null and void and/or claim damage for contractual breach, injury to feelings or for financial loss.

e. in other fields, including as regards non-judicial remedies.

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**2. Does your Member State provide information on the available remedies, and the steps to be taken during a judicial process / when accessing non-judicial remedies:**

a. To parties of criminal proceedings:

The Swedish courts website (<https://www.domstol.se/>) provides a comprehensive overview on the available remedies as well as the steps during the criminal proceedings. The Prosecution Authority's website ([www.aklagare.se/en](http://www.aklagare.se/en)) also provides information regarding the criminal

procedure. The website is also available in Swedish in a format that is easily readable, ([Lättläst \(aklagare.se\)](#)).

Also on the Swedish Crime Victim Authority's website there is comprehensive information on the judicial process, primarily aimed at crime victims, their relatives, and witnesses ([Brottsoffermyndigheten](#)). The website is also available in Swedish in a format that is easily readable ([Lättläst | Brottsoffermyndigheten](#)).

The Swedish Police Authority provides also comprehensive information about what kind of support victims can get from different actors and about the judicial process, for example about how an individual can get a complainant's counsel and also how an individual can get judicial counselling. ([Startpage English - polisen.se | The Swedish Police Authority](#)) . The website is also available in Swedish in a format that is easily readable ([Start | Polismyndigheten \(polisen.se\)](#))

b. To parties of civil proceedings:

The Swedish courts website ([www.domstol.se](http://www.domstol.se)) provides a comprehensive overview on the available remedies as well as the steps during the civil proceedings. Further information can also be found on the relevant agencies websites, such as the website for the Enforcement Agency ([The Enforcement Authority – English | Kronofogden](#)).

The Equality Ombudsman provide information on their website ([www.do.se/choose-language](http://www.do.se/choose-language)). The website is also available in Swedish in a format that is easily readable (<https://www.do.se/sprak-och-lattlast/om-diskriminering-lattlast>).

c. To parties of administrative proceedings:

The Swedish courts website (<https://www.domstol.se/>) provides a comprehensive overview on the available remedies as well as the steps during the administrative proceedings. Further information can also be found on the relevant agencies websites, such as the website for the Migrations Agency ([www.migrationsverket.se/English.html](http://www.migrationsverket.se/English.html)) and the Tax Agency ([In English | Skatteverket](#)).

d. Persons accessing non-judicial remedies.

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### **3. Does your Member State use digital tools to facilitate access to justice?**

a. Yes

If yes, please provide more information on the tools available and your experience on their relevance. Please provide examples of good practice you consider effective:

There are numerous digital tools employed in Sweden to facilitate access to justice. For instance, video conference is widely used in the Swedish courts if it can be justified that a party or anyone else attend the court session by use of video conference instead of being personally present. When considering video conference, the court shall especially observe 1. the costs or inconveniences for the person who shall attend the court hearing if he or she has to be personally present, 2. if someone who shall attend the court hearing feels fear of being personally present, 3. if it can be assumed that someone who shall attend the court hearing are exposed to pressure, and 4. if it is necessary for security reasons.

Additionally, expanding on the video conference capabilities, it is now possible for parties or witnesses to attend court proceedings through the means of video conference through their own mobile phones using a court-provided system called Web-RTC.

Presence by video conference may not take place if it is considered unsuitable in respect of the purpose of the presence of the person in question or other circumstances. The person attending the court session by video conference shall be considered personally present at the session (see Chapter 5 section 10, the Swedish Code of Judicial Procedure).

Moreover, on 1 January 2021 some amendments came into force that aim to enable or facilitate digital communication in court proceedings. The amendments mean that lawsuits and other applications according to the Code of Judicial Procedure can be made in digital form. In such cases, the application must be signed with an advanced electronic signature.

Furthermore, certain family law cases (undisputed divorce cases) can now be handled completely digitally by the applicants.

**4. Which of the following measures are available in your Member State to remove language/ cultural/ physical/ financial/ other barriers for people accessing remedies:**

a. Interpretation and translation services;

Both interpretation and translation services are available at court proceedings. The services are financed and supplied by the courts for free. With regards to language barriers only translators – in so far possible – that have been approved by the The Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency are used.

In the municipalities stated in the Act on National Minorities and Minority Languages (2009:724), there is a strengthened right to use the minority languages Finnish, Meänkieli and Sami in courts.

b. Measures to facilitate access by persons with disabilities, such as measures relating to accessibility of court houses and other resources for people with disabilities;

Various measures have been taken to ensure the justice system's responsiveness to the needs of persons with disabilities. For example, the webpage domstol.se, films/instructions and digital services, went through improvements to be useful for as many users as possible. Also, the internal webpage for employees was improved to be more accessible.

It is also crucial to build and renovate the courts so that all people can access and participate in court hearings. For example, were 10 courts renovated during 2022.

Each year, a meeting is held between many of the authorities and stakeholders working with judicial matters. This year, The Swedish Courts Administration acted as hosts and other participant were the Swedish Police agency, the Swedish Prosecution Authority and the Swedish Crime Victim Authority. This year's theme was treatment during court hearings and that the verdict is formulated in an easy-accessible manner.

According to the Discrimination Act inadequate accessibility is a form of discrimination. Inadequate accessibility is that a person with disability is disadvantaged through a failure to take measures for accessibility to enable the person to come into a situation comparable with that of a person without this disability where such measures are reasonable on the basis of for example accessibility requirements in laws and other statutes and with the consideration to the financial and practical conditions. The Equality Ombudsman is to supervise compliance with the Act.

c. Legal aid;

*Counsel for an injured party*

In certain criminal cases, the court can, after a preliminary investigation has been initiated appoint a counsel for an injured party, to help a victim of a crime.

A counsel for an injured party protects the interest of the victim and can for example bring an action for damages on the victim's behalf in the criminal case if the prosecutor does not do so. Such counsel is common in cases where the victim has been exposed to, for example, a sexual offence, assault, unlawful deprivation of liberty or other crime for which imprisonment may be imposed on the person who committed the crime.

A counsel for an injured party receives payment from the State. If the accused is sentenced, the accused may have to repay the costs for aggrieved party counsel to the State. The injured party does not have to pay anything for the counsel.

*Legal aid according to the legal aid act*

Legal aid according to the legal aid act is generally not applicable in criminal cases, as legal aid is in such cases supplied through a different framework, for instance through the means of a counsel for an injured party.

Legal aid according to the legal aid act is financial support provided by the State to those who are unable to pay for a legal representative for them to have their case heard. Overall legal aid is used in civil cases, such as family disputes, for example cases concerning custody of a child. A prerequisite is that the cost is not covered by a legal expenses insurance.



There are limits to the costs for legal aid paid by the State. The basic idea behind legal aid is that a person should contribute to the cost to the extent that he or she can afford. A legal aid fee is paid by the applicant, varies from 2 to 40 percent of the costs depending on the applicant's income. Legal aid can cover the whole or part of a person's cost of a legal representative up to 100 hours (can be extended by the court).

d. Arrangements to refer vulnerable victims, such as victims of domestic or gender-based violence, to support services;

The Social Service Act (2001:453) states that municipalities have an obligation to protect all victims of crime and particularly women and children subjected to violence. Victims have the right to support services from the municipalities. Municipalities are obligated to provide support services to all persons seeking protection.

Support measures should be adapted to individual circumstances. Measures provided by municipalities include counselling, sheltered housing, economic support, and support during the legislative process. All municipalities provide information about support services such as the social services, local shelters, and other organisations on their websites. Several national and local women's organisations also provide information about support services and offer protection, such as sheltered housing, for victims of violence.

There are also several helplines that provide support to anyone that has been subjected to violence, for example Sweden's national women's helpline. In 2023, a helpline for transgender persons as well as a helpline for men were launched. The helplines provide information about different support services to victims of violence, relatives and to victims of violence and professionals that meet victims of violence in their workplace. Interpreters are available for all helplines.

If there is a risk that someone will be subjected to a crime, stalking or other serious harassment, it is possible to apply for a non-contact order. A non-contact order means that the person prohibited may not contact the person whom the order is intended to protect, for example through visits, by phone or e-mail.

In many cases, a person who is victim of violation in in a domestic context, can be assigned a counsel for an injured party. If granted, it is free of charge.

The counsel supports the victim throughout the legal process and can also bring an action for damages on the victim's behalf in the criminal case.

If a child has been the victim of a crime by a guardian or someone close to the guardian, the child may be assigned a special representative. It is usually a legally trained person. A special representative is tasked with safeguarding the child's rights during the police's preliminary investigation and if there is a trial. It is the prosecutor who applies to the district court for a special representative to be appointed for the child.

e. Fast-track proceedings available for certain vulnerable parties, such as in cases involving sexual violence or children;

Children and youth are a highly prioritised group of the municipal social services. According to the Social Services Act (2001:453, Ch 14, Section 1), any person receiving information of a matter, that can imply a need for the Social Welfare Committee to intervene for the protection of a child, should notify the committee accordingly. Authorities whose activities affect children and young persons are duty bound, as are other authorities in health care, medical care, other forensic psychiatric investigation services and social services, prison and probation services, to notify the Social Welfare Committee immediately of any matter that comes to their knowledge and may imply a need for the committee to intervene for the protection of a child.

The Government has appointed a special inquiry with the purpose to develop an Exit program for people exposed to prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes, as well as a program for children exposed to sexual exploitation and human trafficking for sexual purposes. The results of the inquiry will be reported to the government 30 November 2023.

In the Swedish health care system, there are dedicated special care units for victims of sexual violence that apart from medical and psychological aid also help victims with filing a police report and making a forensic medical analysis. For children and young people who have been subjected to physical or sexual abuse, the Swedish Police organize dedicated childcare units all over the country (Barnahus).

Crimes committed against children are usually dealt with by an experienced and specially trained prosecutor. It is especially important to quickly and

efficiently investigate crimes in which the victim is a minor. Specific rules apply to the speed with which a case must be dealt with when the victim is under 18 years of age and the crime is serious (see Förundersökningskungörelsen, 2 a §). If the victim of crime is a minor, she or he is entitled to a counsel for the injured party during the trial.

The Act on certain provisions on young offenders contain special provisions for suspects under the age of 21 as regards to time limits, information and support, waiver of prosecution and detention.

#### f. Other measures

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### **5. Which measures has your Member State taken to ensure the justice system's responsiveness to the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups? Please provide examples of good practice you consider effective**

Various measures have been taken to ensure the justice system's responsiveness to the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups.

For instance, when children (generally under the age of 15) are involved in criminal proceedings as witnesses or an injured party, interviews are as a rule not held in the court proceedings but are instead conducted by the police and a video of the interview is then instead shown during the proceedings. These interviews are often held at so called Children's Houses (barnahus) by a specially trained police officer. The Children's Houses have two aims. Firstly, they are supposed to be child friendly, interdisciplinary and based on a multi-agency concept. The second aim is to improve the quality of police investigations, to obtain an effective and legally secure process. In addition, the prosecutor handling cases that include children have received specialised training. The prosecutor, or a specialist counsel specifically appointed by the court to act on behalf of the child, also represents the child during the court proceedings, including regarding claims for damages.

There are also certain offences in the penal code that specifically target assailants of vulnerable groups.

One criminalization that aims to safeguard a vulnerable group is the criminal offence *gross violation of a woman's integrity*. A man who commits certain criminal acts, such as assault, against a woman to whom he is or has been married, or with whom he is or has been cohabiting under circumstances similar to marriage, is, if each of the acts was part of a repeated violation of the person's integrity and the acts were liable to severely damage the person's self-esteem, guilty of gross violation of a woman's integrity. There is also a gender neutral variation of the offence, applicable in similar circumstances, that carries a corresponding penalty.

In January 2022 several amendments entered into force regarding *tougher penalties for violence and other violations in close relationships*. For example, an extended non-contact order may, unlike before, be combined with an electronic monitoring provision, regardless of whether the intended subject of the order has breached a previous non-contact order. To better reflect the seriousness of the crime, the penalties for violations in a domestic context was also strengthened. For example, the minimum sentence for gross violation of integrity and gross violation of a woman's integrity was increased from imprisonment for at least nine months to imprisonment for at least one year.

In order to strengthen the protection of children who witness crimes within the family, a new graded offence, *violation of a child's integrity and gross violation of a child's integrity*, was introduced in July 2021. Violation of a child's integrity means that it is punishable to expose a child to witnessing certain criminal acts, such as violence and sexual offences in a domestic context. Furthermore, the right to compensation for criminal damage for children who witness crimes has been strengthened. In order to strengthen the position of children in general, the mandate of the special representative of a child under the Act on Special Representatives for Children has also been expanded.

In recent years, several measures have also been taken to counteract honour-related violence and oppression. Honour-related violence and oppression is a serious social problem that violates and limits primarily girls and young women, but also young men and young LGBTQ people.

Since January 2019, a new main rule applies that *no foreign child marriages shall be recognized in Sweden*. The purpose of the legislative amendments is to ensure

that everyone in Sweden is protected against child marriage. They also aim to counteract the occurrence of child marriages in Sweden by clearly stating that such marriages are not accepted. In July 2020, a new offence, *child marriage offence*, was introduced, which can carry a sentence of imprisonment for at most four years. It is now a criminal offence to induce or allow a child to enter a marriage or a marriage-like relationship. In addition, an exit ban has been introduced, which is intended to protect children from being taken abroad for the purpose of child marriage or genital mutilation. It is punishable to take a child out of Sweden in violation of an exit ban.

In July 2020, whether a motive for the offence was to preserve or restore the honour of a person or of an immediate or wider family or some other similar group was introduced as a *new aggravating circumstance* that shall be given consideration when assessing penalty value, in addition to what applies for each specific type of offence.

In May 2021, two new offences were introduced, *encouraging suicide and negligently encouraging suicide*. A person who encourages, or in some other similar way exercises psychological influence on, another person to commit suicide is, if the act is liable to result in a not insignificant danger of such an action, guilty of encouraging suicide. A person who commits such an act and does not have intent but is negligent, is guilty of negligently encouraging suicide.

In June 2022, a new offence was introduced into the Penal Code, *honour-based oppression*. A special stricter penalty scale was thereby introduced for those who repeatedly commit certain criminal acts against a person with a motive to preserve or restore the honour of a person, family or group, if the acts constituted parts of a repeated violation of the person's integrity and were likely to severely damage the person's self-esteem.

**6. Does your Member State have in place arrangements to facilitate access to justice by children? Please provide examples of good practice you consider effective.**

In 2018, the Swedish Parliament voted for the Government's proposal to incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) into Swedish law. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Act (2018:1197) came into force on 1 January 2020. Incorporation of the CRC entails a clearer obligation on legal practitioners to consider the rights that

follow from the CRC in deliberations and assessments that are part of decision-making processes in cases and matters concerning children. In addition, incorporation means that the child's role as a legal entity with specific rights of their own is made clearer and can therefore be expected to contribute to greater focus on the child in situations concerning the child.

The provisions on the best interests of the child constitute one of the opening paragraphs in both the Social Services Act and the Care of Young Persons (Special Provisions) Act (LVU). The social services in each municipality must work to ensure that children and young people grow up in safe conditions. Working towards this end social services may need to cooperate with, inter alia the health care, the school and the police. The municipalities and the National Board of Institutional Care (SiS) shall apply the Social Services Act in their municipal activities and compulsory care.

The provisions in the Social Services Act and LVU state that a child must be given opportunity to participate. This includes the right to information, the right to speak and to be listened to and the right to influence based on age and maturity. A child who has reached the age of 15 has the right to bring his/her own action in cases under the Social Services Act and LVU. Under LVU a person appointed public assistant for a child who has not reached the age of 15 is without further appointment the child's representative. In March 2021, special suitability requirements for public assistants in cases and matters according to LVU were introduced.

Within social services, the Health and Social Care Inspectorate (IVO) carries out supervision of the social services case management, how the social services carry out outreach operations (uppsökande verksamhet) and the actual implementation of these initiatives. This means that the Inspectorate also inspects residential homes for care of children, young people and adults, including those operated by National Board of Institutional Care (SiS). Children can report shortcomings and problems to IVO. The Inspectorate shall offer children the opportunity to speak with inspectors when residential care homes are inspected. Those who are dissatisfied have the right to complain to staff or to one of the agencies who ensure compliance with the law, for example the Health and Social Care Inspectorate (IVO) or the Parliamentary Ombudsmen (or the Swedish Schools Inspectorate (SSI)). IVO also has an explicit responsibility for providing information to children and young people in care about their rights.

On 23 August this year an inquiry submitted its report titled “Improved opportunities for children to exercise their rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child” (Förbättrade möjligheter för barn att utkräva sina rättigheter enligt barnkonventionen, SOU 2023:40) to the Government. The Inquiry proposes that Sweden should ratify the Third Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure. In its report, the Inquiry also proposes several measures that seek to ensure children’s possibilities to complain and exercise their rights under the CRC in Swedish legislation. Finally, the Inquiry concludes that there is a need for an actor to support children with a significant need for support who, for various reasons, lack sufficient support from their parents or carers or other adults in their lives. To this end, the State should set up children’s rights bureaus within civil society organisations which operates and carries out services with independent child advocacy. The Inquiry proposes a test programme of government grants to children’s rights bureaus that provides independent child advocacy.<sup>1</sup>

In a case where a custodian is the suspect of a crime against his or her child, or if the custodian has a close relationship with the person suspected of an offence against their child, a special representative for the child may be appointed. The special representative shall, instead of the custodian, protect the child's rights during the preliminary investigation and the trial. The special representative must meet certain requirements regarding suitability etc. The special representative will be paid for by the state. Hence, it is free of charge for the child. The prosecutor of the case will apply to the court for a special representative for the child in these situations.

**7. Does the justice system provide the possibility for stakeholders to bring cases on behalf or in support of victims? If yes, in which areas of law is this possible? Please provide examples of good practice you consider effective.**

In civil law cases there is a possibility for an action under the The Group Proceedings Act. The Act applies to all areas of civil law, with a few exceptions for certain labour and marketing law claims. Any legal claim that can be litigated in courts of general jurisdiction according to the Code of

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the inquiry’s proposals, please see the English summary on pp. 55ff in the report: [https://www.regeringen.se/contentassets/4ebbe056919a49a2bc51109778c7ef8b/sou-2023\\_40.pdf](https://www.regeringen.se/contentassets/4ebbe056919a49a2bc51109778c7ef8b/sou-2023_40.pdf)

Judicial Procedure can also be litigated as group proceedings pursuant to the Act provided that other provisions in the Act are fulfilled.

Under the act, a private group action may be instituted by a natural person who, or legal entity that, himself, herself or itself has a claim that is subject to the action. A claim can also be made by an organisation through an organisation action. An organisation action may be instituted by a not-for-profit association that, in accordance with its rules, protects consumer or wage-earner interests in disputes between consumers and a business operator regarding any goods, services or other utility that the business operator offers to consumers. Moreover, a public group action may be instituted by an authority that, taking into consideration the subject of dispute, is suitable to represent the members of the group. The Government decides which authorities are allowed to institute public group actions.

Group proceedings can also be brought under special provisions under The Environmental Code and under also with regards to damages under competition law (in accordance with Konkurrensskadelagen 2016:964).

Furthermore, under Swedish law there are very few hindrances against financially backing victims in claims. There are also no requirements that a counsel in a civil case has to be a member of the Swedish Bar Association. The justice system subsequently allows for organisations to support civil actions, albeit not as a party to the proceedings other than in the above mentioned situations under the Group Proceedings Act.

#### **8. Which challenges or points of development have been identified in your Member State regarding effective legal protection?**

Development in Sweden with regards to effective legal protection has to a large extent involved facilitating the public's access to the justice system through the means of digitalisation. This includes, among others, the development of a video conferencing system supplied by the court but available to the public through the use of their mobile phones (see above under question 3).

#### **9. Is there any significant, recent case-law from your Member States on ensuring effective legal protection, which you would like to mention?**



**10. Are there any significant, recent decisions by equality bodies or other non-judicial remedies on ensuring effective legal protection, which you would like to mention?**

Within the timeframe given for compiling our response, it has not been possible to identify such case laws or decisions.