

**Discrimination against Women**

Signed: 7 March 1980; ratified: 2 July 1980.  
Sweden's fourth periodic report (CEDAW/C/SWE/4) has been submitted but is not yet scheduled for consideration by the Committee; the fifth periodic report is due 3 September 1998.

**Torture**

Signed: 4 February 1985; ratified: 8 January 1986.  
Sweden's fourth periodic report is due 25 June 2000.  
*Reservations and Declarations:* Declarations under articles 21 and 22.

**Rights of the Child**

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 29 June 1990.  
Sweden's second periodic report (CRC/C/65/Add.3) has been submitted and is pending for the Committee's January 1999 session; the third periodic report is due 1 September 2002.

**THEMATIC REPORTS****Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights**

**Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on the:**  
(E/CN.4/1998/101, para. 108)

In the section dealing with children as viewers of sexually explicit material on the Internet, the report refers to the Bill on Responsibility for Electronic Notice-Boards which proposed that a new special law should be introduced regulating such responsibility. It was proposed that the law: would come into force on 1 May 1998; would not apply to providers of networks or other connections for the transmission of messages; would stipulate that providers must give the users of the service information about their identity and to what extent incoming messages become available to other users; would require providers to remove or otherwise prevent continued dissemination of certain categories of message from their services (e.g., incitement to criminal acts, vilification of groups of people, child pornography, or the unlawful depiction of violence); and would sentence a provider to pay a fine if it intentionally or through negligence did not give this required information, or did not prevent further dissemination of a message belonging to these categories.

**Torture, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1998/38, para. 182; E/CN.4/1998/38/Add.1, paras. 412)

In December 1997 the Special Rapporteur transmitted an urgent appeal on behalf of a Turkish Kurd from Adiyaman governorate, whose application for asylum in Sweden had reportedly been rejected. Information indicated that the person had been subjected to arrest, imprisonment, and torture in Turkey on a number of occasions on account of his active support for the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK). The report notes that an examination by the Centre for Torture and Trauma Survivors in Stockholm reportedly revealed that he suffered from a post traumatic stress disorder, and fears were

expressed that he might be detained and again subjected to torture upon his return to Turkey.

**Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1998/10, para. 62)

In the context of the legal export of wastes of recycling, the report notes that Sweden is among the largest OECD exporters of such wastes.

**Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission**

**Traditional practices affecting the health of women and girls, Special Rapporteur on:**  
(E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/11, para. 94)

The report notes that legislation concerning female genital mutilation has been strengthened. Preparation of, and conspiracy to commit, the offence, as well as the failure to report cases of female genital mutilation to the authorities are now punishable. Consideration was also being given to the possibility of expanding the area of criminal responsibility to any person who has carried out female genital mutilation outside of Sweden.

**SWITZERLAND**

**Date of admission to UN:** Switzerland is not a member of the UN.

**TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS**

**Land and People:** Switzerland has submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government (HRI/CORE/1/Add.29) includes demographic data, and historical background and information on the government structure and the legal framework for the protection of human rights.

Switzerland does not have one single system of justice but rather 26 different systems functioning at the cantonal level. Remedy for violations of human rights exists through administrative law as well as through an application for a "public law remedy" filed with the Federal Tribunal. The Federal Judicial Organization Act stipulates that an action may be applied for in the Federal Tribunal against a cantonal decision or judgement, once cantonal remedies have been exhausted, for a violation of the constitutional rights of citizens, international treaties (in some cases), the right of citizens to vote and the rights relating to cantonal elections and voting, and violations of directly applicable provisions of multilateral human rights conventions. The Constitution provides for, among other rights: equality before the law, the abolition of privileges, equality between women and men, right of ownership, freedom of trade and industry, the political rights of citizens, freedom of conscience and belief, freedom of the press, freedom of association, due process, the prohibi-