



Kingdom of Sweden

By Annelie Anton

POSITION OF SWEDEN REGARDING RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE DRC



General information

Sweden strongly supports gender equality and women's rights. Swedish law protects women from discrimination and gender-based violence. The Country has a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). It supports women's participation in peacebuilding and political decision-making. Sweden considers sexual and gender-based violence a serious human-rights violation. It supports international cooperation through the UN and UN Women. Sweden also promotes women's education, employment and economic independence and believes protecting women is essential for lasting peace.

Position on the matter

Sweden strongly condemns conflict-related sexual violence used by armed groups in eastern DRC. It considers sexual violence a serious violation of women's human rights and a weapon of war. Sweden supports a zero-tolerance approach towards perpetrators and impunity. Through Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), Sweden supports holistic care for survivors, including medical, psychological and legal assistance. Its 2026–2031 development cooperation strategy continues to prioritize gender equality and women's rights. Under its WPS agenda, Sweden promotes women's meaningful participation in peace negotiations. Sweden also supports women's participation in political decision-making and security-sector reforms, advocating for at least

30% representation of women at formal peace-negotiation tables. It believes sustainable peace in the DRC cannot be achieved without women's leadership.

Proposed solutions

Sweden would advocate for stronger implementation of the WPS agenda in the DRC. It would call for at least 30% female representation in peace negotiations and political decision-making. Sweden would expand access to medical, psychological and legal assistance for survivors of sexual violence. It would strengthen accountability mechanisms and ensure perpetrators are brought to justice. Sweden would increase funding for UN Women and local women-led organizations. It would also promote education, economic empowerment and greater protection for women and girls affected by conflict.

Potential Blocks

Since the 1990s, Sweden has strengthened cooperation through the UN and EU, particularly after launching its Feminist Foreign Policy in 2014. EU states and countries supporting sexual and reproductive rights could therefore form a strong bloc.

China and Russia may resist stronger international intervention, which would be required to fulfill Sweden's goals, emphasizing sovereignty and non-interference.





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[Swedish Government – Gender Equality](#)

[Swedish Government – DRC Cooperation Strategy
2026–2031](#)

[UN Women – Women and Girls in the DRC](#)

[Sida – Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

[UN Women – DRC Country Programme 2025–2029](#)

[democratic-republic-of-the-congo](#)

[Sweden defends women subjected to sexual
violence in conflicts - Afghanistan | ReliefWeb](#)

[swedens-20242028-national-action-plan-for-the-i
mplementation-of-un-security-council-resolutions
-on-women-peace-and-security](#)

[Margot Wallström, Secretary-General's Special
Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, on
the DRC | UN Audiovisual Library](#)

