

ANNA IURGENSON 2023



I am delighted to present this report my research stay in Sweden from April 4th to June 29th of 2023 with a scholarship provided by The Sverker Åström Foundation.

The purpose of my research was to investigate the *protection of domestic violence victims and the interaction between governmental and non-governmental institutions in Sweden's "welfare state"*.

Under the guidance of Professor Pal Wrangé at Stockholm University, I received invaluable academic mentorship and support. Professor Wrangé provided me with expert advice and guidance throughout the research process, helping me shape my research questions and methodologies. I also had the opportunity to attend seminars organized by the university on topics such as the "ICC Arrest Warrant against Vladimir Putin" and a seminar discussing the Masters' degree programs offered at Stockholm University.

Interviews with Key Organizations:

Despite encountering difficulties in reaching out to NGOs for interviews, I managed to secure interviews with several key organizations involved in the protection of domestic violence victims in Sweden.

MÄN— a prominent Swedish non-profit organization that holds a significant position in the field of advancing gender equality, combating men's violence, and redefining masculinity.

I had the opportunity to interview Martin Odh, the Head of the Support Team at MÄN. I engaged in a discussion with him about various aspects of their

program and organizational partnerships related to addressing domestic violence and redefining masculinity.

Qjouren — a women's help center that plays a crucial role in providing support, protection, and information to women subjected to male violence. Their approach stands out due to their commitment to ensuring accessibility and inclusivity.

My conversation with Victoria Hånell, the Executive Director of Qjouren, provided invaluable insights into the organization's work and their approach to supporting women who have experienced male violence. Victoria highlighted the challenges that women facing violence encounter and emphasized the significance of providing *non-discriminatory support services*.



UNIZON — a collective organization that represents over 130 women's shelters, young women's empowerment centers, and support services.

I had the opportunity to engage in a discussion with Rebecka Andersson, the Secretary General of UNIZON. She highlighted the challenges faced by women in *obtaining housing* and the complexities surrounding *laws on visitation rights*, particularly when the father is the perpetrator of the violence. Additionally, we explored the *new regulations affecting shelters*, which impose additional administrative burdens.

AllaKvinorHus — a non-profit and non-partisan organization with extensive experience working with adults and children who have experienced abuse in intimate relationships.

There I had the privilege of interviewing Maria Jonsson and Evelina, who work as Curators and play a crucial role in interacting directly with victims of abuse and providing them with the necessary support. Our discussion gave me insights

into how shelters operate and the *complexities involved in helping women navigate various systems*, such as accessing benefits or securing housing.

Visits, Personal Experiences, and Cultural Exploration:

During my research stay in Sweden, I had the privilege of connecting with fellow stipendiaries and Gunnar Johansson at a dinner, fostering meaningful friendships and valuable intellectual exchanges. Additionally, I am grateful for the opportunity to experience Swedish culture and traditions through my visit to Disa Håstad's summer house during Midsommar. These personal experiences have enhanced my research stay and deepened my understanding of Swedish society.

In additions, I had the opportunity to participate in other meaningful experiences during my time in Sweden. One notable involvement was volunteering to host the Lviv Orchestra in May, which provided insights into the cultural exchange between Sweden and Ukraine. Additionally, attending a meeting with renowned Russian journalist Elena Kostiuhenko in Stockholm expanded my understanding of the media's impact on addressing social issues.

Additionally, I explored various cultural places such as the Moderna Museum, Fotografiska, ABBA Museum, Skansen and participated in guided tours. I also had the chance to travel to Uppsala and Copenhagen, expanding my cultural horizons.

Conclusion and Future Prospects:

In conclusion, my stay in Sweden has been an incredibly valuable and enriching experience. I am immensely grateful to The Sverker Åström Foundation and Disa personally for making this research possible.

Currently I continue working on processing the interview data and writing the first part of my future article. The knowledge and experiences gained during my research stay in Sweden have inspired me to further explore this field.



During my research stay, I gained significant insights for my future research. One notable finding is the issue with prescriptive goals in governmental financing of NGOs. As a result, I want to return to Sweden to *conduct interviews with governmental organizations and ministries* to delve deeper into this matter. Additionally, I am going to *work with an NGO as a volunteer* to understand the challenges and dynamics in the field practically.

Moreover, I am considering applying for a master's program in Sweden for the academic year 2024-2025. This experience has been transformative, both academically and personally, and I will always cherish the memories and knowledge gained during my stay in Sweden.