Nyamko Sabuni to speak at UN gender equality meeting

On Tuesday 2 March, Minister for Integration and Gender Equality Nyamko Sabuni will participate in the meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York. She will address the General Assembly before 13.00 local time.

Time and place

Selected programme points for Ms Sabuni, local time:

Tuesday 2 March
- Before 13.00: Speech in the General Assembly of the United Nations
- 15.00-16.30: Participation in the Nordic Side Event "Gender Challenges remaining after Beijing+15 - a policy approach"

Wednesday 3 March
13.00: Opening speech at the Swedish side event "Gender Equality and SRHR - a way to move forward on Millennium Development Goal 5".

A long list of government ministers and more than 8000 delegates from all around the world will attend the meeting, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. This year's session will contain an evaluation of how states are living up to the commitments set out in the UN's action plan for gender equality, the Beijing Platform.

The meeting will also commemorate the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Platform and it is expected that a political declaration will be adopted. Sweden will also be organising a special seminar on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the context of Millennium Development Goal 5 on improved maternal health and reduced maternal mortality.

Contact

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Related
- Report: Beijing + 15: The platform for Action and the European Union

Download
- Programme for seminar on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (pdf 882 kB)

External links
- The website of the UN Commission on the Status of Women
Ministers' engagements weeks 21-22 2009

Subject to change.

For further information contact the Minister’s press secretary.

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt
18 May
Travel in Sweden

20 May
Party leader debate ahead of European Parliament election, Riksdag

25 May
Travel in Sweden

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt
18 May
Participation in GAERC, Brussels
Visit to Göteborg, Sweden

21 May
Visit to Warsaw
Visegrad Meeting

24-26 May
ASEM, Hanoi

27-28 May
Visit to Phnom Penh

Minister for Trade Ewa Björling
18 May
Visit to Göteborg, Sweden

19 May
Visit to Almi Företagspartner (Almi Business Partner)

19 May
Dialogue meeting on the export ban on Swedish snuff in the EU internal market

20 May
Advisory Committee on EU Affairs, Riksdag
Meeting with World Bank President Robert B. Zoellick at World Bank meeting, Helsinki

25 May
Speech at Africa Day Seminar on Strategic Partnerships for African Development, Stockholm
27 May
Main speaker and award presenter at SwedenBIO's Annual General Meeting

27 May
Informal meeting with African ambassadors based in Stockholm on EPA negotiations

28 May
Competitiveness Council, Brussels

29 May
Visit to Tranäs, Sweden
Rights Work! - International Conference on Systematic Work for Human Rights

Sweden will host an International Conference on Systematic Work for Human Rights in Stockholm on 6-7 November 2008. The aim of the conference is for the invited countries to benefit from one another’s experiences and to be inspired in their continued human rights work at national level.

Among those attending the conference will be Minister for Integration and Gender Equality Nyamko Sabuni, Minister for International Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson and Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg.

The conference will be held at the Clarion Sign Hotel at Norra Bantorget.

Closing ceremony and press conference
with Minister for Integration and Gender Equality Nyamko Sabuni, Minister for International Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson and Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg on Friday, 7 November at 13.30. Accreditation cards will be issued starting on Thursday, 6 November at 08.30 at the hotel.

A press centre with wireless Internet access will be open:
Thursday, 6 November 08.30-18.30, and Friday, 7 November 08.30-15.00.

Rights Work! is part of Sweden's programme during its Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe from May until November 2008. Some 200 people from around 70 countries will attend the conference.

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Related
- Read more about the conference Rights Work!

External links
- Accreditation
The Government signs UNIFEM campaign

Today, UNIFEM Executive Director Inés Alberdi is in Stockholm to meet Minister for International Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson and Minister for Integration and Gender Equality Nyamko Sabuni and others. The Ministers will sign the UNIFEM ‘Say No to Violence against Women’ campaign.

"Bringing an end to men's violence against women is of the highest priority for the Swedish Government, both at national and international level. Ultimately, this is an issue of gender equality and women's full enjoyment of human rights," says Ms Carlsson.

"I am very pleased that UNIFEM is using the Say No to Violence against Women' campaign to focus attention on men's violence against women, something that occurs all over the world every day," says Ms Sabuni.

The campaign is one of several methods of mobilising support for gender equality issues at all levels and is one of the measures to be initiated by the Swedish UNIFEM.

In the autumn of 2007, the Government adopted a national action plan to combat men's violence against women, violence and oppression in the name of honour and violence in same-sex relations. Just over SEK 800 million has been allocated for the period up to 2010 to this broad front for action to prevent violence against women. In July this year, the Government also approved the important action plan against prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes.

At an international level, gender equality and the role of women in development are two of the most important priorities with regard to development cooperation and poverty reduction. Gender equality is also one of the Millennium Development Goals that the world's leaders agreed to achieve before 2015.

UNIFEM's Swedish Chair, Maud Ekgren Schori, will also participate in signing the campaign.

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Press Secretary to Nyamko Sabuni

External links
• Read more about the campaign Say NO to Violence against Women!
Swedish Minister for Integration and Gender Equality Ms Nyamko Sabuni to make a speech in the UN

Minister for Integration and Gender Equality Ms Nyamko Sabuni will take part in the meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW52) in New York from 25 to 27 February. She will make a speech at the high level debate on Monday 25 February.

"Sweden has an important task to inspire and promote the implementation of gender mainstreaming internationally. Our message is that sufficient financial resources aimed at gender equality policies, gender mainstreaming and women’s organisations are crucial for bringing about permanent change," says Minister for Integration and Gender Equality Ms Nyamko Sabuni. In both bilateral and multilateral development cooperation Sweden advocates and promotes women’s rights and gender equality," says Ms Sabuni.

Sweden and the other Nordic countries will arrange a joint side-event during the CSW session concerning measures to combat men's violence against women.

The Minister for Integration and Gender Equality Ms Nyamko Sabuni will be available for interviews from 25 to 27 February. For more information please contact Press secretary, Ms Malin Engstedt.
Press release  
18 February 2008  
Ministry of Education and Research  
Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality

**Swedish for immigrants (SFI) initiative - better quality and tougher requirements**

- Skills-enhancement for SFI teachers
- National tests
- Clearer goals for SFI
- Three-year time limit for SFI education

Good language proficiency significantly increases immigrants' chances of obtaining jobs, but National Agency for Education statistics on SFI education make disheartening reading: 60 per cent of the students do not achieve the goals. This is why the Government is investing in an initiative to boost SFI education: seven measures to improve education in Swedish for immigrants. Focus is being given to skills enhancement for teachers, national tests, clearer goals and time limits for SFI education.

"These statistics are hard to accept. How can education be permitted to fail in this way? Despite the fact that these deficiencies have long been known, the Social Democratic Government made no significant changes," says Minister for Education Jan Björklund.

"Knowledge of Swedish is required for work and integration. Language skills empower people and increase their chances of obtaining jobs and earning a living. This is why the SFI initiative is another important step in overcoming exclusion," says Minister for Integration Nyamko Sabuni.

**Facts - Measures in the SFI initiative**
1. Final tests in all programmes of study at national level.
2. Clear goals in the SFI curriculum.
3. Time limits for SFI education.
4. Evaluation of SFI.
5. Skills enhancement for SFI teachers.
6. Stronger national inspection system.

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Malin Engstedt  
Press Secretary to Nyamko Sabuni
UN High Commissioner Louise Arbour to visit Stockholm

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, will visit Stockholm on 14-15 January. Ms Arbour will meet Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt, Minister for International Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson and Minister for Integration and Gender Equality Nyamko Sabuni.

Ms Arbour will also visit the Riksdag and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and meet Swedish NGOs.

On Tuesday Ms Arbour will take part in a seminar on freedom of expression arranged by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to mark the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Press invitation

Photo opportunity
Photo opportunity with Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour.

Time and place:
Time: Monday 14 January 2008 at 16.30
Place: Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Gustav Adolfs torg 1, Stockholm

Breakfast seminar
Members of the media are invited to a breakfast seminar arranged by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Minister for International Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson will participate. The moderator will be Justice of the Supreme Administrative Court Aninka Brickman. Other participants will include the Chancellor of Justice, Göran Lambertz, and the President of the National Press Club of Sweden, Stig Fredrikson.

Time and place:
Time: Tuesday 15 January 2008, 9.00 - 11.00
Place: Rosenbad Conference Centre, Drottninggatan 1
Registration and coffee from 8.30

Please note: advance application is obligatory, no later than 11 January by email to Sara Finnigan at: sara.finnigan@foreign.ministry.se

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Louise Arbour (Canada) has been UN High Commissioner since 2004, when she succeeded Mary Robinson. The office of High Commissioner for Human Rights was established following a decision of the UN General Assembly in 1993. Ms Arbour was previously a judge of the Supreme Court of Canada. She has also been Chief Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and for the former Yugoslavia.

The role of the High Commissioner is to draw attention to violations of human rights, promote general awareness of human rights and help coordinate UN activities in the area.

In 2005 a new Human Rights Council was established at the UN, replacing the former Commission on Human Rights.

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Sara Malmgren
Leave of absence

Mikael T. Eriksson

Malin Engstedt
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Press meeting before Romani Women's Rights Conference

On the 3 - 4 December the Ministry for Integration and Gender Equality, the European Council and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights are co-organising a Romani Women’s Rights Conference. The Minister responsible for integrations and gender equality, Mrs Nyamko Sabuni, will open the conference.

Time and place
Monday the 3 of December at 09.15
Lejondals slott/Lejondals Castle, Bro
Conference room, Filippa

The objective of the conference is to provide a forum for discussion and sharing of information and good practices between policy makers and Romani Women's Networks across Europe on the challenges facing Romani women today. Special focus in the discussions will be on the trafficking of human beings, reproductive rights and access of Romani communities to public health care. It will also examine how Romani women can positively influence Roma policies implemented in Europe today. Around 90 persons are estimated to participate.

Except Nyamko Sabuni the vice general secretary of the Council of Europe, Maud de Boer-Buquicco, Acting Interim Director at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Constantinos Manolopoulos, and the chairperson of International Romani Women’s Network (IRWN), Soraya Post, will participate at the press meeting.

Contact
Malin Engstedt
Press Secretary to Nyamko Sabuni
Lennart Rohdin
Political Adviser
The Swedish Government on incidents in Moscow

The Swedish Government views with concern the incidents that occurred in Moscow on 27 May, when a demonstration that lacked permission from the police was held to protest against the city’s ban on gay parades. According to international media and eye witnesses, the demonstrators were subjected to violence by Russian police officers and counter-demonstrators. One organiser and several foreign politicians were arrested during the turmoil.

"The fact that the demonstration for human rights for LGBT people lacked permission must not be taken as a pretext for regarding the participants as fair game," says Minister for Integration and Gender Equality Nyamko Sabuni, who is also the Government minister for human rights, including LGBT issues. "We expect Russia, as a member of the Council of Europe, to live up to its fundamental democratic principles."

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