



Article from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Proof of vaccination may be required for access to public gatherings and public functions

Published 18 November 2021

The Government intends to proceed with the proposal to allow the use of vaccination certificates at public gatherings and public functions from 1 December 2021. The aim is to limit the spread of the virus among unvaccinated people in particular by preventing them from gathering in large groups, while public gatherings and public functions can continue to receive visitors.

“The pandemic is not over and in our part of the world the virus is now spreading. The negative trend is worrying, even though we have not yet seen a similar development in Sweden. The Government and the Public Health Agency of Sweden therefore see a need to be able to use vaccination certificates as a disease control measure to limit the chains of infection,” says Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren.

The Government has today received a request from the Public Health Authority of Sweden, which sees the need for access to vaccination certificates as a disease control measure. In September, the Government referred a proposal to ease the restrictions that apply to an event if the organiser can guarantee that the participants are vaccinated by requiring them to present a vaccination certificate showing that they are fully vaccinated, i.e., the vaccination component of the EU’s digital COVID certificate.

This means that if the organiser chooses to require a vaccination certificate, they do not have to adhere to the attendance limits that the Public Health

Agency of Sweden deems necessary for public gatherings and functions. According to the Public Health Agency of Sweden, this applies to events held indoors with more than 100 participants.

“It is a priority of the Government to provide opportunities to promote culture, sport and other important events and gatherings. Now that we see that the situation is in danger of getting worse, we intend to proceed directly with the proposal for vaccination certificates that has already been prepared, so as to enable organisers of cultural and sporting events to continue their activities,” says Minister of Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

The Government intends to proceed with the proposal, which will take effect on 1 December 2021. Because the current government is a caretaker government, support for the measure will be sought in the Riksdag.

The proposal in brief

- The proposal is aimed primarily at reducing the risk of transmission by preventing unvaccinated people from participating in public gatherings and public functions.
- Only vaccination certificates will be accepted, i.e., the vaccination component of the EU’s digital COVID certificate, which means that you have to be vaccinated.
- The aim is for the new rules to come into force on 1 December 2021.



Article from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

More restrictions to be removed from 29 September

Published 08 September 2021

The government has previously presented a plan for how the advice and restrictions introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are to be adapted and removed. At a press conference on 7 September, the government announced that restrictions on attendance numbers at public gatherings and events are planned to be removed as of 29 September 2021.

High vaccination levels throughout the population are the single most important prerequisite that will allow all restrictions to be lifted. However, the assessment was also based on the burden on health services, mortality rates and an assessment of the risk of increased transmission.

The Public Health Agency of Sweden's overall assessment is that it is possible to implement stage 4 of the government's plan for removing restrictions on 29 September 2021. This means that many of the restrictions put in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 can be removed.

The following will happen as we move into stage 4 of the government's plan for removing restrictions:

- Restrictions on attendance numbers for public gatherings and events will be removed
- Restrictions on attendance numbers for private gatherings at rented premises, for example, will be removed
- Remaining restrictions on catering establishments, including the size of parties and distance between parties, will be removed
- The Public Health Agency's advice to work from home will be removed

and a gradual return to the workplace can begin. Anyone with symptoms should continue to stay at home and be tested, and employers should then facilitate working from home.

Vaccination certificates for large public gatherings and events if needed

However, in line with the Government's plan for removal of restrictions, the Public Health Agency has previously argued that certain specific regulations may still be needed for very large public gatherings and events going forward.

In order to be prepared, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs will therefore shortly be submitting a memorandum proposing that vaccination certificates can be used at these major public gatherings and events during stage 4.

The proposal means that any restrictions on attendance numbers that may be necessary for public gatherings and events with 15,000 or more attendees would not apply if the vaccination certificate system is used. This means that the organiser will not be obliged to limit the number of attendees on premises and in defined areas or spaces at the organiser's disposal if there are restrictions in respect of this. Exceptions will be made for children under 16 and people who should not be vaccinated for medical reasons.



Article from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Adjustment of restrictions from 1 July

Published 29 June 2021

The Government previously presented a plan for adapting and phasing out the restrictions put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At a press conference on Monday, June 28 2021, it was announced that a number of restrictions will be lifted as of 1 July 2021, in line with stage 2 of the Government's plan.

In terms of the pandemic, things are steadily moving in the right direction. The spread of infection and the number of people requiring hospitalisation for COVID-19 are decreasing. More than half of the adult population has now received at least one dose of the vaccine. The Government and the Public Health Agency of Sweden have now determined that we can proceed with stage 2 of the Government's plan for phasing out the restrictions.

The following applies from 1 July

The participant limit for events categorised as public gatherings or public events will be raised further. For indoor events, up to 50 participants may be allowed. If there is assigned seating for participants, up to 300 participants may be allowed. For outdoor events, the maximum number of participants is 600 without assigned seating, or 3,000 participants with assigned seating.

For outdoor demonstrations, up to 1,800 participants are now allowed.

Adjustments are being made to the participant limit for outdoor races and similar sporting events, so that it only applies to the starting line and finish

line area. The provision also applies to sporting events with a course held on roads, on or in water, or in the woods or otherwise off-road. At the same time, the participant limit is being raised to 900 athletes.

Sectioning

In addition to raising the participant limit, events can also be organised for more participants if the organiser is able to divide up the room, area or space into sections large enough to allow participants to maintain a safe distance. This ensures that participants from different sections cannot come into contact with each other during or immediately after the event. In such cases, the participant limit applies to each section. Each section needs to have separate entrances and exits, and have access to its own service facilities, such as toilets and, where applicable, food and beverage establishments.

Trade fairs

Trade fairs, which are public events, will be regulated in a way similar to how the Government previously dealt with rules for markets and permanent funfairs. This means that they will not be subject to the participant limit rules that apply to public gatherings and public events. Trade fairs will instead be subject to rules similar to those for markets.

Private gatherings

The Government has also decided to raise the participant limit allowed for premises, spaces and areas rented out for private gatherings. Such a room or area can be rented out for a group of maximum 50 people.

Long-distance public transport

The Government intends to take a decision to repeal the rules on passenger restrictions in long-distance public transport from 15 July. This means that long-distance public transport providers can now start planning to accommodate passengers at full capacity.

Public Health Agency's decisions under the plan

Under the Government's restriction phase-out plan, the Public Health Agency has also taken a number of decisions on adjustments and phase-outs

of restrictions during stage 2 of the plan. These include relaxing restrictions on the opening hours and the size of groups in food and beverage establishments, and removing the recommendation to shop alone and to not spend a lot of time in shops. Recommendations to sports and cultural clubs as well as to individuals in relation to sports shall also be withdrawn. For more information, please visit the Public Health Agency's website.

The amended restrictions decided by the Government, which will be introduced on 1 July 2021, will be supplemented by the Public Health Agency's regulations, which may involve some continued restrictions depending on the conditions of the premises, area or space.

Participants in the press conference included Lena Hallengren, Minister for Health and Social Affairs, Amanda Lind, Minister for Culture and Democracy, and Johan Carlson, Director-General of the Public Health Agency of Sweden.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research

The Swedish Holocaust Museum will be established in Stockholm

Published 27 January 2021

The Statement of Government Policy presented by Stefan Löfven in the Riksdag in January 2019 announced that a new museum would be established to preserve and perpetuate the memory of the Holocaust. Today, 27 January, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Government has announced that the museum is to be established in July 2022 and that it will be located in Stockholm.

The Government will establish the Swedish Holocaust Museum as an independent museum within an existing museums agency. By doing so, the museum can be incorporated into an established organisation with management functions and museum expertise, thus providing stability for the new museum. Facilities for storage, conservation, archives and other functions can be jointly used and coordinated. If the museum is located in Stockholm, it will be easier for school pupils and the general public from around the country to visit.

Memories of the Holocaust can be found all over the country in all the local communities where thousands of Swedes volunteered to help refugees and survivors.

The Holocaust museum should collaborate with many key actors, such as county museums and local museums, both to facilitate involvement of the country's entire population in the activities and because the accounts, testimonies, objects and places concerning the Holocaust are found

throughout the country.

The murder, persecution and terrible suffering of the Jewish people, Roma and millions of other victims of Nazism have left an indelible scar across Europe. Although the killing did not take place on Swedish soil, Sweden both influenced and was influenced by what happened. The Holocaust is also part of Sweden's history. As a society, we have an obligation to promote education, remembrance and research on the genocide committed by the Nazis and their allies so that new generations will be able to learn from history. The Swedish Holocaust Museum will be one way of doing so.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research

Sweden to lead the work of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in 2022–23

Published 27 January 2021 Updated 28 January 2021

Sweden has been entrusted with holding the Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) from 1 March 2022 until 28 February 2023. The decision was taken at the IHRA's digital plenary meeting in Leipzig on 3 December 2020.

Sweden will chair the IHRA twenty plus years after the first Stockholm Forum on the Holocaust and one year after the Malmö Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism.

“I have promised survivors to do what I can as Prime Minister – and as a human being – for Holocaust remembrance and combating antisemitism today. I intend to keep that promise. The Presidency of the IHRA, the Malmö Forum and the coming museum about Sweden and the Holocaust are all important parts of these efforts”, says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

“Even though history has shown us what the ultimate consequences of antisemitism, antiziganism and racism can be, they still exist in all parts of society. Sweden must set an example and do all it can to prevent something similar from happening again. Remembering is also about learning from history”, says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

In May 1998, on the eve of the new millennium, Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the President of the United States Bill Clinton agreed to set up a Task Force to promote international cooperation on Holocaust education, remembrance and research, laying the foundation for the IHRA.

The first Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust took place on 26–28 January 2000. The Stockholm Declaration became the founding document of the IHRA.

It is with a sense of historical responsibility that the Government of Sweden declares itself ready to lead the IHRA, twenty years after its establishment, thus building on to the work of Prime Minister Persson two decades earlier.

Prime Minister Löfven's deep commitment to the cause of combating antisemitism has been expressed through a series of measures to strengthen security for Sweden's Jewish community.

A state museum for passing on the testimonies of those Holocaust survivors who sought refuge in Sweden is to be established. 50 heads of state and government and 20 organizations have been invited to the Malmö Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism, 13-14 October 2021.

The IHRA presidency will be another significant undertaking by Prime Minister Löfven and his government.

One central priority of the Swedish Presidency will be to follow up on the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism.

"Taking upon itself the Presidency of the IHRA, is the first and a central national pledge for Sweden", says Annika Ben David, Ambassador for Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law and Head of Sweden's delegation to the IHRA.

"The magnitude of the Holocaust must be forever seared in our collective memory. The unprecedented character of the Holocaust will always hold universal meaning", says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

"Antisemitism and all forms of racism are threats to us all and to our open and democratic societies. Wherever we see antisemitism, and no matter who expresses it, we must step in and – with unwavering resoluteness – expose, confront and combat it. Antisemitism is a direct threat to Jews, but it is not a

problem to be borne by Jews alone. We must address Holocaust denial and antisemitism by protecting and promoting democratic values and respect for human rights”, he continues.



Article from Ministry of Culture

Parts of the budget concerning culture

Published 05 October 2020

The Government proposes the following investments in culture in the additional amending budget, the autumn amending budget and the Budget Bill for 2021. The Government's proposals are based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

SEK 1.5 billion extra for culture this year

SEK 1.5 billion of additional support is being invested in culture in 2020. This money will help to ensure that an infrastructure for culture is maintained throughout the country, that cultural creators who have lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic can continue to support themselves, and that the cultural sector is given a chance to recover.

This support will both compensate for the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on cultural life and help cultural life to start up again. Some of the money will be used as support for creating conditions for events that are safe in terms of preventing infection and for facilitating the production of culture during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

It is important that the support now being allocated is disbursed widely and contributes to both emergency crisis measures and the restart of cultural life.

This support is included in the additional amending budget to be presented to the Riksdag shortly.

Government to introduce stimulation billion for culture

SEK 1 billion will be allocated in 2021 to adapt and restart cultural activities throughout the country.

The Government will provide more information at a later date about how this support will be distributed.

Permanent reinforcement of regional culture

The Government proposes a reinforcement of regional cultural activities throughout the country by strengthening the cultural cooperation model to the tune of SEK 300 million in 2021 and SEK 150 million in subsequent years.

Regional culture is an important part of Sweden's cultural life and very meaningful to people's everyday lives up and down the country. This money will help to strengthen cultural infrastructure throughout the country in the form of theatres, opera houses, regional museums, visual art and design activities, regional libraries, orchestras, concert houses, dance activities, promotion of film and handicrafts, and some archive activities.

The cultural cooperation model also helps to strengthen the labour market for artists and cultural creators and to increase public sector actors' collaboration with civil society and professional cultural creators.

The money will be distributed through the cultural cooperation model, which means that the regions decide themselves how central government funding is to be distributed in their county.

Permanent investment to strengthen conditions of cultural creators

The Government proposes that SEK 80 million be allocated each year from 2021 to strengthen the conditions of cultural creators throughout the country.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on the conditions of

professional cultural creators. At the same time, it has shed light on how difficult the conditions were even before the pandemic. Creating better conditions for cultural creators to support themselves and develop their art is one of the Government's most important cultural policy priorities. If cultural creators are not able to earn a living, this has a negative impact on culture throughout the country.

Of this SEK 80 million, SEK 43 million will go to reinforcing grants and remuneration that are distributed directly to cultural creators. The Swedish Arts Council's appropriations to independent performing arts groups will receive an additional SEK 16 million and independent actors in the area of visual art and design will receive an additional SEK 6 million within the framework of the investment. In order to strengthen cultural creators' opportunities in the labour market, culture centres will also receive SEK 5 million and performing arts alliances will receive SEK 10 million.

More art purchases next year

The Government proposes an investment of SEK 50 million to increase state purchases of art in 2021.

Sweden's artistic life, including visual art and design artists, has been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has also affected the infrastructure around these artists, such as galleries that represent artists.

This investment includes support to infrastructure in the area of art, such as galleries. Above all, it enables individual artists to be paid for their artistic activities, while the general public gains access to more art.

This investment includes SEK 25 million each to the National Public Art Council and Moderna Museet.

Support to museums

Central museums, government agencies and foundations

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on Sweden's museums. Some museums have remained completely closed for part of the year, whereas others have opened but had considerably fewer visitors than usual. This has had a financial impact on important museum activities.

The Government is now allocating SEK 25 million to the central museums that are foundations: Nordiska museet, Skansen, the National Museum of Science and Technology, and the Museum of Work.

The Government is allocating SEK 28 million to Nationalmuseum, the National Historical Museums, Moderna Museet and the Swedish Museum of Natural History in this year's autumn amending budget.

This is to alleviate the financial effect of the COVID-19 pandemic due to loss of revenue.

This support is to alleviate the financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to make it easier to restart activities. It is important for museums to be able to continue running their activities both physically and digitally during the pandemic – and that these activities can continue once the pandemic is over.

The Jewish Museum

Permanent financing of SEK 2 million per year for the Jewish Museum from 2021

The Jews are one of Sweden's five national minorities. The languages and cultures of the national minorities being made visible in society as part of our shared cultural heritage is an important part of the Government's national minorities policy. In just a short period of time, the Jewish Museum has become an increasingly important societal actor working to make Jewish culture accessible and spread knowledge about it. The museum is experiencing a difficult financial situation and the Government is therefore now strengthening its financing.

Form/Design Center

The Government proposes that Form/Design Center in Malmö be allocated SEK 3 million per year from 2021. The temporary state grant to Form/Design Center, which has been paid over a period of three years, will now become permanent.

This permanent grant will now give Form/Design Center even better conditions and greater opportunities to continue its work as a meeting place and hub for architecture, design and applied art in southern Sweden.

Government to strengthen the National Archives

The Government proposes that the National Archives' appropriation increase by SEK 20 million per year from 2021.

The National Archives is a key actor for Swedish public sector information management, for maintaining our collective memory and for preserving our cultural heritage. The National Archives is also an invaluable resource for research. This is why it is important that the National Archives can rely on functioning financing.

The National Archives has had a deficit, which also shows the need for strengthened financing.

Government investing in children's access to culture

The Government is investing in children's access to culture and creativity by doubling the state grant to municipal culture schools and reinforcing Creative Schools.

The state grant to culture schools will be doubled to SEK 200 million in 2021–2023. Municipal culture schools reach children and young people throughout the country. They are unique places where thousands of children and young people learn to play an instrument, do drama or in other ways get the opportunity to develop artistically together with others. Culture schools play an important role for both individuals and Sweden's cultural life.

All municipalities that run culture schools can apply for the culture school grant. Grant applications are processed by the Swedish Arts Council.

The Creative Schools initiative will be allocated SEK 25 million per year during the period 2021–2023. In many respects, Creative Schools is a successful and established initiative for culture in schools and benefits many children and pupils throughout the country.

The grant has been in place since 2008 and has two main objectives: to help ensure the long-term integration of cultural and artistic expression in schools, and to increase professional cultural activities for and with children and pupils.

The further reinforcement of Creative Schools gives the initiative the conditions to be developed further and to increase access to all forms of

cultural expression and opportunities for children's own creativity. Research shows that cultural practice among children and young people tends to decline with age. This is why the Government wants the grant to cover preschool class, compulsory school and equivalent school forms in future.

Implementation of the Reading Delegation's proposals

The Government proposes that SEK 55 million be allocated in 2021 and SEK 75 million per year in 2022–2023 for the implementation of the Reading Delegation's proposals. This investment is permanent and will total SEK 45 million from 2024.

Reading and literacy are very important for both society and individuals. Ultimately this is a matter of democracy and equality in terms of access to education and culture, and in terms of being able to take one's place in society and, as a citizen, taking part in the democratic conversation.

Since 2015, the Swedish Arts Council has been running an initiative for young children's language and reading development called Bokstart (Book Start). The Government proposes that SEK 15 million be allocated in 2021 and SEK 20 million per year from 2022 for an expansion of Bokstart.

A boost for reading promotion for public librarians will be introduced. This initiative will provide continuing professional development in the promotion of literature and reading, with a special focus on reading among children and young people. It is proposed that SEK 15 million be allocated for 2021 and SEK 30 million per year for 2022 and 2023 for this training initiative for librarians.

A reading council to bring together reading promotion actors from different parts of society will be established, and the Government estimates that SEK 10 million per year will be allocated for this from 2021. Moreover, the Government proposes that SEK 15 million per year be allocated from 2021 for the Swedish Arts Council's reading promotion work. The reading council should be given the opportunity to provide views on how reading promotion work should be designed.

Continued investment in more resources for libraries

The Government proposes investing SEK 150 million in 2021 and

SEK 75 million per year in 2022 and 2023 in more resources for libraries.

Public libraries around the country are very important to people in their local communities in that they both provide literature and act as meeting places. Libraries are also the most important reading promotion actor outside schools. Investing in more resources for libraries also means investing in more reading.

Libraries must be accessible for all. Over 90 per cent of the country's 290 municipalities have applied and received approval for grants within the framework of more resources for libraries for the period 2018–2020. The Government is therefore allocating SEK 150 million in 2021 and SEK 75 million per year in 2022 and 2023 as a continuation of the investment in more resources for libraries.

Reading initiative to be extended

All pupils must acquire more skills and knowledge. It is crucial that schools equip all pupils with good reading comprehension skills if children and young people are to complete their studies and become established in the labour market. But there are currently major gaps between groups in terms of both reading comprehension and interest in reading. It is therefore proposed that SEK 25 million per year be allocated up to 2023 for this initiative to promote the reading skills of all pupils.



Article from Ministry of Culture

The Swedish Arts Council, the Swedish Film Institute, the Swedish Arts Grants Committee and the Swedish Authors' Fund to distribute crisis funds to culture

Published 13 May 2020

The Government has taken a decision on how the SEK 500 million crisis package to culture is to be allocated and on the terms of the support, including by adopting a new ordinance on state aid for cultural events that have been cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19.

Cultural activities and cultural creators throughout the country have been hit hard financially through lost income opportunities due to COVID-19. The Government, together with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, have proposed that SEK 500 million be set aside for culture for stakeholders that have lost income due to the situation resulting from the COVID-19 virus and, on 8 April, the Riksdag adopted the proposal in an additional amending budget.

Distribution of the support

The Swedish Arts Council will distribute the majority of the funds, SEK 370 million, to large and small cultural activities that lose income as a result of events being cancelled or are affected by additional costs as a result of events being postponed. The Swedish Film Institute will distribute SEK 50 million in the area of film, primarily to cinemas and film festivals that are affected financially by the prevailing situation. The Swedish Arts Grants

Committee will distribute SEK 70 million and the Swedish Authors' Fund will distribute SEK 10 million to individual cultural creators in the form of grants.

In addition to the crisis package of SEK 500 million, the agencies allocating the funds have also adapted their regular support provision to the prevailing situation.

The agencies will provide details about the applications procedure at a later date.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Infrastructure

Several Ministers participated in commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January

Published 30 January 2020

On Holocaust Remembrance Day January 27 several representatives from the Swedish Government participated in memorial services to honour the victims of the Holocaust and to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven attended a memorial ceremony at Auschwitz-Birkenau to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation. The memorial service began in Auschwitz and ended with a candle lighting ceremony in Birkenau.

Minister for Education Anna Ekström spoke at a memorial service arranged by the Council of Roma representatives in Malmö and then at a memorial service arranged by the Jewish Community of Malmö in the Synagogue of Malmö.

Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg spoke at a ceremony arranged by The Living History Forum at Raoul Wallenberg's Square and then at the memorial ceremony in the Great Synagogue of Stockholm. Minister for Environment and Deputy Prime and Climate Isabella Lövin, Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson and Minister for Financial Markets and Housing Per Bolund also participated at the ceremony in the Great Synagogue.

Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind visited the Jewish Community of Gothenburg and spoke at the memorial ceremony in the evening.

Minister for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation Åsa Lindhagen spoke at the memorial ceremony at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Further Minister for Energy and Digital Development Anders Ygeman and Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson participated in a memorial service at the The Royal Dramatic Theatre.



Article from Ministry of Culture

Investments in culture, democracy and sports in the 2020 Budget

Published 18 September 2019

In the Budget Bill for 2020, the Government, together with the Liberal Party and Centre Party, puts forward several proposals to strengthen democracy, culture and sports throughout Sweden. Here you can learn more about some of the proposals within the Ministry of Culture's budget areas.

Media support for local journalism throughout Sweden

To improve the conditions for news coverage and local journalism throughout the country, the Government proposes that media subsidies are increased by a total of SEK 140 million in 2020, and SEK 110 million a year in 2021 and 2022, including previously announced increases. Moreover, an increase of SEK 30 million is proposed for 2019.

Article: Budget initiative for journalism throughout the country

Swedish democracy centenary

To celebrate 100 years of Swedish democracy, the Government proposes that SEK 25 million a year be allocated during 2020 and 2021 so that government agencies, municipalities and civil society organisations can implement special measures to strengthen democracy.

“More people should feel involved, knowledge about democracy must be increased and we need to safeguard the democratic dialogue. The democracy

we inherited from earlier generations must be even stronger when we pass it on to our children,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

School trips to Holocaust memorial sites

The Government proposes extending and strengthening the support for history and remembrance trips, so that more schools can make trips to Holocaust memorial sites, such as Auschwitz, and other concentration camps. This entails a further SEK 5 million being allocated for history and remembrance trips in 2020, and that SEK 6 million is allocated annually during 2021 and 2022.

The proposal will enable more remembrance trips to be made in 2020, and means the investment is extended by two years, from 2020 to 2022. More schoolchildren making history and remembrance trips to Holocaust memorial sites and learning about the history of the Holocaust, antisemitism and racism, helps raise awareness among young people of the consequences of racism and undemocratic government.

Government support to culture schools reintroduced

To ensure that as many children and young people as possible can benefit from municipal culture school activities, the Government proposes that the support to municipalities running culture school activities should be reintroduced, and that it should amount to the previous level of SEK 100 million a year.

Article: Government support to culture schools reintroduced

Free admission to state-owned museums

Free admission to museums has enabled more people to visit museums and have access to our shared cultural heritage. Since the reform was introduced in 2016, the number of visitors has increased, and to boost the work of the museums, the Government proposes in the Budget Bill that the free admission reform is reinforced with a further SEK 10 million. This means that the state-owned museums will receive SEK 90 million a year going forward to enable them to continue offering free admission and high-quality activities.

Measures to promote reading

To give all children and young people more equal opportunities to attain adequate reading skills, the Government considers that the appropriation increase calculated for the grant to literature and cultural publications for libraries' work on reaching young people in socio-economically disadvantaged environments should instead be used for measures to promote reading. This is because the investment in strengthening libraries already achieves the aim of reaching young people in socio-economically disadvantaged environments. This proposal means that the appropriation will be increased by SEK 25 million annually in 2020 and 2021.

Life-long sporting activities

Sport and physical activity should be life-long commitments that contribute to better health and reduce loneliness among the elderly. It is therefore important to improve access to sports for elderly people and the Government therefore proposes in the Budget Bill an investment of SEK 20 million in the sports movement, which can develop forms for activities in this field, together with pensioner organisations.



Article from Ministry of Culture

Government support to culture schools reintroduced

Published 18 September 2019

To ensure that as many children and young people as possible can benefit from municipal culture school activities, the Government proposes that the support to municipalities running culture school activities should be reintroduced, and that it should amount to the previous level of SEK 100 million a year.

“Culture school activities give children and young people the opportunity to learn to play an instrument, be in a theatre play or explore their creativity in some other way. We should be proud that we have this type of activity in Sweden and we should not neglect it,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

Prior to 2016, the Government introduced annual support of SEK 100 million to municipal culture school activities, making it possible for municipalities to broaden the activities available and reach new groups. The support was then phased out as a result of the Riksdag budget decision for 2019, which was based on the budget proposal by the Moderate Party and Christian Democrats, but it was then reintroduced in connection with the spring amending budget. The Budget Bill for 2020 is now proposing that the support will also apply during 2020–2022, in the amount of SEK 100 million per year.

The municipal culture schools reach a lot of children and young people throughout Sweden and contribute to both cultural and social development. The culture schools are very important not only for individuals, but also for general education in society, which means they are of national importance. The Government was able to allocate money in the 2019 spring amending

budget for this year's autumn term, and now the Government is proposing that the support be reintroduced.

“I have seen the difference this money makes to lots of children in Sweden. I am therefore pleased to inform you that the investment will not end this year; the government support of SEK 100 million a year will be reintroduced,” says Ms Lind.

The proposal builds on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.



Article from Ministry of Culture

Budget initiative for journalism throughout the country

Published 13 September 2019

To improve the conditions for news coverage and local journalism throughout the country, the Government proposes that media subsidies are increased by a total of SEK 140 million, including previously announced increases. Moreover, an increase of SEK 30 million is proposed for the current year.

A range of strong and independent media throughout the country is a prerequisite for a functioning democracy. Everyone, regardless of where in the country they live, must have access to comprehensive and high-quality news and media provision.

The media landscape has fundamentally changed in a short period of time. Media developments and changing media habits have led to tough financial pressures on local newspaper journalism in particular. The newspaper industry is grappling with falling circulations and advertising revenues. A closely related problem concerns ‘blind spots’ – geographical areas with non-existent or weak journalistic coverage. Studies show that 75 of the country’s municipalities lack a regularly staffed editorial office.

Since 1 February 2019, there has been a special subsidy for journalistic coverage in blind spots within the framework of the media subsidy. When the media subsidy as a whole is strengthened, the possibility of increased subsidies for the coverage of blind spots is also increased.

Strong independent media with comprehensive news coverage and investigative journalism are of crucial importance for an open and democratic society. Therefore the best possible conditions for diverse

independent journalism are needed throughout the country.

“The existence of comprehensive news coverage throughout the country is crucial for democracy. Local newspapers are essential for maintaining the democratic ecosystem throughout the country. We are now taking a concrete and clear measure, in accordance with the January Agreement, to safeguard independent journalism throughout the country by strengthening the media subsidy,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry of Culture

Everyone should be able to take part in our cultural life, sporting life and democracy

Published 13 May 2019

Amanda Lind, Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport, talks about her areas of responsibility and her role as minister.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

Gothenburg to become Sweden's first literature city in UNESCO Creative Cities Network

Published 09 November 2021

Gothenburg has been admitted to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) in the field of literature. It will be Sweden's third city in the UNESCO network.

– Gothenburg has a long history of compelling work in the field of literature, and the city's admission to the UCCN is an extension of that work. Throughout the years, Gothenburg has also been a model for inclusion, and its initiatives to promote writing and reading among the city's non-native Swedish speakers are especially impressive. Being Sweden's first literature city is very exciting not only for Gothenburg, but the entire literary community in Sweden, says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

The aim of the network is to strengthen collaboration between cities where creativity is central to their identity. Their work is also strategic to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The global network currently comprises 295 cities.

Gothenburg was admitted to the network based on its already vibrant community of non-profit organisations and its literary community, complemented by welfare initiatives, reading promotion projects and international collaborations. The city is home to a number of thriving professional and non-profit literary organisations, literature festivals and the Gothenburg Book Fair, which is the Nordic region's largest international cultural event. The application to join the network is backed by several stakeholders, including the City of Gothenburg, the University of Gothenburg, Region Västra Götaland, the Writers' Centre, the Gothenburg

Book Fair, Göteborgs Litteraturhus (Gothenburg House of Literature), Swedish PEN and the Swedish Authors' fund.

The other two Swedish cities represented in the network are Östersund, which became Sweden's first creative city in 2010 in the field of gastronomy, and Norrköping, which joined the network in 2017 in the field of music.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

Government decision concerning transfer of artwork to Poland

Published 26 August 2021

The Government has today decided to allow Nationalmuseum to transfer the painting *The Lamentation of Christ by the School of Lucas Cranach the Elder* (inventory number NM 6344) to Muzeum Narodowe we Wrocławiu (National Museum in Wrocław) in Poland.

The Polish Ministry of Culture has requested that the painting be returned to Poland. Based on this request and the findings of its investigation, Nationalmuseum's recommendation to the Government is that the painting be transferred to Poland.

Following its investigation, Nationalmuseum determined that the painting is unusable for the museum. According to Chapter 8, Section 6 of the Budget Act (2011:203), the Government may decide to transfer movable property if the property is no longer needed for central government activities or has become unusable, or if it has not been acquired with state funds.

In light of what has emerged in this matter, the Government consents to the transfer of the painting to the National Museum in Wrocław.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice

Increased possibilities for participants in international elite competitions to enter Sweden

Published 19 August 2021

The Government has today adopted an amendment to the temporary ban on entry from third countries that expands the possibilities for participants in international elite competitions to enter Sweden.

A temporary ban on entry from third countries (i.e. countries other than EEA countries or Switzerland) has been in effect since March 2020. The entry ban is a joint action at EU level to prevent spread of the COVID-19 virus. There is already an exemption from the ban for people taking part in or performing necessary tasks at international elite sports competitions.

“The exemption that the Government has now adopted is important to be able to increase possibilities for holding international elite competitions in eSports and similar events in Sweden,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

The decision means that the exemption for international elite sports competitions will also apply to other similar elite competitions. There is still a requirement to present a negative COVID-19 test result on entry.

“I am glad that this decision now opens up the possibility of holding international eSports events even during the pandemic. Sweden has long been a leader in eSports, which is a position we must preserve,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

The amendment/exemption will enter into force on 23 August 2021.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence

Sweden's new Government

Published 09 July 2021

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government will take place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty The King. The Council of State will begin at 14.15.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 21 ministers.

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister

Stefan Löfven

Minister for EU Affairs

Hans Dahlgren

Ministry of Employment

Minister for Employment

Eva Nordmark

Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, with responsibility for urban development, anti-segregation and anti-discrimination

Märta Stenevi

Ministry of Finance

Minister for Finance

Magdalena Andersson

Minister for Public Administration

Lena Micko

Minister for Financial Markets and Deputy Minister for Finance

Åsa Lindhagen

Ministry of Defence

Minister for Defence

Peter Hultqvist

Ministry of Infrastructure

Minister for Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth

Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Anders Ygeman

Ministry of Justice

Minister for Justice and Migration

Morgan Johansson

Minister for Home Affairs

Mikael Damberg

Ministry of Culture

Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport

Amanda Lind

Ministry of the Environment

Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister

Per Bolund

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Ibrahim Baylan

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren

Minister for Social Security

Ardalan Shekarabi

Ministry of Education and Research

Minister for Education

Anna Ekström

Minister for Higher Education and Research

Matilda Ernkrans

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde

Minister for International Development Cooperation

Per Olsson Fridh

Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Anna Hallberg



Press release from Ministry of Culture

Emergency support and incentives to culture

Published 19 May 2021

The Government proposes that the area of culture be allocated an additional SEK 750 million for extended emergency support and incentives in 2021 to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate the resumption of activities once the situation allows. The proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The situation for cultural actors throughout the country remains difficult, and the Government therefore wants to extend the emergency support distributed to public cultural activities, artists and other actors in the area of culture. Most of the emergency support will be distributed by the Swedish Arts Council, which will also distribute support to the regions for regional and local cultural activities. The Swedish Arts Grants Committee, the Swedish Film Institute, the Swedish Authors' Fund and the Sami Parliament will also distribute grants. The Government and the institutions distributing the support will provide more information about the details of the support at a later date.

This proposal means that the Government, in cooperation with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, has proposed a total of SEK 3.53 billion in emergency support and incentives to independent cultural life in 2021.

Alongside previously announced support, this proposal is a lifeline for these actors, as well as being essential to their planning and production ahead of a resumption of activities. In April, the Government also presented support to

organisers of events that have to be cancelled or considerably limited due to the restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government will announce the details of this support in due course.

The Government intends to present proposals on extended support to the Riksdag in a coming amending budget.



Press release from Ministry of Culture

Emergency support and incentives to sport

Published 19 May 2021

The Government proposes allocating an additional SEK 600 million to sport to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, facilitate the resumption of activities once the situation allows and contribute to gender-equal and equitable sports activities. The proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

It is very important – particularly for children’s and young people’s health and wellbeing – that the sports movement is able to continue to operate based on the current rate of infection and, above all, resume activities once the situation allows. The restrictions and general advice introduced due to COVID-19 have had a negative economic impact on sports activities.

The Government therefore wants to extend the emergency support to sport and allocate funds to the sports movement to resume activities in a COVID-safe manner once the situation allows.

In all, the Government proposes that sport be allocated an additional SEK 600 million for emergency support and incentives in 2021.

The emergency support is intended to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on sports activities throughout the country, particularly for children and young people. The support will offer a lifeline to sports associations and contribute to the resumption of gender-equal and equitable sports activities. The support will ultimately be distributed via the Swedish Sports

Confederation in dialogue with the specialised sports federations.

This proposal means that the Government, in cooperation with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, has proposed a total of SEK 1 955 billion in emergency support and incentives to sport in 2021.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

Increased media support in the Government's budget

Published 20 April 2021

To enable continued distribution of printed newspapers in areas where newspaper distribution is affected by mail being delivered every other day and to promote journalism throughout country, the media support appropriation is being increased by SEK 100 million. The proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

This investment secures funding for the current year for a solution to continued daily distribution of newspapers in areas where mail is delivered every other day. This is important to ensure continued delivery to newspaper readers' mailboxes in rural areas.

The funding is also intended to compensate for increased expenditures for rights-based operational subsidies and thus the need for increased funding for media support, including editorial subsidies. This is particularly important for news media still suffering from reduced advertising income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Press release from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Support to event organisers

Published 12 April 2021

The Government intends to introduce new financial support to organisers of events planned for period July–December 2021 that cannot be held or must be greatly limited due to the restrictions resulting from the spread of COVID-19. The proposal means that the State will cover part of the financial risk. The design of the support is currently being prepared at the Government Offices, and the Government intends to present the details at a later date. This is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The pandemic has meant that event organisers have been hard hit financially since restrictions on the number of participants prevent them from carrying out their activities. This applies to organisers of concerts, stage performances, exhibitions, festivals and other similar cultural events, fairs, markets, civil society events and athletics and other sports events. In light of this, the Government is now proposing event support intended for these kinds of events.

At present, the Government cannot comment on when it will be possible to allow events of a certain size or which restrictions will apply for events when they are allowed. In this uncertain situation, and to make it possible to hold events that require planning once the infection situation allows, it is an important signal that the State will cover part of the costs if an event cannot be held or must be limited due to the spread of COVID-19.

Under the proposal, the support will amount to a maximum of 70 per cent of

the costs not covered by revenues or other support.

This support is contingent on approval by the European Commission before the Government can take a decision on implementation.

The new event support is one of the measures the Government intends to take to stimulate a restart once the situation allows and should be seen together with the support to culture and sport also proposed by the Government.



Press release from Ministry of Culture

Emergency support and incentives to sport

Published 12 April 2021

The Government proposes allocating an additional SEK 1.02 billion to mitigate the economic impact of the spread of COVID-19, to facilitate a restart of activities once the situation allows and to contribute to gender-equal and equitable sports activities. The proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

It is very important that the sports movement can conduct activities based on the current rate of infection, and above all is able to start up once the situation allows, particularly with regard to children's and young people's health and well-being. The restrictions and general advice introduced due to COVID-19 have had a negative economic impact on the sports sector.

The Government therefore wants to extend the emergency support distributed to sport and allocate funds so that actors can start up their activities again in an infection-safe manner once the situation allows.

In all, it is proposed that sport be allocated an additional SEK 1.02 billion for emergency support and incentives in 2021.

Emergency support is intended to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on sports activities throughout the country, particularly on children and young people. The support will help sports association survive and contribute to being able to start up gender-equal and equitable sports activities. The final distribution of the support will be carried out via the Swedish Sports Confederation in dialogue with specialised sports federations.

This proposal means that the Government, in cooperation with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, has proposed a total of SEK 1 355 billion in emergency support and incentives to sport in 2021.

This support is necessary to facilitate a restart. In addition, the Government is presenting support to organisers of events planned for the period July–December 2021 that cannot be held or must be greatly limited due to the restrictions resulting from the spread of COVID-19.



Press release from Ministry of Culture

Emergency support and incentives to culture

Published 12 April 2021

The Government proposes that the area of culture be allocated an additional SEK 1.28 billion for emergency support and incentives in 2021 to mitigate the economic impact of the spread of COVID-19 and to facilitate a restart of activities once the situation allows. The proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

A prerequisite for cultural life to exist throughout the country is that there are dynamic actors that have the opportunity to create art and plan performances, concerts, exhibitions and other cultural events. The restrictions and general advice introduced due to COVID-19 have had a negative economic impact on the cultural sector.

The Government therefore wants to extend the emergency support distributed to public cultural activities, artists and other actors in the area of culture that have been hit hard, and allocate funds so that the actors can start up their activities again in an infection-safe manner once the situation allows. Support will also be distributed via the cultural cooperation model to cultural activities throughout the country.

In all, it is proposed that the area of culture be allocated an additional SEK 1.28 billion for emergency support and incentives in 2021.

Most of the emergency support will be distributed by the Swedish Arts Council, which will also distribute support intended to enable actors to start

up their activities again. The Swedish Arts Grants Committee, the Swedish Film Institute, the Swedish Authors' Fund and the Sami Parliament will also distribute grants. The Government and the supporting institutions will provide more detailed information about the design of the support at a later date.

This proposal means that the Government, in cooperation with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, has proposed a total of SEK 2.78 billion in emergency support and incentives to independent cultural life in 2021.

This support is necessary to enable production ahead of a restart. In addition, the Government is presenting support to organisers of events planned for the period July–December 2021 that cannot be held or must be greatly limited due to the restrictions resulting from the spread of COVID-19.

The Government intends to present this proposal to the Riksdag in a coming amending budget.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research

Swedish Holocaust Museum to be established

Published 27 January 2021

Today, 27 January, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Government has announced that a Swedish Holocaust museum is to be established in July 2022 and will be located in Stockholm.

The Statement of Government Policy presented by Stefan Löfven in the Riksdag in January 2019 announced that a new museum would be established to preserve and perpetuate the memory of the Holocaust. The museum will be established in 2022 and it will be located in Stockholm to make it easier for school pupils and the general public from around the country to visit.

“I have promised survivors to do what I can as Prime Minister for Holocaust remembrance and combating antisemitism today. The Swedish Holocaust museum and the international forum in Malmö later this year are part of those efforts,” says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

“Collecting testimonies and accounts of historical events is part of remembering and honouring those who died and ensuring that the Holocaust is never forgotten. A museum that compiles the names and accounts of survivors will become part of the cultural heritage that we preserve together for the future,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

“This museum will fulfil so many important aims. It is a place for remembrance, but also a place where future generations can learn about what undemocratic forces and phenomena such as antisemitism, conspiracy theories and polarisation can lead to. We must all learn from history,” says Minister for Education Anna Ekström.

The Government will soon task the relevant museums agency with establishing the museum. Integrating it into an existing agency should ensure a streamlined process while maintaining a high standard.

The Holocaust museum should collaborate with many key actors, such as county museums and local museums, both to facilitate involvement of the country's entire population in the activities and because the accounts, testimonies, objects and places connected to the Holocaust are found throughout the country.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research

Sweden to lead the work of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

Published 04 December 2020

Sweden has been entrusted with holding the Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) – an intergovernmental organisation to promote Holocaust education, research and remembrance – from 1 March 2022 until 28 February 2023. The decision was taken at the IHRA's digital plenary meeting in Leipzig on 3 December 2020.

“I have promised survivors to do what I can as Prime Minister – and as a human being – for Holocaust remembrance and combating antisemitism today. I intend to keep that promise. The Presidency of the IHRA, the Malmö Forum and the coming museum about Sweden and the Holocaust are all important parts of these efforts,” says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

“Even though history has shown us what the ultimate consequences of antisemitism, antiziganism and racism can be, they still exist in all parts of society. Sweden must set an example and do all it can to prevent something similar from happening again. Remembering is also about learning from history,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

The IHRA, which Sweden helped found in 2000 through the Stockholm Declaration, consists of 34 member countries and a number of organisations.

One central priority of the Swedish Presidency will be to follow up on the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating

Antisemitism on 13–14 October 2021, which Mr Löfven will host.



Press release from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice

Changes to the ordinance prohibiting the holding of public gatherings and events

Published 23 October 2020

To address the crowding that has been seen in nightclubs, the Government has decided that public dance events for more than 50 people will once again be prohibited. The Government has also adopted a new exemption from the ordinance, allowing public gatherings and public events with a maximum of 300 seated attendees, rather than the 500 previously discussed. The changes come into effect on 1 November.

In light of the increased transmission in recent months, the Government had previously chosen to delay the introduction of an exemption from the ordinance with respect to public gatherings and public events for a maximum of 50 people. Following recent dialogue with the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the Government today decided to introduce this exemption.

Holding events for a maximum of 300 seated attendees is conditional on every attendee being allocated a seat at a distance of at least one metre from other attendees, and that it is possible for attendees to maintain that distance throughout the event. Two people in the same party may be placed less than one metre apart, however.

To address the crowding seen on nightclub dancefloors, the Government today also decided that public dance events will once again be subject to the ordinance's limit of 50 attendees.

The Government also proposes that the temporary act on communicable disease control measures at eating and drinking establishments, which is due to expire at the end of the year, be extended by five months to the end of May 2021. This is because the risk of transmission is particularly high when people gather in small areas for extended periods of time. Restaurants, bars and cafés are examples of such environments.



Press release from Ministry of Culture

Reallocation of financial support to the creative arts

Published 24 June 2020

During the spring, the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberals presented several crisis packages to support culture in response to the new coronavirus. The proposals included SEK 500 million for event organisers and independent artists to mitigate the economic impact of the crisis.

Of this, SEK 370 million has been allocated by the Swedish Arts Council to support cancelled or postponed events, and SEK 80 million has been distributed to individuals involved in the creative arts. Some of the applications received by the Swedish Arts Council for compensation for lost revenue due to cancelled or postponed cultural events, do not fulfil the criteria of support which means that a part of the Swedish Arts Councils funds remain. The remaining SEK 35 million is now instead being reallocated as an extra crisis support to individual artists involved in the field of creative arts.

SEK 20 million will go towards strengthening support and grants to individual cultural creators and artists who have been severely impacted during the crisis. These funds will be distributed by the Swedish Arts Grants Committee. The Performing Arts Alliances will also be supported with SEK 15 million, to help prevent individual artists working in the cultural sector unemployment as a result of the difficult financial situation. The Performing Arts Alliances are important in providing financial and social security to individuals working in the field, and are vital for strengthening the range of cultural experiences and artistic development in Sweden.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

SEK 150 million for culture in Sweden

Published 12 June 2020

The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberals are proposing an investment of SEK 150 million to strengthen cultural life and the cultural infrastructure across Sweden in 2020. The funding will be allocated via the Swedish Cultural Cooperation Model - a model for cooperation and funding of culture between the Government, regions and municipalities.

Cultural life across Sweden has been severely affected by the new coronavirus, as cultural activities in many ways are reliant of people physically coming together. The proposed investment of SEK 150 million for regional and local culture will support the cultural infrastructure across Sweden during the crisis. It encompasses institutions and activities such as concert halls, theatres, museums, libraries, private archives, and much more.

The allocation to the regions will be managed by the Swedish Arts Council, which is already responsible for allocating grants to regional cultural activities within Swedish Cultural Cooperation Model. Subsequently, the regions have the freedom and responsibility to allocate the funds within their county.

Certain activities in the region of Stockholm which are not included in the Swedish Cultural Cooperation Model, will also receive a part of the funding. These activities receive some government funding every year, but through other means than the Swedish Cultural Cooperation Model.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

SEK 100 million to support particularly socially vulnerable people and combat isolation among the elderly during the coronavirus pandemic

Published 12 May 2020

The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberals are proposing an investment of SEK 100 million in civil society to strengthen associations and organisations working to support the most vulnerable in society during the coronavirus crisis. It is proposed that SEK 50 million be assigned to help people in particularly vulnerable situations, while the remaining SEK 50 million is to combat isolation among elderly people.

Organisations within civil society such as social charities working with the homeless and associations helping the elderly have a key role when it comes to reaching and supporting people in particularly vulnerable situations. During a crisis, support for these organisations to extend their social and humanitarian activities can be of great benefit. The investment of SEK 100 million for 2020 aims to bolster civil society and give organisations the opportunity to scale up their activities during the crisis.

The investment is in two portions. SEK 50 million is being earmarked for social and humanitarian efforts where there is a particular need. This could, for example, involve initiatives for people who are homeless, have no documentation or who are in socially vulnerable situations. SEK 50 million is

being set aside to combat isolation among the elderly during the virus outbreak. This could include outreach activities by telephone to help overcome loneliness, provide assistance with digital meetings or help with food shopping.

The investment complements the previously announced investment of SEK 100 million in organisations working with children in vulnerable situations and organisations supporting women, children and LGBTQ people exposed to violence, as well as to combat violence in close relationships and honour-based violence and oppression.

The Government will announce further details about how this support will be provided and on the application process.



Press release from Ministry of Culture

Crisis support to several government-funded cultural institutions

Published 08 May 2020

The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberals are proposing support of SEK 319 million in 2020 for several state-funded cultural institutions, including the Vasa Museum, Skansen open-air museum, the Royal Dramatic Theatre, the Royal Swedish Opera, Riksteatern and Åjtte for lost revenue due to the new coronavirus.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a major impact on Sweden's cultural institutions, which have been forced to close or experienced a huge drop in visitor numbers. As state museums, performing arts institutions and cultural activities that receive government support also depend on revenue from visitors, several institutions have already suffered significant financial difficulties. The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberals therefore propose a temporary and targeted financial support to enable these institutions to survive the crisis and to ensure that cultural life and cultural heritage can continue to be preserved, developed and be accessible when these institutions reopen.

The organisations covered by this support include performing arts institutions that are directly funded by the Government, fee-funded activities with a requirement for full cost coverage, along with certain state-funded museums and cultural institutions to which the Government allocate annual funding in government decisions. The exact size of the compensation for each organisation has not yet been decided, but will be based on the revenue loss

that the institutions have reported to the Government.

Organisations and activities affected:

- Ájtte, the Swedish Mountain and Sami Museum
- Bildmuseet (contemporary international art museum)
- Cosmonova, which is part of the Swedish Museum of Natural History
- The contract archaeology service at the National Historical Museums
- Form/Design Center
- The Swedish Society of Crafts and Design
- The Jewish Museum in Stockholm
- Kungliga Dramatiska teatern AB
- Kungliga Operan AB
- Nobel Prize Museum
- Riksteatern (Sweden's National Touring Theatre)
- The Röhsska Museum of Design and Craft
- The Museum of Work Foundation
- The Bergman Center Foundation on Fårö
- Carl and Olga Milles' Lidingöhem Foundation
- Dansens Hus Foundation (contemporary dance venue)
- The foundations Dance Museum Fund and Rolf de Maré Memorial Fund
- Drottningholm Palace Theatre Foundation
- Nordic Museum Foundation
- Prince Eugen's Waldemarsudde Foundation (art museum)
- Skansen Foundation
- Strindberg Museum Foundation
- National Museum of Science and Technology Foundation
- Thiel Gallery Foundation
- The Prison Museum of Sweden
- Unga Klara AB (children's and youth theatre)
- Vasa Museum, which is part of the Swedish National Maritime and Transport Museums
- Voksenåsen
- The Zorn Collections



Press release from Ministry of Culture

Additional support to the media in response to the COVID-19 virus

Published 08 May 2020

To ensure the public's access to information and mitigate the negative economic impact on news media as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government, in cooperation with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, will provide an additional SEK 500 million in support to general news media in 2020.

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has had a significant impact on the media and journalism throughout the country. In a short period of time, media that are dependent on advertising have lost a large share of their income as a result of a rapid and severe weakening of the advertising market during the crisis. At the same time, there is great demand for news, journalism and reliable information. News media play a crucial role in the functioning of society, not least during a crisis. Having journalism in place throughout the country is also vital for democracy. Therefore, the Government, together with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, is proposing additional measures to support the news media during the COVID-19 crisis.

The proposal provides an additional SEK 500 million in temporary media support for 2020 in the form of new support to general news media. Unlike the temporary distribution support to the media presented earlier in response to the COVID-19 crisis, this is a broader initiative that can help more news media than printed media alone.

The aim of the support is to strengthen the economic conditions for editorial activities and partly compensate for lost advertising revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic and thus ensure the public's access to news. This support is expected to be in place by the summer and the initiative will be in

effect during 2020. The detailed design of the support will be adapted to other crisis measures and carried out in accordance with relevant state aid rules.

The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party have already presented SEK 200 million extra in media support and brought forward payment of support already decided on in response to the impact of the COVID-19 virus on the media in Sweden.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

MUCF tasked with distributing information to civil society about the coronavirus

Published 09 April 2020

The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF) is being commissioned to compile and disseminate essential information to organisations within civil society during the current crisis resulting from the new coronavirus.

“Many organisations in civil society, particularly those working with social issues, are extremely concerned at the moment about the lack of resources and how to continue with their vital work during this period. Civil society actors also need to be informed that the Government’s support packages are often aimed at them as well. The Government is therefore reprioritising agencies’ previous funding so that MUCF can now mobilise and work on a broad front to publicise vital information to those who need it,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy, Amanda Lind.

The task involves MUCF disseminating information to organisations in civil society and working in collaboration with other agencies. This could involve information about how the Government’s general support initiatives in response to the spread of the coronavirus affect civil society, questions about subsidy rules, postponed annual meetings, employer issues, non-profit welfare providers, and the application of laws and regulations relating to civil society. MUCF has a well-established agency network at its disposal for coordinating communication with civil society organisations.



Press release from Ministry of Culture

Support to media in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus

Published 03 April 2020

Media throughout the country have been dramatically affected by the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party therefore propose that media support be strengthened. The Government also announced a proposal on altered advertising regulations for TV broadcasts.

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has had a significant impact on the media throughout the country. Not least media dependant on advertising have lost advertisers and thus a large share of their income. At the same time, there is great demand for news, and the importance of reliable journalism is clear. Having a diversity of media throughout the country is crucial for democracy. The Government is now presenting a number of measures for the media industry.

Permanent reinforcement of media support

The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party propose a permanent strengthening of media support in the amount of SEK 200 million per year, beginning this year. This is part of the Spring Amending Budget for 2020, which was presented on 15 April.

To deal with the most acute crisis, SEK 150 million has been allocated for new temporary distribution support lasting three months. This support covers all printed newspapers and thus will benefit more media than those currently receiving operating support.

It is proposed that the remaining SEK 50 million go to a doubling of the

support for coverage of geographical areas with weak or non-existent journalistic coverage.

Temporary regulatory changes to press subsidies

To help make it easier for the media sector during the acute crisis, the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party propose two temporary regulatory changes. It will be possible to provide advance payment of press support already decided on for the current year. At the same time, the requirement that 55 per cent of editorial material must be produced in-house will be removed.

Changed rules for TV advertising

To provide television companies with better opportunities for flexibility in their planning for advertising at a time when advertising revenue has rapidly decreased, the Government also announces a coming proposal on changed rules for broadcasting advertising on television. The proposal means that the time allowed for advertising is calculated on the basis of a longer time interval rather than per clock hour, as at present. The legislative amendment is permitted through amendments to the Audiovisual Media Services Directive, and is expected to enter into force later this autumn.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

NOD to help coordinate civil society in response to the new coronavirus

Published 02 April 2020

The national body for dialogue and consultation between Government and civil society (NOD), has been tasked with helping coordinate civil society's initiatives in response to the new coronavirus.

The spread of the new coronavirus has led to many civil society organisations feeling limited in terms of how they operate and how they can support vulnerable groups. NOD's steering group, including representatives from both civil society and the Government Offices of Sweden, has therefore decided that NOD will make its resources available in helping to manage the impact of the new coronavirus.

This will include NOD helping to coordinate civil society's efforts and produce a weekly status report detailing civil society's needs and initiatives. NOD will also provide support in discussions and cooperation between civil society and the Government Offices of Sweden and governmental agencies regarding matters that need to be addressed as a result of the spread of the new coronavirus.

“There is a huge level of commitment across Sweden, and a readiness in challenging times to support people who need it. I've met with lots of associations and other parts of civil society in recent weeks, and it's clear that there's a strong desire to help in this situation. That's why it's important for us to facilitate the work and involvement of civil society. NOD is a shared resource for civil society and the Government, and they are now being tasked with supporting civil society where it's needed the most,” says

Amanda Lind, Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

Several museums and venues to receive funding in advance to manage effects of the coronavirus

Published 01 April 2020

Government funding for certain institutions will be paid in advance in order to boost their liquidity in the situation that has arisen due to the spread of the new coronavirus.

Many museums, arts venues and cultural institutions are dependent on ticket revenue and other sales in order to continue operating. The new restrictions regarding public gatherings, recommendations from the Public Health Agency of Sweden, and changes in people's behaviour due to the spread of the new coronavirus have led to fewer visitor numbers and thus a sharp decline in revenue, and greater risk of acute lack of liquidity.

“In a matter of just a few weeks, many museums, arts venues and institutions have seen a huge drop in visitors for which no-one was prepared. This has led to a significant drop in revenue and concern about the future. Bringing forward the payment of grants for several cultural institutions that receive state support is an important decision and should be regarded in the context of a package of measures decided upon by the Government given the current situation. Not having to wait for state support should provide some relief during the crisis,” says Minister for Culture, Amanda Lind.

The decision relates to the Swedish Legal Financial and Administrative Services Agency's payments to certain state-funded institutions. The Government continues with its efforts to survey needs arising as a result of the spread of the new coronavirus.

The organisations affected are:

- Form/Design Center
- The Swedish Society of Crafts and Design
- Kungliga Dramatiska teatern (Royal Dramatic Theatre)
- Kungliga Operan (Royal Swedish Opera)
- Carl and Olga Milles' Lidingöhem Foundation
- The foundation Dance Museum Fund
- Nordic Museum Foundation
- Prins Eugen's Waldemarsudde Foundation
- Skansen Foundation
- Strindberg Museum Foundation
- National Museum of Science and Technology Foundation
- Thiel Gallery Foundation
- Voksenåsen AS



Press release from Ministry of Culture

SEK 1 billion to culture and sport as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 virus

Published 20 March 2020

The cultural sector and sports movement will receive an extra SEK 1 billion in support due to the economic consequences affecting these sectors as a result of the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The money will be distributed by grant-allocating agencies in the area of culture and by the Swedish Sports Confederation.

The funds to culture – SEK 500 million – will be granted to activities that lose revenue as a result of the restriction on public gatherings. Small events are also affected by the Public Health Agency of Sweden's guidelines and by changes in public behaviour. Both large and small actors in the area of culture will be able to receive support. Organisational form will not impact the ability to receive support. State institutions are not included, but their situation is being monitored closely.

The funds to sport – SEK 500 million – will be granted to activities that lose revenue as a result of the restriction on public gatherings. The money will go to associations that organise sporting events, such as major championships, recreational races or elite-level matches.

The Government will continue to engage in dialogue with relevant actors and to examine the support that may be needed as a result of the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

This is a policy agreement reached between the Government, the Liberal

Party and the Centre Party.



Press release from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research

National initiative to increase knowledge about the Holocaust and antisemitism

Published 28 February 2020

In connection with the Government's International Forum for Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism, the Government is allocating SEK 10 million to a national initiative to increase knowledge in schools and society.

“The Holocaust and the crimes against humanity committed during the Second World War must never be forgotten. This national initiative is a continuation of the Government's strategic and comprehensive work for democracy, tolerance and human rights, and to combat antisemitism, antiziganism and other forms of racism,” says Minister for Education Anna Ekström.

This year, it is 75 years since the end of the Second World War, and 20 years since the adoption of the Stockholm Declaration at the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust. In the Stockholm Declaration, Sweden has pledged to strengthen its efforts to promote remembrance, education and research about the Holocaust. In October, the Government will host an international forum on Holocaust remembrance and combating antisemitism in Malmö. In connection with this, the Government has allocated SEK 10 million in the Budget Bill for 2020 for a national initiative. It is now clear which four assignments will be included in the initiative:

- The Living History Forum will receive SEK 6 million to implement a national initiative to enhance educational initiatives about the Holocaust, antisemitism, antiziganism and other forms of racism, to particularly

target audiences that are rarely reached by the Forum's activities.

Various parts of the school and liberal adult education systems are to be the focus of the efforts. Civic orientation for newly arrived immigrants is also covered by the assignment.

- The National Historical Museums will receive SEK 2.3 million to develop a Swedish-language version of the Dimensions in Testimony installation that allows visitors to converse with Holocaust survivors via pre-recorded answers to questions made possible by artificial intelligence technology. There are few Holocaust survivors left alive today to talk about their experiences. There is therefore a need to preserve the survivors' testimonies in various ways.
- The University of Gothenburg (the Segerstedt Institute) will receive SEK 1.2 million to prepare a research review and conduct a research seminar on education in the school system that can combat antisemitism and other forms of racism. The assignment is to take both national and international research into account. The research seminar is to be conducted in conjunction with the Malmö Forum in October.
- The Swedish Defence Research Agency will receive SEK 0.5 million to produce a report on antisemitism in social media and other digital environments. The report will be part of the agency's assignment to conduct surveys and analyses of violent extremist propaganda that is spread via the internet and social media.

“Remembering is not just never forgetting. It must also mean doing everything we can to prevent something similar from happening again. Although history has shown us the ultimate consequences of hatred of one another, discrimination and racism still exist in all parts of society. This is why initiatives like this are so important,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

Gitte Ørskou new director and head of Moderna Museet

Published 13 June 2019

Today the Government appointed Gitte Ørskou as the new director and head of Moderna Museet. Ms Ørskou will take up her post on 1 September 2019.

“Gitte Ørskou is a proven good leader and manager, with long experience of leading similar activities. She has sound knowledge and extensive experience of the art world, both in the Nordic countries and internationally. I am therefore very pleased she wants to assume this important position,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

“I feel strongly motivated to lead Moderna Museet; one of the world’s most important museums of modern and contemporary art. Through my career, I have been focusing on building bridges between art and people. My motivation is to touch, move and engage all kinds of people through the power of art,” says Gitte Ørskou.

Information about Gitte Ørskou

Since 2009, Gitte Ørskou has been the director of Kunsten Museum of Modern Art Aalborg. Ms Ørskou was previously curator and later head curator of ARoS Aarhus Art Museum. In addition to these roles, Gitte Ørskou has held several positions of trust, including chair of the Danish Arts Foundation. She has long experience of working in the museum world and a solid academic background in art history and management.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

Free museum admission to remain

Published 10 April 2019

Admission to a number of state-owned museums will remain free of charge under a proposal in the Government's Spring Amending Budget for 2019. The Spring Amending Budget is based on an agreement between the Green Party, the Swedish Social Democratic Party, the Centre Party and the Liberals.

“The free admission reform is important in opening up our state-owned museums to more people. There is so much knowledge gathered in our museums, and this must not only benefit those who can afford it,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

The Government will therefore contribute SEK 60 million to the state-owned museums in 2019, to ensure that free admission continues to apply to a number of them. This will bring the total budget for free admission for 2019 to SEK 80 million, which is in line with previous levels.

“I want to work to ensure that our shared cultural heritage is accessible to more people, and museums play an important role in this. Visitor numbers rose after free admission was introduced, proving that this is a reform that really makes a difference,” says Ms Lind.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

Government grants to culture schools reintroduced

Published 10 April 2019

The Government intends to reintroduce government grants to municipal culture schools. The grants, which encompass SEK 50 million, will be used to broaden the offering within culture schools and reach new groups. The proposal is made in the Government's Spring Amending Budget, which is based on an agreement between the Green Party, the Swedish Social Democratic Party, the Centre Party and the Liberals.

“More culture to more people is the lodestar of the Government's culture policy, and I am delighted that we are reintroducing support to culture schools, which will give more children and young people the opportunity to take part in their activities. This is an important initiative for more equitable culture schools,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

Between 2016 and 2018, the Swedish Arts Council distributed grants totalling SEK 100 million annually to municipal culture schools. By the end of 2018, the majority of municipalities with culture schools had applied for grants, and these were primarily used to broaden the offering and reach new groups. The grants were removed in the budget approved by the Riksdag in December 2018, but will be reintroduced from 1 July this year. The Government proposes funding of SEK 50 million for 2019 – as opposed to SEK 100 million previously – because the funds approved now will only apply to the second half of the year.

“I really want to highlight the significance of culture schools. It is extremely important that children and young people have the opportunity to play

instruments, paint, do drama, and express themselves in other ways,” says Ms Lind.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release

The ministers' press contacts

Published 22 January 2019

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Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Government Offices

New state secretaries at the Government Offices

Published 22 January 2019

The Government today appointed 31 state secretaries at the Government Offices. Former state secretaries have been dismissed from their positions. Most of the state secretaries have previously held corresponding positions at the Government Offices.

Prime Minister's Office

The Government has appointed Nils Vikmång as the Prime Minister's State Secretary. The Government has also appointed Madeleine Harby Samuelsson and Karin Wallensteen as state secretaries to Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

The Government has appointed Paula Carvalho Olovsson as State Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren.

The Government has appointed Mats Andersson and Maria Ferm as state secretaries in the coordinating committee at the Prime Minister's Office.

Ministry of Employment

The Government has appointed Annika Dahl as State Secretary to Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson.

The Government has appointed Karin Strandås as State Secretary to Minister

for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation, Åsa Lindhagen.

Ministry of Finance

The Government has appointed Max Elger and Leif Jacobsson as state secretaries to Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson.

The Government has appointed Ulf Holm and Elin Olsson as state secretaries to Minister for Financial Markets and Housing, Deputy Minister for Finance, Per Bolund.

The Government has appointed Alejandro Firpo as State Secretary to Minister for Public Administration Ardan Shekarabi.

Ministry of Defence

The Government has appointed Jan-Olof Lind as State Secretary to Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

Ministry of Infrastructure

The Government has appointed Mattias Landgren as State Secretary to Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth.

The Government has appointed Sebastian De Toro as State Secretary to Minister for Energy and Digital Development Anders Ygeman.

Ministry of Justice

The Government has appointed Catharina Espmark and Lars Westbratt as state secretaries to Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

The Government has appointed Elisabeth Backteman as State Secretary to Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

Ministry of Culture

The Government has appointed Helene Öberg as State Secretary to Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport, Amanda Lind.

Ministry of the Environment

The Government has appointed Eva Svedling and Gunvor Ericson as state secretaries to Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister, Isabella Lövin.

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

The Government has appointed Stina Billinger and Emil Högberg as state secretaries to Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

The Government has appointed Per Callenberg as State Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson.

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

The Government has appointed Maja Fjaestad as State Secretary to Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren.

Ministry of Education and Research

The Government has appointed Erik Nilsson as State Secretary to Minister for Education Anna Ekström.

The Government has appointed Malin Cederfeldt Östberg as State Secretary to Minister for Higher Education and Research Matilda Ernkrans.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Government has appointed Annika Söder as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs to Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

The Government has appointed Per Olsson Fridh as State Secretary to Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson.

The Government has appointed Niklas Johansson as State Secretary to Minister for Foreign Trade, with responsibility for Nordic affairs, Ann Linde.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of Culture

Speech by Minister for Culture Amanda Lind at UNESCO's online Meeting with Ministers of Culture

Published 23 April 2020

Stockholm, Sweden 2020-04-22. Check against
delivery.

Good afternoon,

My name is Amanda Lind and I am Minister for Culture and Democracy in Sweden.

First of all, I would like to thank UNESCO for this follow-up on the Forum of Ministers of Culture in November last year.

In these very challenging times of the coronavirus pandemic, we all recognise the importance of art and culture when crisis strikes.

We also acknowledge the vulnerability of the cultural sphere as a whole and, consequently, the threats posed to the status of artists, especially for women.

It is more important than ever to join efforts to strengthen the protection and promotion of open and democratic societies, where artists and creators can work under free, fair and safe conditions, and where artistic freedom is protected and promoted.

In response to the current crisis, the Swedish Government has allocated 50 million Euros to both small and large non-governmental cultural actors. Public cultural institutions will be supported by an early distribution of the yearly grants.

In Sweden, as in many other countries, the majority of cultural actors are self-employed. They will be able to benefit from the general crisis measures

for small enterprises which include loan guarantees, temporary reduction of social security contributions and rental reductions.

As the Swedish Minister of Culture and Democracy, I am worried by the implications on human rights and democratic freedoms of some of the measures taken during the crisis. Many states are now enforcing measures that, to different extents, limit human rights.

Regrettably, measures could have consequences for the right to freedom of expression, for media freedom and for the democracy.

We must ensure that all emergency measures are in accordance with international human rights law. Any restrictions to the enjoyment of human rights must be limited to what is prescribed by law, necessary, non-discriminatory and proportionate to the evaluated risk.

The values of, and the access to, cultural heritage – the tangible as well as the intangible – must not be lost, but rather continue to be a unifying force for society. This applies during the crisis, as well as when businesses, museums and institutions have reopened, and non-governmental organisations are able to meet again.

The crisis gives us new opportunities to further develop and discover digital arenas of the cultural heritage all over the world.

Overall, the steps taken so far to support the cultural and creative sectors are important, but we also need to explore new measures. When the acute crisis has passed, we must ensure that the cultural and creative sectors come alive again. We know that these sectors are crucial for our societies, for social cohesion, innovation and creativity. Therefore, we have to join forces to maintain the role of culture now and in the future to come.

Thank You.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of Culture

Speech by Minister for Culture Amanda Lind at the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA)

Published 31 March 2020

Stockholm, Sweden 2020-03-31. Check against
delivery.

Dear friends,

We live in times that are uncertain and in many ways scary. How can we explain to our children what is happening, when we barely understand it ourselves? When measures to protect people risk increasing the distances between us, how can children and young adults find hope – for today and for the future?

Astrid Lindgren was not afraid of showing children the not-so-sunny aspects of life. She trusted the children – and the grown-ups around them – to find ways to cope with complexity and worries. Sometimes with a sense of humor, sometimes more seriously and profoundly, such as in *The Brothers Lionheart*, where there are great sorrows, but also great hope.

You may know that Pippi Longstocking was invented by Astrid Lindgren when she was asked by her daughter, sick in pneumonia, to tell her a story about a girl bearing that name. A way to escape the worries, or perhaps just the boredom. But Pippi turned out to be so much more. She has been – and continues to be – a role model for girls and boys around the whole world. She shows that being strong and independent does not exclude being human and vulnerable.

In these times, where the importance of empathy between us is clearer than ever, reading is a way of reducing distances and crossing borders.

Many children today have to stay at home, not knowing when they're allowed to go out and see their friends again. But literature can be a way to explore this world from home – or even find new worlds, that can give comfort, or simply something else to think about. This is specially important in times like these.

The power of literature makes it evident why reading promotion is one of my most important priorities as the Swedish Minister for Culture, and why the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is so important.

Founded by the Swedish Government in 2002, it is the largest international children's and young adult literature award in the world. And now, you are about to find out who will be the 2020 laureate.

Therefore, I would now like to hand over the word to jury, and for all of you watching – take care, wherever you are, and thank you all for your invaluable work to help children and young adults find new worlds as well as hope in this one!



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of Culture

Speech by Amanda Lind at the 2019 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award ceremony

Published 28 May 2019

Stockholm, 27 May 2019. Check against delivery.

Your Royal Highness, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Bart Moeyaert,

“I feel sorry for all the children who don’t live in Noisy Village”. These are the words of Anna, one of the inhabitants of Astrid Lindgren’s famous Noisy Village – Bullerbyn. I think that, compared to many other places one could have grown up in, Noisy Village is not really that noisy. Rather, it symbolises harmony and simplicity in many minds.

I don’t think that any of us had a childhood that exactly matches what was depicted in Astrid Lindgren’s books about Noisy Village. And there are children who can barely recognise themselves in this idyllic and peaceful village. Children, with their vivid imagination, have no problems to imagine themselves in another context – on a pirate ship, in a magic forest or – why not? – living in Noisy Village.

But sometimes, you might actually need to be able to recognise yourself. You might need a book to show you that you’re not alone. You’re not the only one growing up in a family that doesn’t look like a classical fairy-tale family. It is not just you who is witnessing fights over how the rent for next month should be paid. You’re not alone having to comfort your own mother, when she doesn’t want to get up in the morning.

There are as many childhoods as there are people who have ever lived. Actually, if we include all daydreams, all fears and all wishful thinking, there are even more childhoods.

Bart Moeyaert, you have showed us so many different childhoods. They are intriguing, sometimes strange, but sometimes also strangely familiar. Some of us can relate to parts of some of them, others can relate to other parts. Just like Astrid Lindgren, you see the child – or the young adult – in all its facets. You see the inner and the outer contradictions, conflicts and also the reconciliation. The same way you help the young reader to see him- or herself, you help us grown-ups to see the different realities of the next generation.

The realities that you let us see are a lot of things – they are violent, passionate, boring, funny, embarrassing and generous. But they are not black and white. Growing up is not always easy, but the sympathy and solidarity we see between friends, between brother and sister, or between the writer and his characters, make it easier to face the different worlds out there.

The children who don't live in Noisy Village don't need our pity – they need our respect and attention, our empathy and imagination. And we all need writers like Bart Moeyaert. Therefore, I am very happy to warmly congratulate you, on behalf of the Swedish Government, on the award of the world's most distinguished prize for children's and young adult literature. Thank you Bart, for showing us all the noisy villages, towns, families and friends – and all the noisy childhoods – that could be out there.



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of Culture

Speech by Amanda Lind at the Sami Culture Policy Summit

Published 07 March 2019

Umeå, 6 March 2019. Check against delivery.

Dear friends,

Here, in the very centre of Umeå, in front of the town hall, it is a great honour for me to have the possibility to share this historic event with you! Humbled by the fact that I get to participate in the inauguration of the Sami Culture Policy Summit, I would like to start by warmly thanking Sáhkie Umeå Sami Association, Giron Sami Theatre and all those having generously supported this event.

I would also like to congratulate the Umeå Sami week on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary! Twenty years of highlighting Sami arts and culture and their contributions to the cultural life of the region.

Dear friends,

Some months ago, Linnéa Axelsson's epic *Ædnan* was awarded the prestigious August Prize. Many readers, with or without Sami background, have had the possibility to follow Ristin, Ber-Joná, Lise and Sandra in their fight for survival, recognition and dignity.

The political context of the destinies depicted in *Ædnan* is not very flattering to the Swedish state. But these stories need to be heard. They help to rewrite Swedish-Sami history – and future. And to be clear on this – if, and when the Sami Parliament so wishes, the Swedish Government intends to appoint a Truth and Reconciliation Committee.

During the last couple of years, many new important stories have met a wide audience. Through literature, drama, visual arts, film and music, the

historical and contemporary conditions, injustices, victories and traumas are made visible to a larger audience.

The beautiful and political works of the artist Britta Marakatt-Labba have provoked new thoughts in many minds, both in and far beyond Sápmi.

The film Sami Blood by Amanda Kernell has won several international awards as well as the Audience Award of the Swedish Guldbagge Film Awards. With over 180 000 cinema tickets sold in Sweden, the film widely exceeded all expectations. But it was obvious that the strong account of the chances and choices in life of Elle Marja have the power to go straight to the hearts of any audience.

Dear friends,

It is the main objective of Swedish Sami policy to promote a vivid Sami culture and a strong and diverse Sami cultural life. One must not make the mistake of believing that indigenous culture is only about preservation and tradition. Tradition is important. But to be firmly rooted in tradition is not in contradiction with contemporary artistic expressions. With musicians such as Maxida Mäarak or Sofia Jannok, artists from Sápmi meet a wide and also young audience.

The famous Sami singer Mari Boine once said the following, as conveyed by Veli-Pekka Lehtola in his book “The Sami People – Traditions in Transition”: “My self-image was full of wounds and aches, and making songs was medicine for those. Only when people who heard the songs came and asked, ‘how do you manage to tell so exactly about me and my feelings?’ did I understand the songs were like medicine for others too. The next step was that I wanted to make others understand us and our pain: those who had looked down on us and had diminished and wounded us. The third step was to notice how great were the riches and traditions contained in our culture.”

But individual artists cannot carry culture alone. Culture is something collective and individual at the same time. Transmitting culture and language in meetings between people and across generations is fundamental. But for the future of Sami culture in Sweden, also strong institutions are of great value.

The cultural centre Gaaltije in Östersund is vital in promoting and strengthening South Sami culture.

Sámi Duodji gives important contributions to Sami handicraft and design.

Giron Sámi Teáhter raises important and difficult questions to a wide and diverse audience.

Ájtte, Swedish Mountain and Sami Museum in Jokkmokk, shows how Sami cultural heritage is also Swedish cultural heritage. The importance the Government ascribes to Ájtte is shown by the increased grants the Museum since 2018 receives from the state cultural budget.

Also, the Sámi associations provide many cultural meeting places, such as Tráhppie, here in Umeå.

Dear friends,

I am very happy that Sáhkie, with Giron Sami Theatre and partners, have provided the conditions for discussions on the future of Sami cultural life and what can be done by the Government. I know that there are high expectations on how the state level can increase its commitments. I look forward to an open and honest discussion on the challenges and possibilities for strengthening Sami culture.

In 2018, the Government raised the grants to Sami culture distributed by the Sami Parliament. But I fully understand that there is much more that can be done. Sweden is a party to the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

Sweden's constitution was also amended in 2011 to affirm the obligation of public power in Sweden to promote the opportunities of the Sami people to preserve and develop a cultural and social life of their own. These are obligations to be taken seriously. The Swedish Government will continue the efforts to reach a Law on Consultation in Matters Concerning the Sami People. We also continue to work for a realisation of a Nordic Sami Convention, that will strengthen the rights of the Sami people to maintain and develop their language, culture, economic activities and social life.

Dear friends,

As many of you already know, 2019 is the International Year for Indigenous Languages. In the official communication around this year, it is clearly stated that without the indigenous languages on this planet, the world would be a poorer place. So many stories would be lost forever. So much knowledge and so many perspectives would disappear. One cannot help but to think of Elsa

Laula's words that it is about life or death.

I know that all around Sápmi, there are heroic efforts made to strengthen the Sami languages. Initiatives by the public sector, by organisations, civil society and committed citizens together make up a forceful contribution. The work by the Sami writer's organisation Bágo is vital in promoting the written word. But it is a matter of both production and distribution. The Sami Library in Jokkmokk has an important role to play in ensuring access to the Sami works already written. But it is obvious that more still needs to be done to even start to make up for the wounds made. The loss of a language is a loss for us all.

We are happy that the Swedish Sami Parliament is a partner to the International Year for Indigenous Languages and the Government intends to join in the efforts to highlight this initiative.

The Government sees the need for a coherent and long-term strategy on how to strengthen the Sami languages. We have also given the task to the Sami Parliament to make an inquiry into how a Sami language centre can be developed to strengthen more Sami varieties.

The Sami Parliaments in Norway, Sweden and Finland cooperate on a project that aims to establish a common Sami language centre, called Sámi Giellagáldu. The Nordic civil service body for Sami issues, in which the Sami parliaments also are represented, has established a working group to look into the organisational model for Sámi Giellagáldu. Since Sápmi stretches across four states, international cooperation is very important. We must do all we can to ensure that there are no border obstacles for Sami cooperation and cultural exchange.

During the Swedish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2018, we arranged, together with the Swedish Sami Parliament, the Institute for Language and Folklore and the Swedish Arts Council, a workshop on how culture can be used for language revitalisation. One good example that was presented was by Giron Sámi Teáhter, based in Kiruna. They use the playful cooperation methods of circus to inspire children to dare to use Sami languages.

This great example of using the arts for language revitalisation was also presented to the Nordic ministers for culture in October last year. Inspired by this, The Nordic Council of Ministers will shortly launch an initiative of promoting culture and education for language revitalisation. I will closely

follow this initiative and I hope that you will too.

Dear friends,

Being here in Umeå with you, the city's year as European Capital of Culture in 2014 comes to mind. During this year, Sami culture was at the very core of the activities. The structure of the year was based on the eight seasons in Sami tradition. This was a great possibility to discuss what the place of Sami culture, both here and in the greater area, could be. I know there were many heated debates on this and the lessons learned can guide us in the future.

I genuinely welcome that these discussions are now continuing. I look forward to an exchange with Sami cultural actors and others on how the Government in cooperation with the regions, municipalities, civil society and others can work together to help strengthen the Sami cultural infrastructure. And I wish you all the best for a fruitful, honest and inspiring summit.

Dear friends,

I warmly welcome that this is an event focusing on culture. But having the responsibility also for sports, I would like to wrap up by shortly bringing your attention to the Vasaloppet ski race that was held in Dalarna three days ago. On that very day, the third of March, ninety years ago, the Sami athlete Johan Abram Persson won Vasaloppet. Most newspapers did not bother to put his name in the headlines, they only focused on his ethnicity. But there are names, there are faces, there are individuals with their own stories. And with the growing amount of Sami artistic work, these names, faces and stories will be read, seen and heard.

Thank you very much for letting me be a part of your summit, which I hereby declare inaugurated!



Government Offices of Sweden

Speech from Ministry of Culture

Speech by Amanda Lind at the opening of Göteborg Film Festival

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Film-lovers,

My name is Amanda Lind and this is my first speech since being appointed Minister for Culture and Democracy last Monday. Thank you for the invitation – I'm very happy to be here in Gothenburg and celebrate filmmakers and the art of film.

Culture must be free and have the ability to bring about change in an open and democratic society. Politics must be a facilitator for culture throughout our country.

As Minister for Culture and Democracy, I will continue the work of my predecessor to ensure access to culture for more people everywhere in Sweden, in the country side, in small towns and in our larger cities.

I will build on the foundation laid for our film policy during the last electoral period. The financial conditions and social security for our authors, dancers, actors and other artists must be improved. At the same time, I want to work to ensure better conditions for producing films in Sweden. The tax incentives for film production, that were subject of an inquiry last year, is one interesting proposal to strengthen film in Sweden.

Also, the work that started with the #metoo-movement and #silenceaction needs to continue. There's much more to be done in terms of gender equality. It must be a given, just like in the rest of society, that people can work in the film industry without being subjected to sexual harassment or worse. Equality creates creativity. And creativity is the foundation of a thriving culture.

Once again, it is a great honour for me to follow my predecessors' tradition of opening the Gothenburg Film Festival. I hope you find this year's films intriguing, inspiring and challenging.

I hereby declare the 2019 Gothenburg Film Festival open.

Thank you.