



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Justice

# New rules against foreign polygamous marriages

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The Government has decided to task an inquiry chair with reviewing how to prevent recognition of foreign polygamous marriages in Sweden.

"Polygamous marriages should not be recognised in Sweden and we need to review the existing legal loophole that makes it possible. Polygamous marriages undermine gender equality and, according to the UN, it can have serious emotional and financial consequences," says Deputy Minister for Justice, Heléne Fritzon.

A person who is already married is not permitted to enter into another marriage. A polygamous marriage entered into in another country by a person who is a Swedish citizen or Swedish resident should not normally be recognised in Sweden. At the same time, the incidence of polygamous marriages in Sweden has risen, not least due to a higher number of asylum seekers with no previous ties to Sweden.

The legislation needs to be clear, and for this reason the Government has instructed an inquiry chair to present proposals on how foreign polygamous marriages can be prevented from continuing in Sweden. The Inquiry Chair has also been tasked with explaining the legal consequences that may arise when a foreign polygamous marriage is not allowed to continue in Sweden and how to avoid unreasonable consequences for the people concerned.

## Inquiry Chair Anne Kutteneuler

Anne Kutteneuler, Judge of Appeal at the Svea Court of Appeal, has accepted the appointment as Inquiry Chair. The final report is due by 31 January 2020.





Press release from Ministry of Justice

# Several major investments in the Ministry of Justice's areas of responsibility in the Government's autumn budget

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On 20 September 2017, the Government presented the Budget Bill for 2018 to the Riksdag. The budget contains comprehensive investments in the Swedish Police Authority, other parts of the judicial system and civil defence. The Budget Bill is based on an agreement between the Government and the Left Party.

## The judicial system

In Sweden, we must all be safe, regardless of where we live or who we are. More crimes will be prevented and more crimes will be solved. This applies to both everyday crime and crime that poses a threat to Swedish democracy, such as organised crime, terrorism and hate crime. The Government is undertaking broad and long-term measures to build a stronger society – a society in which the judicial system and other actors take joint responsibility for creating a safer and more secure environment.

Some of the investments in the judicial system contained in the Government's autumn budget include:

## The largest investment in the police in the 2000s

The Government is now making the largest investment in the police in the

2000s. The appropriation to the police will be increased by SEK 2 billion in 2018, by SEK 2.3 billion in 2019 and by SEK 2.8 billion in 2020. This means that the Government is investing a total of SEK 7.1 billion in the Swedish Police Authority during that period. The police will have the opportunity to employ more officers and enhance efforts in several areas, such as the work of the border police and anti-terrorism efforts.

## Strengthening the judicial system

To ensure that the Government's comprehensive investment in the Swedish Police Authority has an impact, SEK 750 million will be allocated to the judicial system and other security-enhancing measures. This investment means that the appropriations to the Swedish Security Service, the Swedish Prosecution Authority, the Swedish Economic Crime Authority, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service and SOS Alarm will be increased. As of 1 January 2018, a national centre to combat violent extremism will be established at the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention with explicit ambition to support local actors.

## Defence and contingency measures

The security situation in Europe has deteriorated and this means greater demands are being placed on Sweden's defence capability. Civil defence efforts are a cornerstone of a modern total defence.

## Additional resources to civil defence

Over the next three years, the Government will strengthen civil defence with a total of approximately SEK 1.3 billion. This increase in resources is part of the agreement between the Government, the Moderate Party and the Centre Party on additional funding to total defence of SEK 2.7 billion per year as of 2018.

Civil defence aims to ensure that society, in the event of heightened alert or – in the worst case scenario – war, has the capability to protect the population, secure the most essential public services and support the Swedish Armed Forces. Activities are conducted by government agencies, municipalities, county councils, private companies and NGOs.

## Migration

The Government's objective is to ensure a sustainable migration policy that safeguards the right of asylum and, within the framework of managed immigration, facilitates mobility across borders, promotes needs-based labour migration, harnesses the effects of migration on development and deepens European and international cooperation. Achieving a long-term, sustainable migration policy requires taking responsibility in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation within organisations such as the UN and the EU, as well as efficient and constructive cooperation between Sweden's relevant agencies, municipalities and civil society. In line with the agreement with the centre-right parties, the number of people resettled in Sweden will increase by 1 600 as of 2018, totalling 5 000 people per year. To improve opportunities for families who are entitled to family reunification, the Government also intends to increase capacity at certain selected missions abroad so that more family reunification cases can be processed.

Some of the investments in the area of migration contained in the Government's autumn budget include:

### **More money to municipalities to avoid unaccompanied minors having to change their place of residence**

Earlier this year, the Government presented a temporary municipal grant to ensure that unaccompanied minors who turn 18 during the asylum process have the opportunity to remain living in the municipality in which they have set down roots. Many municipalities have stated that they want these young people to stay, and the Government is therefore investing an additional SEK 195 million this year – making a total of SEK 390 million – and SEK 195 million in 2018.

### **More efficient work to ensure returns**

People who have had their matter examined in a legally secure manner and received a final and non-appealable rejection of their application for a residence permit must leave the country within the stated time limit. The majority of those whose application is rejected return of their own accord, and this is where the emphasis should lie in future too. To strengthen work to ensure returns, the Government is investing an additional SEK 114 million in 2018, SEK 199 million in 2019 and then SEK 76 million per year. The Government is also giving the police the possibility to carry out workplace inspections to check that employers are not exploiting people who are not permitted to stay in Sweden, and is taking measures to establish the identity

of people who can be assumed to be in the country without a residence permit. The Government also intends to propose improved rules for detention.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice

# Government reshuffle, 27 July 2017

Published 27 July 2017

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven today announced a government reshuffle. Three ministers have chosen to leave their posts, two new ministers have been appointed, and two ministers have been entrusted with revised areas of responsibility.

Ministers Anna Johansson, Anders Ygeman and Gabriel Wikström are leaving their posts.

## Newly appointed ministers

Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth

Minister for Migration, and Deputy Minister for Justice: Heléne Fritzon

## Changes by ministry

Ministry of Justice Minister for Justice and Home Affairs: Morgan Johansson

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs Minister for Health and Social Affairs: Annika Strandhäll