

---

## May 2018 Update

### Sweden: Incorporating the CRC into Swedish law

---

A parliamentary bill to incorporate the CRC into domestic law has been presented to the Swedish parliament and is expected to be voted on in the summer. If approved, it will enter into force in 2020.

Despite being one of the first countries to ratify the CRC, the Convention was not incorporated into Swedish law. As a result, according to child rights activists, there were numerous examples of decision-makers at different levels, who did not take the CRC sufficiently into account in decisions affecting children. Furthermore, the CRC was not referred to in the justice system, as it did not have a legal status.

In 2013, the Swedish Government set up a committee to look into incorporating the CRC.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child raised this issue during the dialogue and in its Concluding Observations to the State (March 2015) recommended, *“The Committee urges the State party to accelerate the inquiry set up in March 2013 and take all the necessary measures to bring national legislation into full conformity with the Convention, and that the Convention should always prevail when provisions of domestic law conflict with the Convention.”*

The Swedish Government committee presented its report to the government in March 2016.

The report is available online – the English summary is at page 51 onwards:

[http://www.regeringen.se/49315c/contentassets/7bcd0fe8815345aeb2ff0d9678896e11/barnkonventionen-blir-svensk-lag-sou-2016\\_19.pdf](http://www.regeringen.se/49315c/contentassets/7bcd0fe8815345aeb2ff0d9678896e11/barnkonventionen-blir-svensk-lag-sou-2016_19.pdf)