



Specific Laws for Domestic Violence and Stalking in Sweden

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Domestic Violence, specifically Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Urban and Rural Areas

Intimate partner violence is a violation of human rights (Istanbul Convention)

IPV

One of three women is estimated to be a victim of IPV (WHO, 2021)

18% to 22% in one year in rural areas compared to 16% for urban areas (Peek-Asa et al., 2011)

Recidivism?

15% - 60% globally (Hilton et al 2010; Klein & Tobin, 2008; Lin et al., 2009; Loinaz, 2014).

36% - 42% in Sweden (Belfrage & Strand, 2012; Svalin et al., 2014).

Severity

More severe violence in rural areas before reporting (Logan et al., 2003; 2005; Peek-Asa et al., 2011; Strand & Storey, 2019)

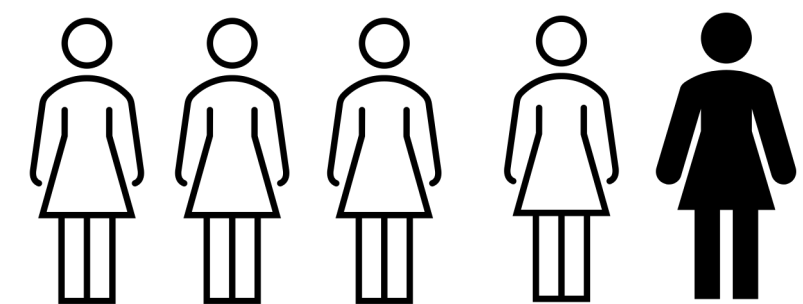
More sexual violence in rural areas (Grossman et al., 2005)

Stalking

An unwanted and repeated communication, contact or other behaviour with the intention, or without any concern of, cause fear for the victims, or those who are close to them, safety. (SAM: Kropp, Hart & Lyon, 2008)

Prevalence rates between 9% to 20% in English speaking countries.

1 in 5 women in Europe have experienced stalking



Recidivism rates ranges from 9% to 56%

References: ABS, 2006; BRÅ, 2006; Bendlin et al., 2020; Budd & Matinsson, 2000; Dressing, Finney, 2006; Kuehner & Gass, 2005; Eige, 2014; Eke et al., 2011; Fedina et al., 2020; Purcell et al., 2002; Matos et al., 2019; Mohandie et al., 2006; Rosenfeld & Harmon, 2002; Stieger, Burger & Schild, 2008; Strand 2018

What characterize a stalker?

- **Obsessive**
 - The cause is one of the most important things for the stalker
 - In some cases the cause is the only thing that matters in life
- **Repeated attempts to contact victims**
 - By definition “serial criminal”
- **Justifying their actions**
 - They have a “right” to pursue their cause
 - A sense of entitlement
- **Intruding upon the victim**
 - The stalker is more important than the victim

Domestic violence legislation

Law of “***Gross violation of a woman’s integrity***”

Criminal Code, Chapter 4, Section 4a

Law (2013:367)

- Enacted 1998 and revised twice
- Overarching law
 - The law includes several different crimes
 - Each action by the perpetrator needs to be one of these crimes
 - Several crimes committed by the perpetrator makes it more severe

Anti-Stalking Law in Sweden

Law of “*Unlawful harassment*”

Criminal Code, Chapter 4, Section 4b

Law (2021:225)

- Enacted 2011
- Overarching law
 - The law includes several different crimes
 - Each action by the stalker needs to be one of these crimes
 - Several crimes committed by the stalker makes it more severe

The importance of a stalking law

- Anti-stalking laws are necessary for the judicial process
 - Stalking behaviour includes actions that are difficult to prove as crimes.
 - Most often only the severe physical violence will be handled.
- Stalking is not only a crime of domestic violence
- Risk assessment and risk management are provided only to those who are recognized, which makes reporting to the police essential
- Restraining orders can be part of risk management if stalking is detected by the criminal justice system

The outcome of the Swedish stalking law (BRÅ, 2015)

Criminal acts that stalkers were reported for before the stalking law was enacted

Violence

Threats

Property damage

Harassment

These behaviour is not stalking per se, but can be part of the stalking behaviour

Difficulties to get stalkers convicted for stalking

Stalking law (enacted October 1st 2011)

- *Reported crimes*
2012 N=916 2013 N=780
- *Prosecuted crimes*
2011-2013 N=263, 16% of reported crimes
- *Convictions*
2011-2013 N=127, 7% of reported crimes
- *Type of crimes in the verdicts*
 - Harassment
 - Breaching a restraining order
 - Unlawful threats
- *Sentence*
2011-2013 50% prison, 25% probation
14% forensic psychiatric care

The outcome of the Swedish Domestic violence law

Rural and remote areas

47% had prior convictions before being reported for violence according to the law.

In Sweden

About one of ten who was charged for violence according to this law was sentenced, and one of three was convicted for other IPV related crimes (NCCP 2019).

Gross Violation of a Woman's Integrity

- *Reported crimes in rural and remote areas 2011-2014 N=258*
- *Convictions*
 - 11% according to the law
 - 20% for assault
 - 4% for other crimes
- *Type of crimes in the verdicts*
 - Assaults
 - Unlawful threats
 - Breaching a restraining order
- *Sentence*
 - 45% prison
 - 42% conditional sentence or probation

(Reference: Strand et al., 2021)

The RISKSAM research program

RISKSAM - A Structured Risk Management Model to use when Preventing Interpersonal Violence and Stalking

The overall aim of the RISKSAM program is:

- To develop and implement a structured risk management model (RISKSAM) with the Swedish social services and the police for IPV and stalking cases
- To evaluate the effects of working with RISKSAM in terms of collaboration within and between agencies in violence reduction concerning IPV and stalking.
- Examine victims' and servants quality of life in cases of IPV and stalking.
- Theoretical development of theory based on the RNR principle for IPV and stalking cases.

Additionally, a rurality and a child perspective will be applied.

Thank you for your attention!

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