

SWEDEN – A CONSTITUTIONAL STATE IN DECLINE

A Critical Report (2017–2025, 18 pages)

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Author's Note:

This report constitutes a critical examination of publicly available documents and official pronouncements issued by Swedish governmental entities including my personal experiences. While it does not seek to disregard legitimate national security considerations, its purpose is to underscore the imperative of governance characterized by proportionality, transparency, and unwavering adherence to fundamental rights. Democracy, is not determined by the absence of adversarial forces, but rather by the manner in which a state conducts itself toward its citizens – particularly those who dissent.

The report is dedicated to my cherished daughters, Anthie' and Alexandra, as well as to all those who have suffered abuse, and to every child worldwide who has been unjustly separated from parental care. May their resilience serve as both a testament to human dignity and a call for systemic accountability.

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Introduction

Sweden's democratic foundations and legal safeguards are being tested by a systematic and pervasive dismantling, where formal constitutional structures merely provide an illusion of stability. Despite the country's nominal adherence to the framework of the Instrument of Government (Regeringsformen), a practical erosion of constitutional principles – ***for example, in the application of Chapter 1, Section 1 – has resulted in a silent constitutional collapse*** [01]. This, in turn, has created a perilous accountability vacuum, eroding democracy in terms of civil rights and the fundamental respect for the norms of the rule of law.

A meticulous constitutional analysis of public authority further reveals a ***glaring discrepancy between the ideals proclaimed in the Instrument of Government's opening principles – such as human dignity, freedom, and equality – and the actual exercise of power in society***. Particularly in areas such as the application of the Act with Special Provisions on the Care of Young People (LVU), cultural and personal welfare, and social care, the state systematically fails to translate these foundational values into practice. This disconnect not only jeopardizes individual rights but also undermines the basic functions of democracy.

An international analysis of Sweden's handling of coercive interventions – with a focus on LVU, secure youth care (SIS), and residential care (HVB) – paints a bleak picture of a rule of law where transparency, accountability, and legal certainty teeter on the brink of total collapse. Despite Sweden's commitment to international legal principles and guidelines, the report reveals systemic and pervasive irregularities in which all institutions – from the Parliament and government to the courts – contribute to a structure where accountability and the protective mechanisms of the rule of law are undermined.

In the final analysis by Ronja Helénsdotter, published on November 4, 2024, it is clear that legal certainty in LVU cases is severely compromised [02]: a systemic collapse in which the structural deficiencies of Sweden's administrative model radically erode impartiality, legal security, and individuals' right to a fair trial. A coordinated interplay between municipal actors, courts, and other authorities is revealed to be foundational to a systematic undermining of constitutional principles, where collective responsibility is evaded in favor of an ***administrative machinery that prioritizes self-interest over citizens' rights***.

Summary

Despite its constitutional obligations and well-maintained international reputation, Sweden is in a state of severe rule-of-law erosion. This report identifies a systematic discrepancy between the principles enshrined in the Instrument of Government and their practical implementation – with particular focus on the state's handling of coercive interventions under LVU and cases involving missing and abducted children under ***The 1980 Hague Convention*** [03], which Sweden has ratified.

Behind the façade of a celebrated welfare system lies an administrative machinery marked by inertia, fragmentation, and an inability to act with the urgency and legal certainty required. Vulnerable families are left to navigate a system where institutional passivity, procedural fixation,

and inadequate investigative practices take precedence over children's fundamental right to safety and protection.

This is not a matter of isolated deviations but a structural systemic failure in which legal and administrative actors – including courts, prosecutors, and social services – consistently fail to fulfill their core mandates. The lack of coordination, deficient competence, and a pervasive disregard for Sweden's international commitments, particularly regarding the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, create legal uncertainty that undermines the credibility of the entire legal order.

The consequences are devastating; children endure prolonged psychological trauma, parents are denied constitutional protections, and public trust in institutions erodes. Without deep and coordinated reforms – including legal competence-building, improved interagency collaboration, and legally secure support for victims – Sweden risks losing all credibility as a champion of human rights.

Symbolic politics are insufficient. The current passivity can no longer be dismissed as merely an organizational failure – it must be acknowledged as an ethical collapse threatening the foundations of democratic governance and lawful public authority.

01. Sweden's Failure to Protect Its Children

The Hidden Crisis

Every year, an unknown number of Swedish children are unlawfully abducted across international borders by one parent—often in direct violation of custody orders and international legal obligations. These acts constitute not only grave violations of a child's right to security and family life but also leave the remaining parent in a prolonged and psychologically debilitating struggle marked by uncertainty, fear, and state passivity.

Despite the acute severity of these cases, Sweden's handling of child abductions is characterized by delays, paralysis, and a striking bureaucratic inadequacy. Multiple international actors have criticized Sweden's lack of efficiency and engagement. The Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (UD) frequently adopts a passive stance, reducing child protection to administrative routines rather than active measures for repatriation.

In March 2023, an [interview with Erica Neiglick](#), head of Sweden's MFA department handling "Child Abduction" cases [\[04\]](#), addressed criticism of Sweden's actions in these cases. In the video clip, published by SVT, Ms. Neiglick attempts to defend Sweden's failure to repatriate abducted children – with statements that confirm the system's structural incapacity rather than explain its limitations. This underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive reevaluation of Sweden's accountability, priorities, and international cooperation in matters of child protection and rights.

Child abduction, in its most fundamental form, is a crime against a child's right to stability, identity, and family life. When such violations occur in direct defiance of court orders and international arrest warrants, it is the state's duty to act decisively, swiftly, and with legal certainty [\[05\]](#), [\[06\]](#).

The Hague Convention's Legal Framework – and Sweden's Shortcomings

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (1980) is explicit in its purpose: to ensure the prompt return of children wrongfully removed from their habitual residence. Despite this, Sweden consistently deviates from the Convention's principles and timelines [07]. Below is a critical review of key contradictions and deficiencies in Sweden's implementation:

Contradictions and Inconsistencies

1. Convention Violations Disguised as Pragmatism

While the Hague Convention mandates swift repatriation, the UD asserts:

"It is not always self-evident that a child should be returned"

Such rhetoric undermines the Convention's purpose. Exceptions must be narrowly defined, yet Sweden's discretionary interpretations foster legal uncertainty and subjective diplomacy, delaying justice and jeopardizing children's stability.

2. Unacceptable Procedural Delays

The Convention requires legal actions to be resolved within six weeks. However, the UD admits:

"It often takes several months for this to occur"

This passivity constitutes not only a breach of the Convention but a direct harm to the child's best interests. Alarming, the state offers no concrete reforms to expedite proceedings.

3. Visitation Solutions as a Substitute for Justice

The MFA states:

"In some cases, we work for visitation rights instead of repatriation"

This is a fundamental departure from the Convention's intent to restore the status quo. Transforming repatriation into a visitation issue legitimizes the legal violations of abduction.

4. Lack of Bilateral Strategies

Most abductions from Sweden involve non-Convention states, yet Sweden refuses to prioritize bilateral agreements:

"Sweden prefers to promote broader accession to the Convention..."

This idealism leaves Swedish children unprotected. A proactive state would pursue bilateral solutions with key countries rather than awaiting hypothetical ratifications.

5. Ethical and Diplomatic Reciprocity

The MFA claims:

"If we demand other countries return children, we must also return theirs"

This framing treats abductions as diplomatic bargaining chips, incompatible with the Convention's child-centric principles. A child's best interests are non-negotiable.

6. Legal Inconsistency and Institutional Fragmentation

The MFA identifies delays in court proceedings as the primary bottleneck:

"The time it takes to process abduction cases in court"

Yet these delays stem from political priorities and systemic disarray. Sweden's institutional inefficiency renders justice unattainable for affected families.

Conclusion: Sweden Evading Its Child Rights Obligations

Sweden's passivity in addressing international child abductions constitutes not only a humanitarian and legal betrayal but a profound systemic failure in the state's exercise of its constitutional duties. By hiding behind convention loopholes, avoiding bilateral solutions, and treating children as diplomatic pawns, Sweden has abdicated its responsibility to protect its most vulnerable citizens.

02. Sweden's Constitutional Dismantling

A Silent Constitutional Collapse

Chapter 1, Section 1 of the Swedish Instrument of Government (Regeringsformen) – ***"All public power in Sweden proceeds from the people"*** [01] – has, in practice, lost its normative and operational significance. In its place, a technocratic and bureaucratic administrative system has emerged, where agencies, legal professionals, and bureaucratic actors wield extensive power without effective democratic oversight or judicial review. The constitutional separation of powers has effectively been neutralized – the institutions intended to serve as checks and balances are often neither independent, proactive, nor transparent.

Courts overwhelmingly approve agency decisions without substantive review. The Parliamentary Ombudsman (JO) issues criticism in only a fraction of the thousands of complaints received annually, while the Committee on the Constitution's scrutiny operates largely within partisan political frameworks, rarely yielding tangible consequences. The result is a post-democratic condition where the external forms of the rule of law remain intact, but the constitutional substance – civil rights, accountability, and power balance – has been hollowed out.

Linguistic Distortion and Secrecy as Tools of Power

The principle of "the best interests of the child," central to both Swedish law and Article 3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child [06], has in practice been weaponized as a rhetorical tool to legitimize coercive interventions, institutional placements, and the isolation of children from their families – often without regard for the child's own voice or right to be heard. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has repeatedly criticized Sweden's implementation of the Convention, particularly regarding LVU interventions.

Simultaneously, secrecy legislation – notably Chapter 26 of the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act [08] – is exploited to withhold information from the media, elected representatives, and judicial bodies, even in cases where affected families consent to public scrutiny. This subverts the principle of transparency, violating constitutional requirements for openness and civic accountability (Freedom of the Press Act, Chapter 2 [09]).

Legal Uncertainty in LVU Proceedings – An Empirical Example

A University study from Lund reveals that the majority of LVU rulings in certain counties rubber-stamp social services’ requests [10] – often based on circumstantial evidence and subjective assessments rather than legally secure proof. These decisions have life-altering consequences for children and parents yet are rarely subjected to critical review. Research highlights a dangerous trend: courts increasingly presume agency decisions to be correct, shifting the burden of proof and eroding individual legal protections.

This occurs alongside statistics showing that children subjected to LVU interventions face heightened risks of mental illness, suicide, social marginalization, and, in some cases, premature death [11]. Such data must be interpreted as indicators of systemic failure, not isolated incidents.

Sweden’s Violations of International Conventions

Sweden is bound by multiple international conventions, including the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention Against Torture (CAT), all ratified and in many cases incorporated into Swedish law. Yet Swedish authorities’ actions in care proceedings systematically deviate from these norms.

Children are separated from families without legal proportionality, the right to defense, or effective avenues for appeal—violating ECHR Articles 6, 8, and 13 [12].

According to the ***Venice Commission’s guiding principles for rule-of-law governance [13]***, Sweden no longer meets the functional standards expected of a constitutional democracy:

Principle	Assessment
Popular Sovereignty	Undermined
Transparency	Severely Restricted
Legal Certainty	Inverted in Practice
Judicial Independence	Formal, Not Substantive

Principle	Assessment
Accountability	Virtually Absent

Conclusion: A Rule of Law in Disintegration

The Swedish legal system is in a state of gradual constitutional erosion. Rights guaranteed by domestic and international law exist on paper but lack practical enforcement. Sweden has thus evolved into what might be termed a **democratic façade governance**; a system where the rule of law is upheld in form but not in substance.

As Harvard legal scholar [Cass Sunstein](#) observes:

“Democracy is not merely a matter of form—it is a matter of function.”

Or, as [Nic. Cheropoulos](#) concludes:

“We live in a masquerade of democratic dictatorship—granted the right to exist, but not to live”

03. Examination of Swedish Public Exercise of Power

The Constitution’s Principles – A Value-Based Façade

Chapter 1 of the Instrument of Government (*Regeringsformen*) proclaims that public power in Sweden shall be exercised with respect for human equality, freedom, and dignity, and that the state shall promote family life, health, education, cultural identity, and combat discrimination. These declarations are deeply rooted in international commitments such as the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

However, when these norms are tested against the reality of Swedish administrative practice – particularly in matters involving coercive interventions under the *Act with Special Provisions on the Care of Young People* (LVU) – a different picture emerges. ***The constitutional values increasingly function as rhetorical façades, while reality is marked by systemic repression, legal uncertainty, and a culture of silence.***

The Practical Reality – A System in Regression

1. LVU – A Tool for Control Rather Than Protection

The LVU law (coercive care of minors) is applied arbitrarily. A comprehensive analysis ([Helensdotter, 2024 \[02\]](#)) of 20,000 rulings reveals that children’s own wishes are misinterpreted or disregarded. Secrecy is used to conceal abuse, and children’s right to family life is sacrificed at the altar of institutional interests.

2. Welfare Principles Replaced by Institutional Logic

Instead of protecting children and families, the system promotes a pathologizing view of

deviations from norms. Religiosity, cultural distinctiveness, and strong family bonds are in some cases treated as risk factors – rather than resources.

3. State Care That Harms

Research and journalism indicate that children in coercive care face *heightened risks of suicide, abuse, and lifelong mental health issues* [14]. Deaths have occurred. Meanwhile, staff often lack adequate training, and oversight is deficient.

4. An Economy Built on Abuse

The system has created a parallel economy where children serve as *revenue sources* for private and municipal actors. This occurs in the name of "*social sustainability*" but results in lifelong dependency and psychological trauma.

5. Legal Certainty – A Judicial Illusion

Courts approve agency decisions with near-automatic frequency, often without substantive evaluation of evidence. Reviews are formalistic – not legally secure. Individuals are denied access to documentation, and the process lacks transparency.

6. Cultural Discrimination Through Legal Terminology

Terms like "*excessive attachment*" are used against families with strong emotional bonds – particularly within minority groups. This constitutes a normative attack on cultural identity in the name of law [15], [16].

Fundamental Freedoms – Formally Protected, Practically Undermined

- **Freedom of Speech:** Social services and care staff risk reprisals, a culture of silence, or psychiatric labeling if they question decisions.
- **Freedom of the Press:** Editorial censorship obstructs journalism on LVU and social abuses.
- **Freedom of Information:** The state dismisses criticism as "*disinformation*" [18], [20] without evidence.
- **Principle of Public Access:** Systemic failures are concealed through secrecy and case isolation.

The Parliament (Riksdag) – A Silent Accomplice

Though the Instrument of Government assigns Parliament ultimate responsibility for overseeing public authority, the Parliament has effectively abdicated this role. Reports on coercive interventions, deaths, and systemic legal uncertainty have not prompted significant parliamentary inquiries or investigations. Representative democracy has thus been reduced to a formality.

"This constitutes a crisis of legitimacy: When the people's representatives remain silent, abuses are legitimized".

The Swedish State as a Rule-of-Law Paradox

Sweden exhibits paradoxical stability: The state complies with its own laws – but violates its rule-of-law commitments. Legality is upheld, but legitimacy is eroded. This is reflected in a state where:

- *Criticism is silenced through medical labeling and disciplinary measures.*
- *Institutions prioritize self-preservation over accountability.*
- *Families are torn apart in the name of legality, without proportionality.*
- *Democratic oversight remains passive and functionally obsolete.*

Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice [\[21\]](#)

- **Participation:** Children have the right to be heard in decisions affecting them, and adults must take their views seriously.
- **Best Interests of the Child:** Decisions must fully respect children’s rights and account for their needs in line with their age. Judges may consult experts like psychologists or social workers.
- **Care and Respect:** Children must always be treated with care and respect, and their privacy protected.
- **Equal Treatment:** All children, regardless of origin, group affiliation, religion, or language, deserve equality. Children with disabilities, those who are homeless, in out-of-home care, or from Roma and foreign backgrounds require special protection.
- **Rule of Law:** Children must be treated fairly in the justice system. If facing difficulties, they must have legal representation, and courts must consider their unique circumstances. Children may file complaints to independent, impartial bodies.

“It is not more laws we need—but loyalty to the constitutional laws we already have” [\[22\]](#)

04. Systemic Collapse at the Core of the Rule of Law

Sweden's Administrative Practices and Constitutional Accountability

1. A Rule-of-Law Violation in Real Time: The Passivity of the Government and Parliament

According to the **Venice Commission** [\[23\]](#), UN human rights conventions, OECD principles of good governance, and **GRECO** recommendations [\[24\]](#), [\[25\]](#), the legitimacy of public authority rests on transparency, legal certainty, and accountability to the people. Despite this, Sweden’s highest state institutions continue to act in violation of these foundational principles:

- **Parliament** continues to fund coercive interventions (LVU) without evidence-based justification or legal proportionality.

- **The Government** avoids addressing international and academic scrutiny, responding to systemic criticism with silence or repressive measures.
- **No legislative reforms** have been enacted despite extensive evidence of legal uncertainty, abuse, and deficiencies in child protections.

Collectively, this constitutes what UN special rapporteurs term a "**systemic failure of legislative responsibility**" [26], [27] – a parliamentary collapse in oversight, accountability, and safeguards against abuse of power.

2. Scientific Evidence: An Abuse Model in the Child's Name

A November 2024 presentation to the Swedish Parliament by researcher **Ronja Helensdotter** [02], based on 20,000 LUV rulings, reveals a structurally arbitrary and harmful system:

- **Judicial Arbitrariness:** Outcomes in LUV cases depend more on individual judges' practices than objective legal review.
- **Excess Mortality:** 6.8% of children in coercive care have died – without official explanations or state action.
- **Social Bias:** Children from stable homes and minority families are disproportionately overrepresented.

The state's continued funding of this system without revision or reform constitutes a structural betrayal of both the constitution and international commitments.

3. Institutional Corruption: A Silent Economy of Abuse

The LUV system has evolved into a lucrative industry for private and municipal actors:

- **Revenue per child** often exceeds 1 million SEK annually.
- **Complex corporate structures** obscure profits and ownership to avoid scrutiny.
- **Financial incentives**, not children's needs, drive coercive intervention decisions.

The OECD and GRECO (Council of Europe) define this as **institutional corruption**, where public resources sustain a profit-driven system at odds with individual rights.

4. Courts Without Independence – The Rule of Law Hollowed Out

Chapter 1, Section 8 of the Instrument of Government mandates judicial independence. Yet in LUV proceedings, a legal culture prevails where:

- **Role Conflict:** Judges act as enforcers for social services, not impartial arbiters.
- **Reverse Burden of Proof:** Parents must disprove allegations without access to evidence.
- **No Proportionality Assessment:** Courts fail to evaluate the child's best interests in practice.

These deficiencies violate ECHR Articles 6 and 8 and represent, according to international experts, a **systematic denial of justice** [28].

5. Municipal Self-Governance – Power Without Accountability

Chapter 1, Section 7 of the Instrument of Government regulates municipal self-governance – a democratic principle now weaponized as a legal shield against accountability:

- **Municipalities like Linköping** have abolished family support and blocked appeals.
- **Parents questioning decisions** risk psychiatric labeling.
- **Social welfare boards** operate beyond judicial oversight.

This breaches the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Council of Europe's Charter on Local Self-Government, which require transparency, legal review, and individual protections.

6. Constitutional Accountability Dissolved – The Heart of Democracy in Decay

Chapter 1, Section 6 of the Instrument of Government states: *"The Government governs the realm. It is accountable to the Parliament"*.

In practice:

- **The Government** dismisses criticism as *"disinformation"* – without evidence [29].
- **Whistleblowers, researchers, and journalists** face threats, exclusion, or defamation campaigns.
- **Parliament** exercises neither oversight nor constitutional responsibility – it remains silent, funds, and enables.

Per international indices (*Freedom House* and *IDEA*), Sweden now exhibits signs of **democratic erosion, lack of accountability, lack of transparency, and denial of systemic failure**.

CONCLUSION: WE CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL SCRUTINY AND ACTION

Sweden's handling of coercive interventions is not a series of isolated failures—it is symptomatic of a profound **systemic crisis** where:

- **Parliament** has ceased to safeguard citizens' rights.
- **The Government** acts without transparency, proportionality, or accountability.
- **The judiciary** has abandoned its role as a protective mechanism for the vulnerable.

"A democratic parliament cannot remain passive when scientific evidence reveals a life-threatening systemic abuse financed by public money" [30], [32], [33].

05. Rule of Law in Decline

A Structural Analysis of the Swedish Administrative System in LVU Cases

This report exposes a systemic, long-standing, and legally devastating practice within the Swedish administrative system – specifically in relation to the forcible removal of children under the ***Care of Young Persons (Special Provisions) Act (1990:52), known as LVU*** [34], [35]. While Sweden is internationally regarded as a model for human rights, this analysis reveals a deeply rooted contradiction between official rhetoric and the actual exercise of state authority. A bureaucratic system emerges in which children are removed on vague grounds, courts function as formalistic rubber stamps, and secrecy legislation is used more to shield authorities than to protect individual rights.

Sweden’s evasion of international scrutiny is largely due to its strong reputation – a reputation that now serves to protect systematic abuses [36], [37], [38]. Particularly affected are families subjected to the most intrusive state interventions – within private family life and the child’s living circumstances.

Key Observations and Systemic Failures

1. Courts Have Lost Their Adjudicative Function

Over 95% of social services’ applications for compulsory care are approved by administrative courts. The courts of appeal reverse fewer than 2% of lower court decisions, and oral hearings are routinely denied – directly contradicting the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), Article 6, which guarantees a fair trial.

2. Municipal Law Without Constitutional Boundaries

Municipal legal officers simultaneously act as advisors to social welfare committees, decision-makers in cases, and legal representatives in court. This conflation of roles constitutes a direct breach of the constitutional requirements for objectivity and impartiality as prescribed in ***Chapter 1, Article 9 of the Swedish Instrument of Government*** [01].

3. Secrecy as a Shield for Authorities—Not for Children

Confidentiality regulations are used to withhold information from parents, legal representatives, and journalists, thereby preventing transparency, accountability, and access to legal remedies. The principle of public access is overridden under the pretext of "protecting the child," but in practice, it protects the actions of state agencies.

4. Systematic Violations of International Law

Sweden’s application of LVU contradicts several binding international conventions:

- ***European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)*** – [Article 6](#) (fair trial), [Article 8](#) (family life), [Article 13](#) (effective remedy) [39],
- ***UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)*** – [Article 12](#) (the child’s right to be heard) [06],
- ***International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*** – [Article 14](#) (right to a fair and public hearing) [40].

5. Total Control by Authorities

Authorities effectively control the evidence, structure of proceedings, information flow, and

interpretation of “the child’s best interests”—without any effective legal or independent oversight mechanism.

6. Arbitrary and Legally Insecure Decisions

Forcible removals are frequently carried out based on subjective psychological evaluations, anecdotal accounts, and municipal interests—rather than on objective evidence or legal principles.

Constitutional Erosion in Practice

The Instrument of Government (Chapter 1, Articles 1 and 9) [\[01\]](#) requires that all public power be exercised with respect for individual freedom and dignity, impartiality, and objectivity. In practice, however, the Swedish administrative system has evolved into a self-referential mechanism where government decisions are not substantively reviewed, and courts function more as institutional rubber stamps than as judicial bodies.

Consequence:

Those subjected to forced removal do not receive a fair, public, and impartial hearing—instead, they are met with silent, written, and mechanical approval. This constitutes a violation of both the Constitution and international human rights conventions.

Secrecy as a Systemic Tool of Power Protection

In these contexts, Swedish confidentiality legislation is not used to protect children – but rather to shield authorities from scrutiny:

- Parents are denied access to their own records, recordings, and decisions.
- Legal representatives are prevented from reviewing key evidence.
- Journalists and researchers are denied access to documents even in cases where children are clearly suffering harm.

Consequence:

Sweden violates Articles 6 and 13 of the ECHR as well as Article 12 of the UNCRC. In many cases, there is no possibility of effective legal review or accountability.

An International Issue – A European Precedent?

This is not an isolated national issue. Sweden’s regression in rule of law concerns the entire international community.

We therefore call for:

- An ***independent international investigation*** into Sweden’s LVU practices, initiated by the UN Human Rights Council, the Council of Europe, and relevant EU institutions.
- Sweden to be ***monitored as a high-risk country*** for rule-of-law backsliding in international forums.

- ***Redress for affected children and families***, and the protection of civil society actors from retaliation.

When a country with Sweden’s global standing and influence in rule-of-law discourse can deteriorate without consequence, the entire international legal order is undermined. We urge you to act – before more rights are lost behind closed doors in what was once considered the world’s most transparent society [33], [36].

Conclusion: A Constitutional Emergency

Sweden’s systematic failure to protect abducted children, address international child abduction, and uphold rule-of-law principles in LVU proceedings reflects more than administrative shortcomings – it signals a deep constitutional breakdown. Despite a constitution that proclaims human dignity, legal certainty, and transparency, the state’s actions have been reduced to a legal façade devoid of substance.

Repressive silence, bureaucratic automatism, and a culture of institutional self-preservation have replaced openness, accountability, and child protection. What is officially termed ***“the best interests of the child”*** has, in practice, become a technocratic invention – frequently used to legitimize abuse of power rather than to ensure the child’s rights.

This rule-of-law emergency is not a domestic Swedish issue – it concerns the entire international community. When courts are reduced to formalistic executors of administrative assumptions, when criticism is met with silence or repression, and when children are treated as socio-political objects rather than as rights-bearing individuals, democracy and legal trust are fundamentally undermined.

It is time for Sweden to be held accountable according to the same standards applied to other states governed by the rule of law.

Appeal to the International Community

In light of serious and systemic deficiencies in Sweden’s adherence to the principles of the rule of law, particularly within child protection and compulsory care under the Care of Young Persons Act (LVU), the following measures are proposed:

1. Independent Review

Initiate an internationally led, independent review of Sweden’s adherence to the rule of law, with particular focus on the LVU system, children’s rights, and the exercise of state authority.

2. Constitutional and Judicial Reform

- Recommend that Sweden establish a constitutional court with the mandate to adjudicate the compatibility of government decisions with the constitution.
- Demand reforms in accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and Sweden’s Instrument of Government.

- Propose legislative amendments to restore the principle of public access to information and strengthen legal safeguards in confidentiality legislation.

3. Protection of Democratic Actors

- Enhance protections for whistleblowers, journalists, and researchers who expose misconduct within healthcare, education, and social services.
- Establish an independent Child Rights Ombudsman empowered to represent children in legal and administrative disputes with the state.

4. Accountability and Transparency

- Demand a public audit of the entire LVU system and its compliance with rule-of-law principles.
- Initiate an international evaluation of Sweden's adherence to UN and Council of Europe rule-of-law standards.
- Consider sanctions against Swedish institutions that systematically violate international conventions.

5. Democratic Awareness

- Promote open international discourse on the state of Sweden's rule of law.
- Acknowledge that Sweden may also be subject to systemic abuse of power and demand that the country uphold its constitutional and international obligations.

Sweden's constitution is not the problem—the problem is its abandonment in practice. What is now required is not new legislation, but transparency, accountability, and a return to foundational rule-of-law principles.

Advocating Parents & Organizations

- [Sweden's Failure to Protect Its Children – Abducted and Abandoned](#) Nic. C. (Article 2025.01.18)
- [Sweden's Political Establishment – A Circus?](#) Nic. C. (Article 2025.03.17)
- [Sweden's Authorities Destroy Families and Children's Lives](#) Nic. C. (Article 2025.03.20)
- [Prosecutors' Indifference – From Victim to Forgotten](#) Nic. C. (Article 2025.03.29)
- [Sweden's Supervisory Authorities – Government Lackeys?](#) Nic. C. (Article 2025.04.27)
- [The Parliamentary Ombudsman \(JO\) – A Toothless Tiger](#) Nic. C. (Article 2025.04.29)
- [Per Staffan](#) (Facebook)
- [Reunite the Samson Family – Sweden](#) (Facebook)
- [A Father Fighting for Justice](#) (En Pappa Kamp Rättvisa Facebook)
- [Children's Rights](#) ❤️ (Barnens rätt ❤️ Facebook)
- [Family United Sweden](#) (Facebook)

- [B.A.R.N. – Best Interests of the Child, Legal Certainty Now](#) (B.A.R.N. Barnets bästa Alltid Rättssäkerhet Nu Facebook)
- [THE HORROR SERVICE AND THE FAILED SYSTEM](#) (SKRÄCKTJÄNSTEN och FELSYSTEMET [www](#))
- [ActionAgainstChildAbduction](#) ([www](#))

Ongoing Campaigns

- [We Demand Legal Safeguards in Sweden's Social Services](#) (Vi kräver rättssäkerhet inom Socialtjänsten i Sverige)
- [Abducted and Abandoned – Sweden's Failure to Protect Its Children](#)

Relevant Public Articles & Reports

- [“What If I Have Done Something Wrong”](#) Mission Investigative: *They Take Our Children*, **SVT** (2024.03.06)
- [“We Want Our Children Back”](#) Mission Investigative: *They Take Our Children*, **SVT** (2024.03.06)
- [Swedish Authorities Have Lost Respect for Freedom of Expression](#), **DN** Dagens Nyheter (Nils Funcke 2024.07.29)
- [Foster Children Forced to Relocate Despite Legal Reform: “We Want to Stay”](#), **SVT** (2024.12.20)
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- [SÄPO: Troubled International Situation Poses a Threat to Sweden](#), **SÄPO** (2025.03.11)
- [Global State of Democracy Report 2024 – Sweden Country Profile](#), **IDEA** (February 2025)
- [Concluding Observations for Sweden](#), **Children's Ombudsman** (2021.10.29)
- [Concluding Observations on Sweden's Combined 6th & 7th Periodic Reports](#), **UN** (2023.03.07)
- [Ulf Kristersson Refuses to Answer Questions – Was Responsible When Alarms About Stolen Children Were Dismissed](#), **SVT** (2021.06.10)
- [Swedish authorities have not cooperated with us](#), **Al Jazeera** (Svenska myndigheter har inte samarbetat med oss 2024.11.13)

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Sincerely,

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