**Ref:** **Letter dated 6 May 2019 from the Office of the High Commissioner for UN Human Rights addressed to All Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva**

**Regarding:** “Call for submissions for thematic report”

Dear colleagues,

Please find attached input from Sweden on the above-cited issue. Several questions have reduced bearing on the situation in Sweden; the answer has accordingly been limited to certain sub-sections.

Sincerely yours,

Andreas Magnusson

Desk Officer

**Current efforts to address bullying and exclusion of LGBT persons from education**

1. The respect and recognition of democracy and human rights are objectives in the Swedish Education Act and National Curricula. Discrimination of LGBT students are forbidden by law and schools are obliged to act against all forms of violations.
2. Equal enjoyment of human rights of LGBT persons are also included in curricula, for example as concerns comprehensive sexuality education. The Swedish National Agency for Education provides training and tools for school development concerning LGBT issues for in-service and in-training teachers and other school staff.

**Coverage by social security and benefits, as well as public and private health insurance**

1. It is, according to Swedish law, illegal to discriminate a person due to that person’s sexual orientation or gender identity. LGBT persons are entitled to the same social protection and benefits as anybody else in Sweden.
2. They have the right to public and private health care on the same terms. They have the right to marry and be cohabiting on the same terms as everybody else (including same sex couples), which means that they have the same equal rights to, for example, survivor's pension and family benefits.

**Equal access to health**

1. LGBT persons have the same right to health as anybody else in Sweden. Gender affirming care is regarded as healthcare treatment and is mainly publicly funded.

**Complaints mechanisms available and accessible to LGBT persons facing discrimination**

1. The Equality Ombudsman (DO) is tasked with supervising compliance with the Discrimination Act, and combating discrimination and promoting equal rights and opportunities. One of DO’s tasks is to investigate complaints of discrimination.
2. These efforts may include representing the victim of discrimination in settlement proceedings or, ultimately, in a court of law. The Ombudsman can also conduct independent surveys, produce reports and make recommendations.

**Services provided by civil society**

1. The Swedish Government provides specific funding for LGBT NGOs working for equal rights for LGBT persons. The funding is available each year and the total amount that is distributed is currently 9,3 million SEK. The Government also provides specific state grants in some areas. For example, there is state grants available for LGBT organisations that support crime victims, 2 million SEK, through the National Board of Health and Welfare.
2. The purpose of the grant is to develop the work to support LGBT crime victims who have been subjected to violence in a close relationship. The funds can be used to develop existing or new activities of national interest.