

# XXVI. SWEDEN

**Population: 8,894,674**

**Membership OSCE: Original - Helsinki Final Act: Original - Charter of Paris: Original**

**Membership Council of Europe: 05/05/49 - - Membership U.N.: 19/11/46 - Member of the European Union**

## A. CONSTITUTION

**Constitution adopted on: 1 Jan 1975**

### **Chapter 1 [Basic Principles]**

#### **Article 2**

(4) Opportunities should be promoted for ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities to preserve and develop a cultural and social life of their own.

### **Chapter 2 [Fundamental Rights and Freedoms]**

#### **Article 1**

(1) All citizens shall be guaranteed the following in their relations with the public administration:

6) freedom of worship: the freedom to practice one's own religion either alone or in company with others.

#### **Article 2**

All citizens shall be protected in their relations with the public administration against all coercion to divulge an opinion in any political, religious, cultural or other similar connection. They shall furthermore be protected in their relations with the public administration against all coercion to participate in any meeting for the formation of opinion or in any demonstration or other expression of opinion or to belong to any political association, religious congregation or other association for opinions of the nature referred to in the first sentence.

#### **Article 12**

(2) The restrictions referred to in Paragraph (1) may be imposed only to achieve a purpose acceptable in a democratic society. The restriction may never exceed what is necessary having regard to the purpose which occasioned it, nor may it be carried so far as to constitute a threat to the free formation of opinion as one of the foundations of democracy. No restriction may be imposed solely on grounds of political, religious, cultural or other such opinions.

### **Article 13**

(1) Freedom of expression and freedom of information may be restricted having regard to the security of the Realm, the national supply, public safety and order, the integrity of the individual, the sanctity of private life, or the prevention and prosecution of crime. Freedom of expression may also be restricted in economic activities. Freedom of expression and freedom of information may otherwise be restricted only where particularly important reasons so warrant.

(2) In judging what restrictions may be made by virtue of Paragraph (1) particular regard shall be paid to the importance of the widest possible freedom of expression and freedom of information in political, religious, professional, scientific and cultural matters.

### **Article 20**

(1) A foreigner within the Realm shall be equated with a Swedish citizen in respect of

1) protection against all coercion to participate in any meeting for the formation of opinion or in any demonstration or other expression of opinion, or to belong to any religious congregation or other association (Article 2, second sentence);

(2) Unless otherwise provided by special rules of law, a foreigner within the Realm shall be equated with a Swedish citizen also in respect of

1) freedom of expression, freedom of information, freedom of assembly, freedom to demonstrate, freedom of association, and freedom of worship (Article 1);

## **B. LEGISLATION**

The Report entitled "In Good Faith - Society and New Religious Movements" (October 1998)

## **C. CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION**

Law 1994:1809 on the obligation of total defense (*lag om totalsförsvarsplikt*).