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# The Swedish Crime Victim Authority

Our work and hate crime

## The Authority in short

- Established in 1994, located in Umeå
- Staff – about 60 persons
- Budget – approximately 45 million SEK
- Governmental organization, subordinate to the Ministry of Justice and led by a Director-General
- Overall objective – Act in the interest and needs of crime victims



## National responsibilities

- Criminal injuries compensation – state compensation to crime victims
- The Crime Victim Fund
- Centre of Competence



## Statistics on hate crime in Sweden

- Gathered by The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention
- 6 415 police reports in 2016
- Most common - homophobic and then islamophobic hate crimes



## Statistics on hate crime in Sweden

- Self reported exposure to hate crime – 1,6 % of the Swedish population (2014-2016).
- Self reported homophobic hate crimes – about 0,2-0,3 % and anti-religious hate crimes about 0,5 % of the Swedish population
- Most common xenophobic hate crimes – about 1,3 %



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# The Crime Victim Fund



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## The Crime Victim Fund

- Established in 1994
- Financed by a special fine from offenders (800 SEK) and those serving and those serving their sentences using intensive supervision with electronic monitoring (maximum 9 600 SEK)
- Support projects, research and NGOs
- Budget approximately 40 million SEK



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## Funding of projects on hate crime

- Annual grant to RFSL and their Support Service to LGBTQ persons who have experienced hate crime
- Research on for example how hate crime affects the victims and self-reported hate crime victimization amongst Swedish university students
- Training (NGOs)



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# Centre of Competence



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## Centre of Competence

- Gathering and distributing information and results of research
- Arranging conferences and seminars
- Education for legal authorities, NGOs and others
- Newsletters, folders, reports etc.

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## Centre of Competence

- Responsible together with The National Courts Administration and in close cooperation with Victim Support for the witness service
- Governmental commissions and projects
- International projects
- Web pages



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## **Hate No More – an international project (2016-2018)**

- Led by APAV (Portuguese Association for Victim Support)
- CVCSA project partner together with NGOs from United Kingdom, Italy, Austria and Malta
- Financed by the European Commission



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## **Hate No More – an international project (2016-2018)**

- Aimed to train professionals on consequences for hate crime victims, response and how to support them
- Created a training manual and a handbook
- Two training sessions in Sweden (Stockholm and Malmö)
- Campaign and leaflets



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# Criminal injuries compensation



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## **Criminal injuries compensation (or state compensation to crime victims)**

- Administrated by CVCSA
- About 10 000 applications per year
- In 2018 90 million SEK were paid to crime victims
- State funded and part of the budget of the Ministry of Justice (tax money)



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## Criminal injuries compensation

- Applicable to victims of criminal offences
- The crime must be reported to the police
- Claims must be made within three years (a child can apply until the age of 21 years old) from the time a judgement or a final decision has gained legal force (court's verdict or the conclusion of the preliminary investigation)





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## Criminal injuries compensation

Only granted if there's no possibility to receive compensation from other sources:

- Damages from a convicted perpetrator
- Compensation from an insurance
  
- Possible to receive compensation if the perpetrator is unknown



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## What's covered by the compensation?

- Costs for medical care and hospitalisation
- Damage to some property (clothes and glasses that a crime victim wore when a violent crime was committed)
- Loss of earnings
- Pain and suffering



## What's covered by the compensation?

- Permanent disability
- Scars and disfigurements
- Violation of personal integrity (“moral damage”)
- Compensation for property crimes - **ONLY** if the offender was an escaped convict from an institution



## Violation of personal integrity

Is valued by an objective assessment of how offensive the crime was:

- The humiliating nature of the incident
  - The intention of evoking serious fear
  - Directed towards a person with particular difficulties in protecting his/her personal integrity
  - Abuse of dependence of trust
  - If the act was intended to cause public intention
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- **Often greatly exceeds other items that are compensated**



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## Violation of personal integrity – what amounts are awarded to crime victims?

- Beating, one hit in the face, around 5 000 SEK
- Threat with a weapon, around 10 000 SEK
- Serious assault with a homophobic motive – 40 000 SEK



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## Our knowledge on hate crime victims

- Distrust against the legal authorities
- Afraid of not being taken seriously (lack of understanding amongst the professionals)
- Afraid of secondary victimization
- Normalization
- “There is no point to report to the police”



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