



Government Commissions completed and reported in 2010

Within the *Action plan for combating men's violence against women, violence and oppression in the name of honour and violence in same-sex relationships* (2007/08:39) NCK was commissioned by the Swedish government to

- implement the national programme for the reception and care of victims of sex crimes
- develop methods for detecting exposure to violence
- compile and spread knowledge concerning violence and oppression in the name of honour and violence in same-sex relationship.

The above assignments were all reported to the government in 2010.

Implementation of the national programme for the reception and care of victims of sex crimes

Sexual assault is one of the most severe violations of human dignity. Assaults occur at all times of the day and night, in all parts of the country and victims can seek help anywhere in the healthcare chain. It is therefore crucial that all doctors are able and prepared to meet the patient's medical, emotional and legal needs. The patient should be given professional reception, regardless of where the contact takes place. Samples should be collected as evidence, regardless of whether the incident has been reported to the police or not.

A handbook – *Handbook, National Action Programme for the Health Care and Medical Services' Reception and Care of Victims of Sexual Assault* – to support healthcare professionals in the treatment of victims of sex crime was presented by NCK in 2008. The handbook, which also comprehends *Guide to Care Following Sexual Assault* with instructions to be used along with the *Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit*, is the result of a previous government commission. Following this, the government commissioned NCK to implement the national programme thus ensuring the same professional reception and care all over Sweden. The handbook offers concrete recommendations for routines in the encounter with sex crime victims. This also implies the use of the *Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit* in all examinations of sex crime victims, ensuring evidence in order to be able to provide the judicial system with as complete a basis for decisions as possible.

In order to further broaden knowledge about sexual violence NCK published an interdisciplinary anthology on rape and sexual assault, *Anthology on rape and sexual assault*. The authors are prominent experts in their respective fields.



Methods for detecting exposure to violence

Women who have been subjected to violence often seek help within the healthcare system for acute as well as for chronic symptoms. However, few of them spontaneously tell about their exposure to violence.

The purpose of the assignment was to enable healthcare staff to discover at an early stage women who had been exposed to violence, in order to offer them adequate care and treatment. The conditions for routinely asking women whether they had experienced violence, as a part of their medical histories, were studied. NCK decided to publish an anthology investigating the areas of the Swedish healthcare where most women turn for help. The report also included studies of the special needs of vulnerable groups. Experts were asked to summarize the research and knowledge in their respective areas and give recommendations as to posing questions about violence. All agreed on the conclusion that patients should be asked about exposure to violence and that the procedure should be maintained as a regular feature of work at the clinics.

As a complement to the anthology *To Ask about Experiences of Violence as a part of a Patient's History*, NCK has developed a package of eight short educational films along with educational material for the healthcare service.

Compile and spread knowledge and information concerning violence and oppression in the name of honour and violence in same-sex relationships

NCK initiated and published a research summary on violence in same-sex relationships, *Violence in Same-Sex Relations-a Knowledge and Research Report*, in 2009. The report clearly shows a lack of knowledge about violence in same-sex relationships in the healthcare system, at the police, in NGO:s and other instances of society. The absence of research in this field results in lack of basic knowledge and evidence-based methods to improve the support of society. The purpose of the report was also to discuss how this research area can be developed in Sweden from an interdisciplinary aspect. As a further step to meet with the government's assignment NCK published research summaries and in-depth studies on violence and oppression in the name of honour and on female genital circumcision and its consequences: *Honour-based Violence – a Knowledge and Research Report* and *Female Genital Mutilation/Circumcision – a Knowledge and Research Report*.

Training and knowledge on the problem were also spread via educational material in addition to a film that was initiated and produced by NCK.

NCK's Knowledge Bank

A further step to compile and disseminate knowledge on the subject of men's violence against women, violence and oppression in the name of honour and violence in same-sex relationships, has been the building up and launching of NCK's



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web-based knowledge bank. It offers a broad range of information on actual research and evidence-based knowledge. The target group are professionals and other persons looking for information on violence. The knowledge bank is continuously updated in close cooperation with researchers and relevant authorities. The great number of visitors since the launch in September 2010 clearly illustrates the need for a comprehensive, web-based knowledge bank of this kind.

Links

Ministry of Education and Research

The Swedish governmental policy on gender equality

www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/4096

Action plan for combating men's violence against women, violence and oppression

www.regeringen.se/sb/d/9761/a/98653