

SWEDEN

Population: 8,8 Mio

Area: 410.934 km²

Part 1: Laws concerning Homosexuality

Forbidden by law: No

Registered partnership/marriage: Yes, since 1995

Differences to heterosexual marriages: The Swedish law is similar to the Norwegian one, but includes a clause saying that similar partnerships founded in other countries are automatically recognised in Sweden.

In July 2000 the law was changed so that it is possible for foreigners who have lived in Sweden for at least two years to be registered.

Anti-discrimination law, protecting lesbians/gays (L/G) against discrimination: Yes, since 2001

On the housing market: Yes

In other areas: Yes

Comments: Harassment is also illegal

Other groups in the society protected through such a law: Yes

Part 2: Situation in the Church(es)

Open L/G welcome to

Eucharist: Cannot be answered generally.

It differs from church to church. In evangelical churches, it is a controversial question whether you are welcome to church at all. In the Church of Sweden (Lutheran) it may be ok in most of the parishes. In the Catholic Church the answer must be no, if you ask formally. If you ask a priest as your counsellor it may be ok, or a matter of your own conscience. In the Orthodox Churches it is not allowed unless you are closeted.

Do volunteer work: Yes, but not in all churches. See positions above.

Work as ordained ministers: Yes, but not in all churches and parishes.

Comments: In the Church of Sweden there are many lesbian/gay ministers. In other churches there are examples of ministers being fired because they are lesbians/gays.

Other employment in church(es): Yes, but not in all churches. See above.

Partnership blessing possible: Yes

Comment: In some of the Churches. Mostly Lutheran.

Part 3: Christian Lesbian/Gay Networks

Network name: EKHO Sweden

Number of members: 300

Year of foundation: Since 1990 as a national organisation; since the early seventies as local networks in some cities

Web page/contact address:

www.ekho.nu

info@ekho.nu

Questionnaire filled in by Monica [REDACTED] *from EKHO*