

Contribution to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights

Dear

Swedish City Missions are working in 10 regions: Eskilstuna, Göteborg, Kalmar, Linköping, Skåne, Stockholm, Umeå, Uppsala, Västerås, Örebro. Together the City Missions in Sweden meet more than 5.000 persons every day.

Together there are about 1.000 employees and many more volunteers. Together the City Missions have a turn-over of more than 100 million Euro, and we are financed by fundraising from the public and companies, and via public funding

The 10 City Missions are members in the Swedish Association of City Missions, whose purpose is: Fundraising for social work and humanitarian aid, Giving voice to vulnerable and excluded persons by forming opinion, Support cooperation and coordination among us.

The role of the City Missions in the cities are:

Social work: Ease off acute situations and work for a longterm change for vulnerable and excluded persons, preferably by using Housing led strategys.

Form opinion: Voice the situation of exposed groups and work for a more compassionate city, and encourage and channel citizens' engagement in good causes

Sweden has 33 000 people in homeless. Homelessness is categorized in four situations and the national data on homelessness are from 2017. There is a clear delimitation of target groups that does not count, asylum seekers, people with no paper, ambulating EU citizens and young people under 18 year. There has not been a national strategy since 2009.

Swedish City Missions are trying to make an impact on the Swedish government in our annual national homeless report 2020. The content for our report this year is to describe what we like to see in a national strategy against homelessness and there is researcher that helps us give some evidence background to our opinions. It will be released on the 2 of December. We also run a Swedish Housing first HUB and have a vision on how to scalie up Housing first with research, information and training.

We really welcome Commissioner Nicolas Schmit and his cabinet for this specific political initiative on homelessness in the context of the action plan to deliver on the EPSR. Priority 19 are the foundation of which you can start your life. In order to stand a chance of getting or keeping a job you must have a solid ground to stand one, a place where you feel secure and something to call a home.

Swedish City Missions are willing to be a key stakeholder and we think that Housing-led Strategies such as Housing first should be adapted in a European homeless strategy. Vulnerable people should be entitled to Social housing and appropriate assistance.

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