

# Sweden

## *Ethnicity in Sweden*

### *Power relations*

10-15% of the total population belongs to different ethnic groups. The majority of them are immigrants. The law recognizes Sami (formerly known as Lapps), Swedish Finns, Tornedal-Finns, Roma, and Jews as national minorities. The government supported and protected minority languages by law <sup>(3374)</sup>. The Sami are the only group that has some specific self-government institutions (so called Sami Parliaments) but these institutions are rather intended to preserve their cultural heritage than to express or defend any wider political interests.

<sup>3374</sup> [US State Department]

Overall, information on ethnicity is very limited as “the law prohibits the government from holding information about the racial or ethnic background of its citizens” <sup>(3375)</sup>. It does not seem that under these conditions any of the ethnic groups are politically relevant, although “media reports stated that there was one ethnic minority member in the cabinet” <sup>(3376)</sup>.

<sup>3375</sup> [US State Department]

<sup>3376</sup> [US State Department]

## *Bibliography*

[US State Department] US State Department. (2009). 2009 Human Rights Report: Sweden. Retrieved on 15.3.2014 from:  
<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/>

## *Political status of ethnic groups in Sweden*

*From 1946 until 2013*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Swedes	1.0	IRRELEVANT



Figure 717: Political status of ethnic groups in Sweden during 1946-2013.