

Interpellation 2007/08:172

15 November

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from *Carina Hägg (Social Democratic Party)*

to Minister of Finance Anders Borg (*Moderate Party*)

The Council of Europe has proclaimed 2007 the year for its campaign to combat men's violence against women. The campaign was formally launched at a conference in Madrid in 2006 and will end in 2008. Governments and parliaments from all over Europe support the campaign. At the Swedish parliament, work with the campaign is currently being conducted both in the parliamentary committees and in relevant cross-party groups.

Sweden's national action plan is expected to be submitted to the Riksdag shortly, and this may have an impact on the work of the parliamentary Committee on Finance. The question of earmarking resources in the countries' respective central government budgets and the budget work of the national parliaments is among the issues currently being highlighted within the campaign. As a step in efforts to establish the Government's view on earmarked resources and to stress the importance of increasing measures in future central government budgets I am now addressing an interpellation to Minister for Finance Anders Borg. This form of violence is also an economic issue affecting the whole of society. It is therefore no longer an issue that can be limited to a specific ministry, but is also of relevance to the Ministry of Finance and the Minister for Finance.

In the report to the Council of Europe which the Parliamentary Assembly unanimously agreed to support, the rapporteur Mendes Bota from Portugal wrote that our countries should set aside at least 1 euro per inhabitant for efforts to stop violence against women, something that the responsible parliamentarians in the Nordic and Baltic countries also decided to follow up at a coordination meeting in Helsinki.

Ahead of the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November, a seminar will be held in the Riksdag on Thursday 22 November in cooperation with Unifem Sweden. The costs to society of men's violence will then be further highlighted.

But determining the exact amount over and above granted appropriations for work to combat violence against women has shown itself to be difficult. The definition used is of utmost relevance to the result. The losses in tax revenue when earned income is affected by threats, violence and abuse are difficult to assess today.

The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, which is one of the actors I have consulted, has been unable to present any current or forthcoming work in this area. On account of ongoing changes and cuts, it is difficult today to initiate research on this matter in the field of labour market research.

And despite a greater awareness and consequently greater responsibility for earmarking funding in the budget to combat men's violence in society, we still lack access to information in several areas of society. The Minister for Finance has the overall responsibility for earmarking funds in the central government budget, and for ensuring that the Riksdag can

put the costs to society of men's violence in relation to preventive measures and measures for women who are exposed to violence.

Awareness of the extent of losses in revenue to the State as a result of men's violence against women is regrettably low. The extent of losses in tax revenue for a woman who is unable to carry out gainful employment or the work she would like has not been established.

Sweden's appropriation for work to stop violence against women should be higher than the minimum 1 euro per inhabitant stipulated by the Council of Europe.

My question to Minister for Finance Anders Borg is what amount of euros, above the minimum level of 1 euro, the Government has set as a goal for funding work to combat men's violence against women at a national level, and when he considers that this goal will be achieved?

My question is whether the Minister for Finance plans to take the initiative in the next central government budget to visibly present all central government funding – both direct and indirect – to work to combat men's violence against women.

My question is whether the Minister for Finance plans to take the initiative to compile an annual report of the funding earmarked in Sweden to combat men's violence against women, since it is difficult to establish the true amount, over and above granted appropriations.

My question is whether the Minister for Finance together with other finance ministers in the Nordic and Baltic countries plans to raise the issue of ensuring that funding amounting to the minimum level of 1 euro per inhabitant for measures to combat men's violence against women is earmarked.

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