

Platform for the Riksdag's Male Network against Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation

In spring 2004, we formed the Male Network of the Parliament/Riksdag against Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation as a direct result of two seminars arranged by the Nordic Council. With this initiative, we want to challenge all men to acquaint themselves with the issue, to carry out the debate in the meeting-rooms, on the shop floors, on the building scaffoldings, on business trips and in other contexts. We wanted to urge all men to try to penetrate the usual hackneyed phrases about the equality of buyers and sellers. We wanted to challenge all men to dare to take up the discussion even in the most uncomfortable situations.

With our initiative we also wanted to encourage all men to carry the debate about our values, our prejudices and how we handle the question of the equal value of all human being. We wanted to challenge all men to take a thorough look at our traditional man's role and where it leads us. These issues have unfortunately repeatedly been brought to the fore as a consequence of women being ill-treated or even killed.

In the short year that our network has been in existence, we have had two meetings which have resulted in a widening of the network's focus. At the network's latest meeting we agreed on drawing up a platform for our further work where we want to focus on:

Counteracting trafficking for sexual exploitation

We consider that trafficking for sexual exploitation is an abominable crime which does not belong in our time. We want to counteract trafficking for sexual exploitation by carrying the debate in all fora. We will work for taking this work onward to – in the first place – our Nordic, Baltic and Russian colleagues.

Counteracting violence toward women

We consider violence toward women unacceptable and will for this reason contribute to all men's taking a position against this. We will carry the debate in all contexts, from dressing-rooms to the rostrum. We want to improve the men's level of knowledge regarding the underlying structures that make men's violence against women possible.

Working for equal opportunities in working life

We want to work for equal opportunities in working life and we want to begin where we stand. The Parliament of Sweden has a leading position in the world as regards the equal distribution of seats between women and men in the Parliament. We want the Parliament apart from being quantitatively equal shall also be qualitatively equal. We believe that our female colleagues shall be met with respect and we do not accept the use of strategies of domination. We support the proposals put forward in "15 proposals for an equal parliament", 2004/05: UR F1 and will be happy to contribute to the carrying out of them.