

PROGRAM

AGAINST FIREARM- RELATED VIOLENCE IN SWEDEN

3 - 4 NOVEMBER 2021
QUALITY HOTEL VIEW, MALMÖ

www.bravetalk.se

3rd of november



8:00 – 8:45
Registration and morning coffee



9:00 – 9:10
Welcome!
Anders Mildner, moderator



9:10 – 9:20
Opening speech
Young adults from Möllans Basement and Malmö Tigers Wrestling Team in Malmö



*Photographer:
Sofia
Runarsdotter*

9:20 – 9:50
The development of criminal networks in Sweden: a 100 year perspective
Joakim Palmkvist, crime reporter, journalist and author
Joakim Palmkvist gives an overview of gang crime in Sweden from a 100 year wide perspective. He analyzes the factors that have driven the three waves of organized crime that have hit us in the past, and talks about the coming fourth wave. The lecture is rich in examples and anecdotes from Joakim's long experience as a crime reporter.



9:50 – 10:20
Organized antagonism in Sweden: where violent threats intertwine
Amir Rostami, docent and associate professor in criminology
Over the past 30 years, Sweden has witnessed a growth in criminal gangs and violent extremism. Gun violence and the use of explosives in criminal conflicts are also on the rise. In a comparative perspective, the rate of gun homicide victimization among males 15 to 29 years old is higher in Sweden compared to other Western European countries. Simultaneously Sweden is among the European countries with the highest number of foreign fighters per capita who have joined terror organizations such as Al-Qaeda and Daesh. Criminal gangs, gun violence and violent extremism are prevalent, partially overlapping phenomena that constitute serious social challenges. This presentation is focusing on the development of serious violent threats in Sweden and its consequences for policy and practice.

10:20 – 10:45: BREAK



10:45 – 11:15

Shootings, explosions and future challenges

Ardavan Khoshnood, criminologist, researcher, emergency physician and docent in emergency healthcare

The number of shootings and fatal shootings in Sweden has increased significantly in the last decade. The police's many efforts over the years have had various results. In addition to the fact that these shootings cause enormous suffering for all involved and not least society, this increase in violent crime can also have serious implications for Sweden's security.



11:15 – 11:45

How to stop the recruitment to criminal gangs

Paulina Brandberg, prosecutor and columnist

Thanks to the breakthrough with the chat service Encrochat earlier this year, the Swedish Police could apprehend a great number of key players in gangs and criminal networks. This was followed by a brief decrease of gun-related violence in Sweden: however, this effect was short-lived as the summer of 2021 became the most lethal one in years. The recruitment to criminal networks is fast-paced, efficient and now targeting younger and younger individuals. What is the recruitment process and what can we do to stop it?

11:45 – 12:00: Discussion with the speakers above

12:00 – 13:00:
LUNCH

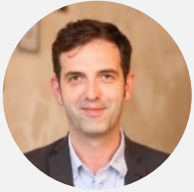


13:00 – 13:15

The importance of preventing armed violence globally for sustainable development and peace

Karin Olofsson, Secretary general of Parliamentary forum on small arms and light weapons (PFSALW)

The situation in the world today, characterised by armed violence and conflict in combination with increasing polarisation and authoritarian trends, underlines the need to prioritise the work to prevent and reduce armed violence. The uncontrolled flow of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) has serious consequences for humans and societies. Armed violence and conflict, terrorism and organised crime are directly linked to the prevalence of illegal SALW. The ongoing global pandemic presents an additional challenge, in particular in already fragile and vulnerable societies. The work to prevent the proliferation of illicit SALW requires complex measures where parliamentarians are vital actors.



13:15 – 13:45

The monitoring of armed violence in western Balkan

Dragan Božanić, gender and research project officer, UNDP SEESAC; Juliana Buzi, regional cooperation specialist, UNDP SEESAC

Juliana and Dragan's shared presentation provides insight into the support that SEESAC is providing to the authorities in Southeast Europe in developing and implementing evidence-based policies on arms control, which address the needs of women, men, boys and girls. The presentation will also show some of the key trends of armed violence in southeast Europe as well as the key measures taken by the region to address the misuse and illegal possession of firearms.



13:45 – 14:15

What can Sweden learn from the work against firearm-related violence in Central America?

Anders Kompass, former UN official, former Swedish ambassador to Guatemala and chairman of the board of IM Sweden

Gang crime and gun violence have deep roots in the countries of Central America. Central America has been long suffering from firearm-related violence. This presentation will focus on how the governments in Central America are working against such issues and what Sweden could learn from their work.

14:15 – 14:40: BREAK



14:40 – 15:10

United Nations Development Programme's project of work on combatting misuse of firearms in domestic violence

Maja Brankovic Djundic, Gender equality portfolio manager, UNDP Serbia

Violence against women is the most globally widespread and persistent problem in human history. Normalization of gender-based violence impacts not only its identification and early responses to it, but also lowers the willingness of individuals to report acts of violence, as well as the ability to recognize the risk factors that may result in acts of violence, or even femicide. From 2010 to 2019, at least 307 Serbian women were murdered by their husbands or partners, and the media in Serbia plays a powerful role in shaping the public attitude toward this phenomenon. In this context, UNDP in Serbia has established the group Journalists against Violence, gathering over 30 female journalists and media editors who stand up against gender-based violence in an organized, public and outspoken way. In 2020, the group conducted the Analysis of media coverage of firearm misuse in violence against women committed by men. This analysis is meant to serve as a baseline for the future work of Journalists against Violence on this issue and to engage the media in raising awareness and reducing firearm misuse in violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. In this presentation, Maja will tell us more about the work in the UNDP project so far.



15:10 – 15:40

Strategies against firearm-related violence in the UK and the US

James Densley, professor and department chair of criminal justice, Metropolitan State University, and co-founder of The Violence Project

This presentation examines the theory of change and pros and cons of some of the most popular (and successful) gun and gang violence intervention programs implemented in the United Kingdom and United States, including focused deterrence models, Cure Violence street outreach and “interrupter” approaches, and hospital-based interventions that leverage pull factors away from gangs (e.g., education and employment), when push factors are heightened, after someone is violently victimized or arrested. Glasgow, Scotland’s Violence Reduction Unit and public health model will also be discussed in the context of the pushes and pulls of gang membership. The presentation will further examine how and why interventions fail and the need for sustained funding, robust evaluation, and community partnerships in order to promote longstanding change.

15:50 – 16:40

Open space

[See participants and discussion topics on the website](#)

We leave the floor open for discussions around the most urgent matters that have arisen during the day, hopefully resulting in creative

conversations between participants, experts and speakers. The results of the discussions will be presented the next day.

18:30

Common three-course dinner with entertainment

4th of November

8:30

Summary of the first day

The result of yesterday's open space session will be showcased in the conference exhibition.



8:45 – 9:15

The importance of learning the codes and values of a new home country

Mustafa Panshiri, public speaker and former police officer

Mustafa Panshiri highlights the importance of addressing young immigrants and children of immigrants about Swedish culture and values. How does one become part of a society? What is the "racism of low expectations", and how should one approach people who don't want to become integrated into the Swedish community?



9:15 – 9:45

Support to victims of crime

Linn Wiklander Josefsson, criminologist, Safer Sweden Foundation

Linn shares her experiences of working with individuals who have been exposed or are at risk of being exposed to crime. She talks about how we can assist young victims of crime and their families and highlights the importance of actually providing this support. Furthermore, she brings up key factors to working successfully with individuals exposed to crime.

9:45 – 10:10: BREAK



10:10 – 10:40

I know – this is how I grew up

Mehdi Adnan Mossa, author, visionary and survivor

Mehdi shares his story about arriving in Sweden as a young boy, falling into a criminal lifestyle and then leaving it to inspire other young people like himself to make better choices. What could have stopped him from becoming a criminal? How can the society help young people in similar conditions?

10:40 – 10:55: Discussion with the speakers above

11:00 – 11:30

Break out session: local initiatives

We split up into smaller groups focused on three different local initiatives that share their experience of working against crime and segregation. Participants choose which group to join when signing up.



Boost by FC Rosengård

Ann Sigvant, operations manager

Boost is an NGO founded by one of Sweden's most famous soccer clubs. Boost has made great progress working with young people in exposed areas in Malmö by supporting them to find sustainable alternatives to crime and gun violence. After years of hard work, Boost's good results might give us a clue to what the key factors are in defeating firearm-related violence and gang crime.



Malmö Tigers Wrestling Team

Sigrun Sigurdsson, chairwoman

Malmö Tigers Wrestling is located in Rosengård, Malmö, which is one of Sweden's most vulnerable areas. The club gives young people a sense of social inclusion, at the same time as having a zero tolerance policy against crime, drug use and violence. However, they face significant challenges in keeping their young members, since they are competing with criminal networks that constantly try to recruit more young people. Sigrun's take on this is that they must be better at recruiting than the gangs, which requires that they build trust and openness with the youth as well as with their parents.



Möllans Basement

Balqis Lamis Khattab, founder

Möllans Basement provides help and advice to young people, for example in writing a resume and finding employment through a wide network of contacts. It is similar to a youth recreation center, with the aim to find employment and a sense of purpose for young adults who lack the resources to get there by themselves. The founder of Möllans Basement, Balqis Lamis Khattab, has received several awards for her initiative and has so far contributed to finding employment and alternatives to crime for over 300 young adults.

11:30 – 12:30: LUNCH

12:30 - 13:10

Panel discussion: On different strategies, their results, pros & cons

Erik Nord, chief of police in the greater Gothenburg area;

James Densley, professor and department chair of criminal justice, Metropolitan State University, and co-founder of The Violence Project;

Ardavan Khoshnood, criminologist, researcher, emergency physician and docent in emergency healthcare;

Juliana Buzi, regional cooperation specialist, UNDP SEESAC;

What strategies for work against armed violence and gang crime have been chosen in different countries and how successful have they been so far?

What more do we want from decision makers and relevant authorities?

What is missing today?



13:10 – 13:25

What does the Swedish government want to do against firearm-related violence?

Mikael Damberg, Swedish Minister of Home Affairs (Social democrats, S)

13:25 – 13:45

What must the Swedish government do to defeat firearm-related violence and gang-related crime?

Rasmus Ling, Swedish parliamentarian (Miljöpartiet);

Arin Karapet, Swedish parliamentarian (Moderaterna);

Joakim Sandell, Swedish parliamentarian (Socialdemokraterna)

Swedish parliamentarians Rasmus Ling, Arin Karapet and Joakim Sandell discuss what Swedish politicians and decision-makers must do to stop the spread of gang crime and firearm-related violence, and what the Swedish government and parliament should do to handle these issues.



13:45 – 14:00

Summary

We gather for a summary of the conference and highlight the most promising ideas of strategies and ways to defeat firearm-related violence.

14:00: END OF THE CONFERENCE with fika