

This is the
**Swedish Agency
for Support for
Faith Communities**



**THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN
COLLABORATION WITH MULTIFAITH SWEDEN**



THE SWEDISH AGENCY FOR SUPPORT FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES

The Agency's task is to promote dialogue between the state and faith communities as well as to contribute to knowledge about religion and faith community life in Sweden. The Agency is also responsible for distributing financial grants and other forms of support which is intended to make it possible for the faith communities to work actively with a long-term focus on worship, education, and spiritual and pastoral care.

■ DIALOGUE

Continuous dialogue enables discussion of issues that affect the conditions that apply to faith communities and the religious minorities as well as their status in Sweden. This dialogue may involve central values such as religious freedom, tolerance, democracy and human rights, as well as practical issues of different kinds.

■ CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND SOCIAL COHESION

Faith communities play an important role in civil society when revolutionary changes and crises occur. In recent years many state and municipal institutions have had their attention drawn to the importance of contacts with civil society and in particular with faith communities that have unique experience of helping people during crises and catastrophes. These contacts can be strengthened at an early stage through dialogues with the faith communities. In several parts of Sweden this cooperation is arranged today through interfaith councils.

■ ALLOCATING FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE STATE

Each year the Agency allocates state funding to the faith communities. Most of this takes the form of general organisational grants that are intended to support local religious activities. The Church of Sweden does also receive state funding – but not through the Agency for Support for Faith Communities.

■ OTHER FORM OF SUPPORT: EDUCATION AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Other forms of support take the shape of education or project activities that are intended to enhance the capacity of the faith communities. For instance the Agency arranges continual professional development for religious leaders who have received their training outside Sweden. Supporting the administrative capacity of the faith communities is another aspect of this task, which is particularly important for newly established faith communities that need to acquaint themselves with Swedish society.

■ EXPERT ORGAN ON ISSUES RELATING TO FAITH COMMUNITIES AND RELIGION

The Agency regularly produces reports, articles and material that deal with current issues relating to faith communities and religion in Sweden. In addition to this, the Agency takes part in a number of groups and contexts in which knowledge about this field is sought for, and also responds to official consultation documents and other requests.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

ORGANISATIONAL GRANTS account for the bulk of the financial support to the faith communities and are allocated mainly to support local religious activities. Allocation is based mainly on the number of members and other regular participants reported by a faith community.

OPERATIONAL GRANTS are provided in the form of support for spiritual care in the health services and is intended to enable the employment of individuals working in this capacity in the health services. Today there are about 70 individuals working with spiritual care with financial support from the state. Minor amounts are also granted to theological colleges and seminaries.

PROJECT GRANTS are mainly offered to support the building, refurbishment and purchase of places of worship as well as for their adaptation for the impaired and disabled. A small proportion are also granted to students from faith communities with no educational institutions of their own in Sweden for theological training abroad.

SUPPORT FOR HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

Chaplaincy describes the work undertaken by the faith communities in hospitals in the form of counselling, religious rites and spiritual care. The Agency has the task of supporting the development of these activities by allocating state funding for the employment and training of staff for pastoral care. As Sweden is changing and has a greater diversity of faiths, pastoral care needs to include representatives from a wider spectrum of religious traditions and the Agency provides support to the faith communities in this process.

SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT ASSIGNMENTS

The Agency works with a number of specific assignments from the Government that focus on the faith communities in Sweden. One example involves the in-depth dialogue on democracy and democratic values that has taken place between 2012 and 2018.

FAITH COMMUNITIES ENTITLED FOR SUPPORT

FREE CHURCHES

Interact
National Evangelical Missionary Society
The Salvation Army
Uniting Church in Sweden
Pentecostal Movement
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Swedish Alliance Mission

EASTERN ORTHODOX AND ORIENTAL CHURCHES

Armenian Apostolic Church
Assyrian Church of the East
Bulgarian Orthodox Church
Coptic Orthodox Church
Eritrean Orthodox Church
Ethiopian Orthodox Church
Finnish Orthodox Parish
Georgian Orthodox Church
Greek Orthodox Metropolis
Macedonian Orthodox Church
Orthodox Church of Antioch
Romanian Orthodox Church
Russian Orthodox Church
Serbian Orthodox Church
Swedish Orthodox Deanery
Syriac Orthodox Church

LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Norwegian Lutheran Church
Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark
Hungarian Protestant Church
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church
Swedish Lutheran Mission
Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Church

ISLAMIC ORGANISATIONS

Bosnian Islamic community
Shia Muslim Alliance
Swedish Islamic Communities
Swedish Muslim Federation
Union of Islamic Cultural Centers
United Islamic Associations
Islamic Darulfatwa in Sweden

OTHER FAITH COMMUNITIES

Anglican Church
Alevi Federation
The Catholic Church
Mandean Sabian Community
Swedish Buddhist Union
The Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities



CONTACT INFORMATION

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