



TRIS

tjejers rätt i samhället

YOUNG WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN SOCIETY

TRIS

YOUNG WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN SOCIETY

- A non-profit organization working against honor related oppression and violence, both locally and nationally.
- Started in 2002 after the honor-killing of Fadime Sahindal in Uppsala.
- Our goals:
 - Increase knowledge about one's democratic rights as well as obligations in society
 - Achieve good mental and physical health
 - Make individual and independent choices in life
 - Create one's own platform in society
- Unique experience and documented knowledge about young people with intellectual disability living in an honor context.



The 3 units of TRIS

Preventative efforts

Emergency efforts

Developing methodological support & spreading knowledge



Preventative efforts

Girls aged 8-25

- Homework assistance
- Sports, e.g. football
- Swimming school
- Culture, e.g. art classes
- Summer camps

Women 18+

- "The circle of Life" in collaboration with the Swedish Public Employment Service
- National telephone helpline



Emergency efforts

TRIS provides **shelter** and **foster care** for those in need of immediate protection.

- for women with or without children, as well as couples, and LGBT-persons
- for women with or without intellectual disability



to land

- Physical move to TRIS
- Risk assessment
- Individual security plan
- Care of individual needs



to start

- Improving physical and mental health
- Learning social norms and democratic values
- Taking steps towards living an independent life

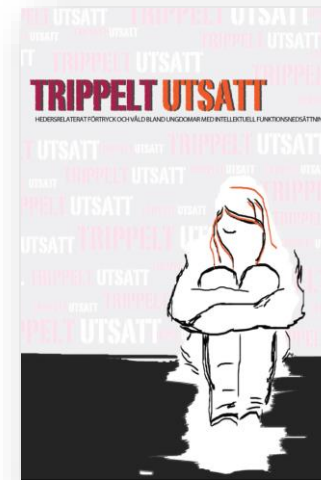


to fly

- Living independently by having one's own:
 - Social network
 - Occupation
 - Place to live

Methodological support and spreading knowledge

- Customized training programs and lectures
- Methodological handbooks and other publications
- Current surveys:
 - Survey of honor related violence & oppression among 9th graders in Uppsala
 - Project “Hidden and Forgotten” about honor related violence & oppression among adults with intellectual disability



How do we define honor related violence (HRV)?

The Swedish government's definitions of honor related violence and oppression (2007/08:39)

- Central to HRV is the **control of girls' and women's sexuality** - which is strongly tied to the collective and **the honor of the collective**.
- Notions of **virginity and chastity** are in focus here.
- The actual and alleged behavior of girls and women affect **the reputation of the family**.
- The lives of girls and women are **limited in terms of everyday choices**, such as clothing, social company, freedom of acting space, **but also life-changing choices** such as education, work, marriage, and divorce.
- In its extreme form, honor thinking results in **deadly violence** – in honor killings.
- The perpetrators of HRV are **both men and women**, and so are the victims.
- Specific examples of HRV are **forced marriage** and **female genital mutilation** – which are based on the concept that the honor of the men and the family is dependent on the sexual behavior of girls/women.
- HRV is **NOT** tied to any specific religion or culture.

Two different value systems meet

The honor-based
value system
collectivistic

The value system in
the majority society
individualistic

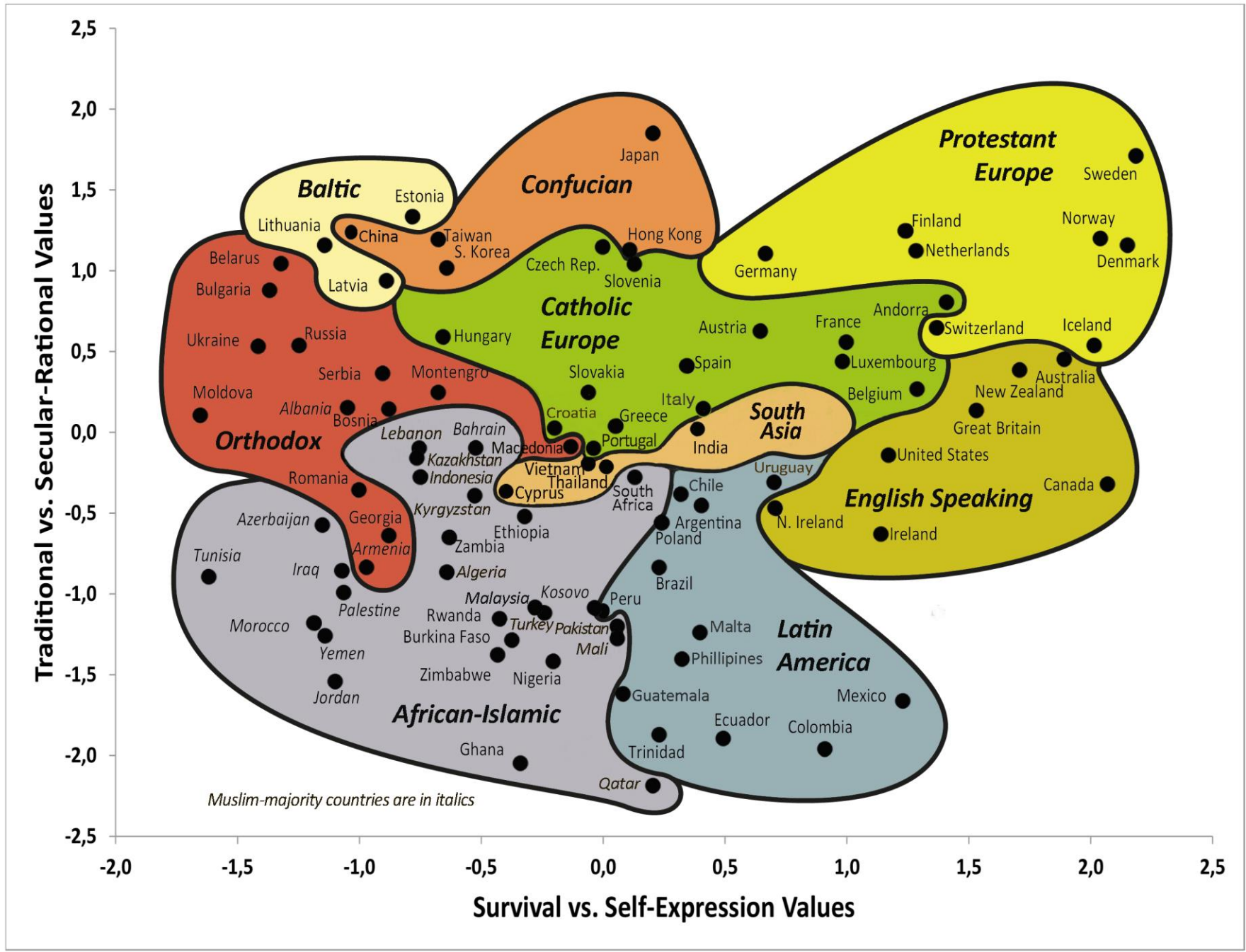


Collision between
norm systems



Different areas of
conflict

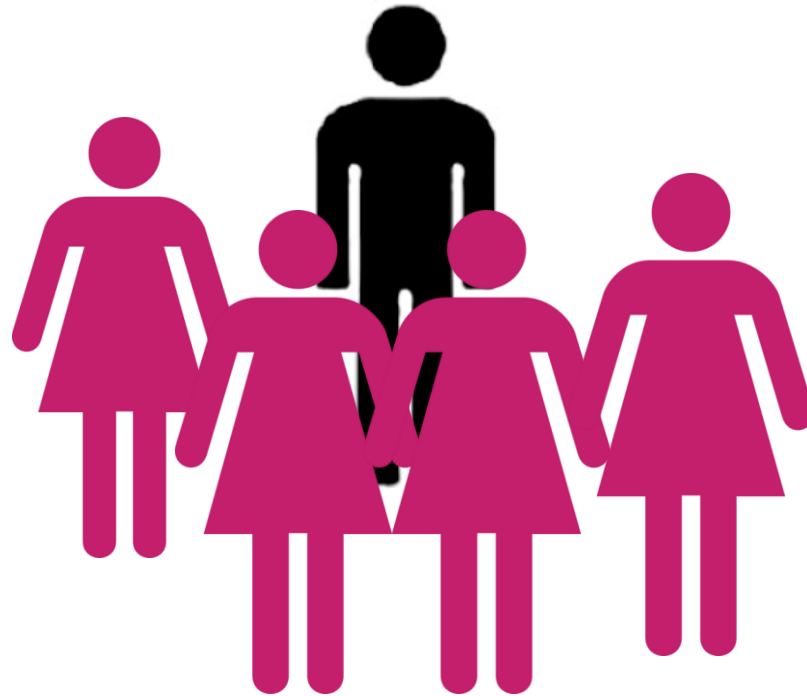
- ▶ View on honor
- ▶ View on bringing up children
- ▶ View on female sexuality and freedom
- ▶ View on marriage
- ▶ View on LGBT-persons
- ▶ View on intellectual disability

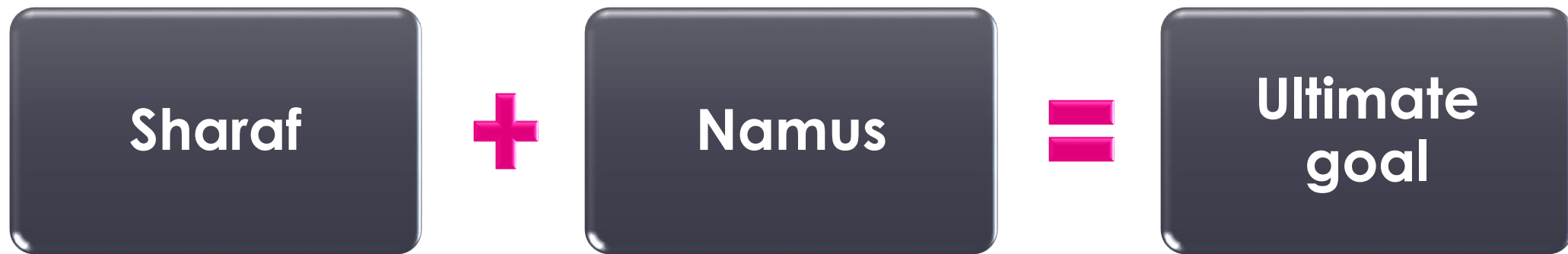


Three conceptual aspects of honor

- **Sharaf** — is tied to a man's and his family's or extended family's honor. Sharaf can increase if the norms and values are respected, but they can decrease if not followed. Specifically for the man, Sharaf means:
 - To be a righteous, honest and honorable man
 - To care financially for the family
 - To respect older relatives
- **Namus** — is tied to a woman's sexual integrity, particularly her chastity. Namus is about female respectability and modesty. Namus reflects back to the male Sharaf. If Namus is low, Sharaf decreases.
 - For married women, Namus is about submission (in relation to her husband).
 - For unmarried women, Namus is about chastity.
- **Ird/Ard** — the aspect of honor that is only tied to women. A girl is born with a certain amount of Ird that can never increase, only decrease.

Women/Namus function as a protective wall around the male family member.





Föreläsning Astrid Schlytter

Namus

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Sharaf

=

Acceptable

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Sharaf

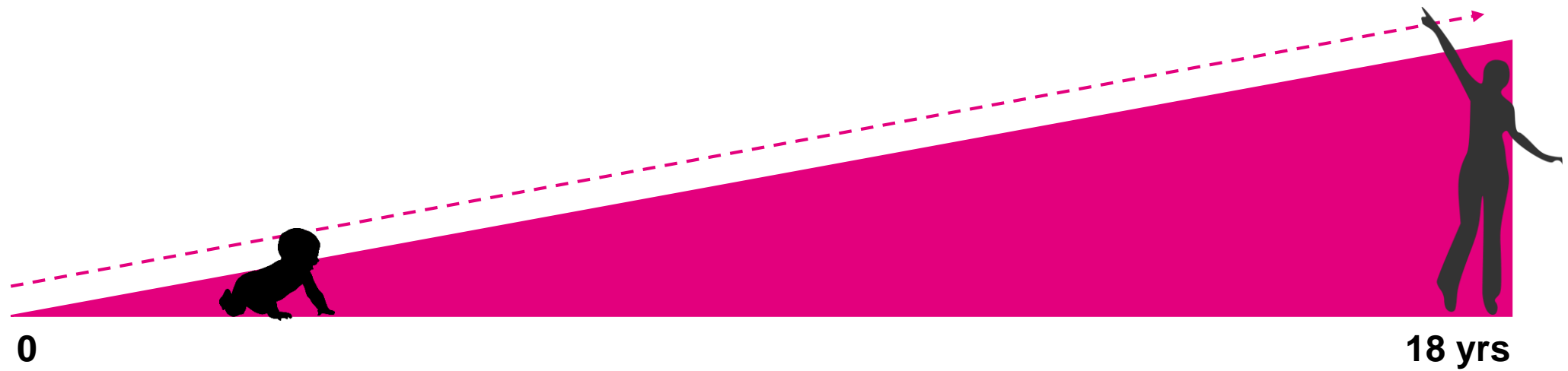
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Namus

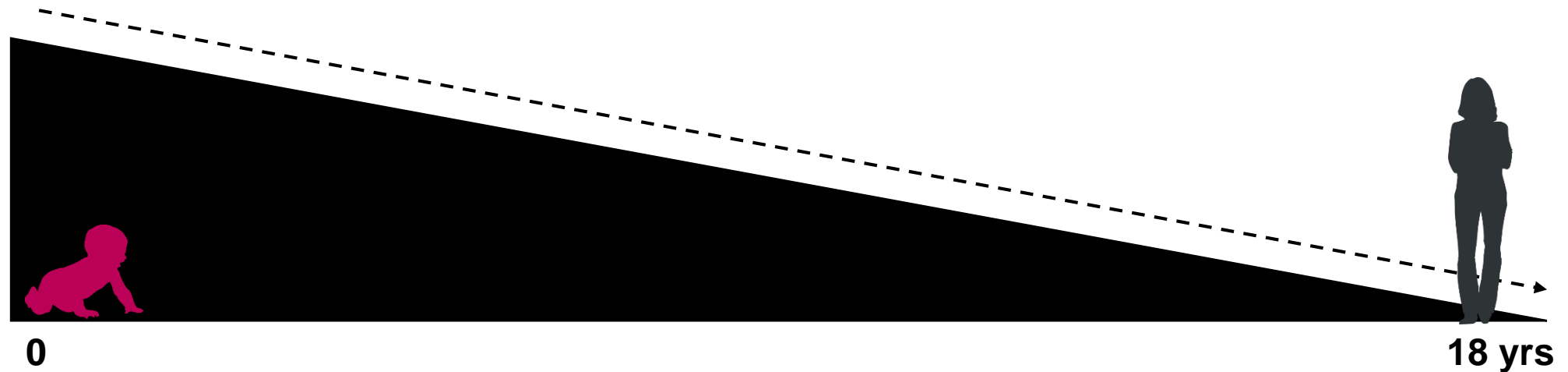
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Social
suicide

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Freedom of acting space for children who **DO NOT LIVE** with honor norms.



Freedom of acting space for children who **ARE LIVING** with honor norms.

The severity of the HRV-problem worldwide

- Every other second, a child is married.
- Every day, 200 of those married girls lose their lives because their young bodies were not prepared for carrying out a pregnancy.
- Every year, approx. 16 million teenage girls give birth.
 - 2 million under the age of 15 give birth each year. Some of them are only 9 years old.
- Over 200 million girls and women have undergone female genital mutilation (FMG)

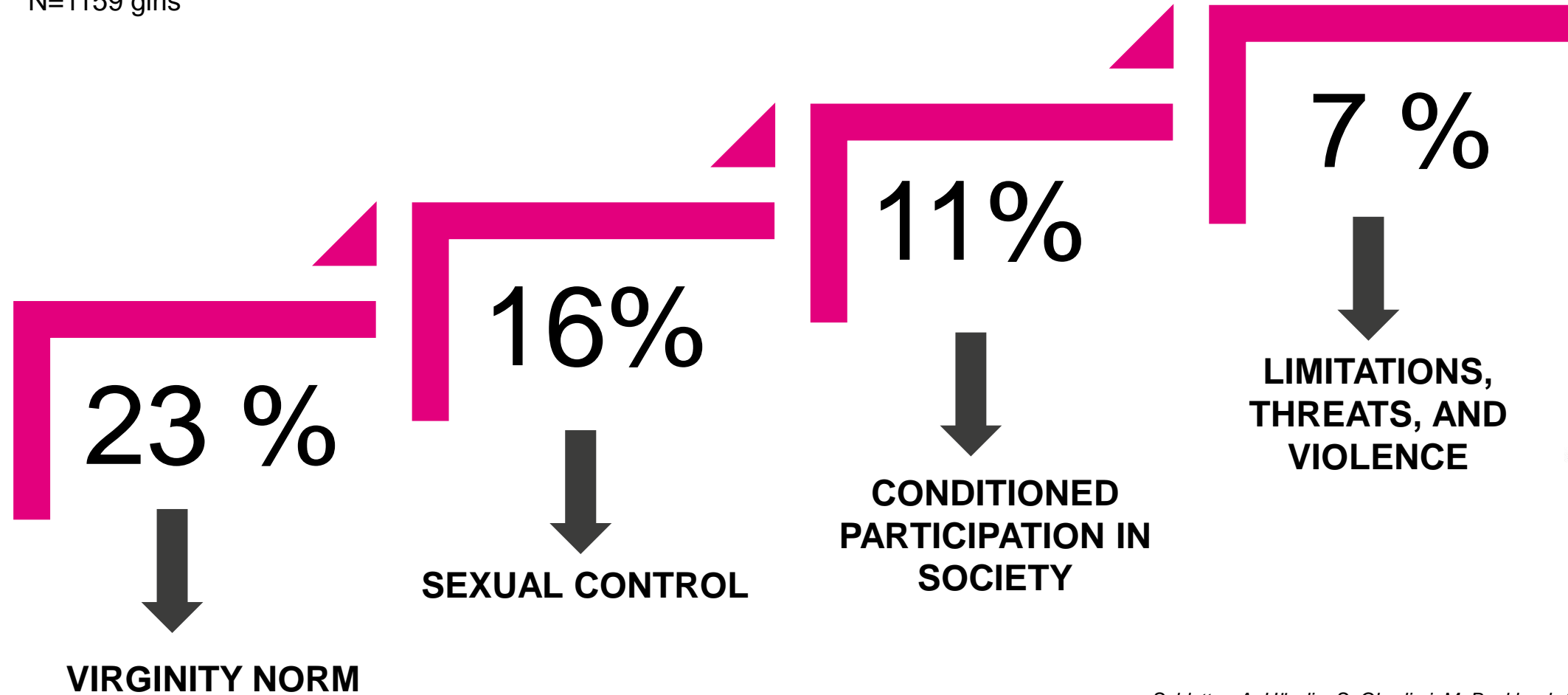
WHO, Unicef, RFSU

The Swedish context



Girls living in honor contexts (among 9th graders in Stockholm, 2009)

N=1159 girls



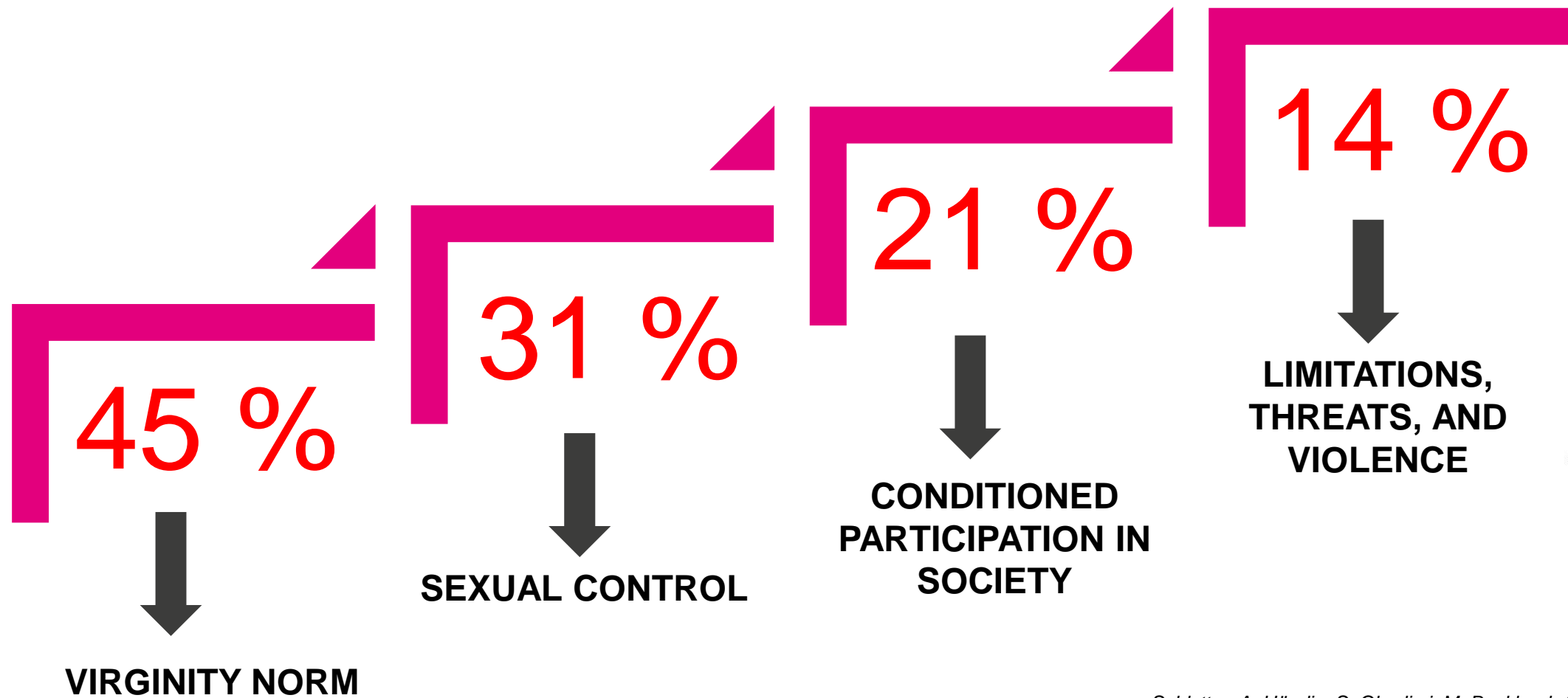
STOCKHOLM
UNIVERSITY
HEDESRRELATERAT FÖRTRYCK
OCH VÅLD I STOCKHOLMS STAD
Rapport 2009



Del II
April 2009

Schlytter, A. Högdin, S. Ghadimi, M. Backlund, Å. & Rexvid, D. 2009

Girls living in honor contexts - controlled for those whose parents are born abroad



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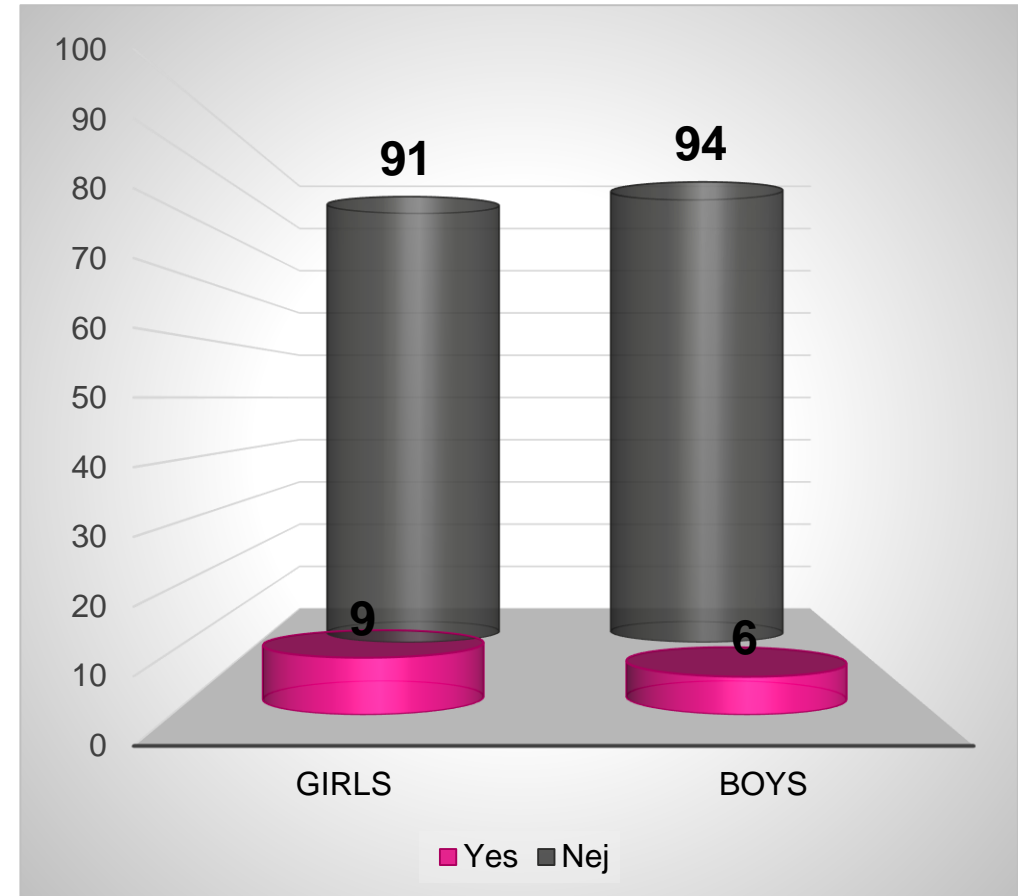
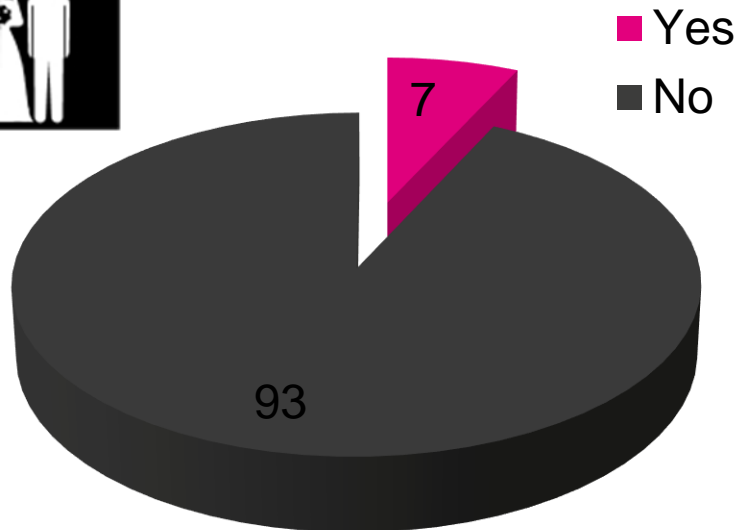
Del II

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Among pupils with learning disabilities

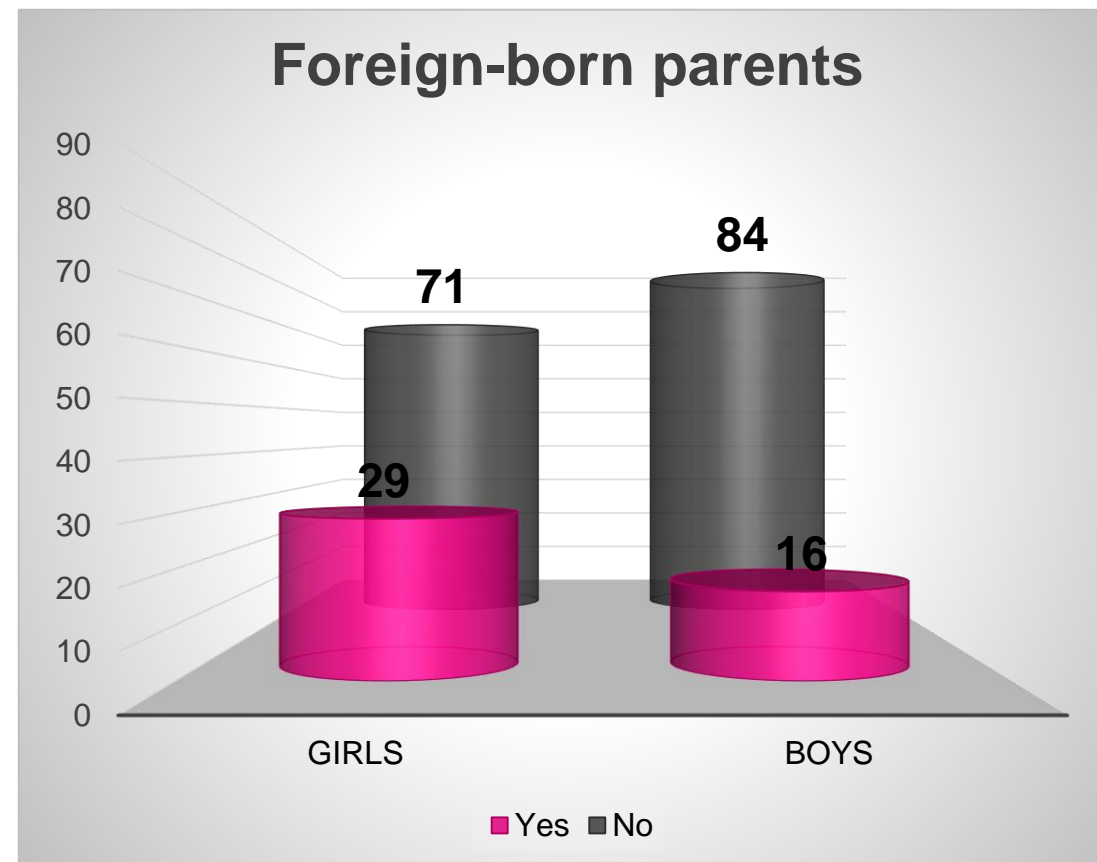
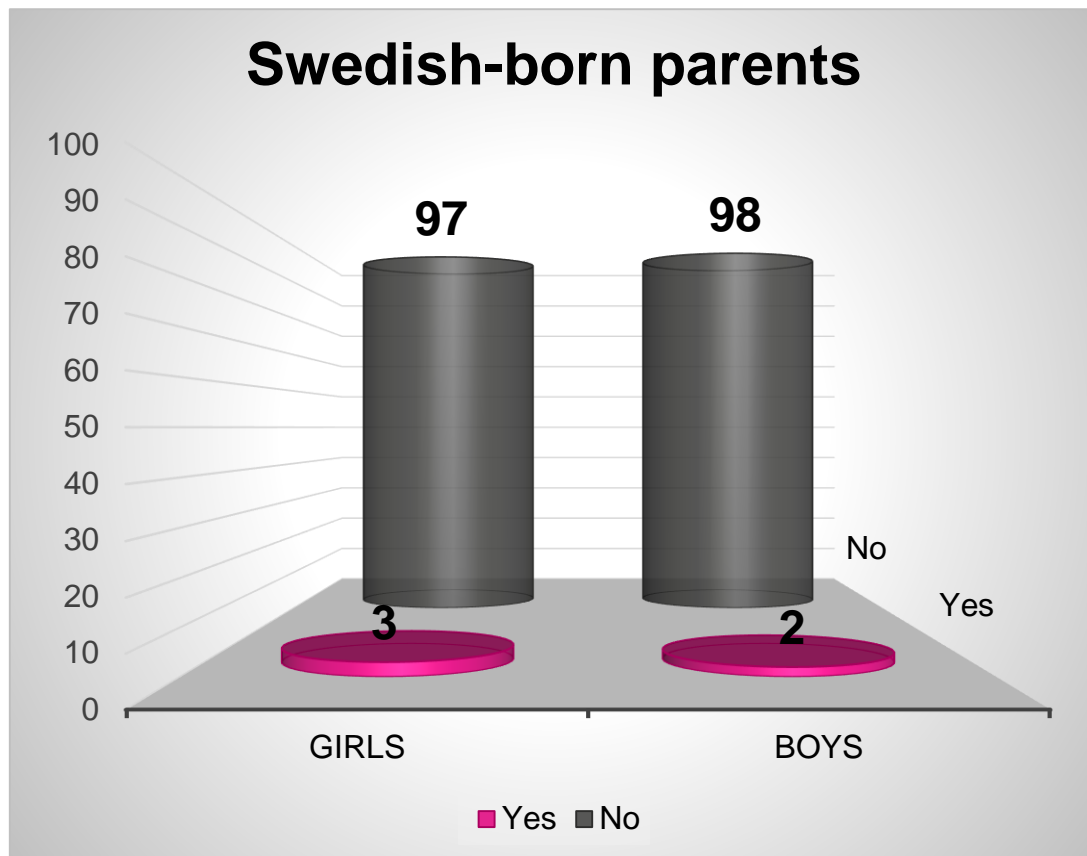
Do your parents decide who you are going to marry?
n=216



Davidian, T. et al. (2012), Trippelt utsatt: om hedersrelaterat förtryck och våld bland ungdomar med intellektuell funktionsnedsättning. TRIS.

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What does the Swedish law say about forced and child marriage?

Forced and child marriage is forbidden by Swedish law (as of July 2014), including informal and misleading marriages/arrangements:

1. By force and/or threats
2. By taking advantage of a person's **particularly exposed situation**:
 - Because of the victim's ***dependence*** on the perpetrator, e.g. a child who is dependent on its parents
 - Because of situations where the victim is
 - Living in poor economic conditions
 - Living in refuge
 - Has an **intellectual disability** or a disease or is addicted to narcotics

Only 2 convictions from over 150 reported cases of forced marriage since 2014 in Sweden.

What does the Swedish law say about FGM?

- Female genital mutilation (FGM) is prohibited by Swedish law since 1982, even if the crime is committed outside Swedish borders (as of 1998).
- In Sweden, more than 40 000 girls and women are born in countries where FGM is prevalent among more than 50% of the female population (The National Board of Health and Welfare, 2015).
 - 7000 of these are under the age of 18.
 - The largest estimated groups are born in Somalia, Eritrea, Egypt, and Gambia.

Only 2 convictions in Sweden since 1982.

Challenges ahead

- Alarming number of honor-killings in Sweden: 10 documented cases of honor-killings in 2016 (in total 105 murders in Sweden in 2016).
- Lack of adequate knowledge about HRV among social services and other professions and authorities coming in direct contact with the target group or the topic of HRV.
- University programs need to address HRV.
- Awareness and implementation of the law against forced and child marriage is low.
- Spread knowledge about the health risks of FGM among professionals and authorities, take preventative measures, and work long-term.



THANK YOU!

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