

Pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights: The City of Stockholm's involvement in the principle for equal opportunities

Stockholm aims to be a city for everyone, where both new and old Stockholmers are able to live, work and build their future. Our vision is in line with the European Pillar of Social rights' principle of equal opportunities, stating that regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, everyone has the right to equal treatment and opportunities regarding employment, social protection, education, and access to goods and services available to the public.

A concrete example from the City's work towards this vision is the initiative "Welcome House". Welcome House in Stockholm offers a welcoming, simplified, efficient and equal reception as a "one way in" for all new arrivals.

The Welcome house is a collaboration between the Social Services Department (Intro Stockholm) and the Labour Market Department (Establishment centre) within the City of Stockholm, together with national authorities and organisations from the civil society. The centre's holistic approach shortens the establishment period for new arrivals by gathering the City's resources in one place.

At the Welcome House, the support covers various parts of new arrivals' integration to Stockholm, including job-seeking advice, connections to association activities, adult education, digital guidance and social orientation courses.

During the last year the activities within the Welcome House has changed, to also specifically address Ukrainians. As the situation in the world changes, the Welcome House need to be able to adapt, to use new digital tools, to provide information due to new laws and regulations and to meet people with new needs.

The City of Stockholm has a long and proud experience of welcoming new arrivals. An effective and equal inclusion remains a key objective for the City, which is also convinced that the work of the Welcome House constitutes a valuable contribution towards the work for equal opportunities on both local and European level.

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Karin Wanngård
Mayor of Stockholm