



Sveriges Buddhistiska Samarbetsråd (SBS)
The Buddhist Co-operative Council of Sweden

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Report concerning contacts and co-operation with governmental institutions

By The Buddhist Co-operative Council of Sweden (SBS)

SBS was established 1993 by representatives of the main in Sweden active Buddhist branches: Theravada-, Tibetan- and Zen Buddhism, and is at the moment consisting of 12 national Buddhist Associations and their local branches.

The Buddhist Co-operative Council of Sweden (SBS) has in the year 2005 been **approved by the Swedish Government as a Religious Community entitled to state grants**. This grant is an organizational grant enabling the parishes to provide religious services, offer pastoral care and give education. Until now the grant has been entitled to 40 religious communities of: **Christians, Jews, Muslims and Buddhists** in Sweden.

Since 2005 SBS has one representative and one deputy in:

The Swedish Commission for Government Support to Faith Communities (SST).

SST is an authority serving under the **Ministry of Culture**.

In Sweden popular movements form an important part of society. The significance of such movements is apparent to the extent that the state gives a certain financial **support to popular movements that are to the benefit of everyone**. One category of popular movements is the category of religious communities. Hence, SST distributes state grants to other denominations than the Church of Sweden.

SST also gives **different sorts of support** to the denominations and has an **ongoing dialogue** with the denominations about the prerequisites for the grants.

Furthermore, SST handles matters concerning the denominations' part in the **coordination of emergency management**.

SST also has contact with and works together with **other authorities and organisations on matters concerning the denominations**.

The Governments Council for Contact with Faith Communities.

SBS has one representative in The Governments Council for Contact with Religious Communities presided by the Minister of Cultural Affairs at 4 yearly meetings.

SBS is taking part in the establishment of a national **Council of Religious Leaders in Sweden** initiated by archbishop Anders Wejryd of the Church of Sweden.

SBS is taking part in the establishment of the network **Swedish Interreligious Forum for Peace** in co-operation with representatives of Bahai-, Christian-, Muslim- and Buddhist Communities.

Since 1985 several of the oldest established Buddhist Communities have been **consulted and/or taking part in projects of different Swedish Institutions**, in connection with the renewing of the educational system of the Swedish schools, programs and conferences about fundamental ethical values, care taking, funeral rituals, inter-religious questions on diversity and integration, sustainable environment, human rights and last but not least non-violence living for a peaceful society etc.

In addition the Buddhist Communities are invited to take part in **inter-religious programs etc. arranged by the main Christian churches of Sweden and Muslim celebrations**. Various **Buddhist Associations** in their turn **invite representatives of universal religions to take part in celebrations or inter-religious activities**.

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