

THE SAMI PARLIAMENT

SÁMEDIGGI SÁMEDIGGE SAEMIEDIGKIE

- ▶ **FOCUSES** ON THE SAMI AS AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
- ▶ **ADMINISTRATES** SAMI VALUES
- ▶ **WORKS** FOR SUSTAINABLE SAMI TRADES
- ▶ **CONTRIBUTES** TO INCREASED SAMI PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL LIFE
- ▶ **PROVIDES** THE SAMI PERSPECTIVE
- ▶ **CULTIVATES** THE SAMI LANGUAGES
- ▶ **CONCERNS** ALL SAMI



Sámediggi
Sámedigge
Saemiedigkie
Sametinget
Sami Parliament

” *The Sami Parliament is both a popularly-elected parliament and a State administrative authority.*

▶ ABOUT THE SAMI PARLIAMENT

Our overall task is to monitor questions related to the Sami people and work for a living Sami culture.

The Sami Parliament in Sweden is both a popularly-elected parliament and an administrative authority under the Swedish government. Despite its name, the Sami Parliament is more of an advisory board and expert on Sami issues.

The Sami Parliament has a main office in Kiruna and offices in Jokkmokk, Tärnaby and Östersund, where the state officials work. The 31 elected Members of the Parliament meet for plenary sessions three times a year. The Plenary Assembly appoints the presidium and members of different committees, as well as the Board of the Parliament who employs the Administrative Director.



➤ OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

According to the Parliament Instruction given by the Swedish State, we are the administrative authority for reindeer herding issues and Sami culture.

The activities cover a wide range of different areas such as Sami trades, reindeer husbandry, community planning, environment and climate, promotion of Sami cultural expression and traditional knowledge, Sami library, Sami language work and international indigenous peoples' issues.

We disburse compensation for reindeer killed by predators, state funding for Sami culture and study grants for short-term studies in Sami language.

” *The Swedish Constitution acknowledged the Sami as a people in 2011, thus giving us political rights.*

➤ THE SAMI AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The UN's definition of an indigenous people is not about "who was where first", but rather about having lived in a region when international borders were established, having distinct cultural features and that social, economic, cultural and political institutions entirely, or in part, still exist.

The Swedish Parliament has acknowledged the Sami as an indigenous people in 1977, which gives us cultural rights. The Swedish Constitution acknowledged the Sami as a people in 2011, thus giving us political rights.

➤ THE SAMI PARLIAMENT ELECTION

The Sami Parliament Act (SFS 1992:1433) defines the tasks of the Parliament and regulates the election process.

It is the Sami people who elect their political spokespersons – the Members of the Sami Parliament. Since Sweden does not register the ethnicity of Swedish citizens, a Sami person must first apply to the electoral register in order to vote. According to this Act, a Sami is a person who perceives him- or herself to be Sami, and he or she, parents or grandparents have, or have had, the Sami language in the home.



FACTS: ↴

▶ DEKLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

In 2007, the UN accepted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) which acknowledges indigenous peoples' rights to self determination and the right to own, use and control land and natural resources. The UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) 2014 adopted a resolution on how the Declaration should be implemented in the member states.

▶ INTERNATIONAL LAW

The right to self determination, which is expressed in UN regulations, consists of a general political principle, one part expressed in international common law and one part that follows international binding conventions. The Council of Europe has a Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and a Minority Languages Charter.

▶ OBLIGATION TO NEGOTIATE

The international conventions signed by Sweden give ethnic, religious and language minorities the right to negotiation concerning questions of language, cultural life and traditional trades. Correct negotiations are necessary in order for the minorities' rights to be realized and open up for better solutions even for the majority population.

▶ POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION

In a democracy, the majority decides. Minorities seldom have the possibility to be heard in democratic assemblies. This is why the often-called "positive discrimination" is used to protect indigenous peoples and national minorities. The purpose is to reduce injustice between ethnic groups and to preserve languages and cultures that otherwise risk disappearing.

SÁPMI is the traditional area used by the Sami ancestors for thousands of years. Sápmi is also a concept for the people divided in four countries and the Sami community.

1993 The first Sami election is held and the Sami Parliament in Sweden is inaugurated by the King.



1751
The amendment to the border agreement between Sweden and Norway gives the Sami extended rights to move across the borders.

1873
The so called "cultivation zone" is introduced, with the purpose to protect the reindeer herding area from colonization.

1886
The first Reindeer Grazing Act.

1904
The Sami begin to form organizations.

1917
The first Sami cross-border congress takes place in Trondheim, Norway on February 6.

1950
The NGO Swedish Sami National Association (SSR) that organizes reindeer herding districts (samebys) and Sami associations is formed.

1956
The NGO Sami Council is formed with member organizations in Finland, Russia, Norway and Sweden.

1971
A new Reindeer Herding Act; the Lap Bailiff is abolished.

1977
The Swedish Parliament declares that the Sami is an indigenous people in Sweden.

1993
The Sami Parliament in Sweden is inaugurated.

2000
The Sami Parliamentary Council (a co-operation between the Nordic Sami parliaments) is formed.

2007
The UN adopts the Declaration on Indigenous People (UNDRIP).

2011
The Sami are acknowledged as a people in the Swedish Constitution.

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