

The Congress for Jobs October 28th – November 1st 2009

Forceful action against social inequalities

The trend towards increased social inequality must be stopped, and the differences in life opportunities leveled out. The need for social welfare support must decrease, family policy must be modernized and regional policy must focus on jobs and wealth on equal and sustainable conditions throughout the country. These resolutions were adopted by the Social Democrats Congress today.

We want to restore cohesion to our country. The individual's ability, life situation and circumstances must be made better use of. In the welfare of the country of Sweden everybody has a place and everybody should be included, says Veronica Palm, moving for the National Executive.

In order to meet an ever changing world of work and needs that parents have to make to make ends meet with work and children, it was decided today that municipalities must provide for a safe and effective child care, also in evenings, nights and weekends.

The Social Democrats' new focus is crystal clear and I am proud to make child care more accessible. The proposal is in line with our policy on work. A single mother should not have to turn down a job because it involves late shifts. Many families feel that the time is insufficient, especially in big cities. I believe that this reform is important for them, "says Veronica Palm.

The Social Democrats in Congress decided to give priority to a modernized parental insurance and passed a resolution forbidding children from being put in debt. It should be possible to divide the child care fee between separated parents. The Social Democrats would also gradually raise the ceiling of the temporary parental benefit so that the parent who earns more can be at home when the child is sick.

Children should not be in debt, and SMS-loans shall not be given to children under 18 without parental consent. The Consumer Credit Act should be modernized. The Social Democrats also want to tighten the law so that adults should not be able to pass off debts onto children.

We Social Democrats do not accept that Sweden being torn apart by widening social divisions. We want Sweden to hold together. Since the center-right government took office, social and economic inequality has increased sharply. Child poverty has increased from eight percent in 2006 to twelve percent in 2008. Social Security insurances have deteriorated. The policy line on work has been broken, and that we want to change, says Veronica Palm.

Congress decided to give priority to the following:

Reduced social divisions

Reduced need for social welfare support. The policy line on work-will be strengthened with a Competence service, Kraftsam, which will provide support for people with complex problems, better rehabilitation for the sick, investment in jobs where wages are subsidized and an expanded labor market for people who, despite training and experience are unable to find work.

Nobody should be homeless in the welfare country Sweden. Municipalities should establish specific programs for the homeless. All homeless people need to have a personal representative to assist in liaising with social services, healthcare, government and landlords.

Better health care in order to leave addiction. An individual care plan for employment, housing and care should be established. Abuse should not exclude people from treatment for mental disorders.

Parts of the new modernized family policy

Both parents should have the opportunity to be home at the same time with the child in the first month.

Raise the ceiling for the temporary parental benefit to enable the parent who earns more to be at home when the child is sick.

A special parental allowance for single parents, who become sick and are unable to care for the child that gives the right to sign over days of parental leave to someone outside the family who can care for the child.

Flexible and accessible child care that is safe and effective even in the evenings, nights and weekends

Consumer Credit Act should be modernized. Children should not be able to incur debt.

Regional policy for the whole country

Dynamic and sustainable cities. We must harness the potential of the rapid development of large cities. We must have welfare and family policies to suit people in a big city. The housing shortage will be built away, worn-down areas rebuilt. The urban infrastructure will be expanded and offer better connections between urban neighborhoods and residential areas.

Regional policy for jobs and prosperity on equal terms. To allow more people to take the jobs that are emerging we need for continuing investment in higher education and various forms of knowledge centers across the country.

The law on independent choice of residence area for refugees (EBO) does not work and a new system must be created.

Combating crime and the causes of crime

Protection and redress for victims. Children's Houses will be available in each county. There should be clinics for rape victims in emergency units in hospitals and access to the legal support during the preliminary investigation. Discussion units for men will eventually be available throughout the country to prevent violence and abuse.

Security in everyday life. Local crime prevention advice will be available in all municipalities. Every municipality shall have the obligation to draw up action plans for families and children with special needs as soon as major problems have been identified. We want to legislate on agreements on cooperation between childcare, school, social services, police, medical associations and voluntary associations. Neighborhood Police shall be provided for all schools.

A Swedish FBI. We want to create a national resource with an operational capacity for intelligence, investigative activities and external police surveillance. A special unit of 200-300 police officers under National Criminal Investigation Department shall constitute a spearhead group in the fight against organized crime.