

Abstract

Health – a human right for everyone

Degree Thesis 20 points

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This thesis concerns the right to health and healthcare for asylum seekers and irregular migrants in Sweden. The thesis is a result from the inspiration of the Swedish Red Cross as well as the international criticism by the Special UN Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Paul Hunt towards Sweden's lack of action in this matter. The objective of the thesis is to give a general description of the right to health, both in Sweden and internationally, with focus on asylum seekers and irregular migrants in particular. Irregular migrants are those who remain in a country on an illegal basis. They have either entered the country without sufficient documents or they have over-stayed after their application to the Swedish Migration Board has been denied. The questions being presented are for example; what does the right to health *really* mean? In what way does Sweden live up to the obligation to provide for everyone to enjoy of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health? The right to health is a human right for everyone regardless of citizenship. The thesis explains the Swedish laws passed on the subject and compares them with international law. Some international case-law is also mentioned. The thesis is for the most part based on reports from the UN, MSF (Medecins sans Frontieres) and PICUM (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants). Sweden has ratified several Conventions e.g. the CESCRC but nevertheless fails to secure these rights in many ways.