



Protecting the Vulnerable:

A Study on Migrant Women's Experiences in Sweden

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Abstract

The thesis investigates the experiences of migrant women in Sweden, it focuses on the significant Human Rights abuses that feminist legal theory and transnational feminism can explain through the lens of feminism. Using qualitative research methods, including interviews, the study identifies numerous barriers that women with migrant status encounter, these include violations of their rights to equality, freedom from violence, employment, and the basic requirements of living. The investigation demonstrates the value of cultural awareness and formalized questions to comprehend these women's experiences in detail. The results indicate a widespread tendency to perceive people differently and suggest that more inclusive and intersectional approaches to Human Rights should be advocated, legal changes should be implemented and tailored support should be provided. The investigation's findings are proposed and recommended as further research, the purpose of which is to contribute to a more equal society for women in migration in Sweden.

Keywords: Migrant women, Human Rights violations, Sweden, Feminist legal theory, Transnational feminism, Gender-based violence, Intersectionality, Migration,

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1. Introduction

For centuries, migration has played a significant role in shaping human societies, fueled by a variety of factors such as economic prospects, political unrest, and humanitarian emergencies. Despite the potential for a brighter future in a foreign country, migrants, especially women, frequently encounter numerous obstacles and vulnerabilities, including different types of violence. The objective of this thesis is to explore the intricate interplay between migration, gender-based violence, and Human Rights with a specific emphasis on the experiences of migrant women in Sweden (Troisi et al. 2022, pp.286-287).

The migration journeys undertaken by women are riddled with a multitude of challenges, encompassing not only the treacherous voyage itself but also the difficulties of assimilating into a new society. Amidst these obstacles, the issue of gender-based violence emerges as a significant concern, disproportionately affecting migrant women. This violence can manifest in physical, sexual, or psychological forms, and migrant women often find themselves particularly vulnerable both during their migration and upon arrival in the host country (Troisi et al., 2022, pp.286-288). Sweden, renowned for its progressive policies and unwavering dedication to Human Rights, has emerged as an appealing destination for numerous migrants in search of safety and improved prospects. However, even within this inclusive society, migrant women are not exempt from the perils of gender-based violence. It is imperative to comprehend the magnitude of this issue and its ramifications on the Human Rights of migrant women to formulate effective strategies that safeguard and empower them (Voolma, 2018, pp.1-3).

The focal point of this thesis revolves around two key inquiries. The initial query delves into the empirical exploration of the personal encounters of migrant women in Sweden and the extent to which they are subjected to gender-based violence. By scrutinizing the diverse manifestations of violence experienced by migrant women during their migration journey and after they establish themselves in Sweden, this study endeavors to shed light on their distinct susceptibilities (Troisi et al., 2022, pp.286-288).

The primary focus of the second research inquiry is directed towards the examination of the legal and policy structures that govern Human Rights on a global scale. The evaluation centers around various treaties, conventions, and guidelines that have been established to

address the rights of migrant women and establish mechanisms for their protection. Additionally, this question delves into the implementation and enforcement of these frameworks within the context of migration, to identify any gaps or challenges that exist in safeguarding the rights of migrant women. By adopting this comprehensive approach, the thesis aims to deepen our comprehension of the intricate relationship between migration, gender-based violence, and Human Rights. Ultimately, the insights gained from this research can serve as a valuable resource for informing policy development and advocacy efforts aimed at upholding the dignity and rights of migrant women in Sweden. (Voolma, 2018, pp.1-3).

The prevalence and intricacies of gender-based violence among migrant women in Sweden are not fully grasped, highlighting a significant issue. Although international Human Rights frameworks aim to safeguard the rights of migrant women, their ability to effectively address the specific challenges posed by migration is uncertain. Consequently, this research endeavor focuses on conducting a comprehensive examination of the extent of gender-based violence encountered by migrant women in Sweden, while also critically evaluating the sufficiency of international Human Rights mechanisms in upholding their rights (UN Women, 2021; World Bank, 2022).

Taking a Feminist Legal Theory and Transnational Feminism approach, this thesis delves into the lives of female migrants from non-European countries who have made Sweden their home. Through an examination of their experiences, the study aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of the various challenges these women face, considering the intersecting factors at play. Furthermore, the research assesses the efficacy of international Human Rights frameworks, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), in their implementation within Sweden to safeguard the rights of female migrants (UN Women, 2021; United Nations, 1966).

The main objective of this thesis is to expand the current knowledge base by conducting a thorough examination of the challenges faced by migrant women in Sweden. Specifically, the focus will be on the violations of their Human Rights and the extent to which international legal frameworks are successful in safeguarding their rights. The ultimate aim is to generate valuable insights that can inform the formulation of policies and advocacy approaches aimed

at upholding the rights and preserving the dignity of migrant women not only in Sweden but also in comparable settings.

1.1 Research Problem and Aim

The issue at hand pertains to the experience of women during the process of migration, specifically when seeking refuge in Sweden. It is evident that these women are frequently subjected to various forms of violence based on their gender, it can be violence such as smuggling, trafficking, and authorities, such as police border (UN Women, 2021). Despite attempts to tackle this problem, there is still a lack of understanding regarding the prevalence and intricacies of such violence faced by migrant women (World Bank, 2022). Additionally, while international Human Rights frameworks are theoretically designed to safeguard the rights of migrant women, there are concerns regarding their effectiveness in addressing the unique challenges posed by Human Rights abuse within the context of migration. As a result, the research problem revolves around the imperative to thoroughly examine the scope of gender-based violence encountered by migrant women in Sweden and to critically assess the sufficiency of International Human Rights mechanisms in protecting their rights.

The central objective of this thesis is to delve into and clarify the ordeals encountered by female migrants from non-European nations residing in Sweden, with a specific focus on the violations of their Human Rights. By scrutinizing these experiences through the perspectives of Feminist Legal Theory and Transnational Feminism, this study aims to provide a comprehensive comprehension of the systematic and intersectional nature of the obstacles confronted by these women. Furthermore, the research endeavors to assess the effectiveness of international Human Rights frameworks, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), in their implementation at the domestic level in Sweden for safeguarding the rights of female migrants.

1.2 Research Question

- In what ways do female migrants from non-European countries experience Human Rights violations within Swedish society?

- How does the International Human Rights framework address and safeguard the rights of migrant women in the face of such challenges?

1.3 Relevance to Human Rights

It is of utmost importance to recognize the significance of Human Rights when it comes to addressing the circumstances of women seeking refuge in Sweden and the violence they encounter throughout the migration journey. This chapter aims to clarify how the principles of Human Rights play a vital role in comprehending and addressing the difficulties experienced by migrant women.

The United Nations General Assembly passed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948, emphasizing the equal rights and inherent dignity of every person, regardless of their migration status or nationality. Article 3 of the UDHR specifically guarantees the right to life, liberty, and personal security, which are frequently disregarded in instances of gender-based violence that migrant women encounter on their way to Sweden. Whether it be through physical attacks, sexual exploitation, or psychological mistreatment, these transgressions undermine the core Human Rights protected by the UDHR (United Nations, 1948).

The protection of migrant women who are seeking refuge from persecution and violence in their home countries is of utmost importance, and the CEDAW (1979), play integral roles in safeguarding their rights. These treaties uphold the principle of non-refoulement, which bars states from sending refugees back to nations where their life or freedom is at risk (United Nations, 1979).

The recognition of fundamental rights is evident in both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966). Article 7 of the ICCPR acknowledges the right to be free from torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, while Article 12 of the ICESCR recognizes the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. These rights hold significant importance when it comes to addressing the physical and psychological repercussions of gender-based violence endured by migrant women (United Nations, 1966).

The rights of migrant women, despite the presence of established Human Rights frameworks, continue to face obstacles when it comes to effectively ensuring their safety from gender-based violence. The enforcement of international Human Rights law is often compromised due to gaps in implementation, inadequate resources, and discriminatory behaviors. These factors frequently undermine the protection that should be guaranteed. Migrant women may encounter difficulties in accessing essential services such as justice, healthcare, and social support, which further increases their susceptibility to violence and exploitation (United Nations, 1948).

Furthermore, the experiences of migrant women and their ability to access rights and protection are made more complex by the interplay of various factors, including race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. It is crucial to adopt intersectional approaches in Human Rights advocacy and policymaking to effectively address the diverse needs and experiences of migrant women. By doing so, we can ensure that responses to gender-based violence are inclusive and culturally sensitive (United Nations, 1948).

1.4 Delimitations

The primary objective of this thesis is to explore the firsthand encounters of women who have migrated from non-European nations to Sweden, with a particular emphasis on the different forms of Human Rights violations they experience. To ensure a comprehensive and detailed examination, the research has been carefully limited in scope. Specifically, the study concentrates solely on female migrants, excluding male migrants to maintain a sharp focus on gender-related concerns. This deliberate choice is grounded in the belief that female migrants encounter distinct obstacles and vulnerabilities that necessitate dedicated consideration.

The study focuses on Sweden, recognizing that Human Rights abuses against migrants are prevalent worldwide. By narrowing its scope to the Swedish context, the research delves into local policies, societal attitudes, and institutional frameworks to offer a comprehensive examination. This geographical limitation enables a more intricate comprehension of how Sweden's distinct legal, cultural, and social systems influence the journeys of female migrants. Examples from the United Kingdom is also used, because of the country's history and experience with migration.

To limit the scope of the research, the focus is specifically directed towards non-European migrants. This particular group is chosen due to the heightened levels of discrimination and exclusion they frequently encounter, which surpass those faced by their European counterparts. These disparities arise from variances in race, religion, and cultural heritage. Through an exploration of the experiences of non-European female migrants, the study strives to shed light on the interconnectedness of discrimination that arises from multiple dimensions of identity.

The study utilizes qualitative research methods, specifically semi-structured interviews and case studies, as its chosen methodology. These methods offer in-depth and detailed insights, although they do have limitations in terms of generalizability. The sample size is relatively small, and the findings are specific to the context of the study. Nevertheless, the qualitative approach is deliberately selected to capture the intricacy and richness of individual experiences, which may not be adequately addressed in quantitative research.

It is important to note that the research is limited by the timeframe of the thesis in which data was collected. Any policy changes or shifts in societal attitudes that occurred after this period are not taken into account. This temporal constraint ensures that the findings accurately represent the situation only within the specific timeframe of the study.

2. Previous Research

This chapter examines the existing literature about migration.

2.1.1 Background

Migration is a complex occurrence that is intricately tied to a range of social, economic, and political elements. Of particular importance within the broader framework of migration are the experiences of women, who confront obstacles and vulnerabilities. Among the many challenges faced by migrant women, the violation of their Human Rights, including various forms of violence and exploitation, is of utmost concern (Fleury, 2016, pp. 6-7). This thesis seeks to delve into the intricate relationship between migration, the experiences of women, and the infringement upon their Human Rights, thereby illuminating the underlying dynamics and implications for both policy-making and advocacy efforts.

Migration, whether prompted by necessity or personal decision, is impacted by a variety of elements including economic inequality, conflict, environmental decline, and political instability. Each year, millions of people are uprooted from their residences in search of safety or better prospects in different locations. While migration can present opportunities for a better standard of living and security, it also exposes migrants, especially females, to substantial hazards and susceptibilities (Fleury, 2016, pp. 6-7).

The migration experiences of women are influenced by a combination of factors, including gender, class, race, ethnicity, and legal status. Women often migrate for various reasons, such as seeking employment, reuniting with family, or escaping conflict and persecution in their home countries. However, their journeys are frequently hindered by numerous challenges, such as discrimination, exploitation, and violence (Sharpe, 2001, pp. 3-4). Migrant women commonly find work in unregulated industries like domestic work, agriculture, and manufacturing. Within these sectors, they often endure harsh working conditions characterized by long hours, inadequate pay, and a lack of legal safeguards. Additionally, migrant women face increased vulnerability to different forms of gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, assault, and trafficking (McSherry & Kneebone, 2008, p. 67).

Migrant women endure a multitude of harmful acts, both physically and psychologically, as they face violence in its diverse manifestations. This violence is not limited to a specific stage of their migration journey, as it can occur during transit, at border crossings, within detention centers, and even in the host countries where they seek safety. Perpetrators of this violence encompass a wide range of individuals, including employers, law enforcement authorities, smugglers, and even intimate partners or family members (Sharpe, 2001, pp. 3-5).

The marginalization of migrant women is further intensified by strict immigration policies and enforcement practices in numerous countries, which push them deeper into the shadows and make them more vulnerable to exploitation. Detention and deportation policies that prioritize immigration control over Human Rights protection often result in the re-traumatization of migrant women, perpetuating cycles of violence and trauma (McSherry & Kneebone, 2008, p. 72). A comprehensive approach is needed to address the interconnected issues of migration, women's experiences, and Human Rights violations. This entails tackling the underlying causes of migration, such as poverty, inequality, conflict, and environmental degradation. It also requires addressing the structural barriers that contribute to gender-based violence and discrimination (McSherry & Kneebone, 2008, p. 72-73).

2.1.2 Previous Research

Previous studies have examined migration as a multifaceted and intricate occurrence that carries substantial implications for individuals, communities, and societies on a global scale. A significant proportion of migrants are women, and their migration journeys are influenced by a range of socio-economic, cultural, and political elements (Cyment, 2021).

Migration patterns have become more intricate in recent times due to the rise of female migrants from various regions. This surge can be attributed to a combination of push and pull factors, such as economic opportunities, political instability, conflict, family reunification, and the desire for education or improved living conditions (Cyment, 2021). Women from developing nations, in particular, are heavily influenced by economic considerations, including job prospects and higher wages, as they strive for a better life for themselves and their families. Furthermore, the prospect of reuniting with family members who have already settled abroad serves as a significant motivation for many female migrants. Additionally, some women are forced to seek asylum or refugee status due to political persecution,

gender-based violence, and discrimination in their home countries, underscoring the intersectionality of migration with gender and Human Rights issues (Cyment, 2021).

The migration patterns and encounters of women are influenced by socio-economic and cultural factors, as extensive research has shown (Fleury, 2016, p.6). The need for economic stability plays a significant role in driving migration, as numerous financially disadvantaged women seek better opportunities elsewhere. This is evident in countries such as the Philippines and Bangladesh, where families from lower socio-economic backgrounds frequently send young women overseas for employment, highlighting the connection between poverty and female migration (Fleury, 2016, p.6).

Migration decisions are influenced by a variety of factors, including education and employment. Research conducted in Morocco and Mexico demonstrates a direct correlation between higher education levels, employment rates among women, and migration. When faced with limited job opportunities or unfavorable working conditions, women are more inclined to consider migrating (Fleury, 2016, p.6). Moreover, societal gender norms and expectations play a significant role in shaping migration patterns. Different societies have varying preferences for migrants, with some favoring single women while others prioritize married women with children. Migration decisions are often influenced by family obligations, as women strive to balance their own aspirations with their responsibilities towards their families (Fleury, 2016, pp. 6-8).

2.1.3 The Drivers of Migration

The act of women migrating encompasses both prospects for empowerment and potential hazards. While certain women choose migration as a means to escape societal condemnation or violence, others view it as a pathway to personal autonomy and the realization of their aspirations. Nevertheless, migrant women encounter unique obstacles, such as prejudice, exploitation, and increased susceptibility to human trafficking, particularly in industries segregated by gender, such as domestic labor and entertainment (Fleury, 2016, pp. 7-8). Social networks play a pivotal role in facilitating migration by providing support and aid to women throughout their journey. Seasoned migrant women often serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement for others contemplating migration as a viable alternative (Fleury, 2016, pp. 8-9).

Gender segregation remains prevalent in the labor market, effectively restricting women to occupations that are traditionally associated with femininity, such as domestic work, caregiving, and entertainment. This division of labor based on gender not only perpetuates existing inequalities but also plays a significant role in the formation of the "global care chain." This phenomenon involves women from economically disadvantaged nations migrating to more affluent countries to offer their services in the field of caregiving (Fleury, 2016, pp. 8-9).

The decision to relocate is shaped by an intricate combination of economic, social, and cultural elements. While migration presents prospects for financial and personal progress, it also places women in vulnerable situations, highlighting the importance of implementing policies and actions that consider gender and prioritize the safety and welfare of female migrants (Fleury, 2016, pp. 9-11).

The issue of forced migration is of utmost importance, especially when considering women who are seeking refuge from domestic violence (Bowstead, 2015, p.310). In the United Kingdom, numerous women experience various forms of abuse and view migration as their sole feasible choice to break free from the continuous cycle of violence and guarantee the safety of both themselves and their children (Bowstead, 2015, pp. 310-312).

2.1.4 Examples from The United Kingdom

Furthermore, the United Kingdom is used as a prominent example in this study because of its considerable migration and great expertise managing a varied migrant population. The United Kingdom has been a country people have migrated to for a long time, and therefore it is a country with more experience than Sweden when it comes to migration.

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The portrayal of young Polish women who migrate to the UK in research is one of capable and resourceful individuals who adeptly navigate the complexities of economic migration. Their transition is relatively seamless due to cultural similarities and their independent approach, although they still encounter obstacles and seek assistance throughout the process of migration and settlement (Marshall, Cox, Birdi, 2020, pp. 851-852). This study emphasizes the importance of broadening the scope of information science research on migration to encompass diverse migrant groups, rather than solely focusing on refugees. Such research provides valuable insights into migration patterns and information behavior (Marshall, Cox, Birdi, 2020, pp. 852-855).

The plight of Nigerian women professionals in the British job market frequently goes unnoticed. Despite their qualifications, they encounter prejudiced recruitment methods, workplace prejudices, and a lack of networking avenues that impede their chances of securing employment (Ogbemudia, 2021, pp. 5-6).

In the United Kingdom, undocumented migrant women encounter notable obstacles when it comes to obtaining healthcare, specifically maternity services. Findings from this research indicate that their immigration status greatly influences their ability to access healthcare, resulting in delays or even the complete avoidance of prenatal care due to concerns about immigration enforcement (Nellums et al., 2021, pp. 1-2). The study sheds light on the systemic disparities and institutional barriers that impact the maternal health outcomes of undocumented migrants, underscoring the necessity for policy reforms that ensure equal access to healthcare for all individuals (Nellums et al., 2021, pp. 2-6).

2.1.5 Sweden

Sweden is frequently portrayed as a shining example of equality and social advancement, praised for its dedication to Human Rights and egalitarian ideals. Although, beneath this picturesque facade, a different reality emerges that contradicts this perception. "Det blågula glashuset - strukturell diskriminering i Sverige" presents an analysis of the systemic discrimination deeply ingrained in Swedish society. This research explores the complex network of structural obstacles and disparities experienced by marginalized groups. (SOU, 2005:56, pp.67-68).

Central to the research is the dismantling of the fallacy of Swedish exceptionalism, the belief that Sweden is impervious to the social problems and disparities seen in other parts of the world. Rather, it brings attention to the widespread existence of systemic discrimination in Sweden, advocating for a more nuanced and discerning examination of the nation's social frameworks. By thoroughly investigating different aspects of identity, such as race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status, the authors shed light on how intersecting elements influence individuals' encounters and prospects within Swedish society (SOU, 2005:56, p.75).

Through a captivating collection of stories, this research offers a vibrant depiction of the real-life encounters of various marginalized communities in Sweden. It explores the challenges faced by racial and ethnic minorities who encounter prejudice in various aspects of life, including employment, housing, education, and healthcare. Additionally, it sheds light on the experiences of women, particularly those from minority backgrounds, as they navigate through the complexities of intersecting oppressions. These narratives serve as a powerful testament to the far-reaching consequences of systemic inequities. Furthermore, the research delves into the influence of socioeconomic status on access to opportunities and resources, drawing attention to the ever-widening wealth disparity and escalating income inequality within Swedish society (SOU, 2005:56, p.79).

"Unveiling the Blue and Yellow Glass House - Uncovering Structural Discrimination in Sweden" stands as a study that delves into the intricacies of systemic bias within Swedish society. Through an examination paired with captivating firsthand accounts and real-life examples, this research not only reveals the profound disparities but also champions practical remedies. It urges the implementation of policies and interventions that foster economic fairness, facilitate social upward mobility, and embrace gender-inclusive strategies to effectively combat entrenched discrimination (SOU, 2005:56, p.80).

Migrant women in Sweden face both cultural and patriarchal structures as they reinforce gender inequalities. Traditional gender roles within their communities impose limited autonomy but are further victimized by oppressive cultures within Swedish society. In so doing the fight for gender equality becomes that much more problematic as not only must they navigate between internal cultural expectations but also those of external societal prejudices (Ålund, Alinia, 2011, pp.43-44).

A major problem is that the debate surrounding honor-related violence tends to cast migrant women as the passive victims of cultural traditions. This imagery masks most of the complexities of her experience and dims her agency, leaving her portrayed as helpless rather than active in making her life come to be. Such stereotypes affect not only who she is but also limit her civic engagement, for initiatives focus on saving her instead of having her be involved in advocacy (Ålund, Alinia, 2011, pp. 45-46).

However, many migrant women actively challenge both patriarchal norms within their communities and the broader society's conceptions and stereotypes of migrant women. In this way, they work actively in the struggle for gender equality through claiming and reshaping gender rights and changing narratives about the roles of women and citizens in Sweden (Ålund, Alinia, 2011, pp.47-48).

Labor market

The evolution of the Swedish labor market from 1970 to 1995 is a shift that is noted as a significant transition from a solid industrial base to a more diverse service sector. This transition increased the demand for specific abilities, particularly in communication and the ability to understand the Swedish language, this became necessary for employment. Economic cycles had a significant impact on altering employment rates; immigrant women were particularly vulnerable during economic downturns, this was particularly true of the early 90s recession, which increased the gap between the native and immigrant women in employment. Additionally, obstacles like cultural and linguistic differences increased the difficulty of their participation in the employment market. The nationwide policy of dispersing refugees, which was implemented in the late 80's, often placed newcomers in cities with less powerful labor markets, this would adversely affect their employment opportunities. Overall, the results indicate the importance of targeted initiatives to enhance the integration of women in the labor market and improve economic outcomes for immigrant women in Sweden (Bevelander, 2005, pp.173-177).

The Swedish labor market faces challenges in that integration as refugees tend to start at lower employment and income levels compared to labor migrants. The long-run perspective is that the labor market outcomes of refugees do generally improve; they often catch up with family-reunion migrants but not to the level of labor migrants. Obstacles to integration are,

for example, the loss of human capital during the asylum process, lower health levels, and no labor market selection. Other factors are constant (Bevelander, 2020, pp. 1-4).

Another set of policies is found in Sweden; there is a two-year introduction program, language classes, and skills assessment. The effects of such policies are not clear, so more research is needed. Internal migration within Sweden can also enhance refugees' employment opportunities by allowing them to move to regions with better prospects in the labor market. Overall, refugees experience slower economic integration; policies that improve health screening and labor market assistance, however, may enhance their outcomes (Bevelander, 2020, pp. 5-7).

In Sweden, labour market integration is the largest problem for resettled refugee women since only 43% are employed, compared to 52% of men. This gap shows greater difficulties for women to get a job than for other categories of migrants, with the exception of reasons for migrating due to family reunifications, for which the share at employment is slightly higher at 46%. The well-functioning social networks and favourable integration circumstances for family reunion migrants facilitate this aspect (Bevelander, 2011, p. 34-35).

The demographic factors also have an important interaction with the employment outcomes of the respondents. For instance, single women usually have higher odds of employment, while their age can negatively affect employment probabilities. In addition, women from some specific countries, most especially Iraq, have the lowest rates of employment, thus showing that the country of origin greatly affects the success of integration (Bevelander, 2011, p.35).

Nonetheless, this has the potential to improve. Resettled refugee women have a 'slow start' in the labor market but after 15–20 years their employment rates can rise significantly in the country. This would indicate that long-term efforts of integration can bring in positives and thereby make a very specific case for special policies directed at enhancing the employment opportunities of women, particularly those coming from vulnerable backgrounds (Bevelander, 2011, p.35).

Legal protection of migrants in Sweden

A robust system of laws and regulations has been put in place by Sweden to safeguard the rights and welfare of migrants. This system encompasses both domestic laws and international agreements, guaranteeing that migrants are treated with respect and provided with the essential assistance and security they require.

The Aliens Act (2005:716)

The foundation of Swedish immigration law lies in the Aliens Act, which governs the parameters for non-citizens entering and living in Sweden. This comprehensive legislation addresses various matters such as visas, residence permits, work permits, and the rights afforded to asylum seekers. It explicitly states that individuals who are at risk of persecution or grave harm in their countries of origin have the right to seek refuge in Sweden. This protection encompasses both refugees as defined by the 1951 Refugee Convention and those eligible for subsidiary protection (SFS 2005:716).

The Asylum Act

Although the Aliens Act serves as a broad foundation, it is the Asylum Act that concentrates on the intricacies of the asylum procedure. This legislation outlines the steps involved in submitting and handling asylum applications, guaranteeing that individuals seeking asylum are given an equitable and comprehensive evaluation of their claims. Additionally, the Act encompasses the entitlements of asylum seekers throughout the application process, such as the availability of legal aid and the ability to challenge decisions through the appeals process (SFS 1994:137).

The Social Services Act

In Sweden, the Social Services Act ensures that social services are accessible to all individuals, including migrants. This legislation requires municipalities to offer assistance and support to those who require it, ensuring that migrants can obtain housing, financial aid, and social support. The Act places significant emphasis on addressing the unique needs of vulnerable populations, such as unaccompanied minors and families with children (SFS 2001:453).

The Law on Reception of Asylum Seekers

The Swedish Migration Agency is bound by this legislation, which delineates its obligations in relation to the reception and assistance of individuals seeking asylum. The law guarantees that asylum seekers receive housing, financial aid, and medical care while their applications are being reviewed. Its objective is to establish a compassionate and nurturing atmosphere for those awaiting a determination on their asylum requests (SFS 1994:137).

The Health and Medical Services Act

The Act guarantees access to essential healthcare for all individuals residing within its jurisdiction, regardless of their immigration status. It includes provisions that prioritize the provision of urgent medical care, maternal healthcare, and healthcare related to pregnancy and childbirth for asylum seekers and undocumented migrants. This ensures that everyone, regardless of their legal status, has access to the necessary medical services they require (SFS 1982:763).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was integrated into Swedish law last year, places utmost importance on prioritizing the rights and well-being of children. This is especially crucial for migrant children, who are granted the right to receive education, healthcare, and safeguarding against exploitation and mistreatment. According to the convention, all actions involving children must consider their best interests (UNICEF, Sverige, 2020).

The implementation of EU Directives and Regulations

Sweden, being a part of the European Union, is obligated to adhere to various EU directives and regulations that safeguard the rights of migrants. Among these is the Dublin Regulation, which establishes the EU member state responsible for evaluating asylum applications, as well as directives concerning asylum procedures, reception conditions, and eligibility for international protection. These legal measures promote uniformity in asylum standards throughout the European Union, guaranteeing a cohesive approach to the protection of migrants (European Commission, 2023).

Global obligations

Having pledged its commitment to safeguarding the rights of migrants, Sweden has become a signatory to a multitude of international treaties and conventions. Of particular significance are the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, which bind Sweden to extend protection and aid to refugees (UNHCR, 2023). Furthermore, the European Convention on Human Rights, which has been enshrined in Swedish legislation, ensures the preservation of fundamental rights for all individuals under Sweden's jurisdiction, including migrants (Council of Europe, 2023).

Sweden's comprehensive framework of laws and commitments provides a strong safeguard for the rights and well-being of migrants. Through strict adherence to both domestic and global standards, Sweden upholds a standard of treating migrants with dignity and compassion, exemplifying the nation's unwavering dedication to human rights and equitable treatment.

3. Theory

This chapter will present the theories that will be used for this thesis.

3.1 Feminist Legal Theory

The exploration of law and its effects on gender equality, women's rights, and social justice is at the heart of feminist legal theory. This approach, which draws from various disciplines and is constantly evolving, delves into the intersection of feminism, scholarship, and activism. Its primary objective is to unveil and confront how the law both mirrors and sustains gender-based prejudice, inequality, and subjugation. By challenging legal norms, institutions, and procedures, feminist legal theory strives to foster gender parity and uplift marginalized groups and individuals (Fletcher, 2001, pp.1-2).

A fundamental principle of feminist legal theory is acknowledgment that law is not impartial, but rather mirrors and upholds prevailing power dynamics, encompassing those rooted in gender, race, class, sexuality, and other relevant identities. Throughout history, conventional legal systems have been molded by patriarchal norms and values, leading to the establishment of laws and legal principles that systematically marginalized women and perpetuated gender stereotypes and hierarchies (Fletcher, 2001, pp.1-2).

The reliance on formalism, objectivity, and universalism in traditional legal reasoning is subject to criticism by feminist legal theorists. These approaches frequently overshadow the varied experiences and viewpoints of women and marginalized communities (Fletcher, 2001, pp.3-4). Instead, feminist legal theory promotes a contextual and rational approach to law that acknowledges and considers the lived experiences of individuals and communities.

3.1.1 Feminist legal theory and migration

Through the lens of feminist legal theory, the experiences of female migrants from non-European nations can be analyzed, shedding light on the intricate interplay between gender, race, class, and nationality within the legal system. When it comes to migration, feminist legal theory emphasizes the significance of comprehending the distinct obstacles and susceptibilities encountered by migrant women, especially those from non-European countries. It advocates for legal and policy measures that are attuned to their specific needs and experiences (Fletcher, 2001, pp.3-4).

Throughout history, the significance of feminist legal theory cannot be overstated as it has been instrumental in questioning and reshaping legal standards and establishments that uphold gender-based bias and inequity. Nevertheless, the viewpoints and focal points of feminist legal theory have frequently been influenced by the encounters of women in the global north, leading to a Eurocentric prejudice that fails to acknowledge the unique circumstances faced by women from non-European nations, including migrants (Parrenas, Choi, 2015, pp.492-493).

The acknowledgment of the interrelatedness between gender, race, and various facets of identity is a fundamental principle within the feminist legal theory. This understanding is crucial in comprehending how women's encounters with the law and society are shaped. Specifically, for female migrants originating from non-European nations, their legal standing and experiences are intricately connected to matters concerning immigration laws, labor rights, refugee safeguards, and the ability to obtain fair treatment within the legal system (Parrenas, Choi, 2015, pp.492-493).

Female migrants from non-European countries often experience a convergence of discrimination and marginalization due to their gender, race, nationality, and socioeconomic status. They frequently confront systemic obstacles when it comes to obtaining legal status, finding employment, accessing education, healthcare, and social services. These barriers further increase their susceptibility to exploitation, violence, and various Human Rights infringements (Parrenas, Choi, 2015, p.491-493).

The voices and perspectives of migrant women from non-European countries have been overlooked by traditional legal frameworks, according to critics from feminist legal theorists. These frameworks, rooted in notions of universal citizenship, national identity, and cultural homogeneity, fail to address the unique needs and experiences of women from diverse cultural backgrounds (Parrenas, Choi, 2015, pp.491-494).

Migrant women, especially those who lack proper documentation or are considered irregular migrants, often find themselves at the center of immigration law enforcement and policies. Unfortunately, this targeting and criminalization only serve to push them further into the margins of society, denying them access to necessary legal protections and services. The

policies surrounding immigration detention, deportation, and family separation have far-reaching effects on these women and their families, perpetuating a cycle of trauma and instability (Calavita, 2006, pp.111-112).

To address these obstacles, proponents of feminist legal theory have urged the adoption of an all-encompassing and intersectional approach to immigration law and policy. This approach acknowledges the intricate experiences of female migrants originating from non-European nations. It entails advocating for changes that prioritize the safeguarding of women migrants' rights, encompassing provisions for secure migration routes, labor safeguards, social support, and avenues for attaining legal status and citizenship (Calavita, 2006, pp.115-116).

In addition, the significance of prioritizing the perspectives and autonomy of migrant women in the creation and execution of legal and policy remedies is underscored by feminist legal theory. This entails actively involving oneself in migrant communities, cultivating alliances and support systems, and elevating the narratives and viewpoints of marginalized women in advocacy endeavors (Conaghan, 2016, pp.31-32).

To summarize, feminist legal theory presents a lens through which we can comprehend and tackle the challenges faced by female migrants from non-European nations in the larger framework of migration and Human Rights. By questioning Eurocentric prejudices, promoting intersectional perspectives, and prioritizing the narratives of migrant women, feminist legal theory actively contributes to the continuous fight for fairness, parity, and respect for every individual, irrespective of their migration status or identity (Fletcher, 2001, pp.3-4).

3.2 Transnational Feminism

Transnational feminism is an exuberant and ever-evolving framework in the realm of feminist theory and activism that surpasses geographical limitations to confront the interwoven structures of power, inequality, and oppression that mold the lives of women on a global scale. In contrast to conventional feminism, which concentrates on gender-based discrimination within a singular nation-state, transnational feminism acknowledges the intricate nature of women's encounters across a wide array of cultural, political, and economic circumstances (Zerbe Enns et al. 2021, p. 11).

The essence of transnational feminism lies in its mission to confront the confines of parochial nationalism and ethnocentrism within the realm of feminist dialogue. It recognizes the interconnectedness of women's battles across boundaries and places great significance on unity, cooperation, and an international approach to combating the multifaceted oppressions experienced by women globally (Zerbe Enns et al. 2021, pp.11-12).

The intersectional approach is a fundamental aspect of transnational feminism, acknowledging that individuals encounter various forms of privilege and oppression due to factors like race, class, nationality, sexuality, religion, and ability. Transnational feminists emphasize how these intersecting aspects of identity influence women's encounters with discrimination, inequality and violence, both within their own countries and across international borders (Zerbe Enns et al. 2021, pp.14-15).

The field of transnational feminism also investigates the consequences of globalization, neoliberal capitalism, colonialism, imperialism, and other dominant systems on the lives and rights of women across the globe. It delves into how economic strategies, political frameworks, and societal conventions sustain gender-based inequities and amplify disparities within and among nations (Mason, 2017, p.63).

The focal points of transnational feminism revolve around migration and diaspora, shedding light on the journeys of women who navigate through various cultural, social, and political environments. Transnational feminists place special emphasis on the intersections of migration with gender, race, class, and nationality, as these factors mold women's encounters with labor, displacement, violence, and identity. They actively support the rights of migrant women and women within diaspora communities, questioning and opposing restrictive immigration policies, xenophobia, and the criminalization of migration (Mason, 2017, pp.63-64).

The significance of transnational activism and advocacy in addressing women's issues on a global scale is a key focus of transnational feminism. This approach involves forming alliances and networks among feminist activists, organizations, and movements across borders to tackle shared concerns, exchange resources and amplify the voices of marginalized groups. Transnational feminists employ various strategies, such as advocacy campaigns,

grassroots organizing, legal advocacy, and cultural interventions to challenge oppressive systems and advance social justice and equality.

3.2.1 Transnational Feminism and Migration

The narratives of non-European female migrants residing in Sweden provide valuable insights into the intricate interplay between gender, race, nationality, and migration status within Swedish society. These women frequently encounter intersecting forms of prejudice and exclusion, stemming from their migrant status and their identities as women of color. Their stories bring to the forefront numerous instances of Human Rights infringements, such as limited access to healthcare, education, employment opportunities, and social welfare, alongside experiences of racism, xenophobia, and gender-related violence (Tibajev, Nygård, 2023, pp.1-2).

Taking a transnational feminist perspective, it is of utmost importance to acknowledge the worldwide influences that mold migration trends and affect the experiences of migrant women. Factors such as economic disparities, political strife, environmental deterioration, and the lingering effects of colonialism all play a role in the uprooting and movement of individuals from non-European nations to Sweden and similar destinations. Once in Sweden, migrant women must navigate through a complex web of intersecting oppressions that marginalize and disempower them, frequently relegating them to the fringes of society (Tibajev, Nygård, 2023, pp.2-3).

4. Methodology

In this chapter, a thorough examination of the methodology utilized in this study is presented, focusing on the exploration of the encounters of migrant women in Sweden with various manifestations of Human Rights violations within Swedish society, and the evaluation of international Human Rights frameworks in protecting their rights. To ensure a comprehensive understanding of the research problem and to effectively address the research questions, a qualitative method approach was adopted. The chapter commences by providing an overview of the research design, sampling strategy, data collection, data analysis, source criticism, interview design, and ethical considerations (Bahandari, 2020).

The thesis will base the study on some relevant parts of the SOU report that address migrants' experiences in Sweden and the challenges they experience in society, which are the labor market and working life for migrants, integration, and care and support for migrants. Although the report does not specifically focus on women's experience, it does bring up important experiences that can also be implemented for women migrating to Sweden, as there is not enough data from Sweden on this topic (SOU 2005:56).

4.1 Qualitative Research

To delve into the experiences of migrant women in Sweden concerning Human Rights violations and the efficacy of Human Rights frameworks in protecting their rights, this study will employ qualitative research methods and case study analysis. Qualitative research is an ideal approach for examining intricate societal phenomena, such as migration and Human Rights abuse against women, as it facilitates a thorough exploration of individual perspectives, experiences, and contexts. Complementing qualitative research, case study analysis offers detailed insights into cases, enabling a comprehensive examination of the interplay between individual experiences and broader social, political, and structural factors. This section outlines how qualitative research methods and case study analysis will be utilized in this study to accomplish its research objectives (Bahandari, 2020).

The use of qualitative research offers a valuable opportunity to delve into the viewpoints, encounters, and driving forces of participants. By capturing intricate and thorough data, this method enlightens insights that may be overlooked by quantitative approaches, enabling researchers to grasp the underlying context and significance of behaviors and attitudes. This

approach proves indispensable when investigating complex social phenomena and cultivating comprehensive and detailed understandings (Bahandari, 2020).

The essence of qualitative research lies in its dedication to delving into the subjective encounters, significances, and interpretations of individuals within their genuine surroundings. To comprehensively understand the experiences of migrant women in Sweden, this study will employ qualitative research techniques, specifically semi-structured interviews. These interviews offer a versatile structure for exploring the viewpoints of participants, enabling the revelation of unforeseen insights and themes. It is of utmost importance to conduct these interviews with cultural sensitivity, recognizing and respecting the diverse backgrounds and experiences of the individuals involved (Bahandari, 2020).

To elicit a comprehensive understanding of the experiences, viewpoints, and obstacles forced by women in Sweden who have been subjected to Human Rights violations due to migration, structured questions will be utilized during the interview process. The interviews will delve into various aspects, including the migration process, inclusivity in society, strategies for coping, interactions with support networks, and perspectives on the protection of Human Rights. By employing this approach, the qualitative data gathered will offer a nuanced comprehension of the real-life encounters of migrant women and the intricate nature of their interactions with Human Rights abuse (Bahandari, 2020).

4.2 Case Study

Examining a specific subject or entity, such as an individual, group, event or organization in great detail over a designated timeframe is the essence of a case study. The primary objective is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the intricacies associated with the subject being analyzed. Case studies play a significant role in research by offering a thorough exploration of contextual factors and revealing insights that may be disregarded in more broad and generalized studies. They are an invaluable tool for generating profound, contextual knowledge and investigating causal mechanisms within real-life situations (Orum et al., 2016, pp.1-3).

It is important to acknowledge the limitations of case studies. The conclusions drawn from a case study are typically confined to specific circumstances and may not be readily applicable

to different scenarios. Additionally, the extensive examination of a single case may present difficulties in distinguishing between distinctive and common characteristics, thereby restricting the wider relevance of the findings. However, despite these constraints, case studies retain their efficacy as a valuable approach for delving into intricate matters and offering meaningful perspectives that contribute to both theory and practical applications (Orum et al., 2016, pp.1-3).

4.2.1 Case selection

The choice of Sweden as the focal point of this research is based on its well-known global standing as a country dedicated to upholding equality, Human Rights, and social welfare. Renowned for its progressive social policies and exceptional living standards, Sweden serves as an intriguing and contrasting case when exploring the Human Rights challenges faced by female migrants from non-European countries (Goldschmidt, 2021, pp.1-3).

Examining Sweden as a case study presents a captivating opportunity to delve into the intersection of migration, gender, and Human Rights within a context that outwardly supports these principles. The objective of this case study is to provide valuable insights that can inform policy discussions on migration and integration, both within Sweden and on an international scale. Specifically, it aims to shed light on the protection and empowerment of female migrants from non-European countries. By focusing on these aspects, the research seeks to contribute to the ongoing conversation surrounding Human Rights and social justice, underscoring the significance of aligning policy with action to ensure that individuals from all backgrounds can fully exercise their fundamental rights and liberties (Goldschmidt, 2021, pp.2-4).

4.3 Source Criticism

To present a thorough examination of Human Rights violence against women within the context of migration, the thesis incorporates a wide array of resources. These include international treaties, academic literature, and reports from esteemed organizations such as the United Nations. This approach ensures a comprehensive overview of the subject matter. Incorporating the most recent literature and staying up-to-date with developments in the field, showcases a dedication to incorporating current research and keeping abreast of evolving trends. The thesis draws upon a range of reliable sources that provide a strong basis for the

research, enabling a comprehensive analysis of Human Rights frameworks, legal instruments, and the lived experiences of migrant women in Sweden.

To enhance the critical assessment of the information presented, it may be advantageous to engage in a more explicit dialogue regarding the potential biases or limitations of the chosen sources. Although the sources offer valuable insights, delving into the multitude of perspectives within the literature would allow for a more comprehensive and nuanced examination of gender-based violence in migration. By addressing these critiques through a thorough evaluation of the sources' reliability, inclusivity, and potential biases, the research's overall validity and rigor would be fortified.

4.4 Interview Analysis

The interviews conducted for the thesis are semi-structured. The interviews conducted have been done in Swedish as it is the language that was easier for the participants to express themselves in (see Appendix 2 for the original citations). The work was then translated into English. Therefore, I have in mind that the sentence structures may differ slightly from Swedish to English.

It is crucial to note that the interviews conducted for this project are limited to only two individuals, serving as more of examples and not representative of everyone's experiences, as no additional individuals were interviewed for this study.

4.4.1 Handling of Personal Data

Interview 1

The initial interview was conducted with an organization representative who willingly chose not to remain anonymous. This allowed for the inclusion of their information in the thesis. When asked about anonymity, the representative expressed a willingness to be identified. The interview was recorded, and transcribed, and then the data will be securely deleted from the computer once the assignment is concluded.

Interview 2

To safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of the individuals who were interviewed, the data has been presented in a manner that guarantees anonymity. Pseudonyms were employed, and the exact location was deliberately omitted. Following the transcription and analysis of the interviews, the digital recordings will be securely deleted from the computer once the assignment is concluded, and any personal information is removed from the transcripts.

4.4.2 Interview Design

In this study, a semi-structured interview methodology is utilized to delve into the intricate issues of migrant rights and Human Rights violations, with a specific focus on female migrants from non-European countries residing in Sweden. By employing thematic inquiries, the interviews explore various aspects of the participants' experiences. Beginning with an examination of organizational involvement, subsequent sections delve into the challenges encountered upon arrival, Human Rights violations, critical analysis of legal and political frameworks, intersectionality, available support networks, and recommendations for enhancement. This methodological approach enables a comprehensive comprehension of the multifaceted nature of migrant women's experiences, offering valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders (Bahandari, 2020).

4.4.3 Selection of Interviewees

To ensure a broader diversity in the study, the interview participants were carefully selected based on their diverse backgrounds. This included choosing a representative from an organization focused on advocating for migrants, as well as an individual who had personally migrated to Sweden from a non-European country. The intention behind this deliberate approach was to gather a wide range of perspectives and enhance the data collection process with varied insights. By incorporating viewpoints from both organizational stakeholders and migrant individuals, the study aimed to provide a holistic understanding of the challenges surrounding migrant rights in Sweden.

Interviewee 1

In the interview, the representative from RBUF (Save the Children's Youth Association) and RB (Save the Children), Charlotta Andersson sheds light on the organization's dedication to upholding children's rights by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. RBUF places a special emphasis on the projects aimed at supporting children with migration backgrounds,

advocating for their rights, and working towards government adherence to these rights. This highlights RBUF's unwavering commitment to meeting the unique needs of migrant children and youth, particularly girls who have experienced migration.

Interviewee 2

In this interview, the interviewee delves into the shared experiences encountered by individuals who have recently arrived in Sweden, with a particular emphasis on the feelings of being an outsider and the challenges of assimilation, particularly in areas where the Swedish population is the majority. They shine a spotlight on obstacles such as limited job opportunities, the presence of Islamophobia, and the perception of immigrants as being inferior. Furthermore, they draw attention to the vulnerability of female migrants from non-European countries, who are at risk of Human Rights violations including discrimination, sexual exploitation, and a lack of support systems. The interviewee proposes that policymakers prioritize the reinforcement of migrants' rights at the borders and the provision of targeted assistance, such as education and mental health services, to address their unique needs. They stress the significance of listening to the voices of migrants and closely monitoring their journeys to ensure their well-being and successful integration into society.

4.4.4 Ethical Consideration

When carrying out this study, it was of utmost importance to strictly adhere to ethical guidelines and comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Ethical considerations encompassed protecting the privacy and confidentiality of participants' data, obtaining informed consent, and safeguarding against any potential harm or exploitation. To ensure GDPR compliance, explicit consent was obtained from participants for the sole purpose of collecting, processing, and storing their data for research. Measures were implemented, such as anonymizing data, securely storing information, and restricting access, to prevent any unauthorized use or disclosure of data beyond the scope of the research. These measures uphold the principles of research integrity and data protection.

A consent form was provided to the participants prior to the interviews to obtain their formal agreement to participate in the study (see appendix 1).

5. Analysis

Using a combination of qualitative research methods and case study analysis, the thesis delves into the experience of migrant women in Sweden who have been subjected to various forms of Human Rights violations. Its objective is to assess the effectiveness of International Human Rights frameworks in safeguarding the rights of these women. By providing a context for the research problem and outlining the methodology, the thesis establishes a foundation for a thorough exploration of migration, intersectionality, women's rights, and the socio-political environment in Sweden.

The analysis will focus on using qualitative data insights to depict migrant women's lived experiences. This method will improve knowledge of how these frameworks work in real-world circumstances and the issues experienced by migratory women.

5.1 Discrimination

Through the interviews conducted for the thesis, I obtained personal insights from people who have experienced and seen what women from non-European countries experience in Sweden. When the first interviewee was asked about common experiences female migrants from non-European countries encounter in Sweden, she replied:

Interview 1

If you wear a hijab, it's usually worse for a lot of people, but it can also be a visible expression. That's one part you encounter. And there are also a lot of things that you might not have gotten as a child. Both as a child and as an adult, but you get information about what rights you have or how to claim them. That could be in school, for example.

On the same question, The second interviewee 2 answered:

Depending on where you live in Sweden. If you live in a place that is very segregated, or you live in a place where the Swedish population is more, you feel less excluded. So when it comes to exclusion, we all have the same experience. When you come from another country, being an outsider is much, much stronger in areas where there is a majority of Swedes and when it is more segregated, there are both advantages and disadvantages. But yes, I would probably say the exclusion.

She also followed up with:

And another thing could also be, the struggle to fit in, to constantly fit in in areas that are predominantly Swedish or in schools that are predominantly Swedish because you are from another country, you look a certain way, and so on. But also the struggle to constantly show that you can and that you are just as good. That you are not the same as all the other “bad” immigrants, so to speak.

In discussing the experiences of female migrants in the answer above, interviewee 1 draws attention to the pervasive problem of racism, which manifests in multiple areas of society such as schools, authorities, and the job market. Specifically, underscoring the challenges faced by women who wear hijabs, and noting an increase in discrimination. The lack of access to information about their rights and inadequate support further compound the hardships experienced by migrant women, ultimately leaving them more vulnerable.

Interviewee 1 comment highlights the prevalence of discrimination based on cultural and religious identity. "Det blågula glashuset" delves into the same topic, shedding light on the heightened discrimination and exclusion faced by visible minorities who adhere to specific cultural or religious practices (SOU 2005:56, pp. 75-76).

The insight provided by Interviewee 2 regarding the division of society based on geography and social factors aligns with the analysis presented in "Det blågula glashuset" concerning the discriminatory aspects of spatial dynamics. Extensive research has emphasized the role of residential segregation in perpetuating social marginalization, especially in regions where Swedish natives are densely concentrated (SOU 2005:56, pp. 78-79). The interviewee's story illustrates the impact of this segregation on feelings of exclusion and alienation in a vivid way, showing a clear link between living conditions and social integration.

Sweden has established a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework that safeguards the well-being and rights of migrants, merging national laws with global agreements. This all-encompassing system ensures that migrants are treated with dignity and receive the necessary support and safety throughout their time in the country. At the core of this framework lies the Aliens Act (2005:716), which forms the foundation of Swedish immigration legislation. This law meticulously defines the legal boundaries for non-citizens entering and residing in Sweden, addressing various matters such as visas, residence permits,

work permits, and the entitlements granted to asylum seekers. The Aliens Act holds significant importance as it explicitly guarantees protection for individuals who face the threat of persecution or severe harm in their home countries, aligning with international norms outlined in the 1951 Refugee Convention and principles of subsidiary protection. Through this Act, Sweden demonstrates its unwavering commitment to providing refuge for those escaping persecution and grave danger, thus fulfilling its international responsibilities (2005:716).

The Asylum Act, which contemplates the comprehensive Aliens Act, focuses specifically on the intricacies of the asylum procedure. This legislation guarantees a fair, comprehensive, and impartial assessment of asylum claims for individuals seeking refuge in Sweden. It outlines the necessary steps for submitting and handling asylum applications, incorporating provisions that guarantee access to legal assistance and the right to appeal decisions. Consequently, the Asylum Act serves as a cornerstone in protecting the rights of asylum seekers, exemplifying Sweden's unwavering commitment to human rights and adherence to both EU directives and international human rights law. Through meticulous structuring, this legislation not only ensures an efficient asylum process but also upholds the fundamental principle that every individual's claim merits thoughtful consideration (2005:716).

5.2 Intersectionality

The concept of intersectionality is essential to understanding the complexity of oppression faced by marginalized groups. In the context of immigrant women, intersectionality enables analysis beyond gender to include other aspects of identity such as race, ethnicity, class, and immigration status. This is essential to fully addressing the levels of discrimination these women face (de los Reyes & Mulinari, 2020, p. 190).

Intersectionality is not only a theoretical tool but also a practical approach that can inform policy and social interventions to address these heightened inequalities (de los Reyes & Mulinari, pp. 190-101). By incorporating an intersectional lens, feminist movements and legal frameworks can better address the specific needs and challenges of immigrant women and ensure that their voices are considered in the fight against systemic discrimination. When addressing the issue of Human Rights violations, interviewee 1 highlights the intersectionality of racism with other types of violence, such as the discrimination faced by

migrant women in the job market. This demonstrates the presence of systemic obstacles that impede the complete fulfillment of Human Rights for female migrants in Sweden, particularly when it comes to accessing employment prospects.

Migrant women in Sweden are facing inequalities inside towers of cultural plus patriarchal structures, reinforcing gender inequalities. These women often face the containment of restrictive gender roles within their communities of belonging and simultaneously fight against the oppressive norms evident in Swedish society. The dual burden sets many forces of expectations on these women to achieve gender equality (Ålund, Alinia, 2011, pp. 43-44). Through high pressures of demands both from within cultural traditions and from social-external prejudices, their autonomy becomes constrained and makes women more vulnerable to the discourses portraying them as passive victims of the culture, hence depriving them of substantial agency and very limited civic participation. Such framings mostly result in initiatives that focus on 'saving' instead of involving migrant women in advocacy work and, therefore, limiting their civic engagement (Ålund, Alinia, 2011, pp. 45-46).

In contrast, many of the migrant women actively resist patriarchal norms, both within their communities and in Swedish society. They work to reshape gender roles and advocate for gender equality in the narratives about their roles as women and citizens (Ålund, Alinia, 2011, pp. 47-48).

Interview 1

When you come to Sweden as an adult, you are counted as a job seeker from day one. That is, you are not counted as a refugee. You're a job seeker from day one and you're not asked about how you're feeling, about perhaps trauma, and what you need for your children or ask your children what they need.

Interview 1

It's just, how are we going to fit this person into society? On our terms, not on their terms, and that you are just shuttled around between authorities. You have a lot of difficult paperwork and processes that you have to go through and where you are often left without support to go through them. It often happens as I have worked with new families.

The legal and political systems in Sweden are being criticized for their failure to adequately address the rights and protection of female migrants. Interviewee 1 points out that there is a lack of attention given to Human Rights protection and a failure to take into account the individual needs and vulnerabilities of migrant women. The focus on employment-seeking status upon arrival neglects their well-being and does not provide sufficient support.

On the same topic, Interviewee 2 highlighted the insufficiency of existing legal and political structures when it comes to safeguarding the rights of these women. There is a demand for enhanced safeguards, commencing at the borders, to guarantee that migrant women are knowledgeable about and able to assert their rights. The vulnerability of these women is intensified by intersecting factors such as race, ethnicity, religion, and socioeconomic status, resulting in heightened instances of discrimination and xenophobia.

The vulnerability of female migrants to Human Rights violations is intensified by the intersection of gender with factors such as race, ethnicity, religion, and socioeconomic status. An illustration of systemic biases can be seen in the discrimination faced by women who wear hijab, which hinders their ability to secure employment and receive societal support.

Due to factors such as the loss of human capital in the asylum process and health problems, economic integration is slower for them (Bevelander, 2020, pp. 1-7). Even though labor market outcomes show that resettled refugee women initially experience some kind of slow start in the labor market, long-term dynamics can significantly improve their employment prospects. The results emphasize the need for policies specially designed to address individual barriers (Bevelander, 2011, p. 35).

A significant issue within Sweden's integration policies is brought to attention by this statement, as it emphasizes the oversight of newcomers' mental health and trauma needs due to their immediate classification as job seekers. "Det blågula glashuset" also sheds light on similar concerns, highlighting the insufficient care and support provided to migrants, particularly women, due to the absence of comprehensive support systems tailored to their specific needs (SOU 2005:56, pp. 80-81). This systemic neglect has the potential to impede successful integration and overall well-being.

Interviewee 1 highlights the inadequacy and lack of specificity in the support systems available to female migrants in Sweden, particularly those provided by the Migration Agency. Municipalities' assistance varies and often fails to adequately address the unique needs of women and children within migrant families. This emphasizes the necessity for tailored support mechanisms that are attuned to the diverse experiences of migrant women.

When providing suggestions for improvements, interviewee 1 proposes a comprehensive strategy for assistance, acknowledging the unique requirements of every member of the family, especially women. They urge a change in mindset, moving away from perceiving migrants solely as individuals seeking employment and instead prioritizing their welfare and offering appropriate support. By underscoring the significance of consulting the target demographic to gain a deeper understanding of their needs, they highlight their proficiency in identifying essential interventions.

Interview 1

The Migration Agency is not a resource, I would say. But if you get a residence permit or come as a quota refugee and already have a residence permit and are placed in a municipality, then you get some help from the municipality. It also varies greatly from municipality to municipality in Sweden how much help you get. But I would say that in most places it is not enough, nor is it specific. It's not specific to women or children, but just, this family gets this basic help.

Interview 1

You don't look at what the children specifically need? Or what would the women specifically need that I think should be done because as we talked about, there are different layers of oppression and discrimination, also how the situation can be like for children or women. As far as I know, it doesn't exist. There are various projects run by different civil organizations or perhaps study associations and so on, but nothing that is state or municipal.

Interviewee 2 also noted that it is essential to customize support systems and available resources to cater to the unique requirements of individuals, encompassing education, healthcare, and psychological assistance. Interviewee 2 emphasizes the significance of policymakers attentively considering the needs of migrant women, rather than imposing

ill-suited programs. The interviewee underscores the critical role of mental health support in aiding women in managing trauma and enhancing their overall circumstances.

The research, "Det blågula glashuset" serves as a testament to the disparities in municipal support and its influence on the integration of migrant families (SOU 2005:56, pp. 78-79).

This research highlights the lack of standardized support specifically designed for women and children, further emphasizing the necessity for more cohesive and inclusive policies.

The publication promotes the implementation of focused interventions that take into account the specific obstacles faced by women and children, acknowledging the intricate relationship between oppression and discrimination (SOU 2005:56, pp. 80-81). The interviewee's criticism of the existing support system underscores the ongoing shortcomings in adequately addressing these requirements.

In order to enhance the assistance provided to migrants, Sweden has implemented the Social Services Act (SFS 2001:453), which guarantees access to social services for all individuals, including newly arrived migrants. This legislation requires municipalities to offer essential support, such as housing, financial aid, and social services, to those in need. It specifically prioritizes the well-being of vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied minors and families with children, ensuring that they receive the necessary care and assistance. As a crucial component of Sweden's comprehensive migrant welfare system, this Act plays a significant role in promoting the integration and overall welfare of migrants as they navigate their new surroundings (SFS: 2001:453).

The Law on Reception of Asylum Seekers, in conjunction with the Social Services Act, delineates the responsibilities of the Swedish Migration Agency in furnishing indispensable assistance to individuals seeking asylum. By guaranteeing access to housing, financial assistance, and healthcare, this legislation establishes a compassionate and nurturing atmosphere for asylum seekers awaiting the outcome of their applications. Sweden's unwavering dedication to the humane treatment of migrants is exemplified by the Law on Reception of Asylum Seekers, which embodies the nation's broader humanitarian principles (SFS 2001:453).

5.2.1 Feminist Legal Theory

From a feminist legal perspective, the theory places significant emphasis on the concept of intersectionality, which involves considering how various identities, such as gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and socioeconomic status, intersect and influence individuals' experiences within the legal system. Through the interviews I made, their narratives likely reveal how their experiences of migration, discrimination, and Human Rights violations are shaped by multiple intersecting factors. For instance, women who wear hijab may encounter not only gender-based discrimination but also Islamophobia, demonstrating the intersection of gender and religion. By examining these interesting identities, feminist legal theory effectively sheds light on the intricate and interconnected nature of migrants' encounters with Human Rights violations in Sweden (Fletcher, 2001, pp.1-2).

Feminist legal theory also delves into the way individuals comprehend and maneuver through the legal system, especially when it comes to seeking justice for rights infringements. During interviews, migrant women may recount their encounters with legal sources, interactions with authorities, or involvement with support networks. Through their stories, potential obstacles to accessing justice, such as language barriers, limited knowledge of legal rights, or apprehension of reprisal, may come to light. By examining the legal consciousness of migrant women, feminist legal theory can pinpoint areas where legal empowerment falls short and advocate for initiatives that enhance access to justice and support services for marginalized communities (Parreans, Choi, 2015, pp.491-494).

5.2.3 Transnational Feminism Theory

Through a transnational feminism perspective, the theory recognizes the interdependence of social, political, and economic factors that transcend national boundaries. During the interviews, migrant women may delve into the global factors that compel them to migrate to Sweden, including economic disparities, conflict, environmental deterioration, and globalization. Through their stories, I can gain an insight into how these transnational forces shape their journey of displacement, resettlement, and assimilation into Swedish society. By situating migration within a wider global context, transnational feminism sheds light on the systemic inequities and power dynamics that impact the lives of migrant women (Tiabejv, Nygård, 2023, pp.1-3).

5.3 Violations of Human Rights

The rights of migrant women in Sweden are frequently violated, resulting in a loss of well-being and access to justice. These violations are intertwined and intersect with various aspects of their identities, such as gender, race ethnicity, nationality, and immigration status. By analyzing these infringements using international Human Rights frameworks like UDHR, CEDAW, ICCPR, and ICESCR, I can comprehend the systematic obstacles that migrant women in Sweden face. This understanding highlights the pressing need for legal and policy reforms to safeguard their rights (SOU 2005:56, pp. 80-83).

5.3.1 Violations of the Right to Equality and Non-Discrimination (UDHR, CEDAW)

The lives of migrant women in Sweden are often marred by discrimination across multiple domains, including employment, housing, healthcare, education, and access to public services. This discrimination is deeply entrenched and stems from the complex interplay of factors such as gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, and immigration status. These intersecting elements further compound their vulnerabilities and marginalization within Swedish society (SOU 2005:56, pp. 80-81). The right to equality and non-discrimination, as mentioned in Article 2 of the UDHR, is meant to safeguard against such injustices (United Nations, 1948). Additionally, CEDAW explicitly prohibits discrimination in all its forms and calls for the eradication of gender-based stereotypes and prejudices. However, despite these legal obligations, migrant women continue to endure unequal treatment and face systemic barriers that impede their opportunities and curtail their rights (United Nations, 1979).

5.3.2 Violations of the Right to Freedom from Violence and Exploitation (UDHR, CEDAW)

These acts of violence directly violate their fundamental right to be free from any form of torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, as outlined in Article 5 of UDHR (United Nations, 1948) and Article 2 of CEDAW. Additionally, migrant women may encounter obstacles when attempting to access justice, protection, and support services due to language barriers, limited knowledge about their rights, fear of reprisal, and a lack of trust in law enforcement authorities. This lack of accountability only serves to perpetuate their susceptibility to violence and exploitation, eroding their sense of safety, independence, and dignity (United Nations, 1979).

5.3.3 Violations of the Right to Work and Just and Favorable Conditions of Work (UDHR, ICESCR)

Migrant women in Sweden encounter various barriers that hinder their ability to secure decent work and attain economic autonomy. Discrimination in the labor market, along with limited job prospects and unstable working conditions, serve as obstacles to their employment opportunities (SOU 2005:56, pp. 254-256). These infringements not only violate their right to work but also undermine the principles outlined in Article 23 of the UDHR (United Nations, 1948) and Article 7 of the ICESCR (United Nations, 1966). Wage disparities, workplace harassment, and exploitation further exacerbate the economic vulnerability and reliance of migrant women on exploitative employers. Additionally, stringent immigration policies and work permit requirements impede their access to legal employment and social safeguards, forcing them into precarious and informal work arrangements that offer little or no legal protections.

5.3.4 Violations of the Right to Standard Living (UDHR, ICESCR)

Migrant women residing in Sweden may encounter infringements upon their economic and social entitlements, encompassing the right to social security and a satisfactory level of living. Their well-being and social integration are compromised by discriminatory practices, insufficient social protection measures, and limited availability of healthcare, housing, and social services (SOU 2005:56, pp.199-200). These transgressions run counter to the rights to social security and an adequate standard of living guaranteed by Article 22 of the UDHR (United Nations, 1948) and Article 11 of the ICESCR (United Nations, 1966). Overcoming language and cultural barriers, lack of documentation, and the fear of deportation presents migrant women with significant obstacles when seeking healthcare, exacerbating existing health disparities and heightening their susceptibility to illness and exploitation.

5.4 Human Rights Violations within Swedish Society from a Feminist Legal Theory Perspective

By examining the experiences of female migrants from non-European countries in Sweden, we gain a deep understanding of the complex and diverse nature of Human Rights violations within Swedish society. Taking a feminist legal theory perspective, qualitative interviews and case study analysis reveal the different forms of Human Rights violations and structural disparities that disproportionately impact migrant women (Fletcher, 2001, pp.1-2).

The interviews shed light on a significant issue: the widespread discrimination and marginalization experienced by migrant women in various aspects of Swedish society. Charlotta Andersson, a Save the Children representative, highlighted the challenges faced by migrant women, particularly those who wear hijabs, in schools, interactions with authorities, and the job market. This discrimination is influenced by factors such as gender, religion, and ethnicity, resulting in obstacles to their social integration and involvement (Bahandari, 2020).

In addition, the interviews also shed light on the systemic obstacles faced by migrant women when trying to access job opportunities and social services. The stories shared by these women highlight the insufficiency of the support systems provided by the Swedish Migration Agency and local municipalities. Concerns were raised by the interviewees regarding the lack of tailored assistance, especially for women and children within migrant families. This failure to address the specific needs of migrant women goes against their rights to social security and a decent standard of living, as stipulated in international Human Rights instruments like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (United Nations, 1966).

In addition, the stories of migrant women shed light on the widespread occurrence of violence and exploitation based on gender in Swedish society. These infringements upon the rights to health and freedom from violence are inconsistent with the fundamental principles of gender equality and non-discrimination that are protected by international Human Rights legislation (United Nations, 1948).

The intersectional aspect of Human Rights violations is highlighted by the experiences of female migrants in Sweden, according to feminist legal theory. This underscores the necessity for comprehensive legal and policy measures. Traditional legal frameworks, as argued by feminist legal theorists, frequently neglect to acknowledge the distinct experiences and vulnerabilities faced by marginalized women, particularly those who are migrants. By prioritizing the perspectives and encounters of migrant women in conversations about Human Rights, policymakers and advocates can devise more focused and efficient strategies to tackle the underlying factors of discrimination, inequality, and violence within Swedish society (Parrenas, Choi, 2015, pp-491-494).

To sum up, the accounts of non-European female migrants in Sweden shed light on multiple instances of Human Rights abuses within Swedish society, especially when viewed through

the perspective of feminist legal theory. By conducting qualitative interviews and examining case studies, these accounts reveal the existence of structural obstacles to equality and fairness, emphasizing the necessity of holistic legal and policy measures that tackle the interconnected forms of discrimination and violence encountered by migrant women (Parrenas, Choi, 2015, pp-491-494).

5.5 Human Rights Violations within Swedish Society from a Transnational Feminist Theory

When examining the experiences of female migrants from non-European countries in Sweden using a transnational feminist perspective, it becomes clear that there are some Human Rights violations. This theory, which underscores the interdependence of global power dynamics and the significance of local circumstances, exposes the intricate ways in which gender, race, ethnicity, and migration status intersect to create specific types of marginalization and mistreatment in the lives of these women (Mason, 2017, p.63).

A pressing concern revolves around the widespread bias that migrant women in Sweden experience across various aspects of their lives. Interviews with representatives from organizations like Save the Children reveal that these women, especially those who visibly differ in terms of their clothing or cultural customs, face systematic discrimination in schools, workplaces, and interactions with authorities. This discrimination is not limited to isolated occurrences but rather reflects deeply rooted societal prejudices within Swedish society. These biases, encompassing racial and religious prejudices, intersect with gender to compound the disadvantages faced by migrant women (Zerbe Enns et al. 2021, pp.14-15).

The rights of migrant women in Sweden are frequently disregarded by the existing legal and institutional frameworks, leaving them even more susceptible to Human Rights abuses. The interviews conducted shed light on the fact that migrant women are often labeled as mere job seekers upon their arrival, without sufficient attention given to their specific needs, such as trauma recovery and family reunification. This failure to provide tailored support directly violates their entitlement to social security and a decent standard of living, as stipulated in both the UDHR (United Nations, 1948) and the ICESCR (United Nations, 1966).

The situation of migrant women in Sweden further sheds light on concerns surrounding the exploitation of labor and violations of workers' rights. Many migrant women find themselves

in vulnerable positions, working in low-paying jobs that subject them to various forms of abuse and mistreatment. Their limited access to legal remedies and support networks exacerbates their predicament, trapping them in cycles of poverty and victimization. These circumstances directly contradict the principles of equality and non-discrimination outlined in the CEDAW, which mandates that states ensure equal rights and opportunities for women, particularly in the realm of employment (United Nations, 1966).

The importance of intersectionality in comprehending the Human Rights infringements suffered by migrant women is underscored by transnational feminist theory. Intersectionality, a fundamental concept within transnational feminism, elucidates how different aspects of identity and oppression intersect to create distinct experiences of marginalization. Through interviews with migrant women, it becomes evident how their encounters with discrimination and violence are influenced by the intersection of their gender, race, ethnicity, and migration status. To illustrate, women who choose to wear hijabs not only encounter discrimination based on their gender but also face Islamophobia and racial prejudice, which collectively intensify their exclusion and susceptibility (Mason, 2017, pp.63-64).

In addition, the transnational feminist viewpoint highlights the importance of unity and collaborative measures spanning across boundaries to confront these violations of Human Rights. It acknowledges that the plight of migrant women in Sweden is just one piece of a larger global puzzle of inequity and wrongdoing, necessitating synchronized endeavors at both local and global scales. This encompasses the promotion of more robust legal safeguards, enhanced assistance programs, and heightened public consciousness regarding the unique obstacles encountered by migrant women (Mason, 2017, pp.63-65).

The experiences of non-European female migrants in Sweden, when analyzed from a transnational feminist perspective, uncover a complicated network of Human Rights abuses that stem from various forms of discrimination and systemic inequalities. These women's stories emphasize the pressing need for inclusive and intersectional approaches to Human Rights advocacy that tackle the unique vulnerabilities and obstacles faced by migrant women. By highlighting the interdependence of local and global power structures, transnational feminist theory offers a crucial framework for comprehending and addressing the multifaceted nature of these violations, ultimately demanding greater unity and collective

efforts to promote the rights and dignity of migrant women in Sweden and beyond (Tibajev, Nygård, 2023, pp.1-3).

Ultimately, immigrant women in Sweden are subjected to widespread and systematic discrimination, this is happening in multiple areas of their lives, including their racial, ethnic, religious, and economic status. These factors that intersect with them contribute to their marginalization, which results in significant Human Rights abuses that impede their ability to participate fully in society (SOU 2005:56, pp.199-205). The prejudice they encounter is widespread, including multiple domains of discrimination, including education, employment, and social integration. This is often compounded by the visible expression of religious and cultural identity. This widespread exclusion not only segregates them from the larger society, but also perpetuates cycles of poverty and dependence.

The analysis demonstrates the desperate need for more inclusive and intersectional approaches to advocating for human rights. It emphasizes the significance of recognizing the complex and multifaceted nature of the discrimination experienced by migrant women, advocating for formal changes that address these specific issues. Legal protections must be enhanced and implemented to ensure their rights to equality, non-discrimination, freedom from violence, and beneficial working conditions (Parrenas, Choi, 2015, pp-491-494).

Additionally, tailored support systems are essential to effectively address the singular concerns of migrant women. This involves making accessible information about their rights, ensuring consistent and sufficient assistance across cities, and addressing the mental health and trauma issues in employment and integration processes. By implementing these inclusive and intersectional strategies, the Swedish population can more easily support migrant women, by promoting their rights and dignity, and by creating an environment that is more equitable and inclusive.

6. Conclusion

To conclude the findings in the thesis, it is imperative to reexamine the research inquiries and consolidate the knowledge gained from both the theoretical framework and the data collected through the interviews. The research posed two questions:

In what ways do female migrants from non-European countries experience Human Rights violations within Swedish society? How does the International Human Rights framework address and safeguard the rights of migrant women in the face of such challenges?

To address these questions, the findings can be drawn from previous research, the theoretical frameworks of Feminist Legal Theory and Transnational Feminism, and the first-hand interviews conducted.

In Sweden, female migrants from non-European countries face Human Rights violations. These violations affect every aspect of their daily lives and are further intensified by their migrant status, gender, and often race. The research findings reveal that migrant women in Sweden confront systemic discrimination, encountering obstacles when attempting to access essential services such as healthcare, legal assistance, and employment opportunities. The presence of bureaucratic barriers and the absence of culturally sensitive services contribute to the marginalization of migrant women, who frequently find their fundamental rights disregarded. This recurring pattern of systemic neglect aligns with the principles of Feminist Legal Theory, which underscore how legal systems can perpetuate gender-based inequalities.

Throughout the interviews, a recurring theme emerged: gender-based violence is alarmingly widespread. Unfortunately, the fear of being deported and a lack of knowledge about their rights often hinder these women from seeking assistance, leaving them exposed to continued mistreatment. These findings underscore the viewpoints put forth by Transnational Feminism, which highlights the interconnected nature of different types of oppression and the increased awareness of migrant women. Instances of disregarding universally acknowledged laws connected to Human Rights, particularly those related to the right to employment and favorable working conditions, are widespread. Migrant women frequently encounter precarious employment circumstances, enduring exploitation, and unjust treatment. Testimonies from those interviewed revealed their involvement in low-paying occupations

that demanded extensive hours and offered no job stability. This economic exploitation violates their rights and sustains a cycle of impoverishment and reliance, rendering it arduous for them to break free from abusive environments.

The effectiveness of international Human Rights frameworks in safeguarding the rights of migrant women varies. While these frameworks establish comprehensive principles and rights, their practical application at the domestic level often faces obstacles. CEDAW and ICESCR serve as significant global protections. However, there exists a notable disparity between the standards outlined in these international agreements and their actual implementation at the national level. Sweden, despite being a signatory to these treaties, demonstrates inconsistency in upholding these rights. Interviews conducted reveal that migrant women have limited knowledge of their rights and legal protections, indicating a failure in effectively disseminating and implementing these international frameworks. The Swedish government's policies regarding the integration and rights of migrants frequently fall short of adequately addressing the unique requirements of women. To rectify this, an intersectional approach, as advocated by Transnational Feminism, becomes imperative. Policies must take into account the specific obstacles encountered by migrant women, such as their race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. Without the implementation of these tailored policies, migrant women will continue to be left vulnerable and overlooked.

The difficulties experienced by migrant women are intensified due to the uneven and insufficient assistance provided by various Swedish municipalities. The interviews have revealed substantial discrepancies in the availability and quality of these services, emphasizing the pressing requirement for uniform and all-encompassing policies that guarantee equal opportunities for support throughout the country. This discovery aligns with the suggestions put forth in "Det blågula glashuset," which advocates for tailored measures to cater to the distinct requirements of migrant women and children.

By integrating Feminist Legal Theory and Transnational Feminism with the data, a comprehension of the Human Rights infringements experienced by migrant women emerges. Feminist Legal Theory exposes the capacity of legal and institutional frameworks to perpetuate gender-based violence, while Transnational Feminism underscores the significance of acknowledging the intersections of identity and various forms of oppression.

The rights of migrant women are compromised by a complex interplay of institutionalized discrimination, gender-based violence, and economic exploitation. The impact of these factors undermines their rights and well-being. While international Human Rights frameworks provide important protections, their implementation within domestic contexts is inconsistent and insufficient. To effectively safeguard the rights of migrant women, it is important to establish stronger legal measures, enhance support services, and adopt intersectional policy approaches. By addressing these shortcomings, Sweden can fulfill its Human Rights obligations and ensure the safety and welfare of migrant women. This thesis contributes to the ongoing discussion on migration, gender, and Human Rights, emphasizing the necessity of inclusive and comprehensive policy development that leaves no one marginalized.

6.1 Further Research

To expand upon the findings of this study, future research could delve into comparative analyses to examine the different national contexts that affect female migrants. By using a broader collection of interviews and comparing Sweden to different countries, a broader understanding. Applying intersectional approaches will help understand the intricate challenges they face.

7. Bibliography

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Interview with Interviewee 1, physical meeting, April 22 2024.

Interview with Interviewee 2, via phone call, May 6 2024.

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8. Appendices

Appendix 1

Project title: “Protecting the Vulnerable: A Study of Women’s Experiences in Sweden”	Date: 22/4/2024
Study manager: Jehan Omar Mossa jehanomarmossa@gmail.com	Studying at Malmö University, Faculty of Culture and Society S-205 06 Malmö Education: Human Rights Level: Bachelor
<p>Information: My name is Jehan Omar Mossa and I am studying Human Rights at Malmö University. I am currently doing my bachelor’s degree. My supervisor during my research process is Jonna Pettersson.</p> <p>This paper aims to explore the experiences of female migrants from non-European countries in Sweden and if there are any Human Rights violations within Sweden and their process. By doing so I will use Feminist legal theory and Transnational feminism. This has been used by previous researchers in other countries such as the UK. Since there is very little research on migrant women in Sweden and their experiences within Swedish society, I hope to contribute to my thesis project on this subject.</p> <p>To learn and understand the experiences and perspectives of those women, I decided to conduct semi-structured interviews with two women. One is an anonymous woman who has experience of being a new migrant in Sweden and its challenges. The other one is a representative from an organization working closely with this matter. Through this organization, contact was formed with all the participants. The time of the interview will be between 30-45 minutes. One will be conducted online, using a video call tool, while the other interview will be done by meeting the interviewee.</p> <p>I will use the information collected in the interview for my thesis and only for that. Your participation in the study is completely voluntary. You can stop participating at any time and no explanation is necessary. I strive to guarantee confidentiality in the study in that no unauthorized person may have access to the material. The material is stored so that it is only accessible to the individual leading the study. In reporting of results in the form of a degree project paper at Malmö University/ or in another form of publication, the respondents will be unidentifiable, and it will not be possible to link the results to individuals. You are hereby asked to take part in this study.</p> <p>Yes, I want to participate in this study and interview. I understood what the research is about, and I understood that I could withdraw from the thesis interview at any time.</p> <p>Name of the participant:</p> <p>Signature: _____</p>	

Appendix 2

Citations that were translated:

Intervjuperson 1

“Om man har hijab så är det oftast värre för många, men det kan också vara ett synligt uttryck liksom. Det är en del man stöter på. Sen är det också mycket man kanske som barn inte har fått. Både som barn och vuxen, men att man får information om vilka rättigheter man har eller hur man ska utkräva dem. Det kan till exempel vara i skolan.”

Intervjuperson 2

“Beroende på var du bor i Sverige. Om du bor på en plats som är väldigt segregerad, eller du bor på en plats där den svenska befolkningen är mer, känner du dig mindre utanför. Så när det kommer till utanförskap har vi alla samma erfarenhet. När man kommer från ett annat land är det mycket, mycket starkare att vara en outsider i områden där det finns en majoritet av svenskar och när det är mer segregerat finns det både fördelar och nackdelar. Men ja, jag skulle nog säga uteslutningen.”

Intervjuperson 2

“Och en annan sak kan också vara, kampen för att passa in, att hela tiden passa in i områden som är övervägande svenska eller i skolor som är övervägande svenska för att man är från ett annat land, man ser ut på ett visst sätt och så vidare. Men också kampen för att hela tiden visa att man kan och att man är lika bra. Att man inte är densamma som alla andra ”dåliga” invandrare så att säga.”

Intervjuperson 1

“När du kommer till Sverige som vuxen räknas du som arbetssökande från dag ett. Det vill säga att man inte räknas som flykting. Du är arbetssökande från dag ett och du blir inte tillfrågad om hur du mår, om kanske trauma och vad du behöver. Vad du behöver för dina barn eller fråga dina barn vad de behöver.”

Intervjuperson 1

“Det är bara, hur ska vi passa in den här personen i samhället? På våra villkor, inte på deras villkor och att man bara skjutsas runt mellan myndigheter. Du har många svåra pappersarbete och processer som du måste gå igenom och där du ofta står utan stöd för att gå igenom dem. Det händer ofta då jag har jobbat med familjer som är nya.”

Intervjuperson 1

“Migrationsverket är ingen resurs skulle jag säga. Men om du får uppehållstillstånd eller kommer som kvotflykting och redan har uppehållstillstånd och är placerad i en kommun, då får du lite hjälp av kommunen. Det varierar också mycket från kommun till kommun i Sverige hur mycket hjälp man får. Men jag skulle säga att det på de flesta ställen inte räcker, och det är inte heller specifikt. Det är inte specifikt för kvinnor eller barn, men bara, den här familjen får den här grundläggande hjälpen.”

Intervjuperson 1

“Du tittar inte på vad barnen specifikt behöver? Eller vad skulle kvinnorna specifikt behöva som jag tycker egentligen borde göras för som vi pratade om så finns det olika lager av förtryck och diskriminering, även hur situationen kan vara för barn eller kvinnor. Så vitt jag vet finns det inte. Det finns olika projekt som drivs av olika civila organisationer eller kanske studieförbund och så vidare, men inget som är statligt eller kommunalt.”