

Sweden: Hand-shaking row over Muslim border inspector

A different attitude to that in Switzerland – the Swedes are much less confident about their own cultural standards. From the [SVT](#).

“He did not shake my hand when we said hello. I don’t want to speak more about it, because I have chosen to hand it over to management,” one of the female police officers working with the man told the broadcaster.

The man, meanwhile, accused some of his colleagues of discrimination.

A police spokesperson told The Local that the incident, which took place in mid-May, had been largely resolved.

“But the question as such probably lives on for many, because it’s a very small issue that is incredibly huge, or a huge issue that is very small, depending on where you are on your life journey,” said Ewa-Gun Westford. She added that there had been no complaints about the man’s work as a passport inspector, but that the row had led to national as well as regional police initiating discussions to address the general issue of reconciling religious faiths with gender equality.

“It took us in many ways by surprise. All parties are upset and sad, but we’re trying to resolve it through dialogue. The police is Sweden’s largest state organization, we want to and we have to embrace diversity,” said Westford.

“I myself have been a police officer for 45 years and have been through most stages of discrimination as a woman and I’m sure I have different views than, for example, a young woman. But it’s an important issue,” she said.