

Gender rights rolled back: Sweden ex-min.

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Former Swedish minister Ann Linde warned that hard-won gender rights were being rolled back across continents, and called upon people with a progressive mindset to confront the global trend.

Addressing journalists at the Bharat Summit in Hyderabad on Thursday, she described how the proportion of women in the European Parliament had dropped for the first time since its inception, and that the pattern was repeating elsewhere.

"The decline was neither accidental nor isolated. It is part of a broader global retreat from feminist ideals, one that progressives must directly confront," she said.

Linde, who led Sweden's feminist foreign policy during her time in office, pushed for structural fixes over cosmetic reforms.

Citing examples from trade, she explained how women's apparel attracted disproportionately higher tariffs than men's, without any reason except gender.

"A silk shirt for a woman could carry a tariff six times higher than its male equivalent," she said, adding that similar discrepancies existed in sportswear and underwear. These gaps, invisible unless gender disaggregated data is studied, are symptoms of how deep bias runs.



The panel discussion in progress at the summit.