



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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30 August 2018

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 96th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, pursuant to Article 9 (1) of the Convention, and Rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year of the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13 and 27 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/CYP/23-24), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined twenty-third and twenty-fourth periodic reports, at its 92nd session held in April-May 2017.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its twenty-fifth periodic report, to be submitted by 4 January 2020.

Paragraph 13 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee thanks the State party for the detailed information and statistics it provided. The Committee notes the repeal of section 8 of the Law on Combating Certain Forms and Expressions of Racism and Xenophobia by Means of Criminal Law, and the entry into force of Criminal Code section 35A, under which the court may take into account prejudicial motives based on race, color, national or ethnic origin or descent (inter alia) as an aggravating factor for any offence.

His Excellency Mr. George C. Kasoulides
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The Committee also notes the information provided by the State party concerning hate crime complaints and investigations and their outcomes from 2005-2017. The Committee encourages the State party to continue collecting this information, as well as information on the application of Criminal Code section 35A, and to provide updated statistics in its next periodic report. The Committee is concerned that the number of incidents motivated by nationality / ethnic origin has significantly increased in the past four years, and requests that the State party provide in its next periodic report information on efforts to address and prevent such incidents.

Paragraph 27 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee thanks the State party for the detailed information it provided concerning diversity and anti-racial discrimination trainings provided by the Ombudsman to police officers, immigration officers, prison guards, public administration officials, students, and others, and on various integration and anti-racism lectures, trainings and initiatives conducted by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Cyprus Police Academy. The Committee regrets the lack of information on specialized trainings for judges and State lawyers on the rights in the Convention and on methods for preventing racial discrimination. The Committee requests that the State party provide this information in its next periodic report.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Nouredine Amir
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination