



**Legislative
Framework for the
Protection of
Human Rights in
the Republic of
Cyprus**



NUP Human Rights Observatory

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Introduction

Human rights constitute the cornerstone of any just and democratic society, shaping the framework within which freedom, equality, and human dignity are safeguarded. The protection and promotion of human rights are intrinsically linked to the preservation of social cohesion, as they ensure justice and equal treatment for all citizens. Their entrenchment has been the subject of extensive negotiations, resulting in a complex network of legal instruments binding states at the national and international levels.

This report provides a systematic codification of the national, European, and international legal framework governing human rights in the Republic of Cyprus. It maps the fundamental constitutional guarantees, the provisions stemming from EU law, as well as the international conventions ratified by the Republic of Cyprus. Furthermore, it outlines the independent bodies and institutions responsible for the oversight and enforcement of these rights at the national level.

The aim of this report is to offer a comprehensive overview of the existing mechanisms for the protection of human rights within the institutional framework of the Republic of Cyprus, highlighting the legal safeguards that ensure their protection.

The NUP Human Rights Observatory

The Observatory is a research institute of the Department of History, Politics, and International Studies at Neapolis University Pafos, specialising in human rights. Its ultimate goal is to promote and protect human rights in the Republic of Cyprus.

As an organised system for monitoring and evaluation, the Observatory observes and records the implementation of human rights in Cyprus, focusing on legislation, case law, and incidents of rights violations. Its primary mission is to assess and evaluate the respect for fundamental rights at the national level. Through its activities, the Observatory aspires to serve as a hub of information on human rights in Cyprus and to actively participate in public discourse, contributing to the promotion of these rights. The Observatory engages with a wide range of thematic issues, including but not limited to equality and protection against discrimination, freedom of expression and the press, and environmental protection.

Its primary objectives include:

- Collecting and disseminating information regarding the respect for human rights in Cyprus.
- Producing reports, recommendations, and assessments concerning human rights protection in Cyprus.
- Collaborating with local, national, and international bodies and organisations relevant to its field of expertise.
- Organizing seminars and events on specialized human rights issues.
- Promoting the respect and protection of human rights in the Republic of Cyprus.

National Framework

Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus

Article 6 Prohibition of discrimination	Article 15 Right to respect for private and family life	Article 23 Right to property
Article 7 Right to life	Article 16 Inviolability of the home	Article 25 Right to work and practice a profession
Article 8 Prohibition of torture, inhuman, or degrading treatment	Article 17 Right to confidentiality of correspondence	Article 27 Right to strike
Article 9 Right to decent existence	Article 18 Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion	Article 28 Equality before the law
Article 10 Prohibition of slavery	Article 19 Freedom of speech and expression	Άρθρο 29 Right to address written requests
Article 11 Right to liberty and personal security	Article 20 Right to education	Article 30 Right to a fair trial
Article 12 Rights of the accused	Article 21 Right to assembly and association	Article 31 Right to vote
Article 13 Right to free movement	Article 22 Right to marry and to found a family	Article 35 State obligation to safeguard constitutional rights

European Framework	
Law on the Ratification of the European Convention on Human Rights (Law No. 39/1962)	European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
Law on Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation (Law No. 58(I)/2004)	(a) Directive 2000/78/EC (Equal treatment in employment) and, (b) Directive 2000/43/EC (Equal treatment irrespective of racial or ethnic origin)
Law on Equal Pay between Men and Women (Law No. 177(I)/2002)	(a) Directive 75/117/EEC (Equal pay for equal work) and, (b) Directive 97/80/EC (Burden of proof in cases of gender discrimination)
Law on Racial and Ethnic Discrimination (Law No. 59(I)/2004)	Directive 2000/43/EC of the Council of 29 June 2000 on the Implementation of the Principle of Equal Treatment between Persons Irrespective of Racial or Ethnic Origin
Law on Combating Racial and Certain Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) (Law No. 42(I)/2004)	Directive 2000/43/EC of the Council of 29 June 2000 on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin
Law on the Prevention and Combat of Violence against Women (Law No. 115(I)/2021)	Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), ratified by Law No. 14(III)/2017
Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union	

International Framework

Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Law No. 127(I)/2000)	United Nations Resolution 48/96 on the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities
Law on the Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Law No. 243/1990)	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
Law on the Ratification of the UN Convention against Torture (Law No. 235/1990)	United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
Law on the Ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Law No. 12(III)/1999)	Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
Law on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Law No. 78/1985)	United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
Law on the Ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Right and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Law No. 711/1969)	United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Human Rights Protective Bodies

House of Representatives

Standing Committee on Human Rights and on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women

Standing Committee on Institutions, Merit and the Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman)

Standing Committee on Refugees-Enclaved-Missing-Adversely Affected Persons

Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs

Independent Bodies

Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Ombudsman)

Commissioner for Personal Data Protection

Commissioner for Gender Equality

Commissioner for Children's Rights

Supervision Commissioner for the General Healthcare System