



GREEK NATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS
(GNCHR)

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Athens 2023



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2022	1
MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GNCHR	5
A YEAR AT A GLANCE	8
GNCHR PEOPLE	133
Composition of the GNCHR eighth (4.2019-9.2022) and ninth term (8.2022-8.2026)	13
Bureau	13
Sections.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Women in the GNCHR	15
Plenary Composition	17
Staffing.....	19
Specialised Scientific Staff – Scientific Organisation Unit	19
Administrative Staff - Administrative and Financial Organisation Unit.....	20
Interns	21
GNCHR: THE INDEPENDENT ADVISORY BODY TO THE STATE ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION AND PROMOTION AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (NHRI) IN GREECE	222
GNCHR: the independent advisory body to the Greek State.....	222
GNCHR: the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)	222
GNCHR: its main mission	244
GNCHR: independence, broad mission and pluralism	244
GNCHR: the mechanism for monitoring the compliance of the EU Funds with fundamental rights.....	25
GNCHR: its action in ENNHRI.....	288
PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT NATIONAL LEVEL	299
Main thematic priorities of the GNCHR in 2022	299
Refugees-migrants.....	299
Women.....	3030
Family and Child.....	311
Tackling Racism and Intolerance.....	311
Labour	322
Right to life/Dignity	333
LGBTQI+ people.....	344
Roma	344
Persons with Disabilities.....	355
Conscientious Objectors.....	366
National security-protection of personal data-privacy of telecommunications	367
The GNCHR as a bridge builder between the State and the Civil Society	377
The GNCHR as interlocutor with National Authorities.....	388
The GNCHR as interlocutor with the Civil Society	399

Racist Violence Recording Network	4040
Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns.....	422
COOPERATION OF THE GNCHR WITH THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL SYSTEMS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.....	43
Submission of international reports or advisory opinions on national reports submitted to international and regional Human Rights Institutions.....	44
Contribution to international/regional Human Rights monitoring mechanisms	45
Cooperation with the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)	46
Encouraging ratification of international Human Rights instruments	49
Responding to requests for information and questionnaire surveys	50
Cooperation with Similar Commissions and NHRI Networks of other States	50
FOSTERING A CULTURE OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.....	56
Raising public awareness	56
Actions / Initiatives to promote Human Rights	56
Participation in workshops and other events on the promotion of human rights....	58
GNCHR Press Releases.....	63
GNCHR Interviews – Articles.....	63
Human Rights Education and Training	63
Training programmes for professionals	64
Training programmes in schools	65
Trainings addressed to students of Higher Education Institutions	65
Research in the field of Human Rights	65
ALLOCATION OF THE GNCHR RESOURCES.....	68
GNCHR Financing.....	67
LEGAL FRAMEWORK.....	68
LAW 2667/1998 (GOVERNMENT GAZETTE A 281/18.12.1998) ESTABLISHING THE GNCHR.....	68

MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GNCHR

Maria Gavouneli
President of the
Greek National
Commission for
Human Rights



During 2022 the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR or Commission) continued in the same diligent and responsible manner and by making use of the experience and expertise which is continuing to acquire, to fulfil its constitutional mission to protect and promote human rights in Greece. The de-escalation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lifting of the restrictive measures marked the return to "normality", both in terms of living conditions of citizens in the country and action carried out by the GNCHR. A series of observations, notifications, statements, reports, public opinions submitted by the Commission and numerous actions undertaken, indicate that it has successfully accomplished the tasks entrusted to it. The GNCHR focused particularly on issues related to the rights of women, refugees and migrants, children, LGBT+ people, people with disabilities and Roma, as well as on environmental issues, tackling racism and intolerance, protection of personal data and privacy of communications.

In particular, based on the vulnerability of the population groups whose rights are being hit, the GNCHR took action in support of refugees and migrants rights, by submitting proposals with regard to the Social Integration of Beneficiaries of International Protection and by addressing a letter to the Minister of Citizen Protection on interim measures to be applied on refugees of Syrian origin stranded on an island in the Evros river. In the field of equality and fight against gender-based violence, the GNCHR issued a communication on zero-tolerance for gender-based violence and incidents of sexual abuse and conducted a series of educational actions on empowering women and substantive gender equality, with the participation of experts in the field, while members of the GNCHR Plenary Composition and Specialised Scientific Staff, took part in several public events dealing with these issues. Visit by the Roma Women's Association of Dendropotamos at the premises of the GNCHR, demonstrate the undeniable interest of the Commission in monitoring issues related to the empowerment of Roma women and children and the fight against their social exclusion.

Moreover, in the fulfilment of its role as a bridge-builder between National Authorities and Civil Society, the GNCHR is entrusted with the task of participating in sessions of the Standing or Special Permanent Parliamentary Committees and putting forward proposals or recommendations on the improvement of the legislation in force or for the adoption of new legislation. In 2022, particularly notable were the contribution of the GNCHR to the Session of the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice of the Hellenic Parliament on the draft Bill of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum on the Unaccompanied Minors, as well as its written submissions before the Hellenic Parliament, regarding the adoption of the draft Bill of the Ministry of Citizen Protection, entitled, "Modernisation and overhaul of the Corrections' Act - amendments to the Law 2776/1999".

At international level, the invasion of Ukraine by Russia on 24 February 2022, which marked the escalation of the ongoing Russian-Ukraine conflict since 2014, has been a milestone in the history of human rights, leading to a refugee and food crisis. ENNHRI members, including the GNCHR, expressed their solidarity to the Ukrainian NHRI (Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights) stressing the need to support refugees fleeing the country. Additionally, the contribution by the GNCHR to the UN Committee of Experts on Enforced Disappearances should be emphasised, along with the Contribution to the UN Special Rapporteur in preparation of her Report on human rights defenders working on issues related to migration, refugees and asylum. It becomes therefore clear, that national and international bodies for the protection of human rights have found an ally in the GNCHR, which acts as bridge builder between the relevant national and international systems.

Furthermore the GNCHR made a vital contribution to international/regional Human Rights monitoring mechanisms and it is in this framework that an on-site visit by the GRETA Experts was carried out at the premises of the GNCHR, where, *inter alia*, the general contribution of the GNCHR to the execution and supervision of the ECtHR judgements in the Greek legal order, was discussed and the GNCHR committed itself to effectively follow up new developments and evidence in the "Manolada case". Besides, the multi-level cooperation between the GNCHR and the ECtHR, found expression in the two meetings of the representatives from the GNCHR with a delegation from the Department for the Execution of Judgements of the ECtHR of the Council of Europe. The GNCHR, the Greek NHRI, responded effectively to the responsibilities entrusted to it, for encouraging the accession, ratification and implementation of international human rights treaties (Paris Principles, Part I (3)(iii)(c)) and providing assistance to international organisations and agencies for human rights, by responding to requests for information and questionnaire surveys.

The GNCHR for yet another year, fulfilled successfully its role as a disseminator of information and awareness material of human rights in society, by organising and conducting a series of training seminars and conferences in Greece and abroad. Having deep knowledge and being effectively active, the GNCHR conducted educational programmes and workshops for high-school and university students, Public Administration officials, Judiciary and Law Enforcement Bodies professionals and raised public awareness of citizens on matters related to the protection of certain social groups' human rights. In addition, several press releases were issued dealing with the most

pressing, societal issues, while two Memoranda of Understanding were signed: one between the GNCHR and the General Secretariat for Public Investments National Coordination Authority, of the Hellenic Ministry of Development and Investment and one between the GNCHR and ELSA Greece, giving us the opportunity to welcome many new interns to our offices. All the above referenced actions enshrine the institutional role of the GNCHR in protecting, monitoring and consolidating human rights in the Greek State and society.

Therefore, for yet another year, the GNCHR's contribution, is firmly established as a countervailing factor between citizens' fears and insecurities about the possible violation of their rights and State's arbitrary actions that disproportionately affect vulnerable societal groups. The GNCHR will keep working on fostering the promotion and protection of human rights and being committed to the protection of individuals against any threats posed to their fundamental rights and freedoms.

A YEAR AT A GLANCE

Plenary Meetings and Meetings of the Sections	
2.2.22	Plenary
8.3.22	Plenary - Public Meeting on the Occasion of International Women's Day
16.3.22	Plenary attended by the Minister of State of Greece, Akis Skertsos and the Deputy Minister of Justice, Georgios Kotsiras
13.4.22	Plenary
14.9.22	Plenary - New Mandate
26.9.22	Plenary
31.10.22	Plenary
16.11.22	Plenary
22.12.22	Plenary
Hearings of persons and national stakeholders	
9.2.22	Hearing of national stakeholders, in the framework of the functioning of the 3rd Section, regarding the Agenda item, "Problems arising from the implementation of Law on National Protection" (Law 4636/2019)
Parliamentary Interventions	
23.3.22	Attendance at the Joint Meeting of the Special Permanent Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights and the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice
15.7.22	Attendance at the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice
Texts	
2022	Contribution to the 2022 ENNHRI Report on the State of the Rule of Law in the European Union
22.3.22	Written submission to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights quadrennial analytical report related to the right to conscientious objection. (22 March 2022)
Μάρτιος 2022	Contribution to the UN Committee of Experts on Enforced Disappearances
21.4.22	Proposals on the Social Integration of Beneficiaries of International Protection

7.6.22	Written submission related to the draft Bill of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum
7.7.2022	Contribution to the UN Special Rapporteur in preparation of her Report on human rights defenders working on issues related to migration, refugees and asylum.
15.7.2022	ENNHRI Report "Strengthening Human Rights Accountability at Borders
27.7.22	Written submission to the Bill of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy
15.8.22	Letter to the Minister of Citizen Protection on the refugees stranded in the Evros region
1.9.22	Letters to the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR)
18.10.22	Letter to the Ministry of Citizen Protection so that the Commission is informed on the legislative initiatives of the Ministry
25.10.22	Note related to the adoption of the Ministry of Citizen Protection draft Bill indented to regulate the Corrections Act
November 2022	Observations on the 2022-2027 National Action Plan on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse
December 2022	Observations on the 5th National Report on the implementation of the Revised European Social Charter (Reference Period 1.1.2017-31.12.2020)
5.12.22	Note on the draft Bill on the privacy of telecommunications, cybeseurity and the protection of personal data
Specific Texts	
March 2022	Statement by the ENNHRI on the humanitarian law and the protection of human rights in Ukraine
31.3.22	Statement by the President of the GNCHR - Expression of solidarity with NHRI of Ukraine during the General Assembly of the ENNHRI
National and International Meetings	
28.2.22	Visit by the GRETA Experts at the premises of the GNCHR
18-19.3.2022	Participation in the event organised in the framework of the project, "ROMA PLATFORM 2020 – Development of the National Platform for Consultation and Dialogue on Roma issues of the National Roma Contact Point"

24.3.22	Visit by the Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Ombudsman) of Cyprus, at the premises of the GNCHR
14.4.22	Participation in the event organised by the Athens Bar Association entitled, "invasion of Ukraine by Russia: The threat of Revisionism and violations of International Law"
18.4.22	Welcome addressed by the President of the GNCHR, to the event organised by Greek Patients' Association, on the occasion of the European Patients' Rights Day
May 2022	Presentation of the RVRN in the new platform provided by the ENNHRI for the protection of human rights defenders
3.5.22	Participation of the President of the GNCHR in the conference, "Acceleration of child-justice system and Child-friendly justice", organised by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Hellas and the Network for Children Rights
5.5.22	Meeting of the GNCHR with the Ad Hoc Group on Fundamental Rights and the Rule of Law of the European Economic and Social Committee
6.5.22	Participation of the GNCHR in the Meeting of the ENNHRI Working Group on Asylum and Migration
12.5.22	Participation of the President of the GNCHR in the conference, "Overturning Stereotypes: Female Presence in the Professional Space"
13.5.22	Participation in the event organised by the Amnesty National on the right to conscientious objection
25.5.22	Meeting of the GNCHR with representatives from the Department for the Execution of Judgements of the ECtHR of the Council of Europe
2.6.22	Participation of the President of the GNCHR in the two-day conference, "Law Clinics on International Law and Commercial Law" organised by the non-profit student organisation "The Law Project"
15.6.22	Visit by the Roma Women's Association of Dendropotamos at the premises of the GNCHR
19-24.6.2022	Participation in the 80th Biennial International Law Conference, organised and hosted by the Portuguese Branch of the International Law Association (ILA), in Lisbon
27-24.6.2022	Participation in the two-day conference, "Migration, human rights and inclusion: Assessing the Role of Civil Society in the

	OSCE Region” organised by the OSCE Office on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw
15.7.22	Participation of the Second Vice-President of the GNCHR in the conference, “Equal opportunities in the workplace”
12.9.22	Participation in the final conference of the project, “REACH: Roma Women's Empowerment and Fight against discrimination in Access to Health”
19.9.22	Participation in the ENNHRI Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Working Group
3-7.10.2022	Involvement in the work of the SCA (GANHRI)
18.10.22	Participation in the 1st meeting of the Monitoring Committee for the Regional Operational Programme “ATTIKI 2021-2027”
26.10.22	On-line conference organised by the National Transparency Authority, the UNCHR and the GNCHR entitled, "Joining Forces to Tackle Gender-Based Violence"
3.11.22	Meeting of the GNCHR with representatives from the Department for the Execution of Judgements of the ECtHR of the Council of Europe
11.11.22	Participation in the 2nd training workshop of the 2022 Roma Political School
19-20.11.2022	Participation in the two-day event on the occasion of the 2022 International Transgender Day of Remembrance
22.11.22	Participation in the Meeting of the Chairs of ENNHRI Working Groups
22-23.11.2022	Participation in the ENNHRI General Assembly
29-20.11.2022	Participation in the Meeting of the ENNHRI Asylum and Migration Working Group
16.12.22	Participation in the event organised by the non-governmental organisation “METAdrasi – Action for Migration and Development” on the identification and certification of victims of torture
Education-Training Seminars	
25.2.22	Educational Action conducted by the GNCHR at the Pierce College on the status of women, in relation to the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals
February - April 2022	Participation of the GNCHR in the educational programme conducted for the police officers providing their services throughout the country

May - June 2022	Series of training courses conducted by the GNCHR for the empowerment of women and the substantive gender equality
22.6.22	Training conducted by the GNCHR entitled, "Women at the forefront"
28-29.9.2022	Two-day training seminar on combating hate speech and hate crime, organised under the project, "STANDING UP AGAINST HATE CRIME IN THE EU"
Presentations/events/debates of high importance	
15.3.22	Qualification of the RVRN to the 2022 World Justice Challenge
26.5.22	Event for the presentation of the 2021 Annual Report of the Racist Violence Recording Network
June 2022	Election of the GNCHR to co-chair the ENNHRI Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights jointly with the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights

GNCHR PEOPLE

Composition of the GNCHR seventh (4.2019-4.2022) and eighth term (8.2022-8.2026)

Bureau

President

Maria Gavouneli, Appointed by the Greek League for Women's Rights - Professor of International Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.



First Vice – President

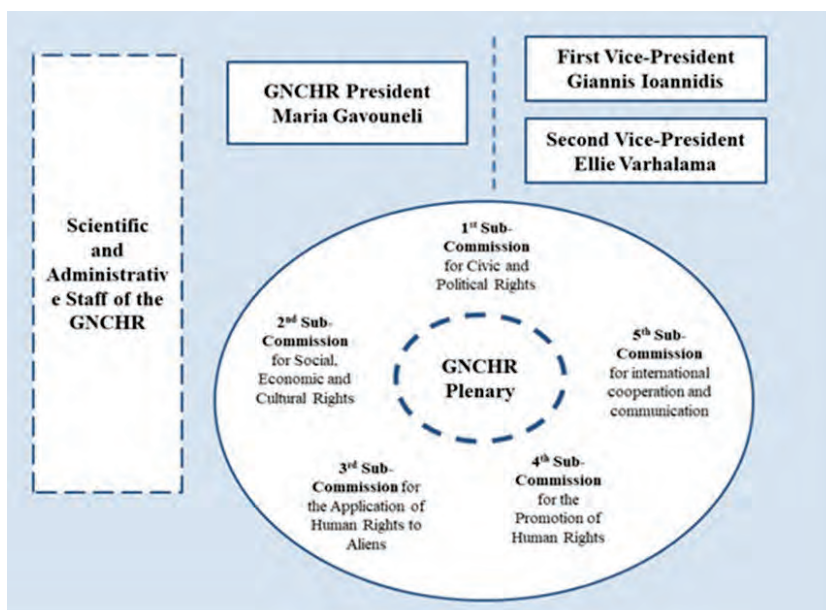
Giannis Ioannidis, Appointed by the Hellenic League for Human Rights - Attorney at law, Athens Bar Association



Second Vice – President

Elli Varhalama, Appointed by the Greek General Confederation of Labour (G.S.E.E) - Attorney at law, Athens Bar Association





Pursuant to Article 14(1) of Law 4780/2021, the GNCHR was composed of 20 members appointed by an equal number of institutions for a four-year term. Its pluralistic composition facilitates the creative coexistence of persons coming from different backgrounds, with diverse views, knowledge and

experience in human rights issues, expressing independently their opinions: academics, trade unionists, representatives of civil society or persons appointed by independent authorities and bar associations, as well as persons appointed by the Public Administration or political parties. In the context of the functioning of the GNCHR, the exchange of views is based on respect for differing opinions and a spirit of cooperation, seeking each time the broadest possible consensus, so far achieved in most cases.

Sections

In accordance with the GNCHR Rules of Procedure, five Sections active in different fields have been established. Where matters which, by their nature, fall within the field of more than one Section, those Sections shall cooperate.

These five Sections are as follows:

- The 1st Section for Civic and Political Rights

Chair: *Giannis Ioannidis*

- The 2nd Section for Social, Economic and Cultural Rights

Chair: *Elli Varchalama*

- The 3rd Section for the Application of Human Rights to Aliens

Chair: *Alexandros Konstantinou*

- The 4th Section for the Promotion of Human Rights

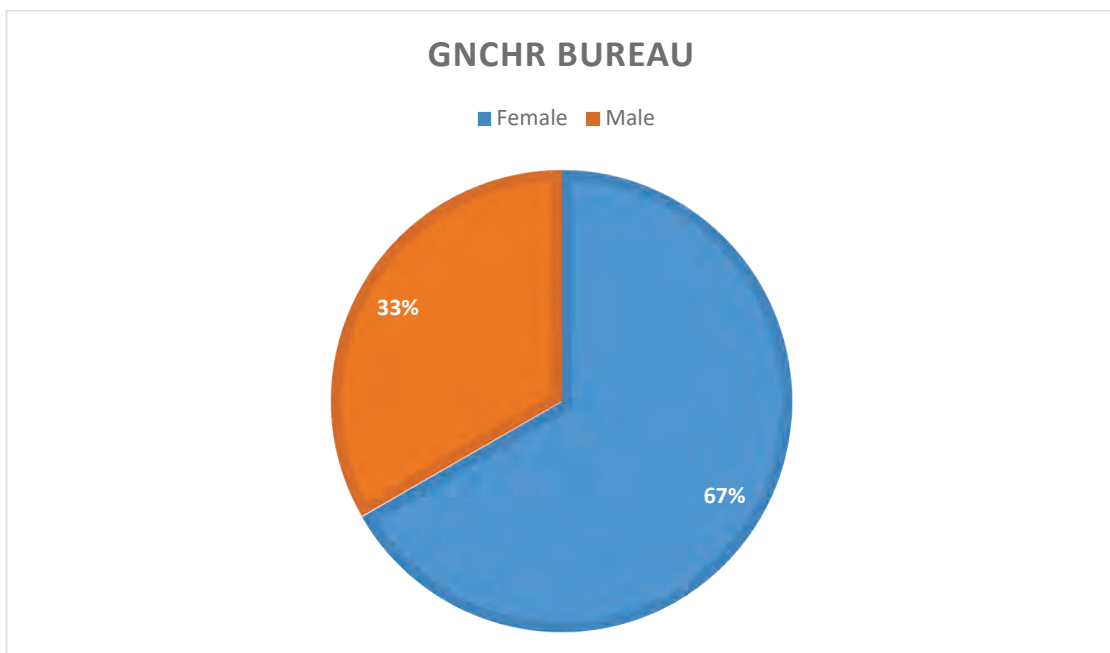
Chair: *Anna Apergi_konstantinidi*

- The 5th Section for International Communication and Co-operation

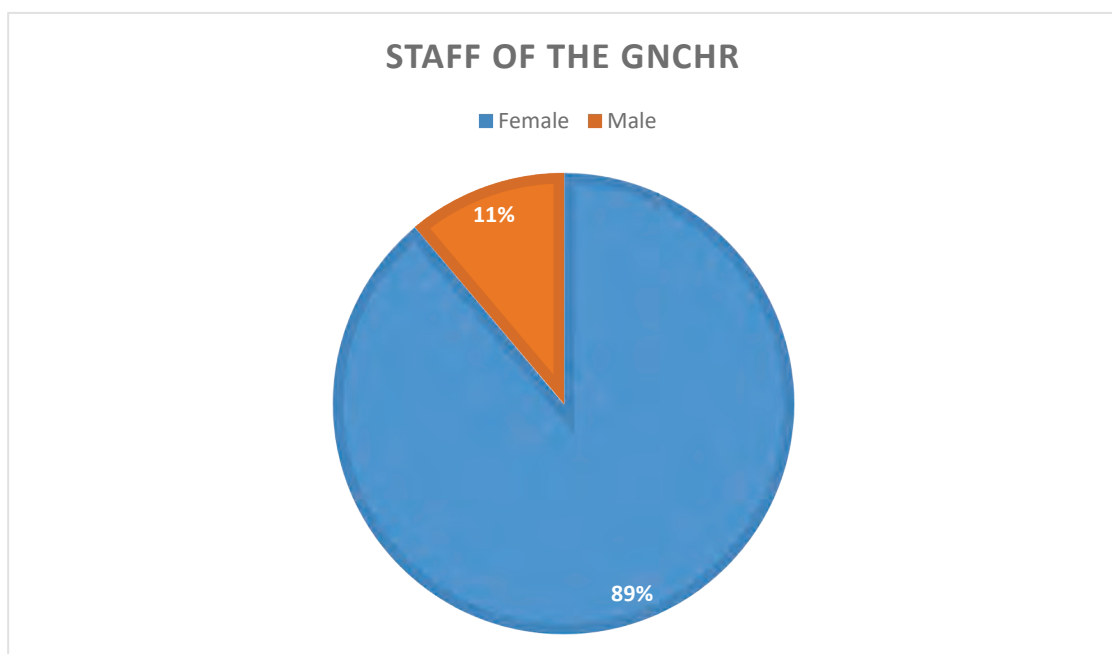
Chair: *Maria Gavouneli*

Women in the GNCHR

Bureau



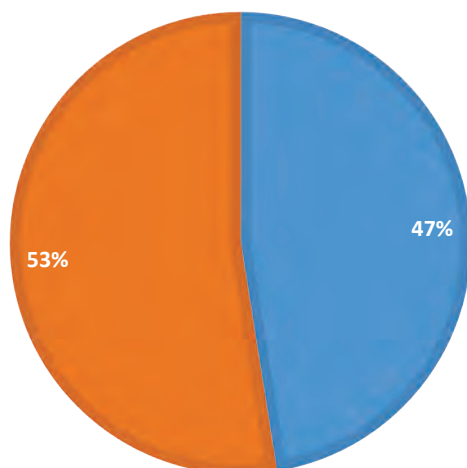
Staff



Members of the GNCHR

PLENARY OF THE GNCHR

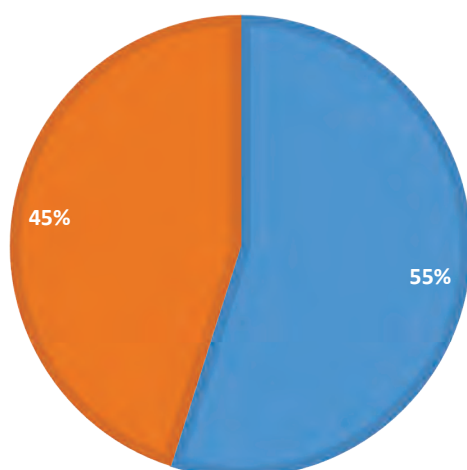
■ Female ■ Male



Liaison Officers

LIAISON OFFICERS OF THE GNCHR

■ Female ■ Male



Plenary Composition

For its new term of office 2022-2026, the GNCHR was composed of 20 members appointed by an equal number of institutions for a four-year term. Its pluralistic composition facilitates the creative coexistence of persons coming from different backgrounds, with diverse views, knowledge and experience in human rights issues, expressing independently their opinions: academics, trade unionists, representatives of civil society or persons appointed by independent authorities and bar associations, as well as persons appointed by the Public Administration or political parties. In the context of the functioning of the GNCHR, the exchange of views is based on respect for differing opinions and a spirit of cooperation, seeking each time the broadest possible consensus, so far achieved in most cases.

As of 2022, the GNCHR was composed of the following members:

- **Greek General Confederation of Labour (ΓΣΕΕ):** Ellie Varchalama (alternate member: Despina Babanelou)
- **Supreme Administration of Civil Servants' Unions of Greece (ΑΔΕΔΥ):** Stathis Gotsis (alternate member: Aikaterini Giannoulia)
- **Greek National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (ΕΣΑμΕΑ):** Ioannis Vardakastanis (alternate member: Ioannis Lymvaivos)
- **Amnesty International - Greek Section:** Foivos Iatrellis (alternate member: Spyros Apergis)
- **Hellenic League for Human Rights (ΕΛΕΔΑ):** Giannis Ioannidis (alternate member: Elena Markou)
- **Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights (MFHR):** Sotiris Mousouris (alternate member: Maria - Andriani Kostopoulou)
- **Greek Council for Refugees (GCR):** Alexandros Konstantinou (alternate member: Eleni Spathana)
- **Greek League for Women's Rights:** Maria Gavouneli (alternate member: Maria - Iliana Pravita)
- **Panhellenic Confederation of Greek Roma (ELLAN PASSE):** Vasilios Pantzos (alternate member: Alexandra Karagianni)
- **Greek Transgender Support Association (ΣΥΔ) / Athens Pride / Lesbian & Gay Community of Greece (ΟΛΚΕ) / Colour Youth - Athens LGBTQ Youth Community / Rainbow Families Greece:** Aikaterini Trimmi (alternate member: Anna Apergi-Konstantinidi)
- **Greenpeace WWF Greece:** Kostis Grimanis (alternate member: Theodota Natsou)
- **The Greek Ombudsman:** Andreas Pottakis (alternate member: Ioannis Moschos)
- **Hellenic Data Protection Authority:** Nikolaos Livos (alternate member: Georgios Kontis)
- **Greek National Council for Radio and Television (ΕΣΡ):** Evangelia (Lilian) Mitrou (alternate member: Nikolaos Kiaos)
- **Hellenic Authority for Communication Security and Privacy (ΑΔΑΕ)**

Aikaterini Papanikolaou (alternate member: Stefanos Gkritzalis)

- **Greek National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics** Greek National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics Charalampos Tsekeris (alternate member: Evgenia Prevedourou)
- **Law School of the National Kapodistrian University of Athens:** Linos-Alexandros Sisilianos (Alternate member: Aikaterini Iliadou)
- **School of Social Sciences, Department of Political Science, University Of Crete:** Ivi-Aggeliki Mavromoustakou (alternate member Thomas Noutsopoulos)
- **Plenary of Presidents of Greek Bar Associations** Maria Koutroumpi (alternate member: Dimitrios-Andreas Kyriakidis)
- **Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation – Centre for European Constitutional Law (CECL)** Ioannis Tasopoulos (alternate member: Maria Mousmouti)

Moreover, according to Article 16 of Law 4780/2021, the political parties represented in the Hellenic Parliament, the Hellenic Ministries and the President of the Special Permanent Committee on Institutions and Transparency of the Hellenic Parliament, shall appoint Liaison Officers and their alternates, with the GNCHR. At the beginning of each session of the Plenary, the liaison officers shall provide the Plenary or the Sections of the GNCHR, information on matters within their competence and leave before a decision is taken.

Staffing

Specialised Scientific Staff – Scientific Organisation Unit

- *Eva Tzavala*

Coordinator of the Specialised Scientific Staff of the GNCHR / Head of the Scientific Organisation Unit

Legal/Research Officer, PhD Candidate at the Athens Law School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), Research Scientist in Athens Public International Law Center, Expert in Public International Law, Human Rights Law and Refugee Law First degree in Law (EKPA) and LLM in International Law and International Organisations (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne).



- *Katerina Charokopou*

Επιστημονική Συνεργάτιδα

Legal/Research Officer, PhD in Public International Law (Faculty of Law, University of Vienna), LLB (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)



- *Anastasia Chalkia*

Human Rights Officer, PhD in Criminology, Sociologist and Course Tutor at the University of West Attica (UNIWA), the Hellenic Open University (HOU) and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA). She is the editor of three collective volumes and the author of several papers published in Greek and English.



Administrative Staff - Administrative and Financial Organisation Unit

- *Katerina Pantou*

Head of the Administrative and Financial Organisation Unit / Head of the GNCHR Secretariat

Administrative Service Staff, MA in European Political Studies (Bath University, UK), Degree in Political Science and Public Administration (University of Athens)



- *Dionysis Giakoumelos:*

Administration/Communications Officer

MA in European Studies (Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium), Graduate of the Greek National School of Public Administration, Degree in Communication and Mass Media (Panteion University of Athens)



- *Kelly Diavati*

Certified Translator. BA in Trilingual Translation (Greek, English and French) and MA Science of Translation, Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpreting of the Ionian University. Full member of the Panhellenic Association of Professional Translators Graduates of the Ionian University (PEEMPIP) with extensive experience in legal translation and subtitling.



- *Giorgos Aletras*

Administration Officer. Graduate of the Department of Statistics & Insurance Science of the University of Piraeus, Msc in Finance & Banking Administration (University of Piraeus).



- *Anastasia Gkika*

Administration Officer. Degree and Msc of National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Graduate of the Greek National School of Public Administration, Experience of ten years in government inspection bodies



Thanasis Dimopoulos

IT Officer

Graduate of the School of Informatics of the Faculty of Sciences of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He was appointed as project manager of IT and communication systems and networks to the General Secretariat for Information Systems and Digital Governance, of the Ministry of Digital Governance and was employed as an IT teacher in secondary education.

Interns

In 2022 the GNCHR work was assisted by three (3) trainees, students of Law, Political and Social Sciences.

GNCHR: the independent advisory body to the State on matters pertaining to human rights protection and promotion and the National Institution for the protection and promotion of Human Rights (NHRI) in Greece

GNCHR: the independent advisory body to the Greek State

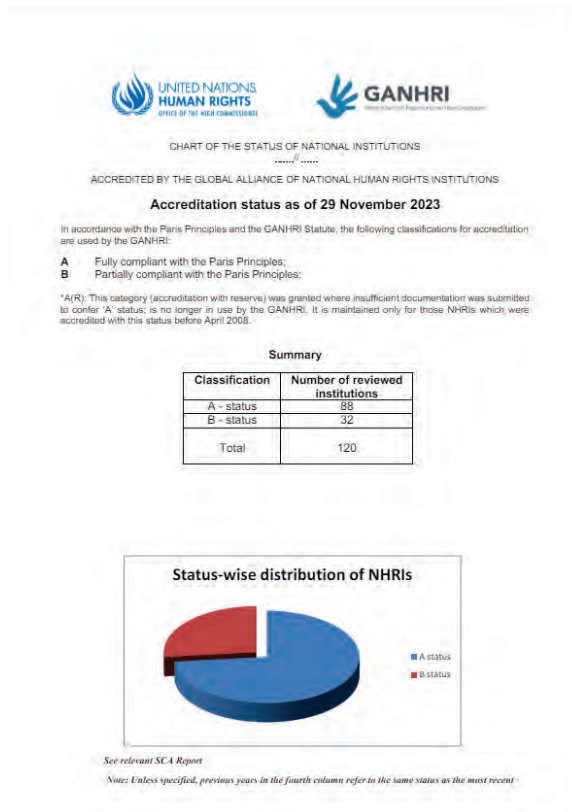
The Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR) was established by [Law 2667/19](#) Article 1, (1) as the independent advisory body to the Greek State in accordance with the [UN Paris Principles](#), adopted by the United Nations (General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/48/134](#), 20.12.1993 “National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights”) and is the National Institution for the protection and promotion of Human Rights (NHRI) in Greece. The Paris Principles promote the establishment and strengthening of the NHRIs in compliance with the Paris Principles, indicating the way to carry out their work as much effectively as possible. In other words, they constitute a set of the minimum standards that NHRIs must meet in order to be considered legitimate, credible and effectively operating. Click [here](#) to have access to the UN Paris Principles, translated into Greek.

The founding legislation of the GNCHR was amended by [Law 4780/2021](#) "National Accessibility Authority, National Commission for Human Rights and National Bioethics and Technoethics Committee" (Government Gazette 30/A/28.2.2021), the provisions of which now govern the operation of the National Commission.

GNCHR: the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) are periodically accredited before the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI). They are assessed on the basis of the UN Paris Principles, which are the international standards for NHRIs to promote and protect human rights effectively and independently. NHRIs that are assessed as fully complying with the Paris Principles are accredited with 'A status', while those partially complying are accredited with 'B status'. 'A status' NHRIs can participate in a number of UN mechanisms as follows:

- UN Human Rights Council: the monitoring bodies of the international conventions for the protection of human rights (Treaty Bodies), Special Procedures (special rapporteurs and independent experts), the Universal Periodic Review mechanism (UPR)
- Council of Europe: In addition 'A status' NHRIs cooperate with mechanisms of the Council of Europe, and more specifically with the Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Committee of Social Rights the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), the Group of independent Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI).
- the European Union: Moreover the GNCHR, maintains close cooperation with the European Commission and the Fundamental Rights Agency, the GANRHAI and the ENNHRI with the right to vote.



The above mentioned types of collaboration, lead to the co-shaping of the international landscape of human rights and the promotion of their protection in every country.

Similar A status National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (NHRIs), already operate in most EU Member States, while the remaining Member States are in the process of either harmonising existing institutions with the Paris Principles or establishing new NHRIs, that comply with the relevant requirements. Currently, 88 countries around the world have fully harmonised NHRIs and a number of others have launched the establishment of their own National Institutions (see GANHRI [Chart of the status of](#)

[National Institutions](#)).

In Greece, the institutional role of the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) has been assigned to the GNCHR. The GNCHR is periodically subject to regular and demanding accreditation procedures by the competent international GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA), which operates under the auspices of and in cooperation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The GNCHR has been a fully harmonised (A Status) NHRI since 2001, when only a very small number of 12 NHRIs were recognised as fully compliant with the Paris Principles. In March 2017, the GNCHR was re-accredited with A status by the SCA, demonstrating in practical terms the fulfilment of its mission to promote and protect human rights.



GNCHR: its main mission

According to its law, the main mission of GNCHR consists of:

- ✚ a) constantly monitoring matters pertaining to human rights protection, raising public awareness and promoting research in this field,
- ✚ b) exchanging experience at supra-national and international level with similar bodies of other States, the European Union or international organisations, such as the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the United Nations, and
- ✚ c) formulating policy proposals on matters falling within its remit.

GNCHR: independence, broad mission and pluralism

The independence of the GNCHR, *conditio sine qua non*, for the dual mandate for the promotion and protection of human rights entrusted to it by the legislator, is enshrined in its law and guaranteed, inter alia, on the basis of a mandate that is as broad as possible and clearly defined in the legislation (Paris Principles A.2). Since 2021, and the reform of its institutional framework, the GNCHR has been functioning as an independent Administrative Authority.

The GNCHR legislation clearly defines its mission and the area of its competence, while the GNCHR interprets its mandate in a broad and constructive manner, in order to promote a more progressive definition of human rights including them in their entirety, as these are defined in international, regional and national texts and interpreted by the competent international judicial and quasi-judicial bodies. In this way the fundamental principle of human rights law, according to which all rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent, is put into practice. In recent years, the GNCHR has also been active in topical areas of rights such as the environment, artificial intelligence, business and human rights.

An additional guarantee of the GNCHR independence is its pluralistic and polyphonic composition with the participation of 20 bodies, which allows and fosters a unique dialogue between various Civil Society actors and the State. Reflecting the pluralism of views on human rights-related issues, this collective composition, which includes *inter alia*, independent authorities, universities of law and political science, trade unions, NGOs, political parties and ministries, ensures a very high level of expertise, well-matched to the needs and challenges present in the field. The Hellenic Parliament, the political parties represented to the Hellenic Parliament and Ministries, shall appoint liaison officers with the GNCHR, responsible for providing information on matters falling within their scope, in every meeting and whenever they are requested to do so, and similarly to convey relevant information to their agencies. The election of its President and Vice-Presidents by the Plenary Assembly, proves in another way, that its independence is beyond doubt.

In the context of its institutional role and its mission as a guardian of human rights at international, regional and national level, the GNCHR has been assigned the responsibility of bridging the gap, not only between the State and Civil Society, but also between the Country's international commitments to the implementation of human rights and their real enjoyment in practice.



GNCHR: the mechanism for monitoring the compliance of the EU Funds with fundamental rights

NSRF 2021-2027 Development Programmes

The GNCHR was designated as the competent institution to ensure the “Effective application and implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights” (strand 3 of the strategy proposed to make the Charter a reality for all), at all stages (consultation with the interested parties, planning, implementation and assessment of projects and operations in the framework of NSRF 2021-2027 operational programmes). To this end, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the GNCHR and the General Secretariat for Public Investments National Coordination Authority, of the Hellenic Ministry of Development and Investment, on 18 April 2022.

According to the standing views of the GNCHR, the European Programmes rely primarily on the participation, the cooperation and the assistance of all actors involved, including the organisations of civil society, at all stages of the works, from the consultation and the planning to the implementation and the assessment.

The assistance provided by the GNCHR, in order for the European Social Fund programmes to be implemented, can be focused in co-shaping, with the competent authorities, the procedure and framework for ensuring the transparency and accountability of the work carried out by the State. The contribution of the GNCHR, is limited by its main constitutional role, which does not comprise, ex ante or ex post financial control, as this is a competence exerted by other bodies and agencies of the State.

In the context of the monitoring of the implementation of the programmes, the GNCHR, by the nature of its competence, shall make interventions and submit statements, whenever it deems it to be in the interest of the Greek State, in matters related to human rights and exclusively for their protection and promotion.



✚ *Membership of the GNCHR to the Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the National Programmes of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Internal Security Fund for the Programming Period 2021-2025*

✚ *Membership of the GNCHR or persons it designates, to other public authorities, agencies, committees, collective bodies and working groups*

As part of its institutional role as the State's independent advisory body on matters pertaining to the protection of human rights, the GNCHR is mandated to advise all public authorities on human rights related issues and provide them with any possible assistance in their work on promoting and protecting these rights. Appointing participants in collective bodies of Public Administration, is one of the many different ways, for the GNCHR to fulfil its mandate.

✚ *Membership of the President of the GNCHR to the National Accessibility Authority*

Click [here](#) to have access to the 2022 Annual Report of the National Accessibility Authority.

✚ *Membership to the National Council against Racism and Intolerance (ΕΣΡΜ)*

In accordance with the provisions of Law 4356/2015, Government Gazette A 181, 24.12.2015 (Articles 15 et seq.), the GNCHR shall be a member of the Greek National Council Against Racism and Intolerance (ΕΣΡΜ), to be represented in its meetings by a person of its choice. During 2023, the GNCHR was represented by

Aikaterini Trimmi (full member) and Anna Apergi - Konstantinidi (alternate member). The last meeting of the Greek National Council Against Racism and Intolerance was held in May 2023. As of June 2023, the responsibility for its operation was transferred from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Social Cohesion and the Family.

- ✚ *Participation in 5 thematic Working Groups (Persons with disabilities, Roma, Child and Family, Elderly and Homeless Persons) in the framework of the new 2021-2027 National Strategy for Social Inclusion and Poverty Alleviation (ΕΣΚΕ 2021-2027) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and the Action Plan thereon*

- ✚ *Participation in the Advisory Committee of the 2021-2030 National Strategy for Roma Social Inclusion (ΕΣΚΕ)*

Since 2022, the GNCHR has been participating in the Advisory Committee of the 2021-2030 National Roma Integration Strategy (ΕΣΚΕ) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and represented by its Legal/Research Officer, Katerina Charokopou (as full member) and Alexandra Karagianni, member of the GNCHR (as alternate member).

- ✚ *Involvement of the GNCHR in the development of the National Strategic Plan of Greece for combating anti-semitism*

- ✚ *Participation of the GNCHR in the work carried out by the National Mechanism for the Development, Monitoring and Evaluation of Action Plans for the Rights of the Child*

- ✚ *Contribution of the GNCHR to the elaboration of the 2019-2024 National Action Plan of Greece for Women, Peace and Security*

- ✚ *Membership of the GNCHR to the Task Force for Fundamental Rights Compliance of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum*

- ✚ *Designation of Members to participate in the Naturalisation Committees*

- ✚ *Designation of Members to participate in the Committees on Migration*

According to Article 134 of Law 4251/2014, as replaced by Article 31(17) of Law 4540/2018, three Committees on Migration shall be established by the Hellenic of Migration and Asylum, in order to issue opinions on the granting of a residence permit to third country nationals, considering their special ties with the social life of the Country, as well as in any case where an application is submitted to them for the granting or renewal of a residence permit, falling within the competence of the Ministry of Immigration Policy. The Committees shall be established by a decision of the Minister of Immigration Policy, appointing the Chair, members and secretaries, both full and alternate members.

The GNCHR shall, in accordance with its institutional obligations, appoint representatives of civil society whenever it is requested to do so.

GNCHR: its action in ENNHRI

The GNCHR was a founding member of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, (ENNHRI) in 2013.

Benchmarks

- The GNCHR was elected as a member of the ENNHRI Board of Directors in 2015 (2015-2018) and again in 2018 (2018-2022) The GNCHR is represented in the collective management bodies by its President, Maria Gavouneli
- On 3 December 2021, the GNCHR was re-elected as an alternate member of the SCA
- The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, has served as Chair of the ENNHRI Task Force on Human Rights Education (2009-2011)
- The Coordinator of the Scientific Staff, Eva Tzavala has been the Chair of the ENNHRI Asylum and Migration Working Group (since 2021)
- The Legal/Research Officer Katerina Charokopou, has been the Co-Chair (together with the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights) of the ENNHRI Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Working Group (since 2022)
- The Human Rights Officer Anastasia Chalkia, of the NNHRI has been attending the activities of the Business and Human Rights Working Group and of the Rights of Older Persons Working Group. The Communication Officer Dionysis Giakoumelos has been attending the activities of the Communications Working Group.
- The GNCHR officials participate in other working groups of the ENNHRI.



Protection and Promotion of human rights at national level

Main thematic priorities of the GNCHR in 2022

Encouragement of dialogue and promotion of interaction and cooperation between the NHRIs and public authorities responsible for the implementation of human rights, are essential prerequisites for fostering a culture of human rights respect. The GNCHR plays a significant and constructive role in the effective implementation of human rights' protection, by constantly monitoring the developments related to the status and implementation of human rights in Greece and moreover, by providing continuous advisory support to the competent bodies of the State.

The advisory role constitutes a key responsibility of the NHRIs and, according to the minimum standards set by the Paris Principles, not only does it entail the submission of opinions, recommendations, proposals or reports on their part and their participation in Parliament Sessions (consulting), but also includes their contribution to the reports submitted by the national competent authorities on their compliance with international, regional and/or European human rights standards (reporting) as well the encouragement for the ratification of international human rights treaties.

At the same time, the GNCHR is entrusted with and carries out responsibly and effectively, the general task of monitoring the compliance of the competent State Authorities with international, regional and/or national human rights standards pursuant to the Paris Principles (1) (3b).

More specifically, in 2022, the GNCHR expressed an especially deep interest in the following thematic areas:

Refugees-migrants

Proposals on the Social Integration of Beneficiaries of International Protection (21 April 2022)



Written submission by the GNCHR on the bill of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum(07 June 2022) (7 June 2022)



Εθνική Επιτροπή για τα Δικαιώματα του Ανθρώπου

ΥΠΟΜΝΗΜΑ

ΕΝΩΠΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΒΟΥΛΗΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ



Written submission by the GNCHR before the Hellenic Parliament, regarding the debate on and adoption of the Draft Bill of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum entitled "Ratification of the Legislative Code for the reception, international protection of third country citizens and stateless persons and temporary protection in case of massive influx of displaced foreign nationals"

Statement by the GNCHR on the occasion of the World Refugee Day (20 June 2022)

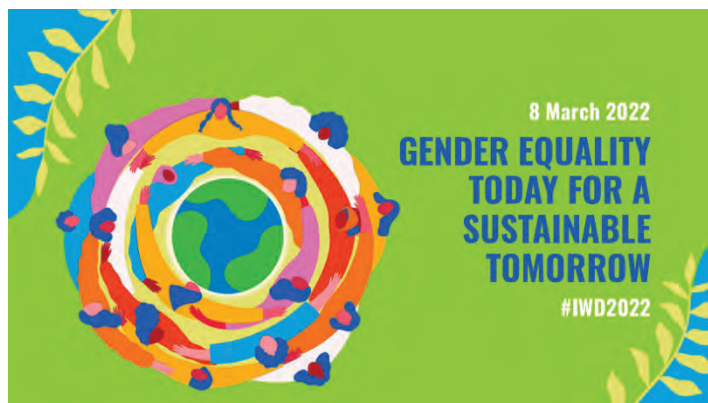
Letter to the Minister of Citizen Protection on the ECtHR interim measures decisions concerning refugees of Syrian origin stranded on an island in the Evros river. (15 August 2022)

The GNCHR as National Human Institution in Greece, is monitoring the execution of the ECtHR rulings and therefore puts particular emphasis on compliance countries with Rule 39 (Interim Measures) of the Rules of the Court.

Women

Press Release by the GNCHR entitled, Zero tolerance to gender-based violence (19 January 2022)

Press Release by the GNCHR on the occasion of the International Women's Day Gender equality in view of a sustainable and peaceful future (8 March 2022)



On-line, Public Meeting of the GNCHR Plenary on the occasion of the International Women's Day (8 March 2022)

25 November Statement by the GNCHR on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: Access to structures of social protection for every victim of gender-based violence! (25 November 2022)



Family and Child

The GNCHR Plenary was attended by the Minister of State of Greece, Akis Skertsos and the Deputy Minister of Justice, Georgios Kotsiras, with a view to having a debate on the 2022-2027 National Action Plan on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. (16 November 2022)

The GNCHR reiterated its [Written Responses](#) to the List of issues in relation to the combined fourth to sixth periodic reports of Greece, submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, in 2021 and the [Information](#) relevant to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, in 2020.



Observations by the GNCHR on the 2022-2027 National Action Plan on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (November 2022)



Tackling Racism and Intolerance

Racism and Discrimination stay on the margins! Press Release by the GNCHR on the occasion of the International Day against Racism (21 March 2022)



It should also be noted that Since January 2022, the GNCHR has been participating in the “STAND-UP” EU co-funded Project. The STAND-UP Project’s main objective is to improve cooperation between different organisations in the fight against hate crimes through the design, development and implementation of a new inter-institutional model led by public authorities.

[Racist Violence Recording Network Press Conference, on the occasion of the presentation of the 2021 Annual Report of the RVRN \(26 May 2022\)](#)

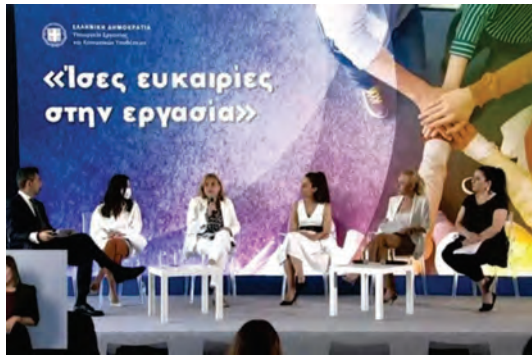


Observing Racist Violence through the Network's Recordings - Access to Justice for Victims of Racist Violence then and now

Click [here](#) to have access to the 2021 Annual Report of the RVRN

Labour

[Participation of the Second Vice-President of the GNCHR Elli Varchalama, in the conference, “Equal opportunities in the workplace” \(15 July 2022\)](#)



Letters to the ILO Committee of Experts on the Implementation of the Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) (1 September 2022)

Observations by the GNCHR related to the 5th National Report on the implementation of the Revised European Social Charter (01/01/2017- 01 January 2017), December 2022



Right to life/Dignity



Εθνική Επιτροπή για τα Δικαιώματα του Ανθρώπου

ΔΕΛΤΙΟ ΤΥΠΟΥ

Η βία μας αφορά όλες και όλους

Αποφασιστικά μέτρα για την πρόληψη και αντιμετώπιση των αυξανόμενων περιστατικών βίας κατά τη ΕΕΔΑ

3 Φεβρουαρίου 2022

Η Εθνική Επιτροπή για τα Δικαιώματα του Ανθρώπου (ΕΕΔΑ), συμβουλευτικό όργανο της Πολιτείας σε θέματα ανθρωπίνων δικαιωμάτων, με αφορμή τη δολοφονία ενός νέου ανθρώπου στη Θεσσαλονίκη ύστερα από απρόκλητη επίθεση, εκφράζει τον αποτροπιασμό της και την έντονη ανησυχία της για την αύξηση των παρωπικών ακραίας βίας το τελευταίο διάστημα, τα οποία φέρεται να συνδέονται με υπαρκτά κίνητρα.

Η ΕΕΔΑ διαπιστώνει με κατάνυξη την άμεση κοιντοποίηση των αστυνομικών αρχών για τη σύλληψη των υπαρκτών ως δράστη στα περιστατικά αυτά και την ποσοποιημένη τους στη δικαιοσύνη, ευελπιστώντας για την έγκαιρη ολοκλήρωση της δικαστικής διαδικασίας.

Η Εθνική Επιτροπή ζητά από την ελληνική Πολιτεία τη λήψη άμεσων και αποφασιστικών μέτρων για την πρόληψη και αντιμετώπιση των εγκληματικών αυτών ενεργειών που μας αφορά όλους και όλους, καθώς στρέφονται κατά της κοινωνίας, της δημοκρατίας και παραβιάζουν θεμελιώδη δικαιώματα των πολιτών.

Ο ελληνισμός, που έχει πληρεί ελπίου ανεπαρκή από την πανδημία, οφείλει να προστατευθεί ως ψυχρό προδού της κοινωνίας και όχι ως πεδίο που με αδικοκλήνητη ανοχή ενδοκρινό και συνυπάρχουν ακραίες εκφάνσεις βίας. Στο πλαίσιο αυτό η ΕΕΔΑ, το επόμενο διάστημα, θα επικεντρωθεί τις συστάσεις της προς την Πολιτεία για το θέμα της βίας στα γήπεδα, σε συνέχεια της ειδικής Έκθεσης που είχε δώσει στη δημοσιότητα τα προηγούμενα χρόνια¹.

Violence concerns all of us- The GNCHR calls on for the adoption of decisive measures to prevent and address the increasing number of incidents of violence (3 February 2022)

Statement by the GNCHR on the occasion of Human Rights Day 2022: “Freedom, Equality and Justice for All” (10 December 2022)



LGBTQI+ people

Two-day event on the occasion of the 2022 International Transgender Day of Remembrance (18 November 2022)



Roma

The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, expressed her opinion at the closing event of the Joint European Union and Council of Europe Programme “Roma Women’s Access to Justice - JUSTROM” which took place in hybrid format in Strasbourg on 23-24 February 2022

International Roma Day: Equal access to opportunities and aspects of daily life and fighting discrimination (8 April 2022)



Visit by the Roma Women's Association of Dendropotamos at the premises of the GNCHR (15 June 2022)



Persons with Disabilities

The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, was invited to an interview on the “Athens 9,84” radio station, on the occasion of the European Patients’ Rights Day (18 April 2022)

Conscientious Objectors

Written submission by the GNCHR to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights quadrennial analytical report related to the right to conscientious objection. (22 March 2022)



Environment

Written submission related to the draft Bill of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy (27 July 2022)



National security-protection of personal data-privacy of telecommunications

Note submitted by the GNCHR on the draft Bill of the Ministry of Justice and the Minister of State on the privacy of telecommunications, cybersecurity and the protection of personal data (05 December 2022) (5 December 2022)



The GNCHR as a bridge builder between the State and the Civil Society

Operating at the crossroads between the State and the non-State actors and in the context of its institutional role as an NHRI, the GNCHR has a mission which, inter alia, includes building bridges between the State and Civil Society. As a reliable and constructive interlocutor with both the State and Civil Society, the GNCHR shall open channels of communication between the Government and Non-Governmental Organisations and other Civil Society organisations, in order, not only to contribute to the more effective protection of human rights, but also to maximise the efficiency of its work, thereby bringing closer together all actors sharing common ground in the promotion and protection of human rights. Consequently, the GNCHR, the State and Civil Society, mutually benefit from their cooperation and interaction, not only in terms of the in-depth knowledge, specialised expertise and valuable experience that Civil Society actors provide on Human Rights protection issues, but also in terms of getting closer to citizens and the rights violations they are confronted with on a daily basis. On the other hand, Civil Society can also benefit significantly from its cooperation with the NHRIs and the State, to the extent that by taking advantage of the opportunity to forward its requests to public authorities, it is given the chance to maximise its influence on the decision-making bodies.

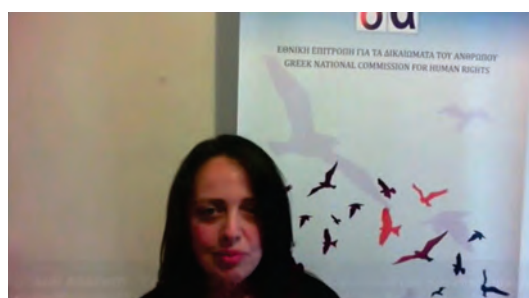
The GNCHR as interlocutor with National Authorities

The role of the GNCHR in the Hellenic Parliament

The GNCHR closely cooperates with the Parliament and its competent Legislative Committees. Pursuant to Article 22 (1) Law 4780/2021, the GNCHR shall submit its Annual Report to the President of the Parliament, which shall be discussed before the Special Permanent Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights of the Hellenic Parliament. Furthermore, in the context of its general advisory role to the State (Article 12, Law 4780/2021), the GNCHR maintains an open channel of communication with the Parliament and its bodies, by submitting its observations on bills or Law proposals that are up for voting or by putting forward proposals or recommendations for the improvement of the legislation in force or for the adoption of new legislation. Additionally, the GNCHR participates in sessions of the Standing or Special Permanent Parliamentary Committees, upon invitation, in order to contribute to the more effective protection and promotion of human rights, as well as to further dissemination of its proposals and recommendations.

In 2022 the GNCHR participated in the sessions of the following Parliamentary Committees:

The GNCHR participated in the joint session of the Special Standing Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights and the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice of the Hellenic Parliament on: " Human beings exploitation and gangs. Protection of victims and effective prosecution of perpetrators'. (23 March 2022)



The GNCHR took part in the Session of the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice of the Hellenic Parliament on the draft Bill on the Unaccompanied Minors (15 July 2022)

Click [here](#) to watch the Session of the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice (15/07/2022)

[Letter to the Ministry of Citizen Protection so that the Commission is informed on the legislative initiatives of the Ministry](#) (18 October 2022)



ΕΘΝΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΑ ΔΙΚΑΙΩΜΑΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΥ
GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Note submitted by the GNCHR on the adoption of the Ministry of Citizen Protection draft Bill indented to regulate the Corrections Act (25 October 2022)

The GNCHR as interlocutor with the Civil Society

Apart from the State agencies-partners of the NHRIs, Civil Society is a firm and essential ally in their mission of promoting and protecting human rights, with which they shall maintain regular and constructive interaction and cooperation. Besides, the term "Civil Society", according to the Paris Principles, includes not only NGOs active in the field of Human Rights, but also representatives of philosophical and political thought, as well as eminent scientists, qualified experts and representatives of universities (Paris Principles, (B) (a)(b) and (c)). Moreover, it is no coincidence that "in view of the fundamental role played by the non-governmental organisations in expanding the work of the national institutions" the NHRIs are entrusted by the Paris Principles to "develop relations with the non-governmental organisations devoted to promoting and protecting human rights, to economic and social development, to combating racism, to protecting particularly vulnerable groups (especially children, migrant workers, refugees, physically and mentally disabled persons) or to other specialised areas." (Paris Principles, (C)(g)).

Hearings of persons and national stakeholders

The national legislator, acknowledging the role of the GNCHR as the Greek NHRI that bridges the gap between civil society and the State, bringing them closer together, entrusts it with the competence to "invite persons to be heard before it who can assist its work by an account of personal experiences or the expression of views in connection with human rights protection." (Law 4780/2021, Article 18, (4)). In 2022 the GNCHR organised one (1) hearing of persons and national stakeholders:

On 9 February 2022, the GNCHR organised a Hearing of national stakeholders in the framework of the functioning of the 3rd Section, regarding the Agenda item, "Problems arising from the implementation of Law on National Protection" (Law 4636/2019)

Racist Violence Recording Network

The Racist Violence Recording Network was established on the initiative of the GNCHR and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Greece (UNHCR), in mid-year 2011, on the basis of two important facts: a) the absence of a formal and effective system for recording incidents of racist violence and b) the need for liaisons to be created among actors which record on their own initiative those incidents reported by persons who sought their services. The RVRN is comprised of 52 Non-Governmental Organizations and civil society actors providing medical, social, legal services and/or coming in direct contact with victims of racist violence or victims of other hate or bias motivated violent attacks and organisations set up by the very groups that are usually targeted by racist violence. Respect for human rights, diversity, multiculturalism, secularism as well as action to address discrimination and intolerance are prerequisites for participation in the Network. In 2022 the Network recorded through interviews with victims, 74 incidents of racist violence. In 33 incidents the victims were migrants, refugees or asylum-seekers who had been targeted because of their national origin, religion or colour. In 1 of these incidents an individual was targeted because of their national origin as well as sexual orientation and gender identity. In 1 incident, Greek citizens were targeted due to their ethnic origin, while in 2 incidents, the targets were a mosque and a Holocaust monument. In 38 incidents the victims were LGBTQI+ individuals. Based on the Network's findings for 2022, the main trends identified are the existence of racism in everyday life, the occurrence of incidents of organized racist violence, albeit to a limited extent, as well as the targeting of human rights defenders within the Greek territory, especially those operating at the borders.

In 2022, the members of the Network were: Aitima, Solidarity Now, Antigone - Information and Documentation Centre, University of Aegean Anti-Racist Observatory, Arsis, Doctors of the World (MdM), Amnesty International, Network for Children's Rights, Network for Social Support of Refugees and Immigrants, "Pleiades - Hellenic Action for Human Rights", Hellenic League for Human Rights, Hellenic Red Cross, Greek Council for Refugees, Greek Forum of Migrants, Greek Forum of Refugees, Human Rights Commission of the Bar Association of Rhodes, Positive Voice, Medical Intervention, Caritas Athens, Caritas Hellas, Centre for Research on Women's Issues "Diotima", "Babel" Day Centre, Centre for the Support of Repatriated and Migrants - Ecumenical Refugee Program, Network for the Support of Refugee and Migrant Rights (Patras), World Without War and Violence, LATHRA? - Solidarity Committee for Chios refugees, METAction, Rainbow Families, Group of Lawyers for the Rights of Refugees and Migrants, Group of Lawyers for the Support of Refugee and Migrant Rights (Thessaloniki), Homosexual and Lesbian Community of Greece, Association of Afghans United In Greece, Association of Social Workers of Greece, Greek Transgender Support Association, Faros tou kosmou, Forum of Migrants in Crete, Refugee Support Aegean, Act Up Hellas, ASANTE, Colour Youth - LGBTQ Youth Community of Athens, Generation 2.0 RED, HIAS in Greece, HumanRights360, Melissa Network, PRAKSIS, A21, Simeio for studying and fighting the far-right, Lesvos Solidarity,

Steps, Legal Centre Lesbos, Aegean Migrant Solidarity | Christian Peacemaker Teams, the Panhellenic Confederation of the Greek Roma “Ellan Passe”, International Rescue Committee (IRC). The Network is observed by the Greek Ombudsman and the Migrant and Refugee Integration Council of the Municipality of Athens.

The participants in the Network recognise and pursue as their common goal, fight against racist violence as well as all hatred-inciting acts hate on grounds of race, colour, religion, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, identity gender, gender characteristics, and disability. For the purposes of the Network, incidents of racist violence are considered criminal acts or violent acts or behaviours against individuals, who are targeted based on national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. Criminal acts or violent acts or behaviours against human rights defenders, namely those who promote and protect human rights and are targeted by reason of their status, are also recorded.

In pursuit of the common goal, the Network: a) shall submit recommendations to the Greek authorities pursuant to the Greek and international legal framework on human rights b) shall promote providing information on and raising public awareness of the fight against racism c) shall consult on specific issues related to racist violence d) shall increase cooperation with other bodies competent to combat racist violence e) shall organise and participate in training programmes for civil society and relevant institutional actors on issues related to identifying, recording and tackling hate crimes. Since October 2011, the starting point of the recordings, until today, the activity of the Network has been constantly expanding. The Network participates in institutional initiatives aiming at improving the way in which racist crime is being addressed and seeks to raise awareness of racist crime in every possible way. To that end, it responds to a particularly high number of requests for information from researchers, journalists, and students. Moreover, by participating in seminars, trainings, and public debates, the Network contributes to the dissemination of legislation against racism and racist crime. The acknowledgement of the role of the Network in the fight against racist crime is reflected in the frequent invitations that it receives, from international and European organisations, national institutions, and other agencies and actors, with a view to express its opinion but also to present its collected data, operation, and methodology. RVRN issues every year its annual report. Click [here](#) to read the eleventh annual report of the RVRN and other annual reports.

[Qualification of the RVRN to the 2022 World Justice Challenge](#) (15 March 2022)

<https://worldjusticeproject.org/world-justice-forum-2022>



Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns

Since 2002, the GNCHR has been consistently monitoring and highlighting in its Reports the complaints of international non-governmental organisations about illegal practices in Greece's sea and land borders with Turkey, which raise concerns regarding the respect of the fundamental rights of third country nationals and the principle of non-refoulement. In 2020, considering that: (a) no effective investigation has yet been carried out by the competent authorities into cases officially brought to their attention, while the Greek Government continues to strenuously deny all allegations in this regard (b) the number of cases pending before the investigating and judicial authorities is very low compared to the increasing number of reports of incidents of informal forced returns and (c) based on the reports of international and European Human Rights protection bodies, international organisations and non-governmental organisations, it is clearly evident that there is a gradual but constant consolidation of the characteristics of the cases with a repeated methodology, the GNCHR decided to establish a Mechanism for Recording Incidents of Informal Forced Returns, to act as a subsidiary body of the Plenary. The Recording Mechanism was established in September 2021 and operates independently, based on the cooperation of its Member Organisations. The Recording Mechanism is composed of entities with legal personality in Greece, which are active in the field, offering legal, social or medical services to third country nationals. The Recording Mechanism's objectives include monitoring, recording and reporting informal forced return incidents of third country nationals from Greece to other countries, as well promoting and establishing respect of the principle of non-refoulement and safeguarding of guarantees and compliance with legal procedures. Moreover, the aim of the Recording Mechanism is to boost accountability for reported human rights violations allegedly occurred during informal forced returns of third country nationals from Greece to other countries. Through the adoption of a standardised, transparent, and scientific recording methodology, the Recording Mechanism attempts to contribute to increasing the credibility of reported incidents. In 2021, the (founding) Members of the Recording Mechanism were: HumanRights 360, METAdrasi – ACTION FOR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Medical Intervention (MedIn), Legal Centre Lesvos, HIAS Greece, Network for Children's

Rights, Greek Council for Refugees (GCR), Refugee Support Aegean (RSA), Hellenic League for Human Rights (HLHR), Greek Transgender Support Association (SYD). Moreover, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Office in Greece within the framework of its mandate, contributes its expertise and technical support to the Recording Mechanism, as a cooperating Agency. The first [Annual Report](#) of the Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns (published in 2023) should include information on and findings for Incidents of Informal Forced Returns, on the basis of recorded testimonies in 2022, given by the alleged victims of informal forced returns, after conducting personal interviews with them, reporting incidents occurred between from 2020 to 2022.

COOPERATION OF THE GNCHR WITH THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL SYSTEMS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The need for the NHRIs to contribute to the promotion and protection of Human Rights beyond national borders is also highlighted by the Paris Principles, which even place the international obligations of the NHRIs at the core of their responsibilities. More precisely, the Paris Principles stipulate that NHRIs are obliged “to cooperate with the United Nations and any other organisation in the United Nations system, the regional institutions and the national institutions of other countries that are competent in the areas of the protection and promotion of human rights” (Part I, (3)(iii)(e)), “to encourage ratification of the above-mentioned instruments or accession to those instruments, and to ensure their implementation” (Part I, (3)(iii)(c)) as well as “to contribute to the reports which States are required to submit to United Nations bodies and committees, and to regional institutions, pursuant to their treaty obligations and where necessary, to express an opinion on the subject, with due respect for their independence” (Part I, (3)(iii)(d)). Besides, in order “to promote *and ensure the harmonisation of national legislation, regulations and practices with the international human rights instruments to which the State is a party*, and their effective implementation” (Part I, (3)(iii)(b)) the NHRIs must have a thorough knowledge of international human rights law.

In accordance with the provisions of Law 4780/2021 “National Accessibility Authority, National Commission for Human Rights and National Bioethics and Technoethics Committee” (Government Gazette 30/A/28.2.2021), the Commission shall have as its mission: “The exchange of experiences at supra-national and international level with similar bodies of other States, the European Union or international organisations, such as the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations” (Article 11,(b)). Furthermore, the GNCHR competences include the delivery of “an opinion on reports which the country is to submit to international organisations on related matters, draw up and submit its own independent

reports” (Article 12, (g)), the communication and cooperation “with the independent authorities as well as the competent EU bodies, international organisations, similar bodies of other States and national or international non-governmental organisations” (Article 12, (h)) as well as the examination of “ the adaptation of Greek legislation to the provisions of international law on human rights protection” and the delivery of “an opinion in this connection to the competent bodies of the State” (Article 12, (c)).

Throughout 2022, the GNCHR has fulfilled its mission responsibly, by delivering its opinion on reports submitted by the State to international and regional monitoring bodies and by submitting its own reports directly to them, by taking part in a number of meetings or other international and European initiatives, by making interventions in international and European *fora* and by contributing actively and effectively, to the elaboration of texts and policies. Actions taken by the GNCHR are set out below:

Submission of international reports or advisory opinions on national reports submitted to international and regional Human Rights Institutions

Contribution by the GNCHR to the UN Committee of Experts on Enforced Disappearances (March 2022)



Contribution by the GNCHR to the 2022 [ENNHRI Report](#) on the State of the Rule of Law in the European Union, focusing mainly on the following themes:



Click on the links below to have access to the [2021](#) and the [2020](#) GNCHR Reports



For more info click [here](#) to have access to the ENNHRI website

Click here to have access to the [2021 ENNHRI Report](#)

Click here to have access to the [2020 ENNHRI Report](#)

Contribution by the GNCHR to the UN Special Rapporteur in preparation of her Report on human rights defenders working on issues related to migration, refugees and asylum (June 2022)



Contribution to international/regional Human Rights monitoring mechanisms

Visit by the Member of the Parliament of Cyprus, Kyriakos Chatzigiannis at the premises of the GNCHR (23 March 2022)

Visit by the GRETA Experts at the premises of the GNCHR (28 February 2022)



Meeting of the GNCHR with the Ad Hoc Group on Fundamental Rights and the Rule of Law of the European Economic and Social Committee (05 May 2022)



Participation of the GNCHR in the two-day conference entitled, "Migration, human rights and inclusion: Assessing the Role of Civil Society in the OSCE Region" organised by the OSCE Office on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw (27-28 June 2022)



Cooperation with the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)



Since being a "natural ally" of all institutions and monitoring mechanisms of the Council of Europe for the promotion and protection of human rights, including therefore the ECtHR, the GNCHR helps to enhance the effectiveness of the Court's case-law by intervening at both stages of its production: prior the delivery of judgements, with a view to prevent and inform about violations and after the delivery of judgements, by acting as a facilitator in the execution of judgements and the prevention of recurrent violations.

It can hence be considered that the cooperation between the GNCHR and the ECtHR is multilevel and comprises:

- The translation on behalf of the GNCHR of the ECtHR's Factsheets, available on the official website of the Court into the Greek language. [The translation on behalf of the GNCHR of the ECtHR's Factsheets](#), available on the official website of the Court into the Greek language. Acknowledging the importance of these Factsheets, on December 2015, the GNCHR, in cooperation with the ECtHR, took the initiative to provide them translated into Greek, contributing that way to the dissemination of the ECHR case-law in our country. On 29 June 2016, the ECtHR issued a [press release dedicated to the Court's](#) cooperation with the GNCHR in the context of which, the GNCHR translates the Thematic Factsheets on the Court's case-law.
- The invocation of or references to the GNCHR [reports, positions and recommendations](#), in the judgements of the Court.
- The GNCHR participation in the broader debate on the reform of the ECtHR and the EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights and the Strasbourg system.
- In addition, regarding the submission of an appeal before the ECtHR, the GNCHR provides [guidance and information in Greek](#) on its website, with a link to the ECtHR website.
- The GNCHR is committed to promoting the work of the Council of Europe and monitoring the implementation of the ECtHR's judgements through:
 - collecting and continuously updating all ECtHR's judgments against Greece;
 - putting emphasis on the list of cases on standard or enhanced supervision procedure
 - submitting an intervention before the Committee of Ministers (CM) under Rule Nr. 9(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the CM for judgements under enhanced supervision, when necessary.

To this end, and following the present Report which is aiming at introducing in general terms the execution and supervision of the ECtHR judgements in the Greek legal order, the GNCHR was engaged to translate into the Greek language and subsequently publish on a regular basis extracts from documents, for example passages from the action plans of the Greek State, summaries of cases as well as decisions of the Committee of Ministers on group judgements against Greece in cases placed under enhanced supervision and group judgements against Greece in cases placed under standard supervision. This national project seeks to fill an important gap, through translation and systematic compilation of the most important ECHR judgements to be monitored, after their placement under the supervision of the Council of Ministers, to make this material more easily accessible to the Civil Society and, ultimately, to provide assistance to the Greek Authorities concerning the more effective implementation of ECHR judgements in Greece.

Meeting of the GNCHR with representatives from the body responsible for the supervision of the execution of judgments and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. (25 May 2022)



Click [here](#) to have access to the relevant post on the Council of Europe website

Meeting of the GNCHR with representatives from the body responsible for the supervision of the execution of judgments and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (03 November 2022)



Follow the link below:

[Mission to Greece focuses on prison conditions and freedom of association](#)



Encouraging ratification of international Human Rights instruments

Human rights, as universal and inalienable for every human being, irrespective of race, colour, national or ethnic origin, descent, religion or other beliefs, disability or chronic illness, age, marital or social status, sexual orientation, identity or gender characteristics, are legally enshrined at European, international and regional level by a large number of binding and non-binding texts. This internationalisation of the protection of human rights demonstrates that they have become a universal value and are no longer an internal State affair.

According to the minimum standards set by the Paris Principles, the NHRIs are entrusted, *inter alia*, with a very important responsibility: to encourage the accession, ratification and implementation of international human rights treaties (Part I (3)(iii)(c)). This is one of the key functions of the NHRIs, which constitutes a - sometimes quite effective, though not always sufficient - leverage to the improvement of the human rights situation in the Country.

More precisely, in order to fulfil their mission, the NHRIs shall:

- keep abreast of developments in the field of international human rights law
- encourage the participation of the State in the promotion and development of international human rights standards
- assess the degree of compliance of the national Authorities with their international obligations, and the submission on their behalf the relevant reports, for example their contribution to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process or the publication of the annual and special reports.
- support the ratification of treaties, without reservations.

For the NHRIs to be effective in their mission, it is necessary to be informed systematically not only on the of the legislation in force, but also on any other laws up for voting, in order to ensure their compliance with human rights standards. At the same time, in this regard, NHRIs must keep the State authorities informed of

the scope and nature of any obligations arising from the State's accession to any international human rights conventions or the ratification of international treaties on human rights.

Aware of its responsibility as an NHRI and responding to its constitutional mandate, which *inter alia*, consists of: “The constant monitoring of the matters pertaining to human rights protection, the informing of the public and the advancement of research in this connection” (Law 4780/2021, Article 11 (a) and of organising: “a Documentation Centre on human rights” (Law 4780/2021, Article 12 (k) the GNCHR has collected and recorded in a single list international and European legally binding and non-binding texts on the protection of human rights, always with the aim to ensure the widest possible framework for the protection of human rights. This List was first published in 2018 and has been regularly updated ever since.

A useful tool in the hands of legal practitioners and scholars of law, this list of classified Conventions, is divided into five sub-thematic units, based on the Organisation under which they have been adopted (I. United Nations, II.UNESCO, III. International Labour Organisation, IV. Council of Europe and V. European Union) and includes conventions and treaties which have not yet been signed or ratified by Greece.

A clickable link is available on the official website of each organisation which comprises the details of the each convention. In case the convention has been ratified by Greece, a link to the ratification law is available.(Official Government Gazette of Greece - National Printing Office)

Note: The full [List of International and European Conventions](#) is available on the GNCHR website.

Responding to requests for information and questionnaire surveys

Throughout 2022, the GNCHR responded to requests for providing information and questionnaire surveys online within the framework of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) and the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe (ECSR) with focus on issues of the protection of social rights.

Cooperation with Similar Commissions and NHRI Networks of other States

Throughout 2022, the GNCHR has responsibly fulfilled its mission to promote and protect Human Rights, by taking part in the work of the Global Alliance of the GANHRI and the ENNHRI, through its representation at Meetings and Conferences organised by both these Networks, by making presentations, interventions and effective contributions to the elaboration of relevant texts and policies.

Statement by the ENNHRI on the humanitarian law and the protection of human rights in Ukraine (2022)



Click [here](#) to have access to the ENNHRI Statement

Visit by the Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Ombudsman) of Cyprus, at the premises of the GNCHR (24 March 2022)




Six years of continued participation of the NCHR in the ENNHRI Board of Directors (23 March 2022)



ENNHRI members express solidarity with the Ukrainian NHRI (Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights) and usher in new board at first General Assembly of 2022

The Statement by the President of the GNCHR (31 March 2022)

Αήλωση Προέδρου ΕΕΔΑ για την Ουκρανία



Σήμερα είναι μια θλιβερή ημέρα για την Ευρώπη και όλους εμάς, που έχουμε ως καθήκον την προστασία των ανθρωπίνων δικαιωμάτων.

Οι περισσότεροι άνθρωποι της γενιάς μας, ελπίζαμε ότι δεν θα συναντούσαμε ξανά επιθετικό πόλεμο στην Ευρώπη.

Σήμερα, γινόμαστε μάρτυρες αποτρόπαιων πράξεων που αντίκεινται στο σύστημα κανόνων και αρχών που υπηρετούμε, που διδάσκουμε στους φοιτητές μας, που βιώνουμε ως επιστήμονες, και που προστατεύουμε ως Εθνικοί Θεσμοί για τα Δικαιώματα του Ανθρώπου.

Γινόμαστε τώρα μάρτυρες μιας κατάφωρης, βάνυσης και απρόκλητης παραβίασης των αρχών και κανόνων που συναποτελούν τον κόσμο μας. Η Ρωσική Ομοσπονδία παραβιάζει τους θεμελιώδεις κανόνες της διεθνούς κοινότητας: την αιτιολόγηση της χρήσης βίας, τον σεβασμό της εδαφικής ακεραιότητας και της αυτοδιάθεσης των λαών.

Στεκόμαστε αλληλέγγυοι δίπλα στους Ουκρανούς συναδέλφους μας, ενάντια στη βία που αποπειράται να αναιρέσει την υπόστασή τους, την ανεξαρτησία, την κυριαρχία, τα υφιστάμενα σύνορά τους, το δικαίωμά τους στην ίδια τη ζωή και τη ζωή των παιδιών τους.

Το Διεθνές Δίκαιο είναι οι αξίες και κανόνες που εμείς, οι λαοί των Ηνωμένων Εθνών, συναποφασίζουμε και από κοινού εφαρμόζουμε. Είναι η ώρα να συντονιστούμε και να δράσουμε από κοινού για να υπερασπιστούμε τον κόσμο, στον οποίο θέλουμε να ζούμε – με ειρήνη, ελευθερία, ασφάλεια και δικαιοσύνη.

Participation of the Coordinator of the GNCHR in the Meeting of the ENNHRI Working Group on Asylum and Migration in Brussels (06 May 2022)



Presentation of the RVRN in the new platform provided by the ENNHRI for the protection of human rights defenders (May 2022)

RVRN Platform provided by the ENNHRI for the protection of human rights defenders

The Racist Violence Recording Network (RVRN) is a joint initiative of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Greece (UNHCR) operating along with non-Governmental Organisations and Stakeholders.

For more info on the RVRN click [here](#)

Election of the Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR, Katerina Charokopou, to co-chair the ENNHRI Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights jointly with the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (June 2022)



For more info on the ENNHRI Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights click [here](#)

ENNHRI Report “Strengthening Human Rights Accountability at Borders (July 2022)



Click [here](#) to have access to the Report

Click [here](#) to have access to the ENNHRI website

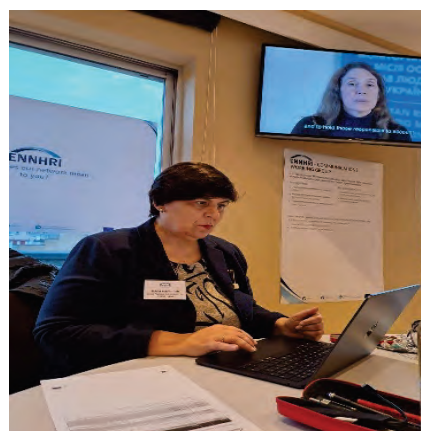
Participation of the GNCHR in the meeting of the ENNHRI Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Working Group (22 September 2022)



The President of the GNCHR participated in the work of the SCA (GANHRI) meeting, in Geneva (3-4 October 2022)



The GNCHR participated in the ENNHRI General Assembly (23 November 2022)



Participation of the GNCHR in the Meeting of the Chairs of ENNHRI Working Groups in Brussels (22 November 2022)



The GNCHR participated in the meeting of the ENNHRI Communications Working Group in Brussels (29-30 November 2022)



FOSTERING A CULTURE OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

According to the minimum standards set by the Paris Principles, the promotion of human rights is inextricably linked, *inter alia*, to raising public awareness, providing information and education and making effective use of the mass media (Paris Principles, Part I, (3)(g) incorporating, as defined by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA), all those initiatives which contribute to the building of a culture of respect for human rights and raising public awareness of human rights issues. The be-all and end-all of the effective promotion of human rights is raising awareness. Information and education aimed at raising awareness of and disseminating knowledge about human rights is a key aspect of promotion, bearing in mind that the protection of human rights depends essentially on the degree to which citizens are aware of their rights and the mechanisms available to them for the implementation of those rights. However pivotal knowledge dissemination may be, it is not on its own sufficient enough to ensure a culture of respect for human rights. Determination of public Authorities and all actors involved in the promotion of human rights, is also a prerequisite, for the knowledge to be applied into practice. And this is where the NHRIs have a crucial role to play, which is not only limited to raising citizens' awareness of their rights, but also extends to encouraging and supporting State institutions to actually implement them, through public awareness-raising of human rights issues, on the one hand, and through human rights education and research, on the other.

Raising public awareness

The mission to promote human rights is undoubtedly best fulfilled by providing information and disseminating knowledge on the field and comprises actions such as, collection, production and dissemination of information material, planning of relevant promotional events and cooperation with mass media outlets. The common denominator of these actions is to raise public awareness of human rights issues and to inform citizens on their rights and the mechanisms available to protect them. In light of the above observations and taking into account the provisions of the Constitutional Law of the GNCHR, which explicitly entrusts it with the development of initiatives to raise awareness of public opinion and mass media on matters of respect for human rights, (Law 4780/2021, Article 12)) in 2022 the GNCHR launched the following initiatives for the promotion of human rights:

Actions / Initiatives to promote Human Rights

[Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the GNCHR and ELSA Greece \(1 July 2022\)](#)



The GNCHR as partner in the EU STAND UP Project: "Standing up against crime, discrimination and intolerance" (January 2022-December 2023)



Since January 2022, the GNCHR has been participating in the “STAND-UP” EU co-funded Project. The STAND-UP Project’s main objective is to improve cooperation between different organisations in the fight against hate crimes through the design, development and implementation of a new inter-institutional model led by public authorities.

The STAND-UP Project’s main objective is to improve cooperation between different organisations in the fight against hate crimes through the design, development and implementation of a new inter-institutional model led by public authorities. In the framework of the co-funded project, the EEA elaborated a Special Report entitled: “What is hate crime?” Standing up against hate in the EU: “Defining Hate crime report” is a deliverable elaborated within the STAND-UP project on current perspectives and approaches toward the definition of Hate Crime based on the results of a survey and desk research. The Coordinator of the Specialised Scientific Staff of the GNCR, Eva Tzavala, Katerina Charokopou and Anastasia Chalkia, members of the Specialised Scientific Staff of the GNCR as well as members of the partnership of STAND-UP Project, were the Rapporteurs.

The STAND-UP Project’s main objective is to improve cooperation between different organisations in the fight against hate crimes through the design, development and implementation of a new inter-institutional model led by public authorities.

For more info on the project click the links below <https://stand-up-project.eu/>

και τα Newsletter του προγράμματος:

1ο Newsletter

2ο Newsletter

2nd Panhellenic Creativity's competition for students : "Future leaders with characters of integrity" (21 November 2022)



For more info on the project click the link below [National Transparency Authority](https://www.aead.gr/) - 2nd Panhellenic Creativity's competition for students: "Future leaders with characters of integrity" (aead.gr)

Participation in workshops and other events on the promotion of human rights

Participation in the event organised in the framework of the project, "ROMA PLATFORM 2020 – Development of the National Platform for Consultation and Dialogue on Roma issues of the National Roma Contact Point" (18-19 March 2022)

Ο ρόλος και οι κατευθυντήριες των διεθνών Οργανισμών και Αρχών στην Ελλάδα	
11.00-12.30	Οργάνωση Θεμελιωδών Διακηρύξεων της ΕΕ (FRA) Εκπαίδευση Διαπολιτισμικής, Εθνο-οργανικής, Συμφωνικής Οργανωτικής Οργάνωσης Διαπολιτισμικής ΕΕ (FRA) Συνέλευση των Παιδιών Θέμα: Κοινωνική Δικαιοσύνη, Συνέλευση των Παιδιών για τα δικαιώματα των Παιδιών Εθνική Επιτροπή για τα Δικαιώματα των Αδυνάτων (ΕΕΔΑ) Καταγραφή Χαρακτήρων, Επιστημονικός, Ιστορικός, Εθνικός, Επιστημονικός για τα Δικαιώματα των Αδυνάτων (ΕΕΔΑ) UNICEF Ελλάδα Υψηλή Διακρίση, Συμβούλος UNICEF για θέματα Ρομά
Ο ρόλος και οι κατευθυντήριες της Κοινωνίας των Πολιτών	
12.30-13.30	ΕΛΛΑΣ ΠΑΙΣΤΕΣ – ΠΑΝΕΛΛΑΔΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΟΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΡΟΜΑ Βελτίωση, Παιδεία, Υγεία της Προσέλευσης, Συνεργασία, Ελλείψεις Ρομά «ΕΛΛΑΣ ΠΑΙΣΤΕΣ» ΕΠΙΣΤΗ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΡΟΜΑ ΔΙΑΜΕΣΟΛΗΤΗΡΙΟ & ΣΥΜΠΕΡΙΣΤΑΣΗ Καταστατική Πράξη, Γραφείο της Κοινωνίας των Πολιτών Ρομά Διαπολιτισμική ΡΕΥΜΑ ΔΙΚΕ Επένδυση Ρομά, Ελλείψεις, ΤΕΣΑΜΕ, ΡΕΥΜΑ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΟ ΤΟΥ ΚΟΙΝΟΥ Αρχιτεκτονική, Αλληλεγγύη, Κοινωνία Σύλλογος Γενναίων Αρσενίου «Η ΕΛΛΑΔΑ» Συνήγορος του Πολίτη, Πρόεδρος Συλλόγου Γενναίων Αρσενίου «Η ΕΛΛΑΔΑ» Σύλλογος Γενναίων Ρομά Διαπολιτισμική Γενναίοι Μίλητα, Πρόεδρος Συλλόγου Γενναίων Ρομά Διαπολιτισμική
13.30-14.00	Διαλείψεις

Athens Bar Association - Invasion of Ukraine by Russia: The threat of Revisionism and the violations of International Law (14 April 2022)

The President of the GNCHR, Maria Gavouneli, was invited to an interview on "Athens 9,84" radio station, on the occasion of the European Patients' Rights Day (18 April 2022)

Participation of the President of the GNCHR in the conference, "Acceleration of child-justice system and Child-friendly justice", organised by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Hellas and the Network for Children Rights (03 May 2022)

Participation of the President of the GNCHR in the conference organised by the newly established student-run legal project "Just in Case" entitled, "Overturning Stereotypes:

Female Presence in the Professional Space" (12 May 2022)



Participation of the GNCHR in the event organised by the Amnesty National on the right to conscientious objection (13 May 2022)



Participation of the President of the GNCHR in the two-day conference,

"Law Clinics on International Law and Commercial Law" organised by the non-profit student organization "The Law Project" (2 June 2022)



The GNCHR participated in the work carried out during the 80th Biennial International Law Conference, organised and hosted by the Portuguese Branch of the International Law Association (ILA), carried out in Lisbon (19-24 June 2022)



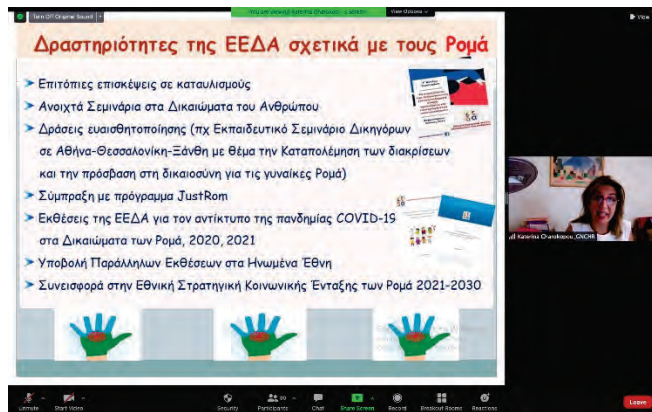
The theme of the conference was “International Law: Our Common Good”

Participation of the Second Vice-President of the GNCHR Elli Varchalama, in the conference, “Equal opportunities in the workplace” (15 July 2022)



Participation of the GNCHR in the concluding conference carried out under the project, “REACH: Roma women’s Empowerment and fighting discrimination in Access to Health” (12 September 2022)

Participation of the GNCHR in the concluding conference carried out under the project, “REACH: Roma women’s Empowerment and fighting discrimination in Access to Health” (12 September 2022)



Participation of the GNCHR in the 1st meeting of the Monitoring Committee for the Regional Operational Programme “ATTIKI 2021-2027” (18 October 2022)



On-line conference organised by the National Transparency Authority, the UNCHR and the GNCHR entitled, "Joining Forces to Tackle Gender-Based Violence" (26 October 2022)

The GNCHR took part in the 2nd training workshop of the 2022 Roma Political School 2022, organised by the Roma Women's Association of Dendropotamos, under the Council of Europe 2020-2025 Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (11 November 2022)



Two-day event on the occasion of the 2022 International Transgender Day of Remembrance, organised at the initiative of the late President of the Greek Transgender Support Association (19-20 November 2022)



Website of the Greek Transgender Support Association

Click [here](#) to read the Press Release of the Greek Transgender Support Association and the conference programme

Participation of the GNCHR in the event organised by the non-governmental organisation “METAdrasi – Action for Migration and Development” on the identification and certification of victims of torture(16 December 2022)



For more info click [here](#)

GNCHR Press Releases

Press Release by the GNCHR entitled, Zero tolerance to gender-based violence (19 January 2022)

Press Release entitled, The GNCHR on the increasing number of incidents of fan violence (3 February 2022)

Press Release entitled, International Women's Day: Gender equality in view of a sustainable and peaceful future (8 March 2022)

Press Release entitled, Press Release by the GNCHR on the occasion of the International Day against Racism (21 March 2022)

Press Release entitled, International Roma Day: Equal access to opportunities and aspects of daily life and fighting discrimination (8 April 2022)

Press Release entitled, Statement by the GNCHR on the occasion of the World Refugee Day(20 June 2022)

Press Release entitled, Statement by the GNCHR on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25November 2022)

Press Release entitled, Statement by the GNCHR on the occasion of **Human Rights Day 2022**: "Freedom, Equality and Justice for All" (09 December 2022)

GNCHR Interviews – Articles

The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, was interviewed by the journalists Giannis Ioannidis and Foteini Kokkinaki on the radio programme of the Hellenic League for Human Rights, "Rights on the FM" (Athina 9,84) (2 October 2022)

The members of the Greek National Committee for Human Rights (GNCHR) Yannis Tasopoulos, Professor of Constitutional Law at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Kostis Grimanis, Head of the Climate Change Campaign of the Greenpeace Greece, spoke on Saturday 22 October 2022 on Pericles Vassilopoulos' programme "I exercise my rights, I respect my obligations, in the Europe of tomorrow" on the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation Radio's First Programme, with guest journalist Antonis Papagiannidis. Nikos Mantzaris, co-founder and policy analyst of The Green Tank, also joined the show. (22 October 2022)

The President of the GNCHR was invited by Pericles Vassilopoulos to the programme "I Exercise my Rights" on the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation's First Programme on the World Human Rights Day and on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. (10 December 2022)

Human Rights Education and Training

Pursuant to the mission entrusted to it by the Greek legislator, regarding the cultivation of respect for human rights within the educational system as well as the development of initiatives for raising public and media awareness of matters of respect for human rights (Law 4780/2021, Article 12 (f) (j), the GNCHR

reiterates that human rights education constitutes *per se* a fundamental human right, from which derives the obligation of both the NHRIs and the public or private actors, active in the field of human rights, to develop specific educational programmes and initiatives focused on the promotion of human rights. It's for all these reasons, after all, that human rights education has been included in the very centre of the GNCHR mission.

More specifically, acknowledging that the cornerstone of human rights education is to introduce and integrate international human rights standards and practices into people's daily lives, the GNCHR has took the following initiatives, in 2022:

1st training action undertaken by the GNCHR for women's empowerment and substantive equality (11 May 2022)

2nd training action undertaken by the GNCHR for women's empowerment and substantive equality (18 May 2022)

3rd training action undertaken by the GNCHR for women's empowerment and substantive equality (1 June 2022)

4th training action undertaken by the GNCHR entitled,, Women at the forefront (22 June 2022)

Training programmes for professionals

The GNCHR conducts high-level educational and training programmes, designed to meet the particular needs of each professional field. In this context, it organises and conducts Series of Seminars for Prosecutors and participates in training activities for lawyers on a regular basis.

Participation of the GNCHR in the educational programme conducted for the police officers providing their services throughout the country (February - April 2022)



STAND UP: Two-day training seminar on combating hate crime and hate speech (28-29 September 2022)



Click below to have access to the video file of the event <https://ep.interactio.eu/msj4-f5g5-nmfb>

Training programmes in schools

Educational action conducted by the GNCHR at the Pierce College on the status of women, in relation to the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (25 February 2022)



Trainings addressed to students of Higher Education Institutions

Within the scope of its powers to provide education in the field of human rights, the GNCHR has consistently responded to invitations directed to it, including presentations at conferences and the conduct of seminars and trainings on the protection of human rights, addressed to students of higher education institutions.

In particular, the GNCHR has recently developed the following initiatives:

The GNCHR participated in the Athens Regional Round of the Helga Petersen Moot Court Competition organised by ELSA Athens (10-11 March 2022)

Research in the field of Human Rights

The GNCHR, in accordance with its legal mandate and mission to promote research on matters related to human rights, has signed Cooperation Protocols with ten University Faculties and Departments, in order to consolidate and strengthen their cooperation in both research and education fields. This cooperation marks a very important step towards the now official interaction between the higher education institutions of the country and the GNCHR, aiming

at fulfilling the latter's mission. More specifically, this cooperation facilitates the mission of the GNCHR through the contribution of the Greek higher education institutions in the research and documentation of recommendations, proposals, studies, reports and opinions elaborated and submitted by the GNCHR, in relation to the human rights situation in Greece. In addition, the opportunity for the students to kick-start their careers with an internship at the GNCHR, where specialised tasks are assigned to them, is also put in place on a permanent basis.

Up to 2022, bilateral Protocols of Cooperation were signed (in chronological order) with:

- the Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki,
- the Law School of the Democritus University of Thrace,
- the Social Administration and Political Science Department of the Democritus University of Thrace,
- the Political Science and Public Administration Department of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens,
- the Political Science and History Department of Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences,
- the Law School of the National Kapodistrian University of Athens,
- the Communication, Media and Culture Department of Panteion University,
- the Social Anthropology Department of Panteion University of Athens,
- the Political Science Department of the University of Crete,
- the School of Economics and Public Administration of Panteion University of Athens

Furthermore, the GNCHR collaborates in particular with the Centre for European Legal Culture (KENoΠ) of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (ΑΠΘ), the Region of Central Macedonia, the Municipality of Thessaloniki, the Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Bar Association of Thessaloniki for the co-organisation of the Forum for Human Rights of Thessaloniki.

ALLOCATION OF THE GNCHR RESOURCES

GNCHR Financing

The GNCHR shall be financed for its operating expenditure and staff salaries from the national budget, as well as from other sources of funding, which have been previously approved by its Plenary. In particular, according to the provisions of Law 4780/2021, Article 17 (1) and (2): “1. The Commission shall be financially independent. It shall take subsidy from the State budget, which shall be entered in the budget of the Ministry of Finance, as a separate detailed expenditure account. Funding from other sources is possible, provided that it is approved by the Plenary of the GNCHR. Allocation of appropriations and commitment of expenditure shall be made by the President of the Commission, as the principal authorising officer. By decision of its President, the Commission may open a bank account, in which credits from its programmes and other resources shall be transferred (paragraph 3). 2. The Commission shall draw up its own budget drafted under the responsibility of its President, without the agreement by any other body being prerequisite. The budget shall be drawn up on an annual basis and submitted directly to the General Accounting Office of the State, in accordance with the procedure provided for in the Public Accounts.”

The total amount of appropriations entered in the separate budget line 1023-609-0000000 of the GNCHR in 2022, was EUR 693,000.00. The allocation of appropriations and commitment of expenditure were made by the President of the Commission, as the principal authorising officer.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Law 2667/1998 (Government Gazette A 281/18.12.1998) establishing the GNCHR

The Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR) was established by Law 2667/1998 as the independent advisory body to the Greek State in accordance with the Paris Principles adopted by the United Nations (General Assembly Resolution A/RES/48/134, 20.12.1993, “National Institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights” NHRIs) and is the National Institution for the protection and promotion of Human Rights (NHRI) in Greece.

The founding legislation of the GNCHR was amended by Law 4780/2021 on **"National Accessibility Authority, National Commission for Human Rights and National Bioethics and Technoethics Committee"** (Government Gazette 30 A/28.2.2021) the provisions of which now govern the operation of the National Commission. Under the provisions of Law 4780/2021, the GNCHR has acquired legal personality, operational and financial independence and administrative autonomy.

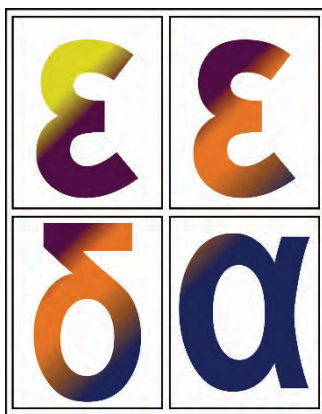
Editor-in-chief:

Katerina Charokopou, Legal/Research Staff

The preparation of the 2022 Annual Report was supported by the entire staff, both scientific and administrative, of the GNCHR.

The English version was produced by *Kelly Diavati, Certified Translator, GNCHR*

The 2022 Annual Report of the GNCHR, was printed in 2023 in 50 copies and can also be accessed on its website: www.nchr.gr



Greek National Commission for Human Rights - GNCHR

Neofytou Vamva 6 Str, 10674, Athens

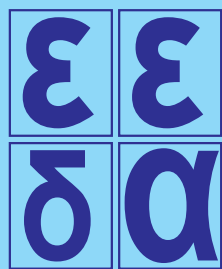
Tel. 210 7233221 - 2, FAX 210-7233217

E-mail: info@nchr.gr, Webpage: www.nchr.gr

Facebook: Greek National Commission for Human Rights - GNCHR

GNCHR Twitter [@humanrights_gr](https://twitter.com/humanrights_gr)

ISSN: 2241-2603



ISSN: 2241-2603

