

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Recommendations regarding the National Strategic Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008-2010
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The Ministry of Employment and Social Protection communicated the Report to the NCHR requesting its comments and recommendations.

Regarding social inclusion the NCHR noted the following:

a) the need to address access to employment of women, Roma, refugees, immigrants and the disabled; access to health services of the elderly; the need to inform the public on the new anti-discrimination legislation and the relevant protection mechanisms;

b) the inclusion of asylum seekers to the vulnerable groups;

c) the expansion of socio-medical centres in Roma camping sites;

d) the need to provide supporting classes to Roma children and unaccompanied minors;

e) the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the establishment of an Ombudsman for the Disabled;

f) the need for measures regarding social and professional reintegration of former detainees;

Regarding the strengthening of employment for women, young people, the long-term unemployed and the vulnerable groups of the population which is set as a priority by the Report, the NCHR underlined the lack of measures of compliance with Directives 2002/73, 2000/43 and 2000/78, incorporated into Greek legal order

As far as family support is concerned (another priority), the NCHR noted that the measures taken for the harmonization of professional and family life are insufficient.

In connection with the social integration of the disabled, immigrants and individuals/groups with cultural/religious particularities, the NCHR took the view that the issue should remain a priority for the State and that the views of the representatives of the aforementioned and of the bodies promoting their rights should be considered.

With regard to health issues, the NCHR repeated its position on the access to health services of undocumented migrants and the need for the hospital of Korydallos prison and the mental clinic to fall under the competence of the Ministry of Health. It also noted that prisons which are not located in urban areas need to be staffed with minimum medical personnel in order to provide emergency care to detainees.

Athens, 29 July 2008