

**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
**GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

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<p><b>Decision regarding Muslim Weddings</b> <b>by Proxy in Greece</b></p>
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The NCHR held extensive discussions on the complex legal and social issues arising from this subject. The NCHR stressed the importance of respect for cultural and religious identities in a pluralist, democratic society. Taking into consideration the relevant principles and rules of international, European and Greek human rights law the NCHR reached the following conclusions:

(a) Muslim weddings by proxy should be considered by Greek law as “non-existent” with regard to the proxy and the principal’s “spouse” and as “null and void” with regard to the principal;

(b) The principle of legal security dictates that Muslim weddings by proxy already carried out in Greece should be considered as valid;

(c) The minimum age for the conclusion of a Muslim wedding should be reviewed in the light of article 23 para 3 of ICCPR and of the fundamental constitutional principle of gender equality.

7 May 2003