

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Recommendations regarding Unaccompanied Minors

Following a Plan of Action proposed by the Greek Council for Refugees (a NCHR member) as well as a Special Report by the Ombudsman for Children (the Greek Ombudsman is a NCHR member) regarding the aforementioned issue, the NCHR recommended:

(a) the abolition of police detention of alien minors for illegal entry in the country and its replacement by alternative measures of hospitality and/or protective custody in suitable facilities;

(b) the abolition of deportation of alien minors who are subject to international protection, and its replacement by the return and repatriation procedure, when possible;

(c) the enactment of measures of systematic registration, identification, information, legal representation and custody of alien minors;

(d) the enactment of official and explicit procedures for the verification of the age of alien minors, assisted by independent experts combined with relevant medical and psychological examinations;

(e) the appointment of an advisor or of a person responsible for looking after each minor, especially in the field of childcare, who will safeguard the child's rights;

(f) the direct notification of the Public Prosecutor in charge of minors by the police authorities for arranging the former's custody;

(g) conducting more than one interviews with each minor separately in view of safeguarding the child's interest;

(h) that minors be fully informed of their rights;

(i) the establishment of a judicial social protection system, as proposed by the UNHCR and the Children's Ombudsman;

(j) the establishment of proper reception and residence centers for unaccompanied minors;

(k) the need to understand that alien unaccompanied minors/asylum seekers constitute a particularly vulnerable group in need of expert assistance;

(l) specialized access to education;

(m) ensuring all the legal conditions for employment and insurance for minors above the age of 15, by the competent state body; and

(n) that the GCR and the Ombudsman's abovementioned reports be examined and acted upon by the competent authorities.

15 February 2007