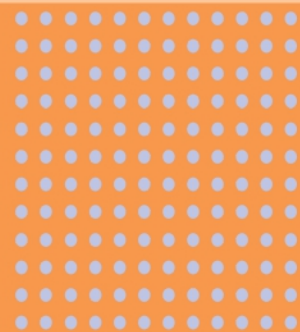




GREEK NATIONAL  
COMMISSION FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
(GNCHR)



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	1
MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GNCHR .....	4
A YEAR AT A GLANCE.....	8
THE GNCHR PEOPLE.....	11
<b>Composition of the GNCHR seventh term (2019-2022).....</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>Bureau.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Sections.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Female Representation.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Bureau.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Members.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Staff.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Plenary Composition.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<b>Staff .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<i>Specialised Scientific Staff.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Administrative Staff.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Interns.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<b>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.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>GNCHR; the independent advisory body to the State .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>GNCHR; the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>GNCHR; the key idea behind its establishment .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>GNCHR; the main mission.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>GNCHR; Independence and Pluralism.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<i>Persons designated by the GNCHR to participate in collective State administration bodies.....</i>	<i>24</i>
<b>GNCHR; similar NHRIs and international action.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>GNCHR and the UN Paris Principles translation.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT NATIONAL LEVEL .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Main thematic priorities of the GNCHR in 2021</b> Σφάλμα! Δεν έχει οριστεί σελιδοδείκτης.	
<i>Human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic.....</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Refugees-migrants .....</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Women .....</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Family and Child .....</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>Tackling Racism and Intolerance.....</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Labour.....</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Right to life/Dignity .....</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>LGBTQI+ people.....</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Roma.....</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Education of disabled children and/or children with learning difficulties</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Conscientious Objectors.....</i>	<i>43</i>
<b>The GNCHR as a bridge builder between the State and the Civil Society.....</b>	<b>44</b>
<i>The GNCHR; an interlocutor with National Authorities.....</i>	<i>44</i>

<i>The GNCHR; an interlocutor with the Civil Society</i> .....	47
<b>PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL</b> .....	54
Submission of international reports or advisory opinions on national reports submitted to international and regional Human Rights Institutions .....	57
Contribution to international/regional human rights monitoring mechanisms .....	59
Cooperation with the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) .....	62
Encouraging ratification of international Human Rights instruments .....	63
Responding to requests for information and questionnaire surveys .....	65
Cooperation with Similar Commissions and NHRI Networks of other States .....	67
<b>FOSTERING A CULTURE OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS</b> .....	71
Raising public awareness .....	72
<i>Actions / Initiatives to promote Human Rights</i> .....	75
<i>Participation in workshops and other events on the promotion of human rights</i> .....	76
<i>GNCHR Press Releases</i> .....	87
<i>GNCHR Interviews – Articles</i> .....	87
Human Rights Education and Training .....	87
<i>Annual (Open) Seminar Series entitled:“Human Rights in the (post)epidemic era: challenges and return to ‘normality.’”(Third Series, from February to June 2021)</i> .....	88
<i>Co-organisation by the GNCHR and the Association of Graduates of the National School of Public Administration and Local Government of Greece, of the First Series of Closed Seminars for Graduates of the National School of Public Administration and Local Government of Greece (ENAP-ESDDA), on Public Administration and Vulnerable Groups (from September to December 2021)</i> .....	89
<i>Co-organisation by the GNCHR and the Magistrates’ Court of Athens of the First Series of Seminars for the Judges of Magistrates’ Courts on Legal Gender Recognition (LGR) (From 9 to 10 December 2021)</i> .....	89
<i>Training programmes for professionals</i> .....	90
<i>Training programmes in schools</i> .....	91
<i>Training programmes for Higher Education Institutions Students</i> .....	92
Research in the field of Human Rights.....	93
<b>ALLOCATION OF THE GNCHR FINANCIAL RESOURCES</b> .....	94
GNCHR Financing.....	95
<b>LEGAL FRAMEWORK</b> .....	96
LAW 4780/2021 .....	97

## MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GNCHR

*Maria Gavouneli*

*President of the Greek National  
Commission for Human Rights*



2021 was a year of transition from the restrictive policy measures in response to the pandemic, to the gradual return to “normality”, during which public health and social measures, were still applied, thus affecting critical aspects of social and civic life.

This transitional period did bring to light incidents of human rights violation, making the need for intervention by the Greek State, imperative.

The GNCHR despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, continued to play its role as the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). More specifically, it should be noted that, the GNCHR held online plenary meetings on a weekly basis during the first mandatory lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, with the participation of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, involved in the decision-making process, in order to deal with the new challenges in the most efficient way possible, assess the impact of the restrictive policy measures on human rights and democratic values, provide the Greek Government with appropriate advice on the protection of the core human rights, as well as to raise public awareness of the human rights issues and the risks deriving from their violation due to the pandemic. It should also be noted that, the GNCHR continued, of course, to monitor issues relating to human rights in their entirety and requiring the formulation of a sound central policy, including the refugee and environmental issue, among others.

It is therefore evident, that the GNCHR is acting as a bridge builder, between the State and the civil society. More specifically, the GNCHR has maintained an open channel of communication with the Government, the NGOs and other civil society organisations and contributed significantly to the sessions of Parliamentary Committees, like the session of the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice of the Hellenic Parliament on the Bill of the Minister of State entitled, "National Accessibility Authority, National Commission for Human Rights and National Bioethics and Technoethics Committee".

At national level, the contribution of the GNCHR to the supervision and assessment of the action taken by the State in the field of human rights protection, in line with the Paris Principles, was also a key point of its activity throughout 2021. The

written Observations regarding the Human Rights situation in the Country, submitted by the GNCHR in view of the 3rd Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Greece in March 2021, as well as the [Observations](#) on Greece's combined 23rd and 24th periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (July 2021), are worth mentioning here. Moreover, the GNCHR contributed with its [Observations](#) on the National report, submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) Resolution 16/21, in view of the Third Cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Greece during the UN Human Rights Council's 39th Session, as well as with [Observations](#) on the United Nations Human Rights Committee on the List of Issues Prior to Reporting for the Third periodic examination of Greece under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights . The GNCHR also participated actively in the meetings of international/regional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, like the 47th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (24 June 2021) and the meeting with the ad hoc Sub-Committee of the Committee on Migration of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, during the fact finding visit of the Subcommittee to Greece (10 May 2021)

The GNCHR took the remarkable initiative to prepare, develop and introduce to the Greek national legal order a useful tool which in fact facilitates both the Greek State and the Civil Society to monitor more effectively the execution of the ECtHR decisions. This tool aims to translate into the Greek language and subsequently publish on a regular basis important documents in parts, such as extracts from the Greek State action plans, summaries of court cases, as well as decisions of the Committee of Ministers on categorised judgements against Greece, in cases placed under enforced and simple supervision. Additionally, in 2021, the GNCHR managed to respond successfully to the mandate entrusted to it, by encouraging the Greek State to ratify international human rights treaties and by supporting the work of international organisations and human rights bodies, with the completion of questionnaires and supplying information whenever requested.

For yet another year, the GNCHR acted as a channel for the dissemination of human rights in society, by participating to citizens' awareness-raising actions and making presentations in national and international fora, as well as by issuing press releases concerning burning societal issues. The GNCHR played also a key educational role in the field of human rights, by organising seminars for educational staff and public service employees, as well as by visiting schools and universities, with a view to discussing with school and university students on human rights protection issues related to various social groups, like refugees and migrants.

The above actions demonstrate the institutional role assigned to the GNCHR in the effective protection, supervision and establishment of human rights, in the Greek state and society.

In full recognition of this role, the GNCHR identified a number of specific human rights issues of utmost importance, in the current circumstances. The issues identification, was mainly based on their institutional importance along with the vulnerability of the groups mentioned in the GNCHR's opinions.



In particular, the GNCHR contributed to the [National Report](#) on the situation of human rights of migrants at the borders in collaboration with ENNHRI.

Additionally, the GNCHR submitted [Observations](#) on the Decision No 29845/2021 of the Ministry of Interior, highlighting its concern about the austerity and the restrictive nature of the economic and social integration requirements applying to foreign nationals wishing to acquire Greek citizenship. Furthermore, in its Observations on the Bill of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, entitled: “Reform of deportation and return procedures of third country nationals, issues of residence permits and procedures for granting international protection and other provisions within the competence of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the Ministry of Citizen Protection”, the GNCHR underlined the need for a holistic approach by the Greek State to the migration issue, through the foreign policy review, in order to allow cooperation with third countries of origin and thus safeguard the rights of their citizens.

2021 also brought the Greek society and state face to face with phenomena of discrimination and violence against women. The GNCHR expressed its disapproval of the phenomena of sexual harassment and abuse, in the context of exploitation related to power imbalances and abuse dynamics, which have recently been reported in sport, by unequivocally condemning any form of sexual violence and by urging the State to further strengthen the pertinent institutional framework.

In a press release issued on International Women’s Day, the GNCHR reiterated the role it plays, in terms of eliminating any form of discrimination, but also of strengthening and supporting all vulnerable female groups, like women with disabilities, Roma women, refugee women, migrant women, LGBTQI+ women. Another setback in the field of women’s rights was Turkey’s decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention. The GNCHR expressed its deep regret at Turkey’s decision as regards its withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, calling on the Greek State to join forces with other States Parties to the Istanbul Convention, in order to fully ensure the acquis established by the Convention. Furthermore, the GNCHR submitted its Observations on the Greek National Gender Equality Action Plan 2021-2025 of the Hellenic Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (September 2021) focusing on human rights as well as on the Bill of Ministry of Justice, entitled: “Reforms regarding parent-child relationships and other family law issues”, although being sceptical about the risk that the best interest of the child may not be safeguarded in practice.

In addition to the above referenced, one year after the historic conviction of the far-right party “Golden Dawn” (Χρυσή Αυγή) as a criminal organisation, the GNCHR reiterated previously-addressed recommendations to the State, drawing its attention to the absolute and permanent need, for early prevention and resolute action to confront and condemn both hate speech and racist crimes, putting emphasis on the fact that the sense of impunity and the decriminalisation associated with racist violence, should be eliminated. The representation of the GNCHR in the National Council against Racism and Intolerance meetings by its appointed members, as well as the Monitoring of the Racist Violence Recording Network, established in mid-2011 on the joint initiative of the GNCHR and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Greece (UNHCR), located at the premises of the GNCHR, are worth to be mentioned as part of the

GNCHR action against hate crimes. In 2021, the RVRN was comprised of 51 NGOs and civil society groups.

As regards to the human rights protection of specific social groups the GNCHR welcomed in its Note the establishment of the National Strategy Committee for LGBTQ+ Equality for the development of a comprehensive plan that will horizontally define the strategy, the objectives and the actions of Ministries and competent bodies assigned with the power to design, elaborate and implement policies for the equality of LGBTQI + people. Furthermore, in the same Note, the GNCHR confirmed its willingness and readiness to contribute to the Committee's demanding task and made specific and very targeted recommendations, promoting the adoption of a human-centred approach, consistent with the due protection of human rights. The GNCHR also contributed to the preparation of the 2021-2027 New National Strategy and Action Plan for Roma Social Inclusion, where it called for addressing the socio-economic exclusion of Roma and combating discrimination against them (anti-Gypsyism), by promoting equal access to education, employment, health and housing, in line with the European Commission's proposals on " A Union of Equality: EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation."

Besides, the GNCHR provided for the safeguarding of the right to education of students with disabilities and/or special educational needs, attending parallel support or integration classes in general schools or classes in Special Education and Training Units (SETU), by sending a letter to the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, in which it drew her attention to the need for full implementation of the relevant legislation in force. Yet, the GNCHR pointed out with significant concern, the need for immediate and full implementation of the relevant legislative framework, to prevent stigmatisation and exclusion experienced by students with disabilities and/or special educational needs, caused by the failure of the State to ensure an inclusive environment at school and by extension in the Greek society.

Finally, following the recent [decision](#) of the UN Human Rights Committee, which declared that in the long-standing case of the conscientious objector Lazaros Petromelidis, a number of violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) occurred, the GNCHR has once again urged the State to immediately bring the legislation on conscientious objectors in line with international human rights law and international and European standards.



## **A YEAR AT A GLANCE**

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST 12 MONTHS INCLUDE

Plenary Meetings  
and Sessions of the  
Sections

**20.1.21**  
Plenary

**25.2.21**  
Plenary

**31.3.21**  
Plenary

**19.5.21**  
Plenary

**11.6.21**  
Plenary

**7.7.21**  
Plenary

**27.9.21**  
Plenary

**24.11.21**  
Plenary

**Hearings of  
persons and  
national  
Stakeholders**

**12.5.21**  
Third Section and  
Hearings of Persons and  
Stakeholders

**25.5.21**  
Second Section and  
Hearings of In Persons  
and Stakeholders



**Parliamentary  
Interventions**



**10.2.21**  
Participation in the  
session of the Standing  
Committee on Public  
Administration, Public  
Order and Justice

**2.5.21**  
Participation in the common  
session of the Standing  
Committee on Public  
Administration, Public Order and  
Justice and the Special Permanent  
Committee on Equality, Youth and  
Human Rights

**2.6.21**  
Participation in the session of  
the Special Permanent  
Committee on Equality,  
Youth and Human Rights

**31.8.21**  
Participation in the  
session of the Standing  
Committee on Public  
Administration, Public  
Order and Justice

**24.11.21**  
Participation in the  
session of the Special  
Permanent Committee  
on Equality, Youth and  
Human Rights

**25.11.21**  
Participation in the session of  
the Special Permanent  
Committee on Equality, Youth  
and Human Rights -  
Subcommittee for people with  
disabilities

**25.11.21**  
Participation in the session of  
the Special Permanent  
Committee on Equality, Youth  
and Human Rights with agenda  
item on the Interim Report of  
the National Accessibility  
Authority

## Texts

21.1.21 GNCHR Statement on the phenomena of sexual harassment and abuse, in the context of exploitation related to power imbalances and abuse dynamics, which have recently been reported in sport, 25.2.21 GNCHR Statement on hunger striking prisoner Dimitris Koufontinas 8.3.21 GNCHR Contribution to the preparation of the New National Plan for Roma Inclusion (2021-2027) 31.3.21 GNCHR statement on Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention 25.3.21 GNCHR Observations submitted by the GNCHR in the light of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council, of Greece	26.3.21 GNCHR Contribution to the ENNHRI Annual Report (2021) on the Rule of Law in Europe 31.3.21 GNCHR Observations on the Bill of Ministry of Justice "Reforms regarding parent-child Relationships and other family law issues" 19.5.2021 GNCHR Report on the impact of the pandemic and the measures taken to address it on human rights and Recommendations to the State	20.5.21 National Report on the situation of human rights of migrants at the borders in collaboration with ENNHRI 20.5.21 GNCHR Observations on the Decision No. 29845/2021 of the Minister of Interior regarding the presumptions for the economic and social integration of foreign nationals applying for Greek citizenship. 10.6.21 GNCHR Observations on the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs' Bill on Labour Protection	25.6.21 GNCHR Memorandum to the Committee for the Drafting of the National Strategy for Equality LGBTIQI+ individuals 7.7.21 GNCHR Observations on Greece's combined 23rd and 24th periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) 8.7.21 GNCHR Observations on the Bill of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum "Reform of deportation and return procedures of third country nationals, issues of residence permits and procedures for granting international protection and other provisions within the competence of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the Ministry of Citizen Protection"	30.7.21 GNCHR Observations on the National report submitted in accordance with par. 5 of the annex to HRC resolution 16/21 in view of the Third Series of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Greece 24.9.21 GNCHR Submission to the UN Human Rights Committee on the List of Issues Prior to Reporting for the Third periodic examination of Greece under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 27.9.21 GNCHR Observations on the 2021-2025 National Action Plan for Gender Equality of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	25.10.21 GNCHR Letter, to the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs on the need for full implementation of the applicable legislation regarding the education of students with disabilities and/or special educational needs, who attend parallel support (co-teaching) programs or integration classes in general schools or classes in Special Education and Training Units. 24.11.21 GNCHR written Responses to the List of Issues in relation to the combined fourth to sixth periodic reports of Greece to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
--	--	--	--	---	--

## Education- Training Seminars



### February - June 2021

Annual (Open) Seminar Series entitled: "Human Rights in the (post)epidemic era: challenges and return to 'normality'"

### September - December 2021

First Series of Closed Seminars for Graduates of the National School of Public Administration and Local Government (ESDDA) of Greece, on Public Administration and Vulnerable Groups

### 9-10.12.2021

First Series of Seminars for the Judges of Small Claims Courts on Legal Gender Recognition (LGR)

## THE GNCHR PEOPLE

**Composition of the GNCHR seventh term (2019-2022)** Σφάλμα! Δεν έχει οριστεί σελιδοδείκτης.

***Bureau***..... Σφάλμα! Δεν έχει οριστεί σελιδοδείκτης.

***Sections***..... Σφάλμα! Δεν έχει οριστεί σελιδοδείκτης.

***Female Representation***..... Σφάλμα! Δεν έχει οριστεί σελιδοδείκτης.

***Plenary Composition***..... Σφάλμα! Δεν έχει οριστεί σελιδοδείκτης.

## Composition of the GNCHR seventh term (2019-2022)

### 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 (GSEE) - Attorney at law, Athens Bar Association*



## Sections

In accordance with the GNCHR Rules of Procedure, five Sections have been established, active in different fields. 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

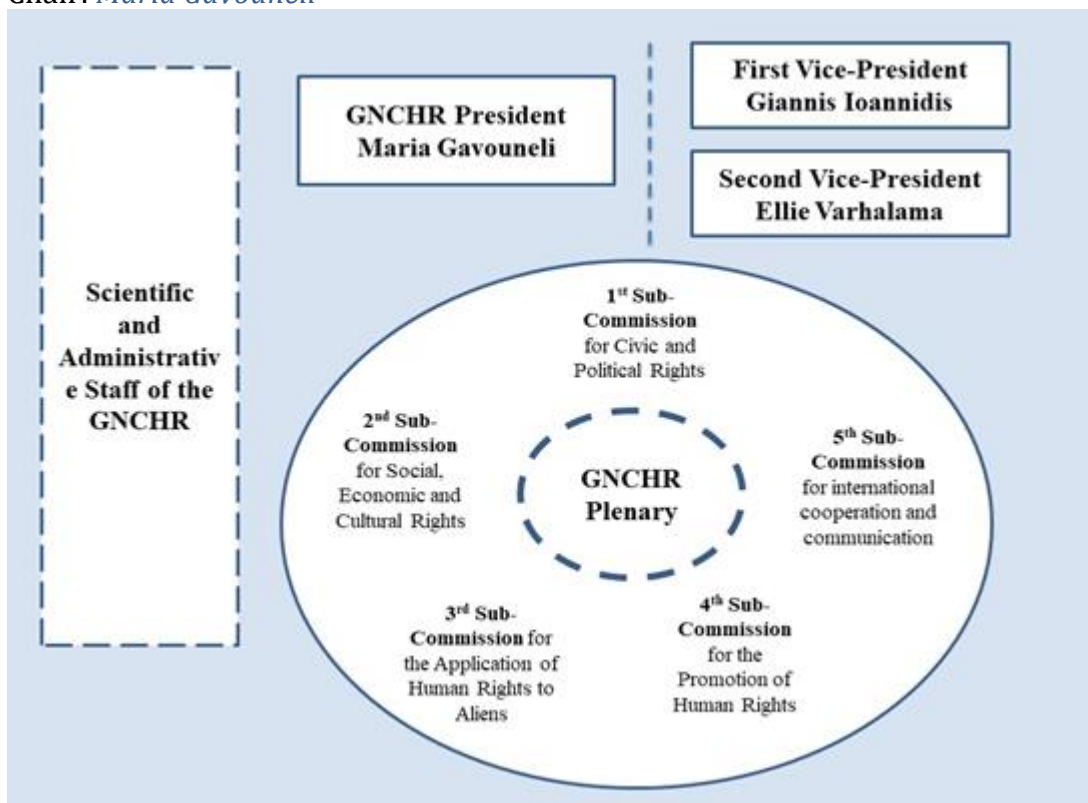
Chair: *Spyridon Apergis*

- The 4th Section for the Promotion of Human Rights

Chair: *Maria-Iliana Pravita*

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

Chair: *Maria Gavouneli*

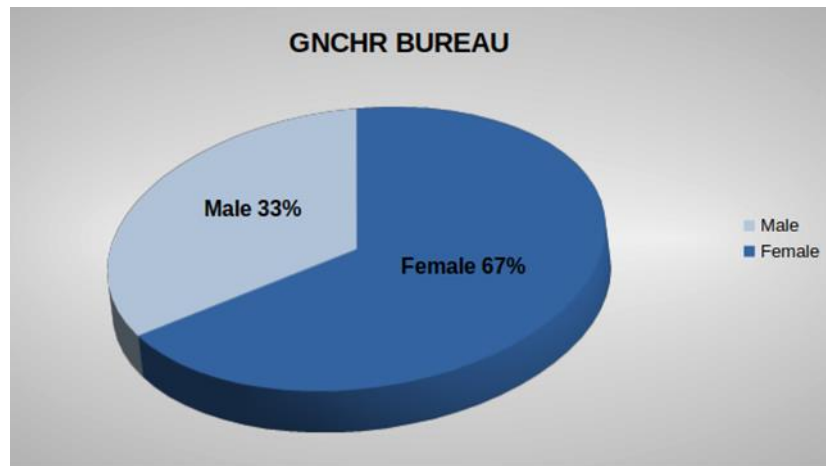




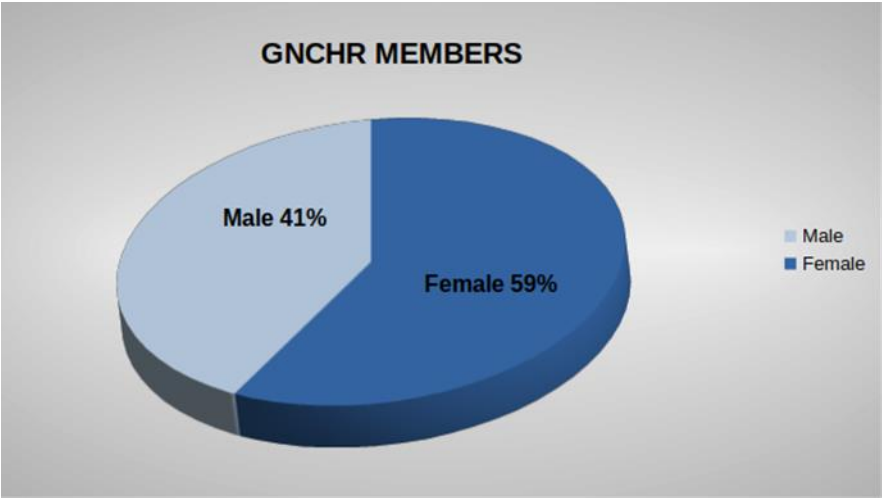
## Female Representation



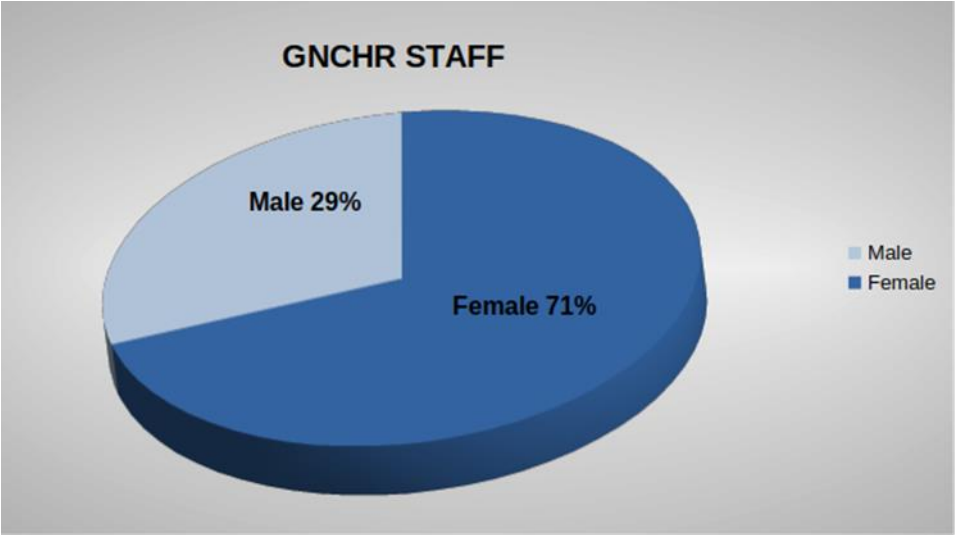
## Bureau



*Members*



*Staff*



## *Plenary Composition*

During 2021, the GNCHR was composed of 43 members appointed by an equal number of institutions for a three-year term. Its pluralistic composition facilitates the creative coexistence of persons coming from different backgrounds, with diverse views, knowledge and experience about human rights issues, expressing independently their opinions: academics, trade unionists, representatives of civil society or persons appointed by independent authorities, 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 2021, the GNCHR was composed of the following members:

### *Members with voting rights:*

- **Greek General Confederation of Labour (GSEE):** Elli Varchalama (alternate member: Despina Babanellou)
- **Supreme Administration of Civil Servants' Unions of Greece (ADEDY):** Stathis Gotsis (alternate member: Ekaterini Giannoulia)
- **Greek National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (ESAmEA):** Ioannis Vardakastanis (alternate member: Ioannis Lymvaivos)
- **Amnesty International - Greek Section:** Foivos Iatrellis (alternate member: Spyros Apergis)
- **Hellenic League for Human Rights (ELEDA):** Giannis Ioannidis (alternate member: Aikaterini Pournara)
- **Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights (MFHR):** Christoforos Argyropoulos (alternate member: Maria - Andriani Kostopoulou)
- **Greek Council for Refugees (GCR):** Alexandros Konstantinou (alternate member: Spyros Koulocheris)
- **Greek League for Women's Rights:** Maria Gavouneli (alternate member: Maria - Iliana Pravita)
- **Panhellenic Confederation of Greek Roma (POSER):** Eleftherios Dimitriou (alternate member: Vasileios Dimitriou)
- **Panhellenic Confederation of Greek Roma (ELLAN PASSE):** Vasilios Pantzos (alternate member: Ilias Giannopoulos)
- **Greek Transgender Support Association (SYD):** Marina-Matha Galanou (alternate member: Vasilis Sotiropoulos)
- **Athens Pride:** Giannis Papagiannopoulos (alternate member: Andrea Gilbert)
- **Lesbian & Gay Community of Greece (OLKE):** Eirini Petropoulou (alternate member: Aristotelis Raptis)
- **Colour Youth - Athens LGBTQ Youth Community:** Ariadni Petraki (alternate member: Anna Papazoglou)
- **Rainbow Families Greece:** Aikaterini Trimmi (alternate member: Maria Logothesi)
- **Hellenic Roma Action (HEROMACT):** Eleftherios Konstantinidis (alternate member: Manolis Rantis)

- **Political Parties recognised according to the Standing Orders of the Hellenic Parliament:** Nea Dimokratia (ΝΔ) (New Democracy) – May Zanni (alternate member: Maria Diamanti), Kinima Allagis (KINAA) (Movement for Change) – Xenofon Kontiadis (alternate member: Vasilis Chronopoulos), Kommounistiko Komma Elladas (KKE) (Communist Party of Greece) – Antonis Antanasiotis, Synaspismos Rizospastikis Aristeras (ΣΥΡΙΖΑ) (Coalition of the Radical Left) – Danai Koltsida (alternate member: Ioannis Gounaris), Metopo Evropaikis Rizospastikis Anypakois (MEPA 25) (European Realistic Disobedience Front) – Vasilis Pantazis (alternate member: Maria Korizi )
- **Hellenic Consumer’s Ombudsman:** Lefteris Zagoritis (alternate member: Athina Kontogianni)
- **The Greek Ombudsman:** Andreas Pottakis (alternate member Georgios Nikolopoulos)
- **Hellenic Data Protection Authority:** Charalampos Anthopoulos (alternate member: Eleni Martsoukou)
- **Greek National Council for Radio and Television (ESR):** Evangelia (Lilian) Mitrou (alternate member: Nikolaos Kiaos)
- **Greek National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics:** Charalampos Savvakis (alternate member: Nikolaos Anagnou)
- Persons of high standing, recognised competence, and expertise in human rights protection issues, appointed by the Prime Minister: Kyrkos Doxiadis and Athina Athanasiou
- **Professors or Associate Professors of Public Law or Public International Law:** Theodora Antoniou, School of Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (alternate member: Pavlos-Mihail Efstratiou), Ifigeneia Kamtsidou, Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (alternate member: Lina Papadopoulou), Stefanos Dimitriou, Department of Political Science and History Panteion University (alternate member: Stamatoula Tomara-Sideri):
- **Athens Bar Association:** Christos Kleiosis (alternate member: Panagiotis Chasiotis)

*Non-Voting Members:*

- **Special Permanent Committee on Institutions and Transparency (Parliamentary Committees):** Chairman, Athanasios Bouras
- **Hellenic Ministry of Interior:** Christos Saritzoglou (alternate member: Errika-Evrikleia Pradan)
- **Hellenic Ministry of Citizen Protection:** Dimitris Kalogrias (alternate member: Sophia Doukiatzaki)
- **Hellenic Ministry of Migration and Asylum:** Konstantinos Kintis (alternate member: Spyros Spyropoulos)
- **Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** Iraklis Moskof (alternate member: Ilias Kastanas)
- **Hellenic Ministry of Justice:** Theofilos Tsagris (alternate member: Katerina Polyzou)
- **Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs:** Katerina Mpompetsi (alternate member: Manolis Sarlamis)

- **Hellenic Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs:** Souzanna Laskaridou (alternate member:Evangelia Zerva)
- **General Secretariat for Media & Communication:** General Secretariat for Media & Communication: Kalliopi Lagodimou)

## Staff

### Specialised Qualified Scientific Staff

- *Dr Roxani Fragkou:*

Legal Coordinator/Human Rights Officer / Attorney at Law. She completed her PhD studies in Public Law at the University of Strasbourg and she also holds a Master Degree in Public Law (DEA en Droit public, Université Robert Schuman-Strasbourg III). She teaches law at the Hellenic Open University, as well as at the Open University of Cyprus.



- *Antonis Veneris:*

Legal/Research Officer, PhD studies in “Law and Informatics” at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Specialised Expert in Personal Data Protection [up to October 2021]



- *Anna Irene Baka:*

Legal/Research Officer, PhD in Public International Law and Legal Philosophy of (University of Hong Kong), LLM in International, Comparative and EU Law (Institute for European Studies, Free University of Brussels), MA in Public Law and European Integration (Panteion University of Athens), LLB (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), Lawyer [she was on care-child leave during 2021]



- *Eva Tzavala:*

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





- *Katerina Charokopou:*

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



### Administrative Staff

- *Katerina Pantou:*

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)



### Interns

In 2021, the GNCHR was assisted by (4) four interns:

- Three (3) interns, students of Law and Political Science:
  - Mariza Kanellopoulou (from 10.3.2021 to 10.6.2021), Alexandra Kormentza (from 20.10.2021 to 20.01.2022) and Efsevia Mpasta (from 8.11-2021 to 11.2.2022)
- One (1) translator-lawyer:
  - Dimitra Moulatsioti (from 8.3.2021 to 8.9.2021).

**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 STATE** .....ΣΦΑΛΜΑ! ΔΕΝ ΕΧΕΙ ΟΡΙΣΤΕΙ ΣΕΛΙΔΟΔΕΙΚΤΗΣ.

**GNCHR; THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION (NHRI)** .....ΣΦΑΛΜΑ! ΔΕΝ ΕΧΕΙ ΟΡΙΣΤΕΙ ΣΕΛΙΔΟΔΕΙΚΤΗΣ.

**GNCHR; THE KEY IDEA BEHIND ITS ESTABLISHMENT** .... ΣΦΑΛΜΑ! ΔΕΝ ΕΧΕΙ ΟΡΙΣΤΕΙ ΣΕΛΙΔΟΔΕΙΚΤΗΣ.

**GNCHR; ITS MAIN MISSION**..... ΣΦΑΛΜΑ! ΔΕΝ ΕΧΕΙ ΟΡΙΣΤΕΙ ΣΕΛΙΔΟΔΕΙΚΤΗΣ.

**GNCHR;INDEPENDENCE AND PLURALISM** ..... ΣΦΑΛΜΑ! ΔΕΝ ΕΧΕΙ ΟΡΙΣΤΕΙ ΣΕΛΙΔΟΔΕΙΚΤΗΣ.

***PERSONS DESIGNATED BY THE GNCHR TO PARTICIPATE IN COLLECTIVE STATE ADMINISTRATION BODIES*** ..... ΣΦΑΛΜΑ! ΔΕΝ ΕΧΕΙ ΟΡΙΣΤΕΙ ΣΕΛΙΔΟΔΕΙΚΤΗΣ.

**GNCHR; SIMILAR NHRIS AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION**.....ΣΦΑΛΜΑ! ΔΕΝ ΕΧΕΙ ΟΡΙΣΤΕΙ ΣΕΛΙΔΟΔΕΙΚΤΗΣ.

**GNCHR AND THE UN PARIS PRINCIPLES TRANSLATION**ΣΦΑΛΜΑ! ΔΕΝ ΕΧΕΙ ΟΡΙΣΤΕΙ ΣΕΛΙΔΟΔΕΙΚΤΗΣ.

## GNCHR; the independent advisory body to the State

The Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR) was established by [Law 2667/1998](#) 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 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:

- the Human Rights Council, the monitoring bodies of the international conventions for the protection of human rights (Treaty Bodies), Special Procedures (specialised rapporteurs and independent experts), the Universal Periodic Review mechanism (UPR) of the Council of Europe
- In addition 'A status' NHRIs cooperate with the Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the European Union, the European Commission and the Fundamental Rights Agency, thus co-shaping the international landscape of human rights and promoting 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, 86 countries around the world have fully harmonised NHRIs and a number of others have launched the establishment of their own National Institutions (see [Chart of the status of National Institutions](#)).

CHART OF THE STATUS OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
ACCREDITED BY THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS  
**Accreditation status as of 28 December 2021**

In accordance with the Paris Principles and the GANHRI Statute, the following classifications for accreditation are used by the GANHRI:

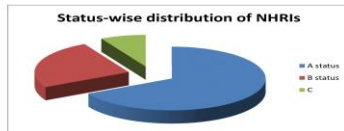
- A** Fully compliant with the Paris Principles;  
**B** Partially compliant with the Paris Principles;

\*A(R) This category (accreditation with reserve) was granted where insufficient documentation was submitted to confer 'A' status; it is no longer in use by the GANHRI. It is maintained only for those NHRIs which were accredited with this status before April 2008.

\*C This category (non-member & non-compliant with the Paris Principles) was granted where the institution was deemed to not be in compliance with the Paris Principles; it is no longer in use by GANHRI. It is maintained only for institutions that were accredited with this status before October 2007.

**Summary**

Classification	Number of reviewed institutions
A - status	86
B - status	32
C - no status	10
Total	128



\* See relevant NCA Report

Note: Unless specified, previous years in the fourth column refer to the same status as the most recent one

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 is 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 A status by the SCA, demonstrating in practical terms the fulfilment of its mission to promote and protect human rights.

### GNCHR; the key idea behind its establishment

The establishment of the GNCHR emanated from the need to constantly monitor developments relating to the status of human rights in the country and abroad, to ensure Greek public awareness of human rights-related issues and, above all, to provide guidelines to the Greek State aiming at a sound central policy-making on human rights issues. The GNCHR aims to constantly pointing out to all State institutions the need to effectively safeguard the human rights of all those living in the Greek territory.

### GNCHR; the main mission

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

- constantly monitoring matters pertaining to human rights protection, raising public awareness and promoting research in this field,
- 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
- formulating policy proposals on matters falling within its remit.

## **GNCHR; Independence and Pluralism**

The independence of the GNCHR *conditio sine qua non*, for the fulfilment of its dual mandate to promote and protect human rights, is enshrined in its law and guaranteed, *inter alia*, is guaranteed on the basis of a mandate that is as broad as possible and clearly defined in the legislation. (Paris Principles A.2) According to its founding legislation, the GNCHR is the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in Greece and the independent advisory body to the State on matters pertaining to human rights protection and promotion (Law 4780/2021, Article 10, (2)).

The legislation related to the functioning of the GNCHR clearly defines its mission and scope, while its mandate is interpreted in a broad and constructive manner,, in order to promote a more progressive definition of human rights that includes all human rights, 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.

An additional guarantee of the GNCHR independence is its pluralistic and polyphonic composition with the participation of 43 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.

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.

### **Persons designated by the GNCHR to participate in collective State administration bodies**

In the context 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. Designating participants in collective bodies of Public Administration, is one of the many different ways, for the GNCHR to fulfil its mandate. In 2021, the GNCHR responded willingly and with responsibility to the following requests for:

#### ***Membership in the National Council against Racism and Intolerance***

In accordance with the provisions of law 4356/2015, Government Gazette A 181, 24.12.2015 (Articles 15 et seq.), the GNCHR; is a member of the Greek National Council Against Racism and Intolerance (ESRM), to be represented in its meetings by a person of its choice. During 2021, the GNCHR was represented by †Marina-Matha Galanou (full member) and Aikaterini Pournara (alternate member).



*Participation in the National Mechanism for the Developing, Monitoring and Evaluation of a National Action Plan for Children's Rights constituted by virtue of decision 83559/15oik./10.3.2016 of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights on 12 March, on 17 and 23 June 2021)*

The GNCHR participated in the meetings of the National Mechanism for the Developing, Monitoring and Evaluation of a National Action Plan for Children's Rights (hereinafter NAP), which took place, on 12 March, on 17 and 23 June 2021. The GNCHR was represented by its First Vice-President Giannis Ioannidis and Katerina Charokopou, Legal/Research Officer.

*Participation in the Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the National Programmes of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Internal Security Fund for the 2014-2020 Programming Period (23 June ).*

Since 2015, the GNCHR has been participating in the Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the National Programmes of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Internal Security Fund for the 2014-2020 Programming Period, and is represented, in accordance with the legislation in force, by its President, Maria Gavouneli, as a non-voting member. In this context, the President of the GNCHR participated online in the 2nd and last meeting of the Committee on 23 June 2021, which took place at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre (SNFCC). The GNCHR has repeatedly called the State's attention to the importance of its effective involvement in the preparation, monitoring, review and assessment of programming and supported projects, thereby playing a role which, in line with the objectives of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, is gradually being institutionally recognised, inter alia, to national human rights and equality bodies.

*Designation of Members to participate in the Naturalisation Committees*

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 12 of the Greek Nationality (or Citizenship) Code, which was ratified by [Law 3284/2004](#), as replaced by Article 8 of [Law 3838/2010](#), (Government Gazette A 49), further replaced by paragraph 2 of Article 26 of [Law 3938/2011](#) (Government Gazette A 61) and amended by Article 142 (6) of [Law 4251/2014](#) (Government Gazette A 80), Article 59 of [Law 4456/2017](#) (Government Gazette A 24) and Article 38 of [Law 4604/2019](#) (Government Gazette A 50), Naturalisation Committees are established, to deliver an opinion on the contribution to the substantive requirements that must be fulfilled by foreign nationals, wishing to acquire Greek nationality ([Law 3838/2010](#), Article 3). In accordance with the GNCHR Rules of Procedure, one of its members along with their alternate, shall be designated in each of the Naturalisation Committees.



Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 6 and 280 of Law 3852/2010 “New Architecture of Local Government and Decentralised Administration – Kallikratis Programme” (Government Gazette A 87,7.6.2010) and the provisions of Law 3938/2011, the GNCHR shall appoint, whenever requested to do so, members - both full and alternate - to all Naturalisation Committees of all the Decentralised Administrative Units of the Greek State as follows: a) in Thessaly and Central Greece where 2 Naturalisation Committees are established b) in Epirus and Western Macedonia c) Peloponnesus, Western Greece and the Ionian Islands where 2 Naturalisation Committees are established d) in Crete e) in Attica where 4 Naturalisation Committees competent at local level are established f) in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace where 3 Naturalisation Committees competent at local level are established g) in the Aegean Islands, where 2 Naturalisation Committees competent at local level are established. In 2021, the GNCHR designated new members to certain Naturalisation Committees, whose two-year term was about to expire.

The above mentioned Naturalisation procedure was amended by the provisions of Article 6 of Law 4735/2020 "Amendment of the Greek Nationality (or Citizenship) Code, new framework for public sector Administrations selection, regulations concerning organisational issues of the General Secretariat of Citizenship and the General Secretariat of Human Resources in the Public Sector of the Ministry of Interior, regulations concerning the development perspective and the proper functioning of Local Government Agencies" (Government Gazette A 197,12.10.2020) Pursuant to these provisions, the Naturalisation Committees were replaced by Special Three-Member Examination Committees, composed of an employee of the General Secretariat of Citizenship as Chair and two public or private education teachers, designated with an equal number of alternates thus excluding from their composition, persons designated by the GNCHR.

#### *Designation of Members to 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 in the Hellenic Ministry of Migration Policy in order to issue opinions on granting residence permits to third country nationals, taking into consideration their special ties with the social life of the Country. Opinions should also be issued by the Committees, in all cases where an application is referred to them relating to the granting or renewal of a residence permit issued by 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 Committees shall be composed of: a) Two (2) employees of the Ministry of Immigration Policy, one (1) of whom as Chair b) one (1) employee of the Ministry of Interior c) one (1) representative of Civil Society, as proposed by the National Commission for Human Rights d) one (1) representative of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece.

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

#### *Designation of members to the Cross-sectoral Advisory Committee for the promotion of Epidemiological Surveillance System on incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect in Greece*

Since January 2021, the GNCHR has been participating in the Cross-sectoral Advisory Committee for the promotion of Epidemiological Surveillance System on incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect in Greece, with Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, Attorney at Law, President of the Steering Committee of the Council of Europe on the Rights of the Child

(CDENF) and Member of the GNCHR and with her alternate member Stathis Gkotsis, Historian and Member of the GNCHR.

### **GNCHR; similar NHRIs and international action**

The work and contribution of the GNCHR in promoting and protecting human rights in Greece were once again internationally recognised, as confirmed by its re-election in October 2018, for a second consecutive term (2019-2022) as a member of the European Coordinating Committee (ECC) which is the executive body of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI).

In addition, during the same ENNHRI General Assembly, which took place on 24 October 2018 in Athens, the GNCHR was elected as a member of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Bureau while at the most recent ENNHRI General Assembly, on 3 December 2021, it was elected as an alternate member of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the GANHRI. Furthermore, in March 2021, the GNCHR took over the Presidency of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions for Asylum and Migration Working Group (ENNHRI Asylum and Migration Working Group). The GNCHR is represented both at the ENNHRI Bureau and the GANHRI Bureau by its President Professor, Maria Gavouneli, while Eva Tzavala, Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR, is the representative of the Commission, in the ENNHRI Asylum and Migration Working Group.



### **GNCHR and the UN Paris Principles translation**

The UN Paris Principles, drafted at an international NHRIs workshop in Paris in 1991 and subsequently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993 (General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/48/134](#) 20.12.1993, “National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights”) constitute a set of international standards which frame and guide the work of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). 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.

United Nations

A/RES/48/134



General Assembly

Distr. GENERAL

20 December 1993

ORIGINAL  
ENGLISHA/RES/48/134  
85th plenary meeting  
20 December 1993

48/134. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant resolutions concerning national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, notably its resolutions 41/129 of 4 December 1986 and 48/124 of 17 December 1991 and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1987/40 of 10 March 1987, 1989/72 of 10 March 1989, 1989/52 of 7 March 1989, 1990/73 of 7 March 1990, 1991/27 of 5 March 1991 and 1992/54 of 3 March 1992, and taking note of Commission resolution 1993/55 of 9 March 1993,

Emphasizing the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Human Rights and other international instruments for promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Affirming that priority should be accorded to the development of appropriate arrangements at the national level to ensure the effective implementation of international human rights standards,

Convinced of the significant role that institutions at the national level can play in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in developing and enhancing public awareness of those rights and freedoms,

Recognizing that the United Nations can play a catalytic role in assisting the development of national institutions by acting as a clearing-house for the exchange of information and experience,

Mindful in this regard of the guidelines on the structure and

Although, these "soft law" rules lack binding legal force, the international interest they have aroused among the UN as well as other international and regional organisations, including the Council of Europe, has been so considerable and the response on their part to them so positive, that they are now considered to be the "minimum standards for the effective operation of an NHRI". This is why the UN monitoring bodies, in their recommendations and declarations, tend to constantly emphasise the importance of the Paris Principles, thereby recognising the need to ensure their implementation and at the same time setting the process of the NHRIs accreditation, in accordance with the Paris Principles, under the auspices of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

As part of its institutional role as an NHRI, the GNCHR set out in Greek the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (UN Paris Principles in English):

## United Nations General Assembly, A/RES/48/134, 4 March 1994 (The Paris Principles)

### National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

#### Competence and responsibilities

1. A national institution shall be vested with competence to promote and protect human rights.
2. A national institution shall be given as broad a mandate as possible, which shall be clearly set forth in a constitutional or legislative text, specifying its composition and its sphere of competence.
3. A national institution shall, inter alia, have the following responsibilities:

(a) To submit to the Government, Parliament and any other competent body, on an advisory basis either at the request of the authorities concerned or through the exercise of its power to hear a matter without higher referral, opinions, recommendations, proposals and reports on any matters concerning the promotion and protection of human rights; the national institution may decide

to publicize them; these opinions, recommendations, proposals and reports, as well as any prerogative of the national institution, shall relate to the following areas:

(i) Any legislative or administrative provisions, as well as provisions relating to judicial organizations, intended to preserve and extend the protection of human rights; in that connection, the national institution shall examine the legislation and administrative provisions in force, as well as bills and proposals, and shall make such recommendations as it deems appropriate in order to ensure that these provisions conform to the fundamental principles of human rights; it shall, if necessary, recommend the adoption of new legislation, the amendment of legislation in force and the adoption or amendment of administrative measures;

(ii) any situation of violation of human rights which it decides to take up;

(iii) The preparation of reports on the national situation with regard to human rights in general, and on more specific matters;

(iv) Drawing the attention of the Government to situations in any part of the country where human rights are violated and making proposals to it for initiatives to put an end to such situations and, where necessary, expressing an opinion on the positions and reactions of the Government;

(b) To promote and ensure the harmonization of national legislation regulations and practices with the international human rights instruments to which the State is a party, and their effective implementation;

(c) To encourage ratification of the above-mentioned instruments or accession to those instruments, and to ensure their implementation;

(d) 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;

(e) To cooperate with the United Nations and any other organization in the United Nations system, the regional institutions and the national institutions of other countries that are competent in the areas of the promotion and protection of human rights;

(f) To assist in the formulation of programmes for the teaching of, and research into, human rights and to take part in their execution in schools, universities and professional circles;

(g) To publicize human rights and efforts to combat all forms of discrimination, in particular racial discrimination, by increasing public awareness, especially through information and education and by making use of all press organs.

### **Composition and guarantees of independence and pluralism**

1. The composition of the national institution and the appointment of its members, whether by means of an election or otherwise, shall be established in accordance with a procedure which affords all necessary guarantees to ensure the pluralist representation of the social forces (of civilian society) involved in the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly by powers which will enable effective cooperation to be established with, or through the presence of, representatives of:

(a) Non-governmental organizations responsible for human rights and efforts to combat racial discrimination, trade unions, concerned social and professional organizations, for example,

associations of lawyers, doctors, journalists and eminent scientists;

(b) Trends in philosophical or religious thought;

(c) Universities and qualified experts;

(d) Parliament;

(e) Government departments (if these are included, their representatives should participate in the deliberations only in an advisory capacity).

2. The national institution shall have an infrastructure which is suited to the smooth conduct of its activities, in particular adequate funding. The purpose of this funding should be to enable it to have its own staff and premises, in order to be independent of the Government and not be subject to financial control which might affect its independence.

3. In order to ensure a stable mandate for the members of the national institution, without which there can be no real independence, their appointment shall be effected by an official act which shall establish the specific duration of the mandate. This mandate may be renewable, provided that the pluralism of the institution's membership is ensured.

### **Methods of operation**

Within the framework of its operation, the national institution shall:

(a) Freely consider any questions falling within its competence, whether they are submitted by the Government or taken up by it without referral to a higher authority, on the proposal of its members or of any petitioner;

(b) Hear any person and obtain any information and any documents necessary for assessing situations falling within its competence;

(c) Address public opinion directly or through any press organ, particularly in order to publicize its opinions and recommendations;

(d) Meet on a regular basis and whenever necessary in the presence of all its members after they have been duly convened;

(e) Establish working groups from among its members as necessary, and set up local or regional sections to assist it in discharging its functions;

(f) Maintain consultation with the other bodies, whether jurisdictional or otherwise, responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights (in particular ombudsmen, mediators and similar institutions);

(g) In view of the fundamental role played by the non-governmental organizations in expanding the work of the national institutions, develop relations with the non-governmental organizations 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 specialized areas.

### **Additional principles concerning the status of commissions with quasi-jurisdictional competence**

A national institution may be authorized to hear and consider complaints and petitions

concerning individual situations. Cases may be brought before it by individuals, their representatives, third parties, non-governmental organizations, associations of trade unions or any other representative organizations. In such circumstances, and without prejudice to the principles stated above concerning the other powers of the commissions, the functions entrusted to them may be based on the following principles:

(a) Seeking an amicable settlement through conciliation or, within the limits prescribed by the law, through binding decisions or, where necessary, on the basis of confidentiality;

(b) Informing the party who filed the petition of his rights, in particular the remedies available to him, and promoting his access to them;

(c) Hearing any complaints or petitions or transmitting them to any other competent authority within the limits prescribed by the law;

(d) Making recommendations to the competent authorities, especially by proposing amendments or reforms of the laws, regulations and administrative practices, especially if they have created the difficulties encountered by the persons filing the petitions in order to assert their rights.



## PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT NATIONAL LEVEL

<b>Main thematic priorities of the GNCHR in 2021</b>	Σφάλμα!	Δεν	έχει	οριστεί
σελιδοδείκτης.				
<b>Human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic</b>	Σφάλμα!	Δεν	έχει	οριστεί
σελιδοδείκτης.				
<b>Refugees-migrants</b> .....	Σφάλμα!	Δεν	έχει	οριστεί
<b>Women</b> .....	Σφάλμα!	Δεν	έχει	οριστεί
<b>Family and Child</b> .....	Σφάλμα!	Δεν	έχει	οριστεί
<b>Tackling Racism and Intolerance</b> .....	Σφάλμα!	Δεν	έχει	οριστεί
<b>Labour</b> .....	Σφάλμα!	Δεν	έχει	οριστεί
<b>Right to life/Dignity</b> .....	Σφάλμα!	Δεν	έχει	οριστεί
<b>LGBTQI+ people</b> .....	Σφάλμα!	Δεν	έχει	οριστεί
<b>Roma</b> .....	Σφάλμα!	Δεν	έχει	οριστεί
<b>Education of disabled children and/or children with learning difficulties</b> .....	Σφάλμα!	Δεν	έχει	οριστεί
<b>Conscientious Objectors</b> .....	Σφάλμα!	Δεν	έχει	οριστεί

## Main thematic priorities of the GNCHR in 2021

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 Parliamentary meetings, 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, it should be noted that the GNCHR held online plenary meetings on a weekly basis during the first mandatory lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, with the participation of state and non-state actors, involved in the decision-making process, in order to deal with the new challenges in the most efficient way possible, assess the impact of the restrictive policy measures on human rights and democratic values, provide the Greek government with appropriate advice on the protection of the core human rights as well as to raise public awareness of human rights issues and risks deriving from their violation due to the pandemic. It should also be noted, that the GNCHR is constantly monitoring all other human rights related issues (refugees, environment, etc.) regarding the development of a sound central policy on them.

More specifically, in 2021, the GNCHR expressed an especially strong interest in the following thematic areas:

## Human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic

*GNCHR Summary of Recommendations to the State regarding the impact of the pandemic and the measures taken to address it on human rights. Extraordinary times call for extraordinary responses (May 2021)*



Acknowledging that human rights put people at the centre, the GNCHR insists that the most effective response to the pandemic can only be based on human rights. Given this assumption, the ultimate objective of this GNCHR Report is to enhance the effectiveness of measures adopted by the State, in order to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Thus, the referenced Report is structured around three key messages that need to be understood, in order for the pandemic response to be effective: the virus does not discriminate (I), the threat is the virus, not the people (II) and, when we recover, we must be better than we were before (III).

## Refugees-migrants

*ENNHRI/GNCHR National Report on the situation of human rights of migrants at the borders (Greece, May 2021)*



This Report was presented as part of the ENNHRI's project, "Migrants Rights at the Borders" (2019-2021), following a major contribution from the Greek National Institution. It contains general information on the action of the GNCHR on migration issues, with particular focus on the situation at the Greek-Turkish borders, which are also the EU's external borders. The Report is structured around four (4) axes: (a) returns and violence (b) access to procedures (c) reception conditions and deprivation of liberty and (d) accountability with regard to alleged violations of human rights law.

*GNCHR Observations on the Ministry of Interior Decision No 29845/2021, regarding the presumptions for the Socio-economic integration of foreign nationals applying for Greek citizenship (May 2021)*



Following the publication of the Ministry of Interior Decision No. 29845/22.4.2021, which, by virtue of Law 4735/2020 on the reform of the naturalisation system, defines the mandatory prerequisites for the acquirement of the Greek citizenship, regarding the socio-economic integration of the applicants, the GNCHR highlighted its concern about the austere and restrictive nature of the economic and social integration requirements laid down in the Decision. The GNCHR underlined that, in the first case, the integration of foreign nationals into the labour market is required for an extended period of several years, which means that the Greek economic reality of the past years is being disregarded, while in the second case, the provision for "marriage to a Greek citizen by birth", among the requirements for social integration, infringes the principle of sound administration.

*GNCHR Observations on the Bill of Ministry of Migration and Asylum, "Reform of deportation and return procedures of third country nationals, issues of residence permits and procedures for granting international protection and other provisions within the competence of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the Ministry of Citizen Protection" (July 2021)*



The GNCHR was requested to deliver an opinion on the Ministry of Migration and Asylum ongoing reforms, concerning the legislation on migration, by providing extensive Observations on the specific provisions of the Bill submitted for consultation (passed Law 4825/2021, Government Gazette A 157, 4.9.2021), as well as on relevant matters under the Ministry's competence that need to be reviewed. In principle, the GNCHR pointed out that the State should be addressing the immigration issue in a holistic way, which unfortunately is not the case today. A constant recommendation from the GNCHR to the Bodies and States of the European Union, concerns the review of the overall Foreign Affairs Policy and the cooperation with third countries (transit or origin) in matters related to migration and refugee flows management, since it has been proven that the current policies of delegating migration control responsibilities to third countries do not provide guarantees for the protection of the rights of third country nationals in practice.

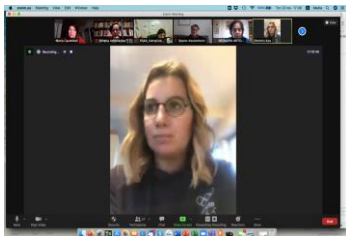
*GNCHR Letter to the competent Ministries, with regard to the renewal of residence permits for beneficiaries of international protection (July 2021)*



The GNCHR in response to reports submitted by civil society organisations concerning significant gaps in the protection of recognised refugees, addressed a letter to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Civil Protection about the pending status of many recognised beneficiaries of international protection, due to the delay in the procedure of their residence permits renewal and their exclusion from the automatic extension of the validity of their residence permits until 31 December 2021, provided for in the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum Decision. It also called on the competent Minister of Immigration and Asylum to take all necessary steps to regulate the condition of "illegality" in which a large proportion of beneficiaries of international protection have found themselves, putting them at immediate and lasting risk of violation of their guaranteed rights in accordance with the country's international and European commitments.

**Women**

*GNCHR Statement on the phenomena of sexual harassment and abuse, in the context of exploitation related to power imbalances and abuse dynamics, which have recently been reported in sport (January 2021)*



The GNCHR in this statement welcomed the courage of the Olympic gold medalist in sailing, Sophia Mpekatorou, to publicly denounce the incident of sexual harassment and abuse she suffered at younger age, in the context of exploitation related to power imbalances and abuse dynamics and professional dependence. At the same time, the GNCHR pointed out that access to justice for victims of sexual violence, effective investigation of violations of sexual rights and freedom as well as proper administration of justice, are among the most important aspects of the protection of fundamental rights. In this regard, and taking into account the low rates of sexual violence incident reports to the competent control authorities, the low prosecution rates, and in view of zero tolerance, the GNCHR unequivocally condemned any form of sexual violence, urging the State to further strengthen the pertinent institutional framework.

*GNCHR Press Release for the International Women's Day: The fight to end gender discrimination goes on (March 2021)*



In celebration of the International Women's Day, the GNCHR would like to remind that it continues to work on the elimination of gender discrimination and increase women's empowerment in both public and private sectors, to combat gender and domestic violence, as well as to support all vulnerable female groups, such as women with disabilities, Roma women, refugee women, migrant women, LGBTQI+women. On this occasion, after expressing its praise for the physical and mental strength of victims of gender-based violence who denounced incidents of sexual abuse and harassment, the GNCHR pointed out that the institutional and practical response to achieving real gender equality is one of the key criteria of society's progress and a guarantee of the State's proper functioning.

*GNCHR Statement on Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention (March 2021)*



The GNCHR expressed its deep regret at Turkey's decision as regards its withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, calling on, first, the Greek State to join forces with the other States Parties to the Istanbul Convention, in order to fully safeguard the acquis of the Convention and secondly the European States to honour their commitments under the Council of Europe to protect the rights and freedoms of women of all backgrounds, regardless of age, race, religion, social origin, immigration status or sexual orientation, as well as to protect them from any form - including the domestic - of violence.

*GNCHR Observations on the 2021-2025 Greek National Gender Equality Action Plan of the Hellenic Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (September 2021)*



In light of the 2021-2025 Greek National Gender Equality Action Plan, the GNCHR reiterated its previous recommendations, setting out general principles and guidelines related to the Plan elaboration, in particular with regard to the need for, method and means of its establishment as well as the definition of steps towards the improvement of the promotion and protection of human rights

*Family and Child*



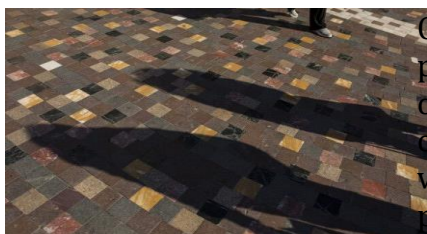
*GNCHR Observations on the Bill of Ministry of Justice, entitled: “Reforms regarding parent-child relationships and other family law issues” - Summary in English (March 2021)*



The GNCHR welcomed the Bill of the Ministry of Justice on the "Reforms regarding parent-child relationships and other family law issues" (subsequently passed Law 4800/2021, Government Gazette A 81, 21.5.2021), acknowledging that its aim was to increase the active presence of both parents in the upbringing of the child, so as to preserve their role and relationship with the child. However, the Commission highlighted the significant concerns of its Members and stakeholders representing legal professionals, as well as of the academic community and the civil society, who identify not only practical issues that may arise in the application of the law, but also the risk that the best interest of the child may not ultimately be met. To this end, it submitted precise recommendations to the Greek State regarding specific provisions at issue of the relevant Bill.

*Tackling Racism and Intolerance*

*GNCHR Press Release: One year after the conviction of Golden Dawn, the GNCHR calls on the Greek State to be vigilant (October 2021)*



One year after the historic conviction of the far-right party, “Golden Dawn” (ΧΡΥΣΗ ΑΥΓΗ) as a criminal organisation, the GNCHR expresses its deep concern over the manifestation of racially motivated organised violence, targeting specific groups. The GNCHR reiterates previously-addressed [recommendations](#) to the State, drawing its attention to the absolute and permanent need, for early prevention and resolute action to tackle and condemn both hate speech and racist crimes. The GNCHR emphasised once again the fact that the sense of impunity and the decriminalisation associated with racist violence, especially organised violence, contribute substantially, not only to the increase in the number of violent attacks by far-right groups and individuals, but also to the systematic violation of international and European human rights law and the normalisation of racist rhetoric and prejudice in the context of official policies.

*Membership in the National Council against Racism and Intolerance (ESRM)*





In accordance with the provisions of Articles 15 et seq. of Law 4356/2015 (Government Gazette A 181/24.12.2015), the GNCHR is a member of the Greek National Council Against Racism and Intolerance (NCRM) and is represented at its meetings by a Member of its choice. During 2021, the GNCHR was represented by †Marina-Matha Galanou (full member) and Aikaterini Pournara (alternate member).

#### *Monitoring of the Racist Violence Recording Network*



#### **Establishment and operation of the Racist Violence Recording Network**

The Racist Violence Recording Network (RVRN) was established in mid-2011 on the joint initiative of the GNCHR and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Greece (UNHCR). In 2021, the RVRN was comprised of 51 NGOs and

civil society agents, offering medical, social and legal services and/or coming in direct contact with victims of racist violence or victims of other hate or bias-motivated violent attacks and finally, organisations set up by the groups which are themselves usually targeted by racist violence. The RVRN office is located at the premises of the GNCHR, at Neophytou Vamva 6 Street, Athens.

For more details on the Racist Violence Reporting Network and its activities in 2021, see below, *The GNCHR as an interlocutor with Civil Society*

## Labour

*GNCHR Observations on the Bill of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, "On the Protection of Employment - Establishment of the Independent Authority Labour Inspectorate - Ratification of the ILO Convention No. 190 on violence and harassment in the world of work - Ratification of the ILO Convention No. 187 on the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health at Work Incorporation of Directive (EU) 2019/1158 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on work-life balance for parents and carers" (June 2021)*



Admitting the significance of the issues regulated in this Bill of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (subsequently passed Law 4808/2021), and with a view to promote the adoption of a human-centric and consistent with the due protection of human rights approach, the GNCHR submitted specific observations and recommendations, in order to bring to light important issues on the legislative process and at the same time, to draw the attention of the State to the need for assessment of the cumulative impact on labour rights due to the measures adopted during the financial crisis and the ongoing health pandemic crisis. It is worth noting here that, in view of the commentary on this Labour Law under consultation, the Section for Social, Economic and Cultural Rights of the GNCHR, organised an online hearing of persons and agents, on the 25th of May 2021, with a significantly broad participation of stakeholders and experts.

## Right to life/Dignity

*GNCHR Statement on hunger striking prisoner Dimitris Koufontinas (February 2021)*



The GNCHR reiterating that in every State where democracy and rule of law are promoted, respect and protection of human dignity constitute an obligation of paramount importance, called on the Greek State to respect and guarantee the right of the detainee Dimitris Koufontinas, to the supreme good of protection of life, in compliance with the rule of law, fundamental rights and freedoms.

## *LGBTQI+ people*

*GNCHR Note to the Committee for the Drafting of the National Strategy for LGBTQI+ Equality (June 2021)*



Welcoming the establishment of the National Strategy Committee for the Equality of LGBTQ+ people, with the aim to set up a comprehensive plan to horizontally define the strategy, the objectives and the actions of Ministries and competent bodies for the design, elaboration and implementation of policies for the equality of LGBTQI + people, the GNCHR firstly asserted in this Note its willingness and readiness to contribute to the Committee's demanding task and secondly made precise and very targeted recommendations, promoting the adoption of a human-centric approach, consistent with the due protection of human rights.

## *Roma*

*GNCHR Contribution to the elaboration of the 2021-2027 National Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma (March 2021)*



Observing and taking into consideration the latest developments at local, European and international level, the GNCHR welcomed the initiative of the General Secretariat for Social Solidarity and Fight Against Poverty for the elaboration of the "2021-2027 National Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma" and supported the initiatives of the European Commission as outlined in its Communication to the European Parliament and the Council: "A Union of Equality: an EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation for the 2020-2030 period" according to which EU policies shall aim to address the socio-economic exclusion of Roma and combat discrimination against them (anti-Gypsyism) by promoting equal access to education, employment, health and housing. In this framework, the GNCHR in the present Contribution is describing the current situation of Roma, presenting its targeted actions and submitting its proposals by Objective.

## *Education of disabled children and/or children with learning difficulties*

*GNCHR Letter to the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs highlighting the need for full implementation of the legislation in force on the education of Disabled and/or Special Educational Needs Students, who attend parallel educational (co-teaching) support programmes or integration classes in general schools or classes in Special Education and Training Units (October 2021)*



In response to the obvious concern of both educational staff and wider society, the GNCHR President sent a letter to the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, about a month after the opening of the school year in which she draws her attention to the need for full implementation of the legislation in force on the education of students with disabilities and/or Special Educational Needs students attending parallel educational support or integration classes in general schools or Special Education and Training Schools. It was notably found that there are numerous and significant deficiencies and operational gaps, in Special Education and Training Schools, as well as in general schools where Integration Classes operate or Special Assistants and/or parallel educational support are approved, while it was stressed with significant concern, that the failure of the State to meet adequately and promptly the basic needs of students with disabilities and/or Special Educational Needs and to ensure their access to inclusive education, further intensifies and deeply exacerbates the discrimination, stigmatisation and exclusion experienced by these students, especially regarding access to education and amounts to their indirect exclusion from the educational process.

## *Conscientious Objectors*

*GNCHR Press Release\_ on the occasion of decision of the UN Human Rights Committee, on the case of conscientious objector Lazaros Petromelidis (December 2021)*



Following the recent [decision](#) of the UN Human Rights Committee, which declared that in the long-standing case of conscientious objector Lazaros Petromelidis, a number of violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) occurred, the GNCHR has once again urged the State to immediately bring the legislation on conscientious objectors in line with international human rights law and international and European standards.

## **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: an interlocutor with National Authorities**

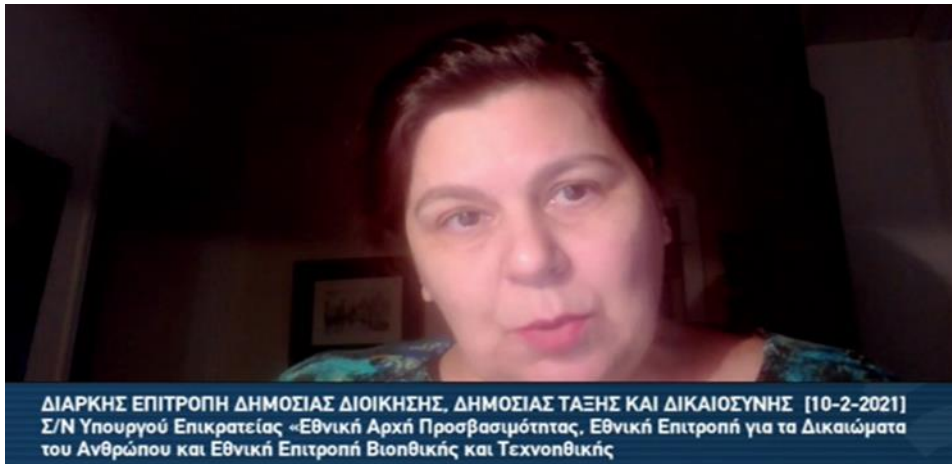
### *The role of the GNCHR in the Hellenic Parliament*

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. In parallel, 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 2021, the GNCHR participated in the sessions of the following Parliamentary Committees:

In the hearing of stakeholders during the session of the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice of the Hellenic Parliament on the Bill of the Minister of State entitled, "National Accessibility Authority, National Commission for Human Rights and National Bioethics and Technoethics Committee". The GNCHR was represented by its President, Maria Gavouneli, its First Vice-President Giannis Ioannidis and its Second Vice-President, Elli Varhalama (10 February 2021)





In the joint session of the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice and the Special Permanent Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights of the Hellenic Parliament on the Bill of the Ministry of Justice entitled, “Reforms in parent-child Relationship and other family law issues”. The GNCHR was represented by its Member, Katerina Trimmi. (2 May 2021)



In the session of the Special Permanent Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights of the Hellenic Parliament entitled: “Me-Too Greece”: Measures to prevent and combat moral and sexual harassment and violence in public life”. The GNCHR was represented by its Second Vice-President, Elli Varhalama. (2 June 2021)

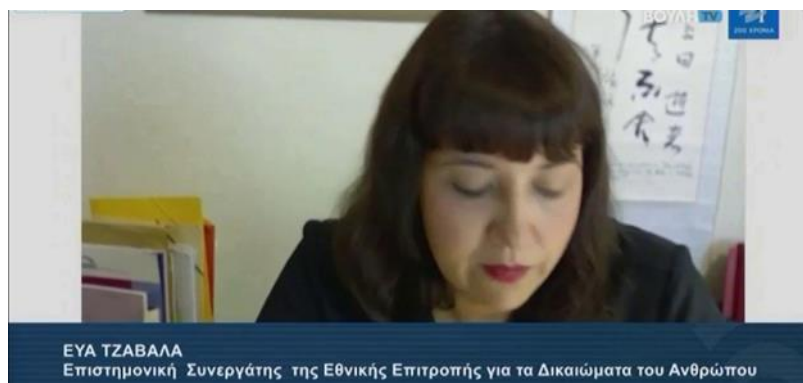




In the one-day-conference of the Hellenic Parliament entitled, "Developing a Comprehensive Strategy Against Racism, Intolerance and Hate Crime", organised under the "Rights, Equality and Citizenship" Programme of the European Union (REC 2014 – 2020), by the Hellenic Parliament, the Hellenic Ministry of Justice and Panteion University. The GNCHR was represented by its President, Maria Gavouneli. (25 June 2021)



In the session of the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice of the Hellenic Parliament on the Bill of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum entitled, "Reform of deportation and return procedures of third-country nationals, attraction of investors and digital nomads, issuance of residence permits and procedures for granting international protection, provisions falling under the competence of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the Ministry for Citizen Protection and other urgent provisions". The GNCHR was represented by its Legal/Research Officers, Eva Tzavala and Katerina Charokopou. (31 August 2021)





In the session of the Special Permanent Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights of the Hellenic Parliament, with agenda items the Interim Report of the National Accessibility Authority and the re-establishment of the Subcommittee on Combating Trafficking and Exploitation of Human Beings (24 November 2021)



In the session of the Subcommittee for People with Disabilities, of the Special Permanent Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights of the Hellenic Parliament, on the Annual Report of the Coordination Mechanism for the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The GNCHR was represented by its President, Maria Gavouneli. (25 November 2021)

***The GNCHR: an interlocutor with Civil Society.***

Apart from the State agencies-partners of the NHRIs, Civil Society is a firm and essential ally, in their mission to promote and protect 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 2021 the GNCHR organised two (2) Hearings of stakeholders and persons:

### *Hearing of persons and national stakeholders on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum (12 May 2021)*

On 12 May 2021, the GNCHR organised at its premises, a hearing of persons and national stakeholders for a debate on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. The debate mainly focused on the following topics: a) the Asylum procedure and the right to an effective remedy against a refusal decision, especially for vulnerable people b) Border Guarding Services- refugee rescue operations c) issues arising from the solidarity mechanisms for relocation of beneficiaries of international protection d) issues arising from the Migration and Refugee Crisis Management Mechanism and e) issues arising from screening at the external borders of the Union.

Participants at the hearing, in Greek alphabetical order, were the following:

- Garyfallia Anastassopoulou, representative of the Racist Violence Recording Network (RVRN) The Racist Violence Recording Network was established based on the initiative of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Greece (UNHCR), with the participation of non-governmental organisations.
- Michalis Vassilakis, representative of the Association for the Social Support of Youth “ARSIS” ARSIS – Association for the Social Support of Youth is a Non-Governmental Organisation, specialising in the social support of youth that are in difficulty or danger and in the advocacy of their rights. The main target is the prevention of youth marginalisation, the elaboration of policies which defend youth rights and the active social support towards disadvantaged young people. ARSIS was established in 1992 and since then it operates in Athens, Thessaloniki, Volos, Alexandroupoli, Kozani and Tirana due to the active participation of members, volunteers and young people.
- Nikos Vlachakis, representative of the National Rapporteur’s office of Greece on Trafficking in Human Beings
- Niki Georgiou, representative of the legal aid organisation “Equal Rights Beyond Borders”, a legal aid organisation headquartered in both Greece and Germany.

- Dimitra Kalogeropoulou and Martha Roussou, representatives of the International Rescue Committee
- Markos Karavias, representative of the Hellenic Ministry of Migration and Asylum
- Vassilis Kerasiotis and Elli Kriona, representatives of the NGO, “HIAS-Greece”  
 HIAS is the world’s oldest refugee agency. Though the organisation was formally established as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society in 1902, that founding moment represented a continuation of several predecessor organisations that had worked through the 1880s and 1890s to assist Jews fleeing pogroms in Russia and Eastern Europe. While those arriving in the United States at that time were refugees, the world did not yet have a legal concept for people who needed safe refuge outside their homelands. Originally set up by Jews to help fellow Jews for reasons of religious imperative and communal solidarity, HIAS in the 2020s is a multi-continent, multi-pronged humanitarian aid and advocacy organization with thousands of employees dedicated to helping forcibly displaced persons around the world in keeping with the organisation’s Jewish ethical roots.
- Evgenia Kouniaki and Maria Paraskeva, representative of the NGO, “Human Rights 360”. HumanRights360 is a civil society organisation established in Greece with the mission to protect and empower the rights of all, with no discrimination but with special focus on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations.
- Minos Mouzourakis, representative of the non-profit civil-law partnership, “Refugee Support Aegean”. Refugee Support Aegean (RSA) is a registered non-profit organisation working on the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers in Greece. It was established in 2017 after its members felt that there was an increasing and imperative need to provide legal and social assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers on the islands and mainland after the large-scale refugee arrivals in 2015 and the implementation of the EU-Turkey deal in March 2016.
- Pelopidas Nikolopoulos, representative of the Network for Children's Rights The Network for Children’s Rights acquired non-profit organisation status in 2004, but actually began as an informal action group four years earlier with the aim of raising awareness of problems relating to the rights of children and interceding in order to solve them. It encourages initiatives and actions to ensure that the UN International Convention on the Rights of the Child is implemented in Greece, to guarantee respect for diversity and to put an end to discrimination .Its members are teachers, parents, university lecturers, authors, artists and children who work on a voluntary basis both within and outside the school community. They carry out surveys, campaigns and programmes.
- Elli Xenou, representative of “Doctors of the World”
- Lora Pappa, representative of the Greek non-profit civil society organization, “METAdrasi”, founded in December 2009 with the mission of facilitating the reception and integration of refugees and migrants in Greece. Believing that migration leads to development, METAdrasi is determined to uphold and protect the fundamental human rights of all those displaced and persecuted. The name METAdrasi is a synthesis of the Greek words “meta” and “drasi, meaning “then + action” and encapsulates our purpose and philosophy.”
- Melina Spathari, representative of the umbrella organisation “Terre des hommes”. Terre des hommes, founded in 1960, is an independent, neutral and

impartial Swiss organisation committed to bringing meaningful and lasting change to the lives of children and youth, especially to those most exposed to risks.

- Emmanouela Tsapali, representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Henry Hessenbelly, representative of the Greek Forum of Migrants. The Greek Forum of Migrants (GFM) is a network of migrant organisations and communities in Greece. It was founded in September 2002, it functions as a union - body, and its members today numbers around 40 Communities - Organisations.

The GNCHR was represented by its President, Maria Gavouneli, its First Vice-President, Giannis Ioannidis, its Second Vice-President and Chair of the 2nd Section for Social, Economic and Cultural Rights Elli Varhalama, as well as by its Specialised Scientific Staff.

*[Hearing of persons and national stakeholders and debate on the bill under consultation, "On the Protection of Employment Establishment of the Independent Authority Labour Inspectorate Ratification of the ILO Convention No. 190 on violence and harassment in the world of work Ratification of the ILO Convention No. 187 on the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health at Work Incorporation of Directive \(EU\) 2019/1158 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on work-life balance for parents and carers" \(25 May 2021\)](#)*

The debate focused mainly on a) the ratification of the ILO Convention No. 190 on violence and harassment in the world of work and b) the incorporation of Directive (EU) 2019/1158 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on work-life balance for parents and carers.

Participants at the hearing, in Greek alphabetical order, were the following:

- Garyfallia Anastassopoulou, RVRN Assistant Coordinator
- Anna Vougiouka, representative of the DIOTIMA Centre. The Diotima Centre provides a series of services aimed at supporting and empowering women or women's groups.
- Anastasia Gkoliomyti, representative of the website "Tomov" ("The Purple"). A daily electronic "newspaper", a website for women's rights and women's issues, in a nearly completed technical form, which was initially launched on the 1st of August 2014, having the ambition to cover in its electronic pages several issues, rights, demands, daily life, equality among locals and migrants, sexual orientation and gender identity, ideological analyses and studies, law, contribution of women in arts and science, young women, actions for women's rights in Greece and abroad, internationalist solidarity.
- Maria Kakali, Mayor of Agios Efstratios, President of the Equality Commission of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEΔΕ) which is a legal entity acting as a body governed by public law, representing the first level of local authorities in Greece (municipalities).The Presidential Decree 197/1978 established KEDE and was last updated with the Presidential Decree 75/2011. KEDE headquarters are established in Athens.
- Maria Lathouri, representative of the N.G.O, W.I.N. Hellas. International Women's Support W.I.N.HELLAS Stands for Women In Need W.I.N. Hellas's mission is to inform, educate, counsel, protect and advocate for and on behalf



of victims of gender-based violence in Greece. Hellas provides information, psychological and counselling support through specialised educational programmes and a telephone support line. It assists women seeking information about emergency shelter homes and provides legal advice and information on available legal and support networks for victims. W.I.N. collaborates with the Greek government and authorities to provide its services.

- Maria Mourtzaki, Policy Manager at Action Aid
- Panagiota Petroglou, representative of the European Equality Law Network
- Kiki Petroulaki, representative of the European Network against Violence
- Tina Stavrinaki, Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

The GNCHR was represented by its President Maria Gavouneli, its First Vice-President, Giannis Ioannidis, its Second Vice-President and Chair of the 2nd Section for Social, Economic and Cultural Rights Elli Varhalama, the Alternate Chair of the 2nd Section and one of the GNCHR members, Ioannis Lymvaivos, as well as by its Specially Qualified Scientific Staff.

#### *Racist Violence Recording Network*

The Racist Violence Recording Network was established on the initiative of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (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 agencies 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.

Apart from the UN High EEΔA Refugees and the GNCHR, which are the coordinators, the Network is made up of 52 NGOs and civil society organisations, and is observed by the Greek Ombudsman and the Migrant and Refugee Integration Council of the Municipality of Athens.

In 2021, 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", Centre for Life, "Babel" Day Centre, SYNYPARXIS (Coexistence) – Ecumenical Refugee Programme, Network for the Support of Refugee and Migrant

Rights (Patras), World Without Wars and Violence, LATHRA? - Solidarity Committee for Chios refugees, METAdrasi, 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 (NGO), Refugee Support Aegean, Act Up Hellas, ASANTE (NGO), Colour Youth - LGBTQ Youth Community of Athens, Generation 2.0 RED, HIAS in Greece, HumanRights360, Melissa Network, PRAKSIS, A21, Simeio (Point) for studying and fighting against the far-right, Lesvos Solidarity, Steps, Legal Centre Lesvos, Aegean Migrant Solidarity | Christian Peacemaker Teams, ELLAN PASSE, International Rescue Committee (IRC).

The participants in the Network recognise and pursue as their common goal the fight against racist violence as well as hatred-inciting acts of 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 on 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. From 2011 to 2020, the Network has recorded 1.258 incidents of racist violence, through interviews and has supported, through the services provided by its members, a large number of victims. In addition it has published ten (10) annual reports, comprising quantitative and qualitative trends of racist violence, as well as specific recommendations to the competent Authorities. 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 present its collected data and give an analysis of its way of operation and the following methodology.



### *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' 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 alleged to have 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 co-operating Agency.

## **PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL**

**Submission of international reports or advisory opinions on national reports submitted to international and regional Human Rights Institution.....**Σφάλμα! Δεν έχει οριστεί σελιδοδείκτης.

**Contribution to international/regional human rights monitoring mechanisms.....**Σφάλμα! Δεν έχει οριστεί σελιδοδείκτης.

**Cooperation with the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).....**Σφάλμα! Δεν έχει οριστεί σελιδοδείκτης.

**Encouraging ratification of international Human Rights instruments.....**Σφάλμα! Δεν έχει οριστεί σελιδοδείκτης.

**Responding to requests for information and questionnaire surveys.....**Σφάλμα! Δεν έχει οριστεί σελιδοδείκτης.

**Cooperation with Similar Commissions and NHRI Networks of other States .....**Σφάλμα! Δεν έχει οριστεί σελιδοδείκτης.

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. After all, it is no coincidence that NHRIs who comply with the Paris Principles are steadily gaining in stature within the Human Rights system and are being recognised as special entities competent, to transpose and implement international Human Rights law at national level on the one hand, and to contribute expertise and experience in regional and international *fora*, on the other hand.

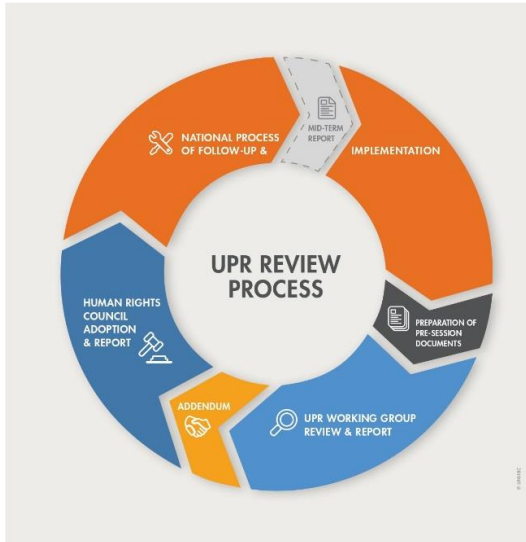
It is worth noting that NHRIs and other institutions active in the field of human rights at international or regional level, are connected in a way that makes them mutually beneficial and dependent. The international system for the protection of human rights is relying on the NHRIs, in order to get all the important information, independently and objectively, concerning the Human Rights situation in their Country. The NHRIs yet use their international status to enhance the human rights protection framework at national level as much as possible, by actively interacting with their counterparts and learning from their best practices.

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 2021, 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

### *GNCHR Observations on the Stakeholder Report to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Greece (March 2021)*



Taking into account the key role that NHRIs play in the Third UPR Cycle and bearing in mind the importance of the UPR, as the only human rights monitoring mechanism of the situation of all 193 UN Member States, in the field of human rights, the GNCHR participated in the 3rd Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Greece during the 39th session of the UN Human Rights Council (From 1 to 2 November 2021). In this context, the GNCHR submitted its Written Observations regarding the Human Rights situation in the Country, focusing on specific issues, such as, the Children's rights, Women's Rights of , Refugees and Asylum seekers rights and the general lack of available and updated data and statistics on various areas of human rights protection,

### *GNCHR Observations on the National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to HRC resolution 16/21, in view of the Third Cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Greece during the UN Human Rights Council's 39th Session (July 2021)*



Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR)

Observations on the National report submitted in accordance with par. 5 of the annex to HRC resolution 16/21 in view of the Third Cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Greece during the UN Human Rights Council's 39th Session



July 2021

Recognising the key role that National Human Rights Institutions play in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs submitted the Greece's draft National report, to the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR), Greece's A status National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), in view of the Third Cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Greece during the 39th Session of the UN Human Rights Council. In this context and taking into consideration the close cooperation between the GNCHR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on issues related to the protection and promotion of human rights, the GNCHR submitted its Written Observations in order to further contribute to the draft Report with a comprehensive overview of the overall situation and the conditions under which the recommendations received by Greece during the 2nd UPR Cycle, have been implemented.

*GNCHR Observations on Greece's combined 23rd and 24th periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (July 2021)*



The GNCHR submitted its observations on Greece's combined 23rd and 24th periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) to the Legal Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Furthermore the GNCHR expressed its intention to submit its own Report in view of the Country review, focusing on the main challenges faced by the Greek State in implementing the ICERD.

*GNCHR Submission to the United Nations Human Rights Committee on the List of Issues Prior to Reporting for the Third periodic examination of Greece under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (September 2021)*



Having continuously monitored the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Greece, the GNCHR has once again participated in the Third Periodic Examination of Greece by the UN Human Rights Committee. To this end, the GNCHR submitted its Written Observations on the adoption of List of Issues prior to Reporting (LoIPR), which took place during the 133rd Session of the UN Human Rights Committee. (From 11 October to 5 November 2021)

*GNCHR Written Responses to the List of issues in relation to the combined fourth to sixth periodic reports of Greece, to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (December 2021)*



The GNCHR submitted its Written Responses to the List of issues in relation to the combined fourth to sixth periodic reports of Greece to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, after having taken into account the updated national report (December 2021). In the present Report, the GNCHR acknowledges the improvements made in the field of child protection since the submission of its previous Report in January 2021, but cannot fail to highlight the shortcomings and gaps in law and practice including the absence of a proactive approach to the protection of children's rights.

### **Contribution to international/regional human rights monitoring mechanisms**

*Meeting of the GNCHR President, Maria Gavouneli, with the ad hoc Sub-Committee of the Committee on Migration of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe during the fact finding visit of the Subcommittee to Greece (10 May 2021)*

The President of the GNCHR, Maria Gavouneli, had a meeting with the ad hoc Subcommittee of the Committee on Migration of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe during the fact finding visit of the Subcommittee to Greece, on 10 May 2021.





*Video-recorded oral Statement by the GNCHR President, Maria Gavouneli, presented during the 47th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (24 June 2021)*



The President of the GNCHR, Maria Gavouneli, made a presentation to the 47th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, which took place on 2 June 2021, during which the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Felipe González Morales, presented its Report on means to address the human rights impact of pushbacks of migrants on land and at sea. (A/HRC/47/30)

*GNCHR Contribution to the Annual Report of the ENNHRI, entitled, "State of the rule of law in Europe Reports from National Human Rights Institutions" (July 2021)*



The ENNHRI submits each year to the European Commission its annual contribution to the Monitoring Cycle of the Rule of Law in the European Union. Based on the National Reports of the National Institutions for the Protection of Human Rights (NHRIs) of the EU Member States, the [ENNHRI Report](#) highlights the current state of the Rule of Law in the EU, by presenting the perspective of NHRIs from 42 European countries with regard to the state of the Rule of Law in each country and in Europe overall, emphasising the actions of the NHRIs in support of the Rule of Law and Human Rights, in order to strengthen EU efforts in this area. The GNCHR contributes to the ENNHRI's Annual Reports by submitting each year its own National Report on the State of the Rule of Law and Human Rights in the Country.

*Video-recorded oral Statement by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli and Presentation made by the Coordinator of the Specialised Scientific Staff of the GNCHR, Roxani Fragkou, to the Pre-session on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) (7 October 2021)*

The GNCHR participated with a video-recorded oral statement by its President, Maria Gavouneli, in the Pre-session organised in view of the Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council, held during the 39th Session of the Council (from 1 to 12 November 2021), while the Coordinator of the GNCHR

Specialised Scientific Staff Roxani Fragkou, also participate in the Pre-session, by making a relevant presentation. The Pre-session was held on 7 October 2021, under the auspices of the NGO “UPR Info” and brought together representatives from Permanent National Delegations (PNDs), NHRIs and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) of the Member States under review, with a view to give each Member State the opportunity to spotlight the main human rights issues of its concern.

*Meeting of the GNCHR President, Maria Gavouneli, with a delegation of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe (22 November 2021)*



The President of the GNCHR, Maria Gavouneli, had a meeting with a delegation of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe in order to discuss the human rights situation in Greece in view of the elaboration of ECRI's Report for the 6<sup>th</sup> Monitoring Cycle of Greece. The President and the Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR, Maria Gavouneli and Eva Tzavala correspondingly, attended the meeting which took place in Athens, on 22 November 2021.

*Meeting of the GNCHR Plenary with the Greek Members of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency Management Board (24 November 2021)*



On November 2021, the GNCHR Plenary welcomed the Greek Members of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency Management Board (FRA), Professors Miltiadis Sarigiannidis and Konstantinos Tsitselikis, in order to have a debate with them on fundamental rights issues as well as the on the collaboration between the GNCHR and the FRA.

## 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 ECHR, 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 ECHR is multi-level and comprises:

- [The translation of the ECHR factsheets in Greek is available on the official website of the Court](#), on the basis of the ECtHR's cooperation with the GNCHR.

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, thus contributing to the dissemination of the ECtHR 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 moreover the EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights and the Strasbourg system.

In addition, regarding the submission of an appeal before the ECHR, the GNCHR provides [guidance and information in Greek](#) on its website, with a link to the ECHR website.

The GNCHR is committed to promoting the work of the Council of Europe and [monitoring the implementation of the ECtHR's judgments](#) through the following actions:

- collecting and continuous updating of 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 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the CM](#) for judgments under enhanced supervision, when necessary.

Finally, the GNCHR in the context of its broader strategy for the three-year period 2019-2021 towards developing both in methodological and practical terms a Human Rights Impact Assessment mechanism in Greece, took the initiative to prepare, coordinate and launch in the national legal order a useful tool that will substantially facilitate the Greek State and Civil Society, in monitoring more effectively the implementation of ECtHR judgements. To this end, and following the present Report which is aiming at introducing in general terms the execution and the supervision of the execution of 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. The aim of this project is to fill an important gap, through the translation and the systematic compilation of the most important ECtHR judgements and decisions to be supervised by 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 ECtHR judgements in Greece.

### **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, among others, 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 essential 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, of 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 the on the legislation in force, but also any 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 providing information and completing questionnaire surveys**

Throughout 2021, the GNCHR responded to requests for information and completing questionnaire surveys, as follows:



*Contribution from the GNCHR to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants Questionnaire, on pushback practices and their impact on the human rights of migrants (February 2021)*

*Contribution from the GNCHR to the questionnaire of the UN Independent Expert on Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (February 2021)*

*Contribution from the GNCHR to the questionnaire of GANHRI, on the Global Action Plan to support the protection and promotion of Human Rights Defenders (April 2021)*



*Contribution from the GNCHR to the United Nations Secretary-General ahead of the 76th Session of the General Assembly with examples of good practices among National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) on the implementation of Resolution A/RES/74/156 adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2019 regarding National Human Rights Institutions (May 2021)*

*Contribution from the GNCHR to the Questionnaire of the Internal Consultation of the University of West Attica on the legal framework of public policies to combat child poverty and social exclusion (June 2021)*

*Contribution from the GNCHR to the Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (October 2021) submitted to the General Assembly in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) (August 2021)*



*Input to the ENNHRI and the European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet), in the light of Fundamental Human Rights Forum entitled “The Power of Community: Together for Equality and Human Rights” (August 2021)*



*Contribution to the survey of the European Council on the “Protection against racism, xenophobia and racial discrimination, and the EU Anti-racism Action Plan” (October 2021)*

*Input to ENNHRI on NHRI work on Hate Crime (November 2021)*

*Contribution to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding the Resolution 47/24 of the Human Rights Council on "Human Rights and Climate Change" (December 2021)*



*Input to the Legal Working Group of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) on issues related to the Rule of Law with special reference to the Greek Constitution (December 2021)*

### **Activities and Cooperation with Similar Commissions and NHRI Networks of other States**

Throughout 2021, 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.

*European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) Board meetings. The GNCHR was represented by its President Maria Gavouneli (8 February, 29 March, 7 May, 21 June και 10 September 2021)*

*Participation of the GNCHR President Maria Gavouneli in the two-day High-Level Meeting on Ensuring Respect for the Human Rights of Migrants at Borders: The Role of NHRIs (From 2 to 3 June 2021)*



On 2 and 3 June 2021, the ENNHRI successfully organised a two-day online High-Level Meeting on Ensuring Respect for the Human Rights of Migrants at Borders, bringing together Heads of NHRIs, Institutions, senior staff and migration experts and key regional actors at the level of the Council of Europe and the European Union, as well as leading NGOs. The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli was the moderator of the debate entitled, “Towards a stronger cooperation with NHRIs on the protection and promotion of the human rights of migrants at European borders” in Panel 1, which consisted of high-ranking officials of the European Commission, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

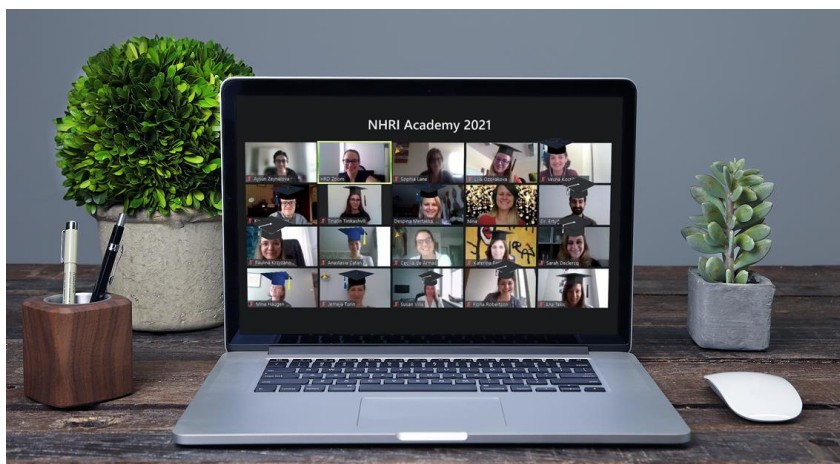


*Presentation of the ENNHRI's Comparative Report on Migrants' Rights at Borders main findings, by the ENNHRI Asylum and Migration Working Group Chair and GNCHR Legal Officer Eva Tzavala. (2-3 June 2021)*



The ENNHRI Asylum and Migration Working Group Chair and the GNCHR Legal/Research Officer, Eva Tzavala participated in the two-day online High-Level Meeting on Ensuring Respect for the Human Rights of Migrants at Borders, organised by the ENNHRI with great success, on 2 and 3 June 2021. The presentation concerned the preliminary findings of the ENNHRI's Comparative Report on Migrants' Rights at Borders which included Greece's contribution and focused on the fact that human rights violations at the borders are still taking place in a climate of impunity and lack of investigation of such complaints.

*Participation of the GNCHR in the NHRI Online Academy 2021 entitled: "Protection Human Rights Defenders and co-creating inclusive civil society space" (from 11 to 25 June 2021) The GNCHR was represented by its Secretary, Katerina Pantou*



*Coordination and organisation of a special session entitled, «NHRIs as Human Rights Defenders: Overcoming Challenges and Protecting Fellow Human Rights Defenders in Migration Context» (23 June 2021)*

The GNCHR took the initiative to organise a special session entitled: «NHRIs as Human Rights Defenders: Overcoming Challenges and Protecting Fellow Human Rights Defenders in Migration Context» in the context of the NHRI Academy,



organised annually by the ENNHRI jointly with the OSCE. The coordination and organisation of the session was conducted by the GNCHR Legal/Research Officer, Eva Tzavala. The Assistant Coordinator of the Racist Violence Recording Network, Garyfallia Anastasopoulou also participated in this meeting, by making a presentation of the good operating practice of the Network.

*GANHRI Annual Meeting 2021 (from 29 June to 01 July 2021)*



From 29 June to 01 July 2021, more than 300 participants from NHRIs, UN partners and experts met online for the GANHRI 2021 Annual Meeting. The debate focused on innovative strategies and promising practices developed by the NHRIs, in the fulfilment of their mission to protect human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic. The GNCHR was represented by its President Maria Gavouneli.

*ENNHRI Annual Conference 2021 and General Assembly. The GNCHR was represented by its President, Maria Gavouneli (29 September 2021)*

*ENNHRI General Assembly **Elections** of its governing bodies. The GNCHR was represented by its President, Maria Gavouneli (03 December 2021)*

At this ENNHRI General Assembly held on 3 December 2021, the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, was elected as an alternate member of the Accreditation Subcommittee of the Global Alliance of NHRIs.

*GNCHR contribution to the ENNHRI report entitled, "Gaps in Human Rights Accountability at Borders" (December 2021)*

## FOSTERING A CULTURE OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

<b><u>Raising public awareness</u></b> .....	72
<b><u>Actions / Initiatives to promote Human Rights</u></b> .....	73
<b><u>Participation in workshops and other events on the promotion of human rights</u></b> .....	76
<b><u>GNCHR Press Releases</u></b> .....	87
<b><u>GNCHR Interviews – Articles</u></b> .....	87



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 on 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. 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, (j)) in 2021 the GNCHR launched the following initiatives for the promotion of human rights:

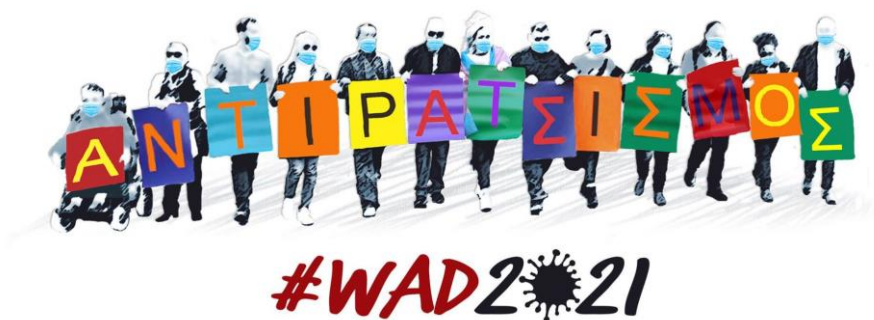
### *Actions / Initiatives to promote Human Rights*

*Participation of the President of the GNCHR, Maria Gavouneli, in the special educational programme of the interactive platform "Syntagma Watch" (<https://www.syntagmawatch.gr/> 28 January 2021)*



The President of the GNCHR [described the role of the Commission](#) in the context of the special educational programme entitled "Ten-minute Lessons on the Constitution through the platform "Syntagma Watch which is a part of the educational programme "Young Citizens and the Constitution" designed to respond to educational needs of young citizens on key constitutional and democratic issues. This project was initiated by the idea of [Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation](#) (Centre for European Constitutional Law) and is co-funded by a donation from the [Stavros Niarchos Foundation](#).

*Action on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2021: Message from the GNCHR on the fight against racism and discrimination (18 March 2021)*



For yet another year, the GNCHR participated in the "Walk Against Discrimination" #WAD2021 initiative, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), expressing its support to the effort of creating a society based on a culture of dignity, free of racism and discrimination. For yet another year not only did we walk, but also we defended and sent a powerful message that today, as never before, access to non-discriminatory protection and security is non-negotiable.

For yet another year, the GNCHR joined its voice with Civil Society Organisations (SCOs) and representatives of wider social groups facing discrimination in our country: Disabled people, LGBTQI, Roma, Migrants, Refugees, HIV positives, Survivors of gender-based violence, Elderly people, Psychotropic Substance Users, People living under psychiatric care, Prisoners, Religious groups, etc.

*Action: GNCHR participation in 2021 Fundamental Human Rights Forum (9 November 2021)*



Equality and human rights defenders, based on the power of the communities, can help each other out with their mission to improve the lives of people across Europe. It was in this spirit of collaboration that Equinet and ENNHRI joined their voices on the 2021 Fundamental Human Rights Forum to highlight the power of the community to promote equality and human rights. Acknowledging the power of unifying perspectives, the GNCHR contributed to this effort by presenting important initiatives like the Racist Violence Reporting Network, that highlight the power of communities in action.

*Message by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, on Human Rights Day (10 December 2021)*

*Action: ALL HUMAN - ALL EQUAL. People in the Art World and in Sports to join forces with the GNCHR on Human Rights Day (10 December 2021)*



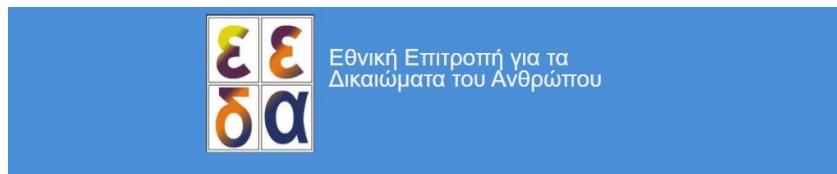
For yet another year the GNCHR commemorated the Human Rights Day as a day to consider the important steps that have so far been taken in the field and also the need to remain vigilant about what still needs to be done. The title "All Human - All Equal",

chosen by the United Nations for the Human Rights Day 2021, is intertwined with both the principle of Equality and Article 1 of the Universal Declaration: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". The principles of equality, inclusion and non-discrimination run horizontally throughout the Human Rights Law and put people at the centre. Respect for human rights and human dignity is the cornerstone of freedom, justice and peace in the world. In this light, it is a necessity for the implementation of the 2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as all relevant policies and legislation, to have the most human rights-friendly approach possible.

In 2021, the GNCHR chose to commemorate this important day on a special way, by inviting people from the Art World and from Sports to join their forces pro bono, and send a short video, choosing to read one of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or to send their own message on equality and human rights. The response was immediate and effective.

On 10 December 2021, the GNCHR posted the video messages of these people who wholeheartedly participated in the commemoration, on its social media and website, reminding everyone that fight for the protection of human rights for all, is a never-ending fight.

*Action: The GNCHR is launching the creation of the Newsletter column (20 December 2021)*



NEWSLETTER - Δεκέμβριος 2021



Ενεργοποιήστε τα Windows  
Μεταβάση στις ρυθμίσεις για ενε

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

*Presentation by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, at an online panel discussion of the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights, (25 January 2021)*

**Η βία κατά των γυναικών στην Ελλάδα του σήμερα**  
Φωτίζοντας όψεις ενός σκοτεινού ζητήματος

Δευτέρα 25 Ιανουαρίου 2021 | Ώρα: 17:00

**Μαρία Συρεγγέλα**  
Υφυπουργός για τη Δημογραφική Πολιτική και την Οικογένεια  
*Δράσεις της Πολιτικής για την αντιμετώπιση του προβλήματος της βίας κατά των γυναικών*

**Μαρία Γαβουνέλη**  
Πρόεδρος της Εθνικής Επιτροπής για τα Δικαιώματα του Ανθρώπου (ΕΕΔΑ)  
*Η Στρατηγική της ΕΕΔΑ*

**Αντωνία Γεωργίου**  
Εισαγγελέας Ενώσοικογενειακής Βίας, Εισαγγελία Πρωτοδικών Αθηνών  
*Δράσεις και Προκλήσεις που αντιμετωπίζει ο Εισαγγελικός Λειτουργός*

**Σοφία Κουκούλη-Σπηλιωτοπούλου**  
Δικηγόρος, Επίτιμο Μέλος του ΣΔΓ  
*Κενά και πρόβλημα εφαρμογής του ισχύοντος νομοθετικού πλαισίου στην Ελλάδα*

**Μαρία-Ανδριανή Κωστοπούλου**  
Μέλος της Ομάδας εμπειρογνομόνων για τη δράση κατά της βίας εναντίον των γυναικών και της ενδοοικογενειακής βίας (GREVIO)  
*Οι βασικοί άξονες της Σύμβασης της Κωνσταντινούπολης*

**Καλλιόπη Λυκοβαρδή**  
Βοηθός Συνήγορος του Πολίτη για την Ίση Μεταχείριση  
*Ο ρόλος και η συμβολή του Συνήγορου του Πολίτη*

**Ειρήνη Φερέτη**  
Πρόεδρος του Συνδέσμου για τα Δικαιώματα της Γυναίκας (ΣΔΓ), Μέλος της Ομάδας Εμπειρογνομόνων του Ευρωπαϊκού Lobby Γυναικών  
*Η σημασία των ποιοτικών και ποσοτικών χαρακτηριστικών στη διαχείριση του φαινομένου*

**Νέτα Πετρόγλου**  
Δικηγόρος, μέλος του Ευρωπαϊκού Δικτύου Νομικών Εμπειρογνομόνων για την Ισότητα των Φύλων και τη μη Διάκριση  
*Η σεξουαλική παρενόχληση στην εργασία. Ανάγκη επικύρωσης της ΔΣΕ 190 και εφαρμογής της Σύστασης 206 του Ιουνίου 2019*

**Παρέμβαση:**  
**Στυλιανός Βαρδιάμπασης**  
Ταβάρχος, Δ/ντής της Δ/νσης Γενικής Αστυνομικής, ΑΕΑ  
**Γεωργία Πασά**  
Αστυνομός Β', Προϊσταμένη του Τμήματος αντιμετώπισης της ενδοοικογενειακής βίας, ΑΕΑ

The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli made a presentation at an online panel discussion of the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights entitled, “Violence against women in Greece today: Shedding light on a dark issue” which took place on 25 January 2021.



*Presentation by the Specialised Scientific Staff Coordinator of the GNCHR Roxani Fragkou on the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March 2021)*

The Specialised Scientific Staff Coordinator of the GNCHR Roxani Fragkou made a presentation at an event organised by the Theatre “Stathmos” on the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March 2021)

*Presentation by the Second Vice-President of the GNCHR Elli Varhalama at an online panel organised by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung foundation (F.E.S.) on human dignity in the workplace (16 March 2021)*

The poster is for an online panel titled "THE FUTURE OF WORK" in English and "Ανθρώπινη Αξιοπρέπεια στον Εργασιακό Χώρο" in Greek. It is organized by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (F.E.S.) in Athens. The event took place on Wednesday, 16 March 2021, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The panelists are listed as follows:

- Κοινοβούχο:** Arne Schildberg, Διευθυντής, FES Athens
- Συμμετοχούσα:** Πωλίνα Λάμπα, Συνεργάτης, Re-Public
- Συζητητές:** Gabriele Bischoff, Μέλος του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου, Προέδρα της Επιτροπής Επιστημονικών και Διημερευμάτων; Σπύρος Δοΐβας, Εθνικός Παράρ, Εργασιακή; Φωτεινή Κοκκινάκη, Αντιπροβουλέτος, Υπουργείο Εργασίας, Ημερησίου, HumanRights360
- Συζήτηση:** Έλλη Βαρχαλαμά, Μέλητή Συμβουλός, ΠΙΕΕ, Ε' Αντιπροβουλέτος, ΕΚΔΑ

The poster also features a Facebook LIVE logo with the handles @fofwork and @FESAthens, and logos for FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG and Re-Public. At the bottom, there is an illustration of diverse people, including a person in a wheelchair, representing human dignity in the workplace.

The Second Vice-President of the GNCHR Elli Varhalama made a presentation at an online panel entitled, “Human dignity in the workplace” organised by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (F.E.S.) foundation in Athens, in collaboration with the progressive think tank “Re-Public”, as part of their joint project “The Future of Work”.

*Presentation by the Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR, Eva Tzavala, at the Round Table discussion on “The Last Rights Project” (8 April 2021)*

The Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR, Eva Tzavala, made a presentation at the Round Table discussion on “The Last Rights Project” regarding measures to be taken for the dignified treatment of the dead and bereaved migrants, entitled: “Every Body Counts” which was held on 8 April 2021.



*Presentation by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli at the International Roma Anniversary Conference (9 April 2021) [in Greek]*



The President, of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, made a presentation at the International Roma Anniversary Conference 1971-2021 which was held in Athens, on 8 and 9 April 2021, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the First World Roma Congress (London 1971).

*Welcome by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, at the Online Press Conference of the Racist Violence Recording Network (22 April 2021)*

The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli welcomed the Online Press Conference of the Racist Violence Recording Network that was held on 22 April 2021, in order to give members of the Network the opportunity to present the findings from the recording of racially motivated violence incidents, throughout 2020.

*Presentation by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli at the event organised by the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights, entitled "The integration of refugees in Greece" (11 May 2021)*

The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli made a presentation at the event entitled "The integration of refugees in Greece" organised by the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights held on 11 May 2021.

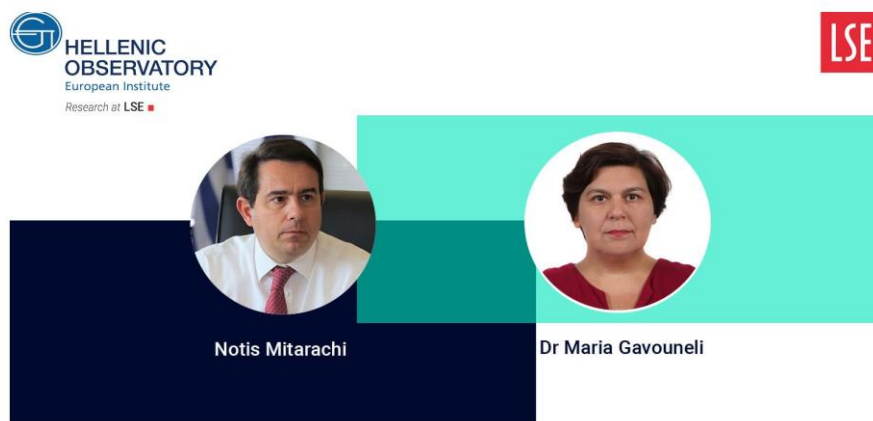


The Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR Eva TZavala made a **presentation** at the online event, “Dialogues” on the issue of social justice as a factor to promote environmental protection, organised by Greenpeace Greece held on 20 May 2021.



The GNCHR Legal/Research Officer Eva TZavala made a presentation at the online events, “Dialogues” organised by Greenpeace Greece which was held on 20 May 2021. Greenpeace was represented in the debate by Natalia Tsigaridou, Grassroots and Special Projects Campaigner at Greenpeace Greece, campaign manager for Green and Just Recovery.

*Presentation by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, at the Hellenic Observatory Annual Lecture of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) on Migration Crisis and its Impact for Europe (22 June 2021)*



The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, participated as keynote speaker, in the 18th **Hellenic Observatory** Annual Lecture of the London School of Economics and **Political Science** on Migration Crisis and its Impact for Europe, held on 22 June. The President of the GNCHR had a debate with the Minister of Migration & Asylum of the Hellenic Republic, Notis Mitarachis responding to his views and emphasising crucial dimensions of the issue. The Director of the LSE Greek Observatory and Professor of European Policy at the LSE European Institute, Kevin Fearherstone, was the debate moderator.

*Presentation by the GNCHR President Maria Gavouneli, at the Final Conference of the project: "RomPLAT2019 Development of Actions of the National Contact Point for the Social Inclusion of Roma" (25 June 2021)*



The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, made a presentation at the Final Conference of the Project: "[RomPLAT2019](#) Development of Actions of the National Contact Point for the Social Inclusion of Roma" held on 25 June 2021.

*Presentation by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, at the online event co-organised by the Delphi Economic Forum and the non-profit Organisation "Fight Impunity" on addressing impunity (12 July 2021)*



The President of the GNCHR made a presentation at the online event co-organised on 12 July 2021 by the Delphi Economic Forum and the non-profit Organisation "Fight Impunity" on addressing impunity.

*Welcome by the Communication Officer of the GNCHR Dionysis Giakoumelos, at the two-day conference organised by the National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government entitled "National School of Public Administration and Local Government (ΕΣΔΔΑ): Upskilling and reskilling in the New Executive State (15-16 July 2021)*



The Communication Officer of the GNCHR Dionysis Giakoumelos, welcomed the two-day conference organised by the National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government entitled, "National School of Public Administration and Local Government: Upskilling and reskilling in the New Executive State" held in Athens on 15-16 July 2021, by making a brief presentation of the joint initiative of the GNCHR and the Graduates Association of the National School of Public Administration and Local Government (ΕΝΑΠ ΕΣΔΔΑ) of Greece, regarding the co-organisation of the First Series of Seminars on combating discrimination in public Administration.



*Presentation by the Coordinator of the Specialised Scientific Staff of the GNCHR, Roxani Fragkou at the 6th International Summer School of the Laboratory for the Study of Medical Law and Bioethics of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (16 July 2021)*



The Coordinator of the Specialised Scientific Staff of the GNCHR Roxani Fragkou, made a presentation at the 6th International Summer School of the Laboratory for the Study of Medical Law and Bioethics of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki held in Thessaloniki from 11 to 17 July, entitled, "Autonomy and health care in the (post) pandemic era". The presentation dealt with the inequalities encountered in the health system during the pandemic era.

*Presentation by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, at the online event co-organised by the British Embassy and WWF on climate legislation in Greece (20 July 2021)*



The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, made a presentation at the online event co-organised by the British Embassy and WWF on climate legislation in Greece, held in Athens, on 20 July 2021 entitled, "Introducing a Climate Law in Greece: Towards a zero emissions climate resilient future."

*Presentation by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, at the Humanlinks Festival (12 September 2021)*

The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli made a presentation at the 4th Humanlinks Festival, held on 12 September 2021, entitled: "Environment as a human right".

*Presentation by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli at the event organised by the NSRF (National Strategic Reference Framework) in the framework of the 85th TIF (Thessaloniki International Fair) (13 September 2021)*

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ  
ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΠΕΝΔΥΣΕΩΝ

Δευτέρα 13/09/2021  
18:30-20:30

**ΕΚΤ+ ΚΑΙ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗ ΕΝΤΑΞΗ:  
ΕΠΕΝΔΥΟΝΤΑΣ ΣΕ ΑΝΘΕΚΤΙΚΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΗΜΕΡΟΥΣΕΣ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΕΣ**

**ΣΥΝΤΟΝΙΣΤΗΣ:**  
Δημήτρης Τρουλάκης Προϊστάμενος Ειδικής Υπηρεσίας Συντονισμού & Παρακολούθησης Δράσεων ΕΚΤ

**ΟΜΙΛΗΤΕΣ:**  
Patrick Raquet Επικεφαλής της Μονάδας για Κύπρο και Ελλάδα, Γενική Διεύθυνση Απασχόλησης, Κοινωνικών Υποθέσεων και Ένταξης, Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή  
Νίκη Δανδόλου Ειδική Γραμματέας Διαχείρισης Προγραμμάτων ΕΚΤ  
Γιώργος Σταμάτης Γενικός Γραμματέας Κοινωνικής Αλληλεγγύης & Καταπολέμησης της Φτώχειας  
Μαρία Γαβουνέλη Πρόεδρος της Εθνικής Επιτροπής για τα Δικαιώματα του Ανθρώπου  
Νικήτας Κανάκης Μέλος ΔΣ, Πρώην Πρόεδρος, Γιατροί του Κόσμου - Ελληνική αντιπροσωπεία

Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση  
Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Ανάπτυξης και Ανθεκτικότητας

ΕΣΠΑ  
2014-2020

The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, made a presentation at the event organised in the context of the 85th TIF, held on 13 September 2021, entitled, "ECB+ and social inclusion: Investing in resilient and prosperous societies".



*Presentation by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, at the One-day Conference of the Ministry of Justice on the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights (20 October 2021)*



The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, made a presentation at the One-day Conference of the Ministry of Justice on 20 October 2021, entitled, “The implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union by the EU Member States” on the occasion of the "Conference on the Future of Europe".

*Presentation by the First Vice-President of the GNCHR Giannis Ioannidis, at the 1st International Model United Nations Conference Leirion (29 October 2021)*

The First Vice-President of the GNCHR Giannis Ioannidis, made a presentation at the 1st International Model United Nations Conference Leirion, held from 29 to 31 October 2021, entitled: “Civil Liberties in Contemporary Times - Human Rights during Public Health Crises”.

*Welcome by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli at the event commemorating the Transgender Day of Remembrance (19 November 2021)*



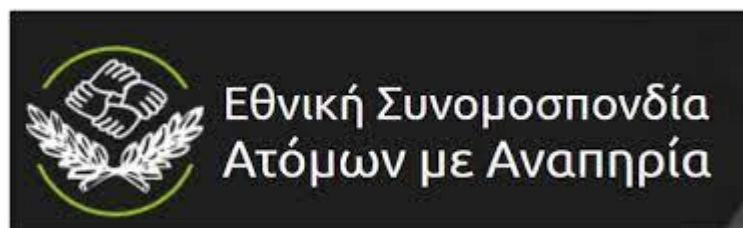
The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli welcomed the event commemorating the Transgender Day of Remembrance organised by the Greek Transgender Support Association on 19 November 2021.

*Co-organisation by the Centre for European Legal Culture (CELC) and the GNCHR of the 3rd Thessaloniki Forum on Human Rights in Greece and Europe, entitled, "The rights of people with disabilities in legal and social debate" (25-26 November 2021)*



The GNCHR and the Centre for European Legal Culture (CELC), established by the Senate of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 2018, in collaboration with the Region of Central Macedonia, the Municipality of Thessaloniki and the Thessaloniki Bar Association, jointly organised the 3rd Annual Thessaloniki Forum for Human Rights, on 25 and 26 November 2021. This two-day public event was dedicated to the rights of people with disabilities with the aim to open a public debate on the status of these people, in our society and legal system. The GNCHR was represented in the Forum by its President Maria Gavouneli, its Second Vice-President Elli Varhalama, the Member of the GNCHR and President of the Greek National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (ΕΣΑμεΑ), Ioannis Vardakastanis, the alternate Member of the GNCHR and the Organisational Secretary of the Greek National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities, Ioannis Lymvaivos and the Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR, Katerina Charokopou.

*Presentation by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, at the event organised by the Greek National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (ESAmEA) on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) (3 November 2021)*



The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli made a presentation at the event organised by the Greek National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (ESAmEA) on 3 November 2021 on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with

Disabilities (IDPD). In the course of the event, the ESAmA presented the findings of the survey entitled "Attitudes and Perceptions on Disability in Greece and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Chronic Diseases and their Families", conducted by the GPO, in cooperation with the Observatory on Disability Issues of the Greek National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities and the IN- Greek National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities.

*Presentation by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, at the One-day Conference of the Ministry of Justice entitled "A Society without Racism, A Future-Oriented Society" (16 December 2021)*



**ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ  
ΧΩΡΙΣ ΡΑΤΣΙΣΜΟ,  
ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ  
ΜΕ ΜΕΛΛΟΝ.**

Καταπολεμώντας τις διακρίσεις  
λόγω σεξουαλικού προσανατολισμού -  
ταυτότητας και έκφρασης φύλου.

**7 Δεκεμβρίου 2021**

The President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, made a presentation at the One-day Conference of the Ministry of Justice entitled "A Society without Racism, A Future Society" held on 16 December 2021 in the framework of the project, " Developing a comprehensive strategy against racism, intolerance and hate crime — HC", which is co-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020) and implemented in cooperation with the Hellenic Parliament and the Centre for Political Research of Panteion University.

### **GNCHR Press Releases**

*GNCHR Press Release on the occasion of the International Roma Day, "Ensuring equal access of Roma to social and economic life" (8 April 2021)*

*GNCHR Press Release on the occasion of the World Environment Day (4 June 2021)*

*GNCHR Press Release on the occasion of the World Refugee Day (20 June 2021)*

*GNCHR Press Release One year after the conviction of Golden Dawn (ΧΡΥΣΗ ΑΥΓΗ), the GNCHR calls on the Greek State to be vigilant (12 October 2021)*

*GNCHR Press Release on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2023 (25 November 2021)*

*GNCHR Press Release on the occasion of the Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) (3 November 2021)*

*GNCHR Press Release on the occasion of the decision of the UN Human Rights Committee in the case of Lazaros Petromelidis on Conscientious Objectors (16 December 2021)*

### **GNCHR Interviews – Articles**

*Article written by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, entitled "The GNCHR facing the future" in the newspaper "Kathimerini", (23 January 2021)*

*Intervention by the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli, on the First Programme of the TV Channel ERT (Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation) on the occasion of the World Day of Social Justice. Broadcast Editor: Ioanna Niaoti (journalist) (20 February 2021)*

*The Coordinator of the Specialised Scientific Staff of the GNCHR Roxani Fragkou was interviewed on the TV show, "Police and Society" on the "Blue Sky" Channel, on the occasion of the World Zero Discrimination Day, entitled: "Building bridges: The GNCHR and the fight against discrimination" (1 March 2021)*

*Radio Meeting of the two Vice-Presidents of the GNCHR Giannis Ioannidis and ELLI Varhalama, during the radio programme "Rights on Radio FM" (Athens 9,84 FM) on the occasion of a discussion on the labour reform bill put to consultation (30 May 2021)*

*Interview with the President of the GNCHR Maria Gavouneli in the newspaper "The Guardian" on the topic of domestic violence (9 November 2021)*

### **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 for 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 hard-core of the GNCHR mission. More specifically, acknowledging that the cornerstone of human rights education is to launch and integrate international human rights standards and practices into people's daily lives, the GNCHR has taken the following initiatives, in 2021:

*Annual (Open) Seminar Series entitled: "Human Rights in the (post)epidemic era: challenges and return to 'normality.'" (Third Series, from February to June 2021).*

The Third Series of the Annual (Open) Seminar Series entitled, "Human Rights in the (post)epidemic era: challenges and return to 'normality'", were held on-line from 8 February to 28 June 2021. The GNCHR training programmes covered a wide range of critical issues related to human rights and were addressed to the general public (undergraduate or postgraduate students of all faculties of various sciences, as well as attorneys at law, judges, teachers, social workers, employees, etc.)



The poster features a stylized illustration of a person in a blue suit and red skirt, holding a smartphone. The background is dark blue and black. A white text box in the center contains the following information:

**Γ' Κύκλος  
Σεμιναρίων**

---

**Τα Δικαιώματα  
του Ανθρώπου στη  
(μετα)επιδημική  
εποχή:  
προκλήσεις και  
επιστροφή στην  
«κανονικότητα»**

---

**Φεβρουάριος –  
Ιούνιος 2021**

At the bottom right, there is a logo consisting of four colored squares (yellow, purple, blue, orange) with the Greek letters Ε, Ε, Δ, Α. Below this is the text: **Εθνική Επιτροπή για τα  
Δικαιώματα του Ανθρώπου**

At the bottom left, it says: **Ζωντανή μετάδοση στο** 

On the right side, there is a vertical credit line: **Sebastian König, Solidarity** with icons for CC, BY, NC, ND.



*Co-organisation by the GNCHR and the Association of Graduates of the National School of Public Administration and Local Government of Greece, of the First Series of Closed Seminars for Graduates of the National School of Public Administration and Local Government of Greece (ΕΝΑΠ-ΕΣΔΔΑ), on Public Administration and Vulnerable Groups (from September to December 2021)*

The GNCHR and the Association of Graduates of the National School of Public Administration and Local Government of Greece co-organised the First Series of Closed Seminars, entitled “Public Administration and Vulnerable Groups”, held on-line from 22 September to 22 December 2022, for the graduates of the National School of Public Administration and Local Government of Greece.



**Α΄ Κύκλος Σεμιναρίων**  
Δημόσια Διοίκηση & Ευάλωτες Ομάδες  
ΕΕΔΑ – ΕΝΑΠ ΕΣΔΔΑ

Δηλώσεις συμμετοχής έως:  
**Παρασκευή 10 Σεπτεμβρίου 2021**, αποστέλλοντας συμπληρωμένη αίτηση στο [enap@enap.gr](mailto:enap@enap.gr) με την ένδειξη «**Σεμινάρια ΕΝΑΠ-ΕΕΔΑ**».

Για οποιαδήποτε διευκρίνιση μπορείτε να αποστέλλετε σχετικό ερώτημα στο [enap@enap.gr](mailto:enap@enap.gr) με την ανωτέρω ένδειξη.



Ελληνική Δημοκρατία  
Εθνική Επιτροπή για τα  
Δικαιώματα του Ανθρώπου



Ένωση Αποφοίτων  
Εθνικής Σχολής Δημόσιας  
Διοίκησης & Αυτοδιοίκησης

*Co-organisation by the GNCHR and the Small Claims Court (Ειρηνοδικείο) of Athens of the First Series of Seminars for the Judges of Small Claims Courts on Legal Gender Recognition (From 9 to 10 December 2021)*

The GNCHR and the Small Claims’ Court of Athens co-organised the First Series of personalised training Seminars entitled: “**Legal Gender Recognition**”, held on-line from 9 to 10 December 2021, for the Judges of Small Claims’ Court of Athens, who are called upon to deal on a practical level with matters related to the rights and needs of transgender people, while showing full respect for diversity and giving equal access to the enjoyment of human rights for all.





## Εθνική Επιτροπή για τα Δικαιώματα του Ανθρώπου (ΕΕΔΑ)

### Η Εθνική Επιτροπή για τα Δικαιώματα του Ανθρώπου (ΕΕΔΑ)

επιληρώνοντας την αποστολή της να αναπτύσσει, μεταξύ άλλων, πρωτοβουλίες για την ευαισθητοποίηση των κρατικών υπηρεσιών και της κοινής γνώμης σε θέματα δικαιωμάτων του ανθρώπου και την καλλιέργεια του σεβασμού τους στο πλαίσιο του εκπαιδευτικού συστήματος (άρθρο 12 (ε) Ν 4780/2021), διοργανώνει σε συνεργασία με το **Ειρηνοδικείο Αθηνών** έναν πρώτο κύκλο εξατομικευμένων επιμορφωτικών σεμιναρίων με θέμα τη:

#### Νομική Αναγνώριση Ταυτότητας Φύλου

Τα σεμινάρια αυτά απευθύνονται ειδικά σε Ειρηνοδίκες, που καλούνται να αντιμετωπίσουν ζητήματα σχετικά με τα δικαιώματα και τις ανάγκες των транс προσώπων στην πράξη με πλήρη σεβασμό στη διαφορετικότητα και την ισότιμη πρόσβαση όλων στην απόλαυση των δικαιωμάτων του ανθρώπου και θα διεξαχθούν διαδικτυακά στις 9 και 10 Δεκεμβρίου 2021.

#### Εισηγητές/εισηγήτριες:

Αννα Απεύρη, Διευθύντρια ΣΥΔ, Υπεύθυνη ενδυνάμωσης транс και ΑΟΑΤΚΙ+ προσώπων

Νικίτας Βέλιος, Ειρηνοδίκης Αθηνών

Γιώργος Δελής, Ειρηνοδίκης Αθηνών

Ιωάννης Ιωαννίδης, Α' Αντιπρόεδρος της ΕΕΔΑ, Δικηγόρος

Παναγιώτης Νασάκος, Ειρηνοδίκης Αθηνών

Βασίλης Σωτηρόπουλος, Μέλος ΕΕΔΑ, Δικηγόρος



### *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.

In this regard, the GNCHR participated in the 2020-2021 training programme of the Hellenic Police Officers' School with a lecture on "The role of the GNCHR and the global dimension of domestic violence". The first seminar was jointly conducted by the Scientific Staff Coordinator, Roxani Fragkou and the Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR and Katerina Charokopou, on 8 June 2021. The Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR Katerina Charokopou made also a presentation at the second and last seminar, held on 5 October 2021.



### *Training programmes in schools*

The GNCHR develops and conducts understandable and child-friendly educational programmes, on matters related either to human rights, either its own functioning. In recent years, the GNCHR has been conducting training programmes on matters related to the history and evolution of human rights, the protection of the rights of the child, the right to education, women's rights, the respect for and enjoyment of human rights, racism and intolerance.

#### *Discussion with the students of the Vocational School of Acharnes on matters related to the protection of human rights (May 2021)*

The Legal/Research Officers of the GNCHR Eva Tzavala, Roxani Fragkou and Katerina Charokopou, had a meeting with the students of the Vocational School of Acharnes on 10 May 2021, where they discussed on the one hand about the work and functioning of the GNCHR and on the other hand, about specific matters related to the protection of human rights, such as the refugee issue and challenges faced by children of vulnerable social groups, including Roma children or children with disabilities.

*Discussion with the students of the Erasmeios Greek-German Private School of Athens on the topic: "Children's rights in modern times."(20 November 2021)*



The Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR Katerina Charokopou had a discussion with the students of the Erasmeios Greek-German Private School of Athens, who participated in the volunteer group "SYN-DRO" (Co-Act), about the rights of children in modern times, on the occasion of the 20th of November, International Day for the Rights of the Child.

*Discussion with the students of the Erasmeios Greek-German Private School of Athens on the topic "Human rights of refugees and migrants in the European Union in the twenty-first century" (6 December 2021)*

Responding to an invitation from the UNESCO team of the [Erasmeios Greek-German Private School](#) of Athens, the GNCHR was part of a constructive discussion with high school students on the topic: "Human rights of refugees and migrants in the European Union in the twenty-first century". The discussion was moderated by the Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR Eva Tzavala.

### *Training programmes for Higher Education Institutions Students*

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 actions:

*Welcome by the Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR Eva Tzavala, at the Online Conference of the ELSA Komotini (3 March 2021)*

The Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR Eva Tzavala, welcomed the Online Conference of the ELSA Komotini, on Refugee and Migration Law, held from 3 to 7 March 2021.

*Presentation by the Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR Katerina Charokopou, at the two-day conference organised by ELSA Athens (From 28 to 29 May 2021)*

The Legal/Research Officer of the GNCHR Katerina Charokopou, made a presentation entitled, "Protection of victims of crime in the EU" at the two-day conference of ELSA

Athens on the topic: "Contemporary Challenges in International and European Justice" (From 28 to 29 May 2021)

### **Research in the field of Human Rights**

The GNCHR in accordance with its legal mandate and mission to promote research on issues 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, the mission of the GNCHR shall be facilitated by the Greek higher education institutions contribution in the research and documentation of recommendations, proposals, studies, elaborated and submitted on its behalf, 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 2021, 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 (CELC) of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), 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 FINANCIAL 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 programs 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.”*

For 2021, the appropriations entered in the budget heading no: 1023-609-0000000 for the GNCHR amounted to a total of EUR 294.000.



## **LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

## **LAW 4780/2021**

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.

### **The Regulation of the GNCHR**

- **The Regulation of the GNCHR**

**GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (GNCHR)**

**RULES OF OPERATION**

- **THE PRESIDENT**

**OF THE GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (GNCHR)**

Taking into consideration:

a) The provisions of Article 4(7) of Law 2667/1998 “Establishment of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights” (Government Gazette (GG) no. 281/A/1998), as amended by Article 12(11) of Government Act with legislative content () of 24 December 2015 (GG no.182/A/ 24.12.2015), which was ratified by Article One of Law 4366/2016 (GG no. 18/A/15.2.2016).

b) The decision of the GNCHR Plenary dated June 13 2016 for drafting new Rules of Operation of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights.

c) The fact that the provisions of the present act entail no expenditure under the national budget, we hereby decide:

▪ **ARTICLE 1**

We hereby issue the Rules of Operation of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR), reading as follows:

“RULES OF OPERATION OF THE GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (GNCHR)”

1. The GNCHR was established and is functioning in accordance with Law 2667/1997 (GG no. 281/A/1998), as currently in force.
2. The GNCHR constitutes the independent national institution for the protection of human rights. In international relations, the term “Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR)”, shall be used, in its true translation..
3. The mission of the GNCHR is defined in paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 1 and in Article 3 of Law 2667/1998, as currently in force.

4. The GNCHR Plenary.

4.1 The GNCHR Plenary consists of the Members stipulated in Article 2 of Law 2667/1998, as currently in force.

4.2 The persons appointed as GNCHR Members have proven knowledge and experience in the field of Human Rights protection.

4.3 The members of the new composition of the GNCHR are appointed at the latest two (2) months before the end of the term of office of the previous composition.. The President’s relevant invitation to the bodies that appoint the GNCHR members is posted on the website of the GNCHR.4.4. Bodies appointing GNCHR Members select the appropriate persons with transparency and in accordance with their specific rule of operation. The relevant decisions are published on the GNCHR website.

5. The President

5.1 The President is in charge of the constant overseeing, supervision and coordination of the work of the GNCHR. He or she shall represent it before any domestic or foreign Authority as well as before international organizations, equivalent national human rights institutions and their European and international network, as well as before non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

When the President is impeded, lacking or absent, the GNCHR shall be represented by the Vice-Presidents (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President) in order of their rank.

5.2 The President may authorize a GNCHR Member to represent him/her, by reason of specialty, with regard to a specific issue in national or international conferences, conventions, meetings etc.

5.3 The President shall convene regular and extraordinary GNCHR sessions, preside at the sessions and sign, along with the person serving as secretary, the relevant minutes. In the event that the President is absent or impeded, he/she shall be substituted in the duties stipulated in this Article by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President in order of their rank.

5.4 The President, following a decision of the GNCHR or on his/her own initiative, summons to a hearing before the GNCHR persons that could facilitate its mission by expressing opinions concerning Human Rights protection or by presenting their personal experiences. The invitation is effected in any appropriate way.

5.5 The President shall coordinate the operation of the Sub-Commissions and the work of the specialist staff.

5.6 The President shall oversee the operation of the Secretariat of the GNCHR.

## 6. The Board

6.1 The Board consists of the President and the two Vice-Presidents.

6.2 The President shall draw up the agenda of the GNCHR sessions, in consultation with the two Vice-Presidents, and designate the rapporteurs.

6.3 The Board shall address current and urgent issues relating to the mission or the operation of the GNCHR in the interval between two regular Plenary sessions. To this end, and for the purpose of the effective planning of the work of the GNCHR, the Board shall meet at least twice a week. In the month of August, the Board members shall be alternately in charge of overseeing the operation of the GNCHR. In each Plenary session, the Board shall inform the GNCHR of these activities.

6.4 The Board shall coordinate the issue of publications, periodic or not, assisted by other GNCHR Members and the specialist staff.

## 7. Operation of the GNCHR

7.1 The GNCHR Plenary shall meet regularly at least every two months and extraordinarily following an invitation of the President or a request of at least five (5) of its Members. The invitation is sent in any appropriate way. Members are summoned to a regular session on the Secretary's responsibility at least eight (8) days prior to the session. The deadline is limited to three (3) days for the extraordinary sessions.

7.2 The GNCHR Plenary shall have a quorum when at least the absolute majority of its members is present in the specific session and among the present members the President of the Commission or one Vice-President is included.

7.3 The representatives of the Ministries, as referred to under Article 2(1) (k) of Law 2667/1998, as currently in force, inform at the beginning of each session the GNCHR Plenary or the Sub-commissions on developments in the field of Human Rights in the field of their Ministry and retire before the debate for the decision making.

7.4 The decisions of the GNCHR Plenary shall be taken by a majority of the members present with voting rights. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote.

7.5 For every decision of the GNCHR Plenary, both views of the majority and the minority shall be recorded.

7.6 Minutes are kept under the President's responsibility by the Secretary of the Commission or, in case the latter is lacking or impeded, by a member of the Secretariat. If the GNCHR Plenary deems that for a particular issue it shall discuss and decide without the presence of a Secretary, minutes are kept by one of its members.

7.7 Full and alternate GNCHR members shall attend the sessions. Full members shall have voting rights and, in case they are absent or impeded, alternate members shall have voting rights as well.

7.8 The sessions of the GNCHR Plenary shall not be public.

7.9 The vote shall be open with the exception of [discussion on] GNCHR members' personal issues, where there shall be a secret ballot.

7.10 The GNCHR Plenary, by its decision, shall set, at the beginning of each semester, its areas of priorities for both the Plenary and the Sub-Commissions. Urgent issues or issues of great importance shall be added during the semester or shall be given priority for discussion.

7.11 Issues not included in the scope of the Sub-Commissions shall fall under the competence of the GNCHR Plenary. The GNCHR Plenary, by virtue of its decision, shall refer the examination and treatment of particular issues included in its mission to relevant Sub-Commissions.

## 8. Sub-commissions

8.1 Within the GNCHR operation the following Sub-commissions shall be established:

A) The Sub-commission for Civil and Political Rights

B) The Sub-commission for Social, Economic and Cultural Rights

C) The Sub-commission for the Application of Human Rights to Aliens

D) The Sub-commission for the Promotion of Human Rights (raising public awareness, mass media, education and other means)

E) The Sub-commission for International Communication and Cooperation (review of reports in compliance with Greece's conventional obligations, exchange of information and communication with international bodies, organisations etc.)

8.2 Sub-commissions shall cooperate on issues which inherently fall within the thematic competence of more than one Sub-commissions.

8.3 These Sub-commissions shall include full and alternate members, at their option, taking into consideration the need to balance participation in the Sub-commissions.

Each member shall participate at a maximum of two (2) Sub-commissions. There shall be a quorum when at least the absolute majority of the Sub-commission's members is present.

8.4 If a Sub-commission shall include the President or the Vice-Presidents, the latter shall chair this Sub-commission. The members of the remaining Sub-commissions shall elect a chairperson by relative majority. In all Sub-commissions members shall also elect the chairperson's alternate by relative majority. Full and alternate members who participate in the GNCHR Sub-commission, with the exception of representatives of Ministries, shall have the right to vote and be elected. The decision of the chairperson's election shall be revoked by the Sub-commission's members by absolute majority.

8.5 The chairperson shall have the responsibility of convening and running the Sub-commission, keeping the minutes, communicating with the GNCHR Plenary and the Board and updating them.

8.6 Sub-commissions shall regularly meet at least once a month and extraordinarily upon their member's decision.

8.7 Sub-commissions' decisions shall be made by an absolute majority of the present members. In any case, any minorities shall be recorded.

8.8 Sub-commissions' decisions are introduced to the Plenary which shall make the final decision. Once deemed meaningful, it shall decide when they shall be made public.

8.9 Sub-commissions' sessions shall not be public. Sub-commissions shall invite, at their own discretion, persons who can meaningfully contribute to addressing a particular issue on account of specialty or experience.

8.10 The GNCHR scientific staff shall assist Sub-Commissions in their operation and participate in their activities.

8.11 The Sub-Commissions shall express their opinions on the annual reports, which have been prepared by other authorities in compliance with Greece's conventional obligations and fall within their scope, once requested by the Fifth Sub-Commission.

8.12 The alternate members who participate in a session held by the Plenary or the Sub-Commissions', shall be entitled to the compensation in the form of a lump sum that full members receive.

## 9. Annual Report

9.1 The GNCHR shall prepare the annual Report in accordance with the provision of Article 1(h) of Law 2667/98, as in force.



9.2 The Sub-Commissions shall inform the Plenary of their activities by January 15th of each year.

9.3 The Ministries represented in the GNCHR shall submit by the end of each year information and observations about human rights protection falling within their mandate.

9.4 The GNCHR Report shall include all recommendations, proposals, reports and opinions which have been prepared during the year and which have emerged from issues raised by the Government, the Conference of Presidents of the Parliament and NGOs, or by initiatives of the GNCHR Plenary or Sub-Commissions. The GNCHR assessments of the general state of human rights in Greece or more specific issues that must receive special attention shall be included in the annual Report.

9.5 The Report shall be discussed at the Plenary upon the Board's suggestion and shall be approved by absolute majority. The minority opinion shall also be recorded in the Report.

9.6 The GNCHR publishes its annual Report following its submission to the Prime Minister and the Parliament.

9.7 Upon submission of the Annual Report to the Parliament, the GNCHR asks for its discussion in a pertinent session at a specific date.

## 10. Scientific and administrative support of the GNCHR

10.1 The GNCHR shall be scientifically supported by research officers who assist the GNCHR in terms of preparing reports, conducting scientific studies on issues assigned by the GNCHR Plenary or its Sub-Commissions, as well as updating about human rights developments in international governmental organisms and in international governmental or non-governmental organisations. Research officers shall organise an archive of texts and scientific studies and shall work on publications, periodic or not, which shall include the GNCHR activity and other material relating to human rights.

10.2 In line with Article 3 under Law 2667/98, the compilation of specialist studies may be assigned to working groups.

10.3 The GNCHR Secretariat is comprised of a Secretary and three employees for secretarial and technical support, appointed and remunerated in compliance with Article 8 of Law 2667/98, as in force. The Secretary shall manage the Secretariat. The President shall oversee its operation.

## 11. Term of office of the GNCHR and its members

11.1 The GNCHR has a term of office of three (3) years. Every stakeholder that appoints a GNCHR Member shall propose its replacement only for a compelling reason. For the replacement of a GNCHR Member the GNCHR Plenary shall decide by virtue of a

decision adopted in accordance with paragraphs 7.2, 7.4 and 7.8 of the present Rules of Operation.

11.2 The representatives of the Ministries in the GNCHR shall be replaced upon proposal of the competent Minister for serious reasons attributable to the interests of service which impede their regular participation in the GNCHR activity. The new representative shall merely complete the ongoing term of office of his/her predecessor.

**Article 2**

The present decision shall be published in the Official Journal of the Hellenic Republic.

Athens, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016

THE PRESIDENT

GEORGIOS STAVROPOULOS

*Roxani Fragkou, Coordinator of the Scientific Organisation Unit, GNCHR*

The elaboration of the 2023 Annual Report was supported by the specialised scientific and administrative staff of the GNCHR.

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

The 2020 Annual Report of the GNCHR, was printed in 2024 at the National Printing House in 50 copies and can also be accessed on its website: [www.nchr.gr](http://www.nchr.gr)

The 2021 Annual Report of the GNCHR was printed in 2023 at the National Printing House in 100 copies and can also be accessed on its website: [www.nchr.gr](http://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](mailto:info@nchr.gr), Webpage: [www.nchr.gr](http://www.nchr.gr)  
Facebook: Greek National Commission for Human Rights - GNCHR  
GNCHR Twitter @humanrights\_gr

ISSN: 2241-259X