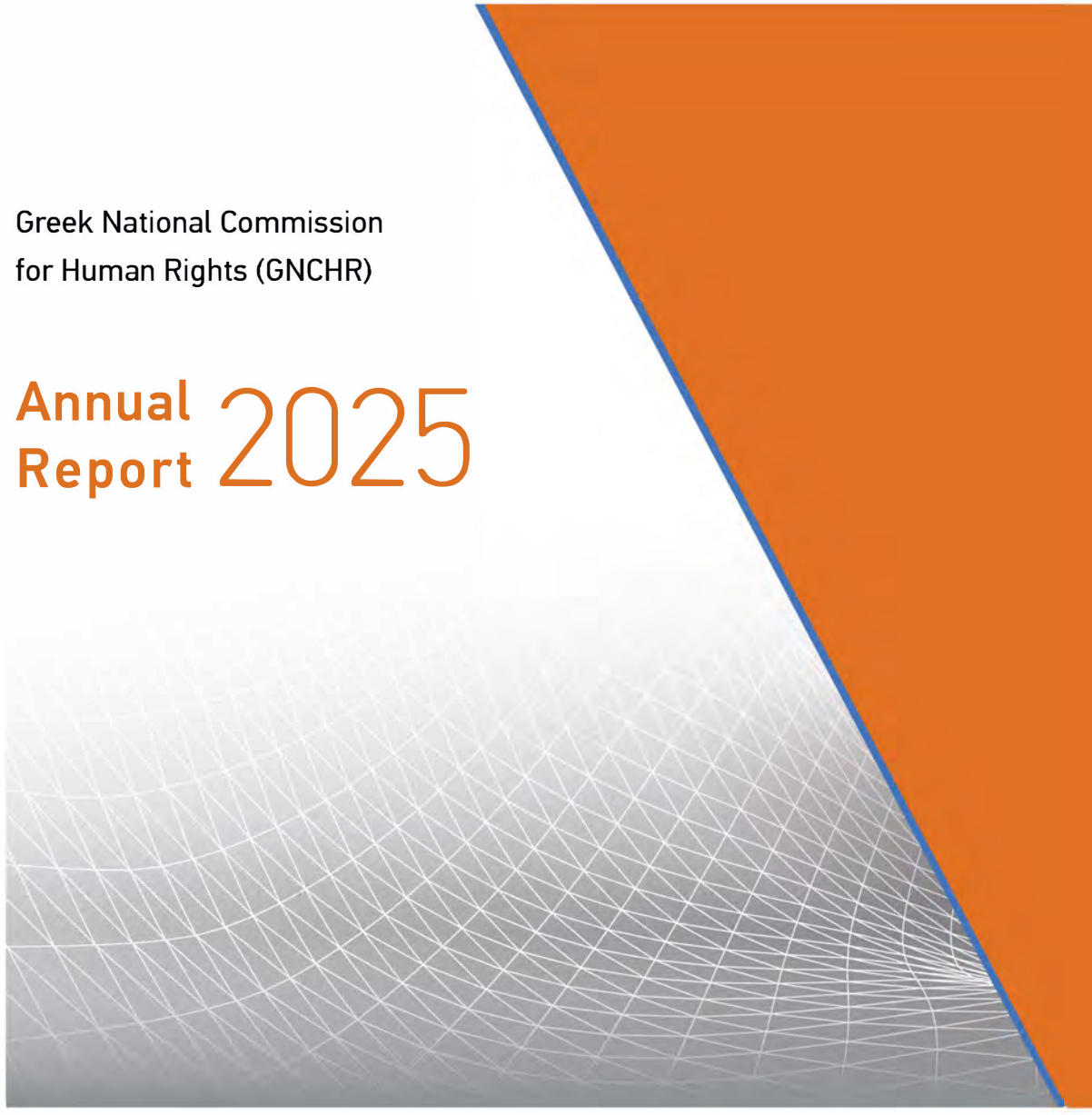
Hellenic Republic
Greek National Commission for Human Rights

Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR)

Annual Report 2025



NOMIKI BIBLIOTHIKI

Greek National Commission
for Human Rights (GNCHR)

Annual Report 2025

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Abstract: The Annual Report 2025 of the National Commission for Human Rights presents the main achievements of the Commission during 2025.

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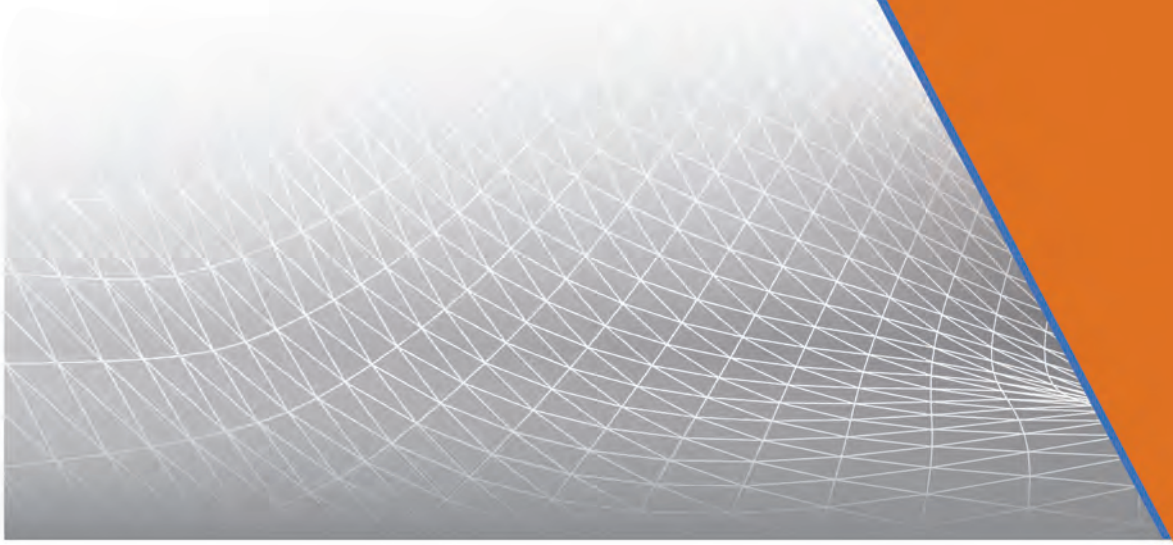
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Hellenic Republic
Greek National Commission for Human Rights

Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR)

Annual Report 2025



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MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GNCHR, PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AT THE LAW SCHOOL OF THE NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS (NKUA), MARIA GAVOUNELI



The past year proved to be yet another pivotal year for the protection and promotion of human rights in our country. The GNCHR, the independent and pluralistic NHRI, continued to fulfil its mandate with consistency and responsibility, through rigorous analysis and evidence-based interventions, at a time when international realignments and domestic challenges require vigilance and the safeguarding of the achievements of the post-war period: fundamental rights, the rule of law and democratic institutions.

In 2025, the National Commission continued its systematic work to promote women's rights and protect women from all forms of violence; laid the foundations for the role it is called upon to play in safeguarding human rights in the use of artificial intelligence; and strengthened its action to protect human rights in the business context through the publication of the Reference Report "Human Rights Due Diligence. Responsible State and Business Conduct under Directive (EU) 2024/1760". Businesses and technology companies have become major actors in the field of human rights, given the increasingly complex, multifaceted and global nature of their activities. NHRIs are called upon to redefine their position and tools in engaging with them, adopting more comprehensive and tailored approaches to cooperation and oversight.

As a pioneer in highlighting the impact of climate change on human rights, the GNCHR represented the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) at the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30). Together with the international community, our partners, and our counterparts in other institutions, we are working to shape a modern framework for human rights in the economy, technology, development, and environmental governance. Human rights are the key to overcoming obstacles to meaningful communication, effective cooperation, and common purpose among workers, citizens, international organisations, and States.

The GNCHR continues to contribute actively to the work of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI). In 2025, the GNCHR continued to chair ENNHRI's Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, while also making a substantial contribution to all of the Network's working groups and forums for the exchange of views and expertise.

The year 2025 marked a milestone for the GNCHR at national level, as we made our first intervention before the Council of State in support of the constitutionality of Law 5089/2024 on equality in civil marriage. In Decision No. 392/2026, the Plenary of the Council of State held that recognising the right of same-sex couples to enter into a civil marriage, as well as the right of married same-sex couples to adopt a minor child, does not contravene Article 21(1) of the Constitution on the protection of marriage, family, motherhood and childhood. This landmark decision was also a historic moment for the National Commission.

These achievements, however, must not lead to complacency. For 2026, the GNCHR has already identified the rights of persons deprived of their liberty in prison as a priority since the European Court of Human Rights has repeatedly found Greece in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights because of detention conditions in Greek prisons, which fall short of the Convention and international standards, as illustrated by the *Nisiotis group of cases*. Detention conditions in Greek prisons and human rights violations at the borders against third-country nationals are two issues on which Greece has made little progress for years, with serious consequences for the country's international standing. Through its multiple interventions in Parliament, on-site visits to reception facilities and documented evidence gathered through the Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns, the GNCHR keeps high on the agenda issues concerning risks to the rights of third-country nationals. The rise of racist rhetoric, violence and institutional racism is also a matter of grave concern. We monitor these developments through the Racist Violence Recording Network,(RVRN) while working to prevent them through partnerships with public authorities and civil society organisations in European

programmes addressing antisemitism, discrimination and intolerance. Finally, through our annual Rule of Law Reports and public interventions, we highlight the risks and challenges faced today by human rights defenders and civil society organisations, especially those dealing with refugee issues.

As a consistent interlocutor with the State, the GNCHR will continue to cooperate, provide opinions, monitor developments and intervene whenever the rights of particular groups — or the rights of all of us — are intolerably restricted, contrary to the country's international and European obligations. Human rights can never be taken for granted; they require a daily commitment. Safeguarding them is a responsibility shared by all.

Maria Gavouneli

President of the Greek National Commission Human Rights,
Professor of International Law at the Law School of the National
and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)

A YEAR AT A GLANCE



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Plenary Meetings of the GNCHR	
17 February 2025	Topics discussed included: • Publication of the ECtHR judgements in A.R.E. v. Greece and G.R.J. v. Greece, cases in which the GNCHR intervened as a third party • The GNCHR intervention before the Council of State in support of the constitutionality of the law on equality in civil marriage • The GNCHR interventions before Parliamentary Committees concerning the Ministry of Justice bill on combating violence against women and the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs bill on balanced gender representation in senior corporate positions • The GNCHR Report on human rights due diligence and responsible business conduct
31 March 2025	Topics discussed included: • The meeting of the GNCHR Bureau with H.E. the President of the Republic, Katerina Sakellaropoulou • The participation of the GNCHR in the GANHRI Annual General Assembly and the formal award of A Status accreditation to the National Commission • The GNCHR Rule of Law Report (2024) • The participation of the GNCHR in the Conference of NHRIs within the framework of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg
22 May 2025	Topics discussed included: • The working meeting and consultation hosted at the GNCHR offices, with the participation of civil society organisations and the Director-General of DG HOME • Written contribution by the GNCHR to the Special Rapporteur on the right to a healthy environment

	• The GNCHR written contribution to the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights and the social reintegration of persons released from detention (Human Rights Council Resolution 57/9) • The GNCHR contribution to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for the General Assembly report on combating intolerance against persons based on religion or belief
15 July 2025	Topics discussed included: • Recent developments in the asylum procedure • The draft GNCHR Explanatory Note entitled: "The suspension of asylum applications and the violation of international law" • The press release of the Racist Violence Recording Network (RVRN) entitled: "Concern over the deteriorating climate targeting refugees and migrants in political and public discourse" • The 2024 Annual Report of the Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns
09 October 2025	Topics discussed included: • A hearing of stakeholders at the GNCHR premises on the human rights situation in Greek prisons • New cycle of the GNCHR Educational Seminars entitled "The next day for rights" • The GNCHR Observations on the bill of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance entitled "Fair Work for All: Simplification of Legislation — Support for Workers — Protection in Practice" • Participation of the GNCHR in the Council of Europe Round Table on the prison system and criminal justice in Greece
17 December 2025	Topics discussed included: • Scheduling of the GNCHR visits to places of detention in the framework of preparing a report on the human rights situation in Greek prisons • Participation of the GNCHR in an event organised by GANHRI and the R. Wallenberg Institute in the framework of the United Nations Climate Conference (COP30) in Brazil

	• Participation of GNCHR representatives in the National Council against Racism and Intolerance (NCRI) and the progress of the drafting of the 2nd National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance • Participation of the GNCHR in the legislative drafting committee for the transposition of Directives (EU) 2024/1499 and 2024/1500 on equality bodies in the field of equal treatment of persons
Hearings of persons and stakeholders	
18 September 2025	Hearing of stakeholders at the GNCHR premises on the situation of human rights in Greek prisons
19 December 2025	Hearing of children at the GNCHR premises on the situation of the rights of the child in Greece in Greece
Participation in sessions of Parliamentary Committees (legislative work)	
20 January 2025	The GNCHR in Parliament on the Ministry of Justice bill on combating violence against women
07 February 2025	The GNCHR in the Social Affairs Committee of the Hellenic Parliament on the billl of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs on the balanced gender representation in senior corporate positions
14 March 2025	The GNCHR in the Parliamentary Committees on the bill of the Ministry of Citizen Protection on the reorganisation of the Hellenic Police
16 July 2025	The GNCHR in Parliament on the Ministry of Justice bill on the Code of Civil Procedure
29 August 2025	The GNCHR in the session of the Parliamentary Committee on the bill of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum on the reform of the framework and procedures for the returns of third-country nationals
25 November 2025	The GNCHR in the Parliamentary Committees on the bill of the Ministry of Digital Governance on digital approaches for road safety
19 December 2025	The GNCHR in Parliament on the bill of the Ministry of National Defence entitled, “Transition Roadmap of the Armed Forces to the New Era”

Texts and Interventions	
07 January 2025	Publication of the ECtHR judgements in A.R.E. v. Greece and G.R.J. v. Greece, cases in which the GNCHR intervened as a third party
22 January 2025	GNCHR contribution to the OHCHR study on the monitoring of human rights in the context of migration
30 January 2025	The GNCHR and 9 more NHRIs express their concern over the European Commission's Omnibus initiative on business conduct and sustainable development
19 February 2025	GNCHR Statement on the need to respect the constitutionally guaranteed supervisory role of the Independent Authorities
12 March 2025	GNCHR Statement on the protection of art in a democratic society
11 April 2025	The GNCHR intervention before the Council of State in support of the constitutionality of the law on equality in civil marriage
23 April 2025	GNCHR written contribution to the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights and the social reintegration of persons released from detention and persons subjected to non-custodial measures, pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution 57/9
30 April 2025	Written contribution by the GNCHR to the Special Rapporteur on the right to a healthy environment
11 July 2025	GNCHR Explanatory Note: "The suspension of the submission of asylum applications and the violation of international law"
3 September 2025	GNCHR contribution to a UN questionnaire on accessible infrastructure for persons with disabilities
09 October 2025	GNCHR observations on the Ministry of Labour bill entitled, "Fair Work for All"
13 October 2025	GNCHR observations before the European Committee of Social Rights concerning the case "ICJ and ECRE v. Greece"
17 November 2025	GNCHR contribution to a UN questionnaire on artificial intelligence, the Digital Space and Gender Equality

02 December 2025	GNCHR letter to Ministries and University Rectorate Authorities on the recognition of childcare parental leave as counting towards the prior service of university faculty members
23 December 2025	GNCHR contribution to a UN questionnaire on combating intolerance on grounds of religion or belief
Special Reports	
25 February 2025	GNCHR Reference Report: "Human rights due diligence: Responsible State and Business Conduct under Directive (EU) 2024/1760"
27 February 2025	GNCHR Report following its on-site visit to the Ritsona Controlled Access Facility for Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers: "Remote accommodation with deficient reception safeguards"
26 May 2025	The GNCHR publishes its 2025 Rule of Law Report
17 July 2025	Publication of the 2024 Annual Report of the Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns
Press Releases and Posts	
07 January 2025	The GNCHR on the passing of former Prime Minister Kostas Simitis
10 December 2025	The historic video of the GNCHR presentation event at the Zappeion Megaron on 20 January 2000
08 March 2025	International Women's Day 2025 — Equality, Rights and Empowerment for all women and girls worldwide
21 March 2025	Press Release Walk Against Discrimination 2025 (WAD 2025)
14 March 2025	The GNCHR on the completion of the term of office of President of the Republic Katerina Sakellaropoulou
09 May 2025	Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the GNCHR and ELSA Greece
21 May 2025	Reference to the GNCHR as a good practice in the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in a European Commission report to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

23 June 2025	The GNCHR on the passing of Michalis Retalis
31 July 2025	Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the GNCHR and the UN Global Compact Network Greece
15 July 2025	Racist Violence Recording Network: "Concern over the deteriorating climate targeting refugees and migrants in political and public discourse"
28 August 2025	The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the GNCHR express their concern over rhetoric directed against civil society
25 November 2025	GNCHR statement on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
18 November 2025	"ENNHRI Statement on the Omnibus I Proposal to inform Trilogue Negotiations"
03 December 2025	3 December — International Day of Persons with Disabilities
10 December 2025	Human Rights: essential every day! –The GNCHR statement on Human Rights Day 2025
24 December 2025	Season's greetings from the GNCHR! — "The year now ending…"
Conferences — Workshops — Events	
05 February 2025	Participation of the in the event marking 25 years since the establishment of CSR Hellas
10 February 2025	Participation of the GNCHR in a conference organised by the Centre for European Constitutional Law — *Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation*
18 February 2025	Visit of the 2nd Arsakeio - Tositseio General Upper Secondary School of Ekali to the GNCHR premises
6& 21 March 2025	The GNCHR at the6th Thessaloniki Human Rights Forum
16 - 18 March 2025	First Vice-President of the GNCHR G. Ioannidis at the Conference "Greece After VIII"
23& 24 April 2025	The GNCHR at a conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on missing migrants

28 April 2025	The GNCHR at the hearing of the National Bioethics and Technoethics Commission on the "Charter of Children's Digital Rights"
30 April 2025	The GNCHR at the 1st Panhellenic Conference of the Roma Forum
05 May 2025	Participation of the GNCHR in a Focus Group of the Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation
07 May 2025	The GNCHR at an event on domestic and gender-based violence organised by the ESTIA EN POLI Association in the Municipality of Nikaia, Ag. Iioannis Rentis
08 May 2025	The GNCHR at the CSR HELLAS event "The European Commission's Omnibus Package and Its Impact on Businesses"
14 May 2025	The GNCHR at the 3rd Women in Law Conference organised by Nomiki Bibliothiki
15 May 2025	The GNCHR at the event organised by the Embassies of the Netherlands, Canada and Australia marking IDAHOBIT
19 May 2025	The GNCHR at an event on child trafficking held in the framework of the 34th session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
19 May 2025	The GNCHR at a workshop of the National School of Judges on the protection of victims of crimes from serious forms of discrimination
19 May 2025	The GNCHR at a EUROPE Direct event on the rule of law
23 May 2025	The President of the GNCHR at the two-day conference of the Association of Women over 40 «Life Beyond Age: Building Inclusive Futures»
28 May 2025	The President of the GNCHR at the diaNEOsis event on Constitutional Revision
04 June 2025	Visit of the GNCHR to the ADAMA centre in Kerameikos
16 June 2025	The GNCHR at the theatrical performance of Aristophanes "Wasps" at Korydallos I Detention Establishment
18 June 2025	Visit of Arsakeio - Tositseio General Upper Secondary School of Ekali and Psychiko to the GNCHR

21 June 2025	The GNCHR on the human rights impact assessment of Artificial Intelligence systems at a workshop of the University of Piraeus
25 June 2025	The GNCHR at the workshop organised by the OSCE and the Labour Inspectorate on the promotion of human rights and social responsibility in the light of the CSDDD Directive
25& 26 June 2025	The GNCHR at the European Implementation Network on the execution of ECtHR judgements concerning freedom of expression
03 - 06 September 2025	The GNCHR at the 25th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology
06 & 07 September 2025	The GNCHR as co-organiser of the 2nd International Regular Conference: "Art Education and Disability in the Age of Artificial Intelligence"
09 September 2025	Visit of the Regional Research Director of Amnesty International to the GNCHR premises
22 September 2025	Participation of the GNCHR in a conference on Inclusivity and International Economic Law
24 September 2025	The at the Columbia Global Centre Athens event on Corporate Sustainability and Public Diplomacy
24 - 26 September 2025	The at the ENNHRI Leadership Forum 2025
29 September 2025	The GNCHR at the presentation of innovative actions for juvenile offenders organised by the Ministry of Justice
13 October 2025	The President of the GNCHR at the closing event of the BUILD programme on fundamental rights
14 - 16 October 2025	Participation of the GNCHR in an OSCE/ODIHR training programme and conference in Warsaw
15 October 2025	The GNCHR at the open event of the Association of Women over 40 – The A40s
07 November 2025	The GNCHR at a Council of Europe workshop in Strasbourg on fact-based communication on migration-related issues

03 December 2025	The GNCHR at an ECHOFunds project event on strengthening the compliance of European Funds with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
10 December 2025	The GNCHR at the annual event of the UN Global Compact Network Greece
18 December 2025	Participation of the GNCHR in an educational event of the Greek AI Network (GAIN) and Homo Digitalis on Artificial Intelligence
21 November 2025	The GNCHR at COP30 in Belém, Brazil
21 November 2025	The GNCHR at COP30 at the event: "Advancing Rights-Based Climate Action and Climate Justice"
21 November 2025	The GNCHR at the workshop entitled: "Both detention and return: Greece in the landscape of European policies on migrant returns"
28 November 2025	GNCHR, the Greek presence at the 14th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights 2025
Meetings at National and International level	
16 January 2025	The GNCHR at a meeting with the new EU Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration M. Brunner
20 January 2025	Meeting of the GNCHR with a delegation of the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)
23 January 2025	Working meeting of the National Coordination Authority and the GNCHR on training staff in the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
05 February 2025	Meeting of the GNCHR with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Michael O'Flaherty
17 February 2025	Meeting of the GNCHR with the Bodossaki Foundation on the rule of law
27 February 2025	Meeting of the GNCHR with H.E. the President of the Republic, Katerina Sakellaropoulou
10 - 12 March 2025	The GNCHR at the GANHRI Annual General Assembly in Geneva - Award of A Status accreditation on the GNCHR

27 & 28 March 2025	The GNCHR at the first meeting of NHRIs and Ombudspersons with the Council of Europe
07 - 09 April 2025	Participation of the GNCHR in the Symposium on Access to Justice in the framework of the European Directive on Due Diligence (CSDDD) and in the Workshop for National Human Rights Institutions in Vienna
28 - 30 April 2025	Meeting of the President of the GNCHR with the Head of ODIHR and a FRONTEX official in Warsaw
12 May 2025	Working meeting and consultation with the participation of Civil Society organisations and the Director-General of DG HOME at the GNCHR premises
13 May 2025	Meeting of the GNCHR with the civil non-profit organisation Homo Digitalis on digital rights and artificial intelligence issues
19 & 20 May 2025	The GNCHR at the ENNHRI meeting in Berlin
29 May 2025	The GNCHR at the CSR Hellas atelier on human rights
04 - 06 June 2025	The GNCHR at the first Global Network on National Action Plans for Human Rights
09 - 13 June 2025	The GNCHR at the 2025 NHRI Academy of ENNHRI and ODIHR
16 June 2025	Meeting of the ENNHRI Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights chaired by the GNCHR representative
24 June 2025	The GNCHR at the 4th session of the Monitoring Committee of the "Western Greece" Programme 2021-2027
26 June 2025	The GNCHR at the Monitoring Committee of the AMIF Programmes for the 2021-2027 programming period
27 June 2025	The GNCHR at the 4th session of the Monitoring Committee of the Monitoring Committee of the "ATTICA" Programme 2021-2027
01 July 2025	Meeting of the ENNHRI Working Group on Communication
04 July 2025	The GNCHR at the 4th session of the Monitoring Committee of the Monitoring Committee of the "Crete" Programme 2021-2027
29 July 2025	Participation of the GNCHR in the GANHRI Training Meeting "Gender Equality, Business and Human Rights"

22 September 2025	The GNCHR at the Council of Europe Round Table on the prison system and criminal justice in Greece
24 September 2025	Meeting of the GNCHR with the organisation *"Choisir la cause des femmes"* at the French Embassy
30 September 2025	The GNCHR at the UNESCO Expert Round Table on AI Oversight Authorities
01 October 2025	Meeting of the GNCHR with the Canadian Race Relations Foundation on issues of hate speech and hate crimes
08 October 2025	Meeting of the GNCHR with the Council of Europe Cooperation Unit on Freedom of Expression
02 & 03 October 2025	Meeting of the ENNHRI Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (and participation in the COE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET cooperative platform)
10 October 2025	Meeting of the ECOSYSTEM Steering Committee at the GNCHR premises
19& 20 October 2025	The GNCHR at the General Assembly of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)
11 November 2025	The hosts the National Council against Racism and Intolerance
13 November 2025	The delegation of the Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe at the GNCHR
24 November 2025	The GNCHR at the 4th session of the Monitoring Committee of the "Human Resources and Social Cohesion" Programme 2021-2027, with the main objective of promoting the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights
24 & 25 November 2025	The GNCHR at the meeting "Independent Monitoring under the New Pact on Migration and Asylum — Review and planning for the future"
04 December 2025	The GNCHR at the Round Table with the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of the Council of Europe (GREVIO)

Educational actions / Seminars / Surveys / Competitions	
27 & 28 January 2025	Workshop of the EXODUS project on combating antisemitic crimes
30 January 2025	Presentation on the Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns to students of the LL.M. “Advanced International and European Studies” of the Law Department of DUTH
12 February 2025	The GNCHR at the seminar of MOU S.A. entitled, “Management and Control System and OPS in the 2021-2027 Programming Period: New developments”
13 February 2025	Can you identify discrimination? Take part in the nationwide survey of the ECOSYSTEM project
06 March 2025	The GNCHR on the Charter of Fundamental Rights (the Charter) in the NSRF 2021-2027
11 & 14 March 2025	The GNCHR at the Winter Law School on “Refugee and Migration Law” of ELSA Komotini
24 & 25 March 2025	The GNCHR at an OSCE seminar on Human Rights and New Technologies at Borders
27 & 28 March 2025	The GNCHR at the MOU S.A. seminar in. Thessaloniki on the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the NSRF 2021-27
03 April 2025	The GNCHR at the MOU S.A. seminar . on the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the NSRF 2021-2027
10 April 2025	The GNCHR at an ENNHRI seminar on the impact assessment of AI systems on fundamental rights
15 April 2025	The GNCHR at the Human Rights Moot Court Competition of ELSA Athens & ELSA Queen Mary
02 May 2025	Presentation by the GNCHR to students in the English-language LL.M. in International and European Legal Studies of the Law School of NKUA
07 May 2025	The GNCHR at an online Round Table of the Tsatsos Foundation on “Political Participation and Disability: Critical discussions on inclusion”

08 May 2025	The GNCHR at a workshop of the Hellenic Police on combating hate crimes and hate speech
13 May 2025	GNCHR training at MOU
16 & 17 May 2025	Participation of theGNCHR in the 13th International Seminar of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ)
12 May 2025	Presentation by the GNCHR to students in the English-language LL.M. in International and European Legal Studies of the Law School of NKUA
19 June 2025	GNCHR training at MOU on the implementation of the Charter in the NSRF 2021-2027
27 May 2025	Online GNCHR training, in the framework of teaching the course "Security and Human Rights"
10 July 2025	The GNCHR at the workshop of the Tsatsos Foundation on the role of human rights bodies in Greece
22 July 2025	Participation of the GNCHR in an educational activity of the Greek Council for Refugees on European funds and fundamental rights
09 July 2025	European project ECOSYSTEM: Survey shows that 9 out of 10 persons believe stereotypes are very or extremely widespread
03 July 2025	The GNCHR at an MOU seminar entitled "Management and Control System and OPS in the 2021-2027 Programming Period: New data"
29 September 2025	Successful launch of the GNCHR Cycle of Educational Seminars "The next day for rights"
13 October 2025	Successful completion of the 2nd seminar of the GNCHR Cycle of Educational Seminars on "AI rights" Rights
20 & 21 October 2024	GNCHR educational actions in Thessaloniki and Athens on combating discrimination, racism and intolerance
03 November 2025	The GNCHR at the seminar entitled, "Management and Control System and OPS in the 2021-2027 Programming Period: New developments"
10 November 2025	The right to a healthy environment: Completion of the 3rd GNCHR seminar at the Athens Bar Association event hall

10 November 2025	GNCHR workshop with ODIHR under the ECOSYSTEM project
11 November 2025	The GNCHR at the 7th CSR School 2025
20 November 2025	Participation of the GNCHR in the "train the trainers action" on combating crimes with antisemitic motives under the EXODUS project
04 December 2025	The The GNCHR at the "Law and Art" series of talks at the NKUA School of Law
10 December 2025	GNCHR educational activity at the 10th Lower Secondary School of Piraeus on Human Rights Day
15 December 2025	Completion of the GNCHR Series of Educational Seminars with the seminar "Securitisation and Human Rights"
Media Presence and Press Conferences	
15 June 2025	The President of the GNCHR in *To Vima tis Kyriakis* newspaper on the new migration bill
10 July 2025	The President of the GNCHR on *DION T.V.* station on the suspension of the submission of applications for the granting of asylum
21 July 2025	The GNCHR Special Scientist, Dr C. Tsevas, on *DION T.V.* station on the suspension of the submission of applications for asylum
19 September 2025	The GNCHR on *ATHINA 9.84 radio* on the legal and ethical dimension of artificial intelligence
15 October 2025	The GNCHR on *PARAPOLITIKA 90.1 FM* radio station on the labour bill

THE PEOPLE OF THE GNCHR



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Composition of the GNCHR eighth term (2022-2026)

Bureau



President

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



First Vice-President

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



Second Vice-President

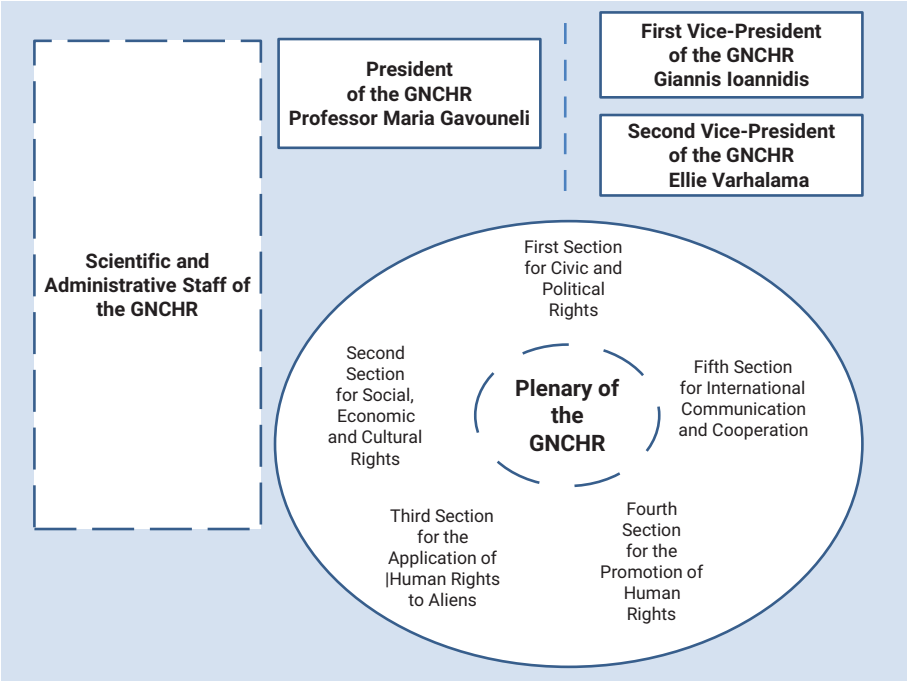
Ms Ellie Varhalama, Appointed by the General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE) - Attorney at law, Athens Bar Association

Sections

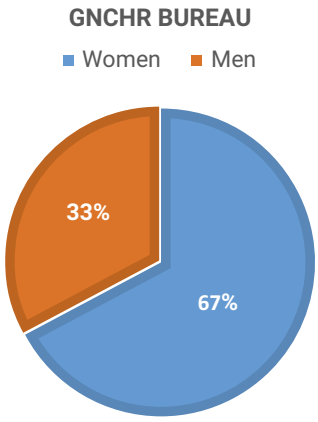
In accordance with the GNCHR Organisation, five Sections have been established, active in different fields. Where matters which, by their nature, fall within the field of more than one Section, those Sections shall work in cooperation.

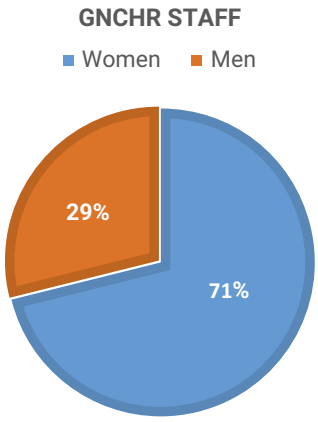
These five Sections are as follows:

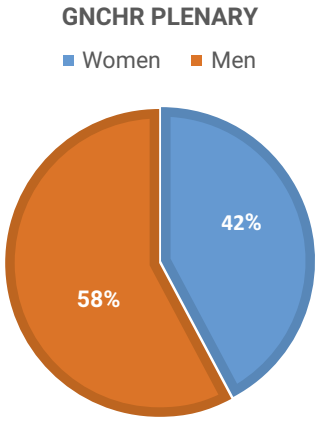
- 1st Section for Civic and Political Rights
  Chair: *Mr Giannis Ioannidis*
- 2nd Section for Social, Economic and Cultural Rights
  Chair: *Ms Ellie Varchalama*
- 3rd Section for the Application of Human Rights to Aliens
  Aliens
  Chair: *Mr Alexandros Konstantinou*
- 4th Section for the Promotion of Human Rights
  Chair: *Ms Anna Apergi Konstantinidi*
- 5th Section for International Communication and Co-operation
  Chair: *Professor Maria Gavouneli*

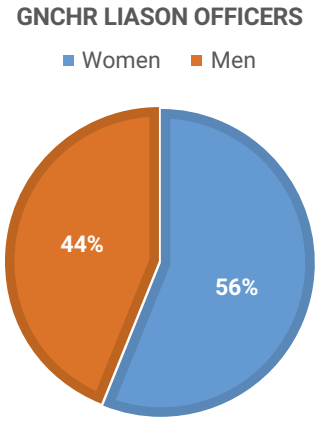


Women Representation









Plenary Composition

In 2025, the GNCHR was composed of 20 members designated by an equal number of entities for a four-year term of office. Its pluralistic composition enables the constructive coexistence of individuals from diverse backgrounds and viewpoints, with knowledge and expertise in human rights matters and independence of opinion: academics, members of trade union federations, members of Independent Authorities, persons nominated by civil society organisations and bar associations operating in the country. The exchange of views within the framework of the GNCHR functioning is characterised by respect for differing opinions and a spirit of cooperation, seeking the broadest possible consensus on each occasion, which has been achieved so far in the vast majority of cases.

In 2025, the GNCHR Plenary was composed of the following Members:

- **General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE):** Ms Ellie Varchalama (alternate member: Despina Babanelou)
- **Supreme Administration of Civil Servants' Unions of Greece (ADEDY):** Mr Stathis Gotsis (alternate member: Ms Aikaterini Giannoulia)
- **Greek National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (ESAmeA):** Mr Ioannis Vardakastanis (alternate member :Mr Ioannis Lymvaios)
- **Amnesty International - Greek Section**: Mr Foivos Iatrellis (alternate member: Mr Spyros Apergis)
- **Hellenic League for Human Rights (ELEDA):** Mr Giannis Ioannidis (alternate member: Ms Elena Markou)
- **Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights (MFHR)**:: Mr Sotiris Mousouris (alternate member: Ms Maria - Andriani Kostopoulou)
- **Greek Council for Refugees**: Mr Alexandros Konstantinou (alternate member: Ms Eleni Spathana)
- **Greek League for Women's Rights:** Professor Maria Gavouneli (alternate member: Ms Maria - Iliana Pravita)
- **Panhellenic Confederation of Greek Roma (ELLAN PASSE):** Mr Vasilios Pantzos (alternate member: Alexandra Karagianni)
- **Greek Transgender Support Association (SYD)/Athens Pride/ Gay and Lesbian Community of Greece / Colour Youth - Athens LGBTIQ Youth Community, Rainbow Families Greece**: Ms Aikaterini Trimmi (alternate member: Ms Anna Apergi-Konstantinidi)

- **Greenpeace WWF Greece:** Mr Kostis Grimanis (alternate member: Ms Theodota Natsou)
- **The Greek Ombudsman:** Mr Andreas Pottakis (alternate member: Mr Ioannis Moschos)
- **Hellenic Data Protection Authority**: Mr Nikolaos Livos (alternate member: Mr Georgios Kontis)
- **Greek National Council for Radio and Television:** Mr Soktratis Tsichlias (alternate member: Mr Eftychios Pallikaris)
- **Hellenic Authority for Communication Security and Privacy (ADAE):** Mr Stefanos Gkritzalis (alternate member: Mr Nikolaos Papadakis
- **Greek National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics:** Mr Charalampos Tsekeris (alternate member: Ms Evgenia Prevedourou)
- **Law School of the National Kapodistrian University of Athens:** Mr Linos-Alexandros Sisilianos (Alternate member: Ms Aikaterini Iliadou)
- **University of Crete, School of Social Sciences, Department of Political Science** Ms Ivi-Aggeliki Mavromoustakou (alternate member: Mr Thomas Noutsopoulos)
- **Plenary of Presidents of Greek Bar Associations:** Ms Maria Koutroumpi (alternate member: Mr Dimitrios-Andreas Kyriakidis)
- **Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation Centre for European Constitutional Law (CECL):** Mr Ioannis Tasopoulos (alternate member: Ms Maria Mousmouti)

Furthermore, pursuant to Law 4780/2021 Article 16 **Liaison Officers**, and an equal number of alternates are designated to the GNCHR by the political parties represented in the Hellenic Parliament, the Ministries, and the President of the Hellenic Parliament's Special Permanent Committee on Institutions and Transparency. At the beginning of each session of the Plenary, liaison officers shall inform the Plenary or the Sections of the GNCHR concerning the matters within their competence and leave before a decision is taken.

Staff

Specialised Scientific staff
Scientific Organisation Unit



• *Ms Eva Tzavala*

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

She has served as Chair of the Working Group on Asylum and Migration of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions/ENNHRI (2021-2024) and as a member, representing Europe, at the Sub-Committee of Accreditation of the Global Alliance of NHRIs (2022-2024). She holds a Master in International Law and International Organisations from Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (France) and a first degree in Law from NKUA. She has extensive teaching and research experience in public international law, human rights law and refugee law.



• *Dr Katerina Charokopou*

Human Rights Officer

Ph.D. holder in Public International Law (Faculty of Law, University of Vienna), LLB (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens). Chair of the Working Group on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (2024– to date).



• *Dr Anastasia Chalkia*

Human Rights Officer Member of the Scientific Organisation Unit

Sociologist and Ph.D. holder in Criminology from Panteion University. She is the editor of three collective volumes and the author of several papers published in Greek and English. Tutor at the University of West Attica (UNIWA), the Hellenic Open University (HOU) and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA).



• *Dr Christos Tsevas*

Human Rights Officer (Legal Advisor), Member of the Scientific Organisation Unit

PhD holder in Human Rights Law (University of Strasbourg - Unistra/Democritus University of Thrace - DUTh). LL.M. in Specialized Public Law (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens - NKUA/University of Bordeaux), LL.M. in Human Rights - Humanitarian Affairs & International Cooperation (Unistra), LL.B. in Law (NKUA). He has teaching experience at the DUTh, the Hellenic Open University & the National School of Public Administration and Local Government. He has worked for international organizations, international NGO, asylum appeals committees within the public administration and as a lawyer. He has worked for international organisations, international NGO, asylum appeals committees within the public administration and as a lawyer.



• *Dr Anna Irene Baka*

Specialised Scientific Officer

PhD in Public International Law and Legal Philosophy (The 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.

Administrative staff
Administrative and Financial Organisation Unit



• *Ms Katerina Pantou*

Head of the Administrative and Financial Organisation Unit, Head of the GNCHR Secretariat MA holder in European Political Studies (Bath University, UK), Degree in Political Science and Public Administration (University of Athens)

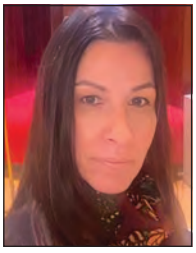
MA holder in European Political Studies (Bath University, UK), Degree in Political Science and Public Administration (University of Athens).



• *Mr Dionysis Giakoumelos*

Administration/Communications Officer

MA holder 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). Member of the Communications Working Group of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI).



• *Ms Kelly Diavati*

Official Translator

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



• *Ms Anastasia Gkika*

Administration Officer

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



• *Ms Karmen Vourvachaki*

Administration Officer

MSc in Public Policy & Management (Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB), MSc in Digital Methods for the Humanities (Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB), Degree in History (University of Crete).

Extensive experience in General State Archives. Extensive experience in General State Archives.

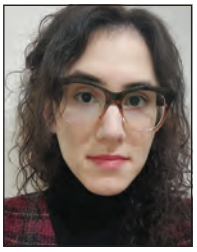


• *Mr Panagiotis Christias*

IT Officer

PhD in Computer Engineering (Politehnica University of Bucharest). Diploma & Master in Electronics and Computer Engineering (Technical University of Crete).

Scientific Associates



• *Ms Fani Stathoulopoulou*

Attorney at law, Legal Associate Graduate of the Department of Law of the Democritus University of Thrace and holder of a postgraduate degree (LL.M.) in Public International and European Law, of the Law School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Staff undergoing trainingStaff undergoing training

The work of the GNCHR was supported by seven trainees (from the fields of law, politics, and social sciences): Ms Cassiani Beleri (from 24.10.2024 to 24.1.2025), Mr George Kemerlis (from 3.2.2025 to 3.5.2025), Ms Fani Stathoulopoulou (from 5.5.2025 to 5.8.5.2025), Ms Paraskevi - Eleni Bokou (from 12.2.2025 to 12.2025), Mr Grigoris Kanellis (from 5.5.2025 to 5.8.2025), Ms Kalliopi Kanaki (8.9.2025 to 8.12.2025) and Mr Christos Pagonidis (from 8.9.2025 to 8.1.2026).

GNCHR; THE INDEPENDENT ADVISORY BODY TO THE STATE ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION AND THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

(NHRI) IN GREECE



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GNCHR; the independent advisory body to the Greek State

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

In 2025, the GNCHR marked 27 years since its establishment by Law 2667/1998, as the independent advisory body to the State (Article 1(1)), in applying the *Principles on the Status of National Institutions* (*Paris Principles)*, adopted by the UN General Assembly in Resolution 48/134"National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights" of 20 December 1993. Moreover,the GNCHR is the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in Greece. The Paris Principles constitute a set of guiding principles and criteria for NHRIs, indicating how they should operate in order to be as effective as possible in fulfilling their mandate. In other words, they are based on their own basic regulations. The Paris Principles, translated into Greek by the GNCHR, can be found here).

By Law 4780/2021 *"National Accessibility Authority, National Commission for Human Rights and National Bioethics and Technoethics Committee",,* the GNCHR was granted legal personality, functional independence, and administrative and financial autonomy. Since December 2023, the GNCHR has acquired full financial autonomy and operates as a General Government entity and an Independent Administrative Authority. Since December 2023, the GNCHR has acquired full financial autonomy and operates as a General

Government entity and an Independent Administrative Authority. Issues concerning the internal operation of the GNCHR organisational units are regulated by the Organisation of the GNCHR (Presidential Decree 74/2023, Official Government Gazette, A΄ 128).

GNCHR; the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)

The level of compliance with the *Paris Principles* is the basis upon which NHRIs are assessed — and periodically re-assessed — by their global coordinating body, the GANHRI. On the basis of this assessment, they are granted *A-status* (full compliance) or *B-status* (partial compliance), which determines the extent of their entitlement to participate in:

- a range of mechanisms of the United Nations, such as, the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies monitoring international human rights conventions (Treaty Bodies), Special Rapporteurs and independent experts (Special Procedures), the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism
- cooperative initiatives of the Council Of Europe, such as with the Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Committee of Social Rights, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)
- cooperative initiatives of the European Union such as with the European Commission and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (Fundamental Rights Agency)
- the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) and the Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI), in which the GNCHR has been granted voting rights.

Together, they contribute to shaping the international human rights landscape and promote the protection of human rights in every country.

Partner National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), accredited with *A status,* are already operating in most EU Member States, while the remaining Member States are in a process of either harmonising existing institutions with the Paris Principles or establishing new NHRIs that will meet the necessary requirements. Currently, 91 countries around the world have fully harmonised NHRIs and a number of others have launched the establishment of their own National Institutions (see GANHRI Chart of the status of National Institutions).

In Greece, the institutional role of the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) has been assigned to the GNCHR. The GNCHR is periodically subject to regular and demanding accreditation procedures by the competent international GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA), which operates under the auspices of and in cooperation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The GNCHR 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 2024, the GNCHR was re-accredited with the highest level of accreditation *(A status)* by the competent international Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA), demonstrating in practical terms that it fulfils its mission with substantive independence, promoting and protecting human rights.


UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

GANHRI
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

Certifying
Se certifica que
Document certifiant que
نشـهد بـأن

The Greek National Commission for Human Rights

has been accredited under the Paris Principles with 'A' status in 2024.
ha sido acreditado /a por los Principios de París como clase 'A' en el año 2024.
a obtenu l'accréditation de statut 'A' en 2024 conformément aux Principes de Paris.
منحت درجة الاعتماد (أ) وفقا لمبادئ باريس في العام 2024.

Vladlen Stefanov
Chief
National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Maryam Abdullah Al Attiyah
Chairperson
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

GNCHR; its main mission

As provided in its law, the main mission of the GNCHR consists of:

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

GNCHR; independence and pluralism

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

The GNCHR interprets its mandate broadly and constructively, as befits a national human rights institution, in order to advance a more progressive understanding of human rights that encompasses the full range of rights as set out in international, regional and national instruments and interpreted by the competent international judicial and quasi-judicial bodies. In doing so, the GNCHR gives concrete effect to the fundamental principle of human-rights law, according to which all rights are universal, indivisible, and interdependent. In recent years, the GNCHR has also been active in contemporary fields of rights, such as the environment, AI, and business and human rights.

The pluralistic and multifaceted composition of the GNCHR also serves as an additional guarantee of its independence from public authorities, as the participation of 20 different bodies in its composition both enables and fosters a unique dialogue among the various actors in the and the State. Reflecting the pluralism of views on human-rights issues, this collective composition — which, *inter alia*, includes independent authorities, law and political science university departments, bar associations, trade unions, NGOs, research institutions — ensures a very high level of expertise, closely aligned with the needs and challenges in the field. The Hellenic Parliament, political parties represented in it, and Ministries, shall also designate liaisons officers to the GNCHR. The election of the President and the two Vice-Presidents of the National Commission by its Plenary is an additional guarantee of its independence.

Within the framework of its institutional role and mission as guardian of human rights at the national, regional, and international level, the GNCHR has a key role in bridging the gap not only between the State and civil society, but also between the country's international human-rights commitments and their actual enjoyment in practice.

GNCHR; the monitoring mechanism of fundamental rights compliance of EU-funded programmes

National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) 2021-2027 Development Programmes

The GNCHR was selected as the competent body to ensure the fulfilment of Necessary Condition 3, described as "Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union" at all stages (consultation, design, implementation, and evaluation of projects and actions in the framework of the NSRF 2021-2027 Development Programmes) To that end, on 18 April 2022, the GNCHR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Coordination Authority of the General Secretariat for Public Investments and NSRF of the Ministry of Development and Investments. Under the Memorandum, the GNCHR provides support to the relevant public authorities, taking responsibility for monitoring and ensuring the compatibility of procedures and individual actions, with the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The role of the GNCHR consists mainly of a) participating in the Sectoral and Regional Monitoring Committees; b) participating in the Working Group established by the National Coordination Authority to discuss these issues, and c) providing expertise by organising specialised seminars for the competent management authorities responsible for implementing the NSRFs in the Regions.

There are 13 Regional and 7 Sectoral Monitoring Committees. A specific Official Government Gazette is issued for the establishment of each Sectoral and Regional Monitoring Committee.

In 2025, the GNCHR took part in training sessions organised by the Managing Organisation Unit (MOU S.A.) addressed to staff of the Special Management Agencies in, providing expertise on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in the context of the NSRF 2021-2027.

According to the GNCHR long-standing positions, national programmes funded by European Funds should primarily rely on the participation, cooperation, and contribution of all relevant actors —including national human rights institutions and civil society organisations— at every stage of the process, from the consultation and the development to the implementation and the assessment.

The contribution of the GNCHR to the implementation of the European Funds is focused on co-shaping, together with the competent authorities, the procedures and framework of the set of criteria designed to ensure transparency and

accountability in the government's work. The scope of the control exercised by the GNCHR is defined by its main institutional role, which does not involve, *ex ante* or *ex post* financial control, as no such competence falls within its remit and, in any case, other State bodies and services are in charge of it.

In the context of the monitoring of the implementation of the programmes, the GNCHR, exercising its powers, shall make interventions and formulate positions, whenever it considers that this is in the interest of the Greek State, from a human-rights perspective, and with a view to protecting and promoting those rights exclusively.

Participation of the GNCHR in the Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the National Programmes of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF) for the 2021-2027 programming period.

The GNCHR participates in the Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the National Programmes of the AMIF and the ISF for the 2021-2025 programming period, with voting rights. The GNCHR is represented by the Coordinator of the GNCHR Scientific Organisation Unit, Ms Eva Tzavala (full member) and Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer, (alternate member). One in-person meeting was held in 2025.

Participation of the President of the GNCHR (*ex officio*) in the National Accessibility Authority

According to its founding law, the National Accessibility Authority is composed of 12 members —among them, the President in Office of the GNCHR (see Law 4780/2021, Article 3(f). The National Accessibility Authority is the advisory body to the State on the right of persons with disabilities to access all areas of human activity, and on the formulation of proposals for the development of public policies relating to these issues. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ratified in Greece by Law 4074/2012) as well as the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities are key reference points for the National Accessibility Authority. In the context of monitoring the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities, the National Accessibility Authority may submit proposals to the government regarding the implementation and revision therein, in cooperation with the Coordinating Mechanism established under Law 4488/2017, Article 69. To fulfil its mission, the National Accessibility Authority has, among other competences, the authority to issue opinions and submit proposals —either on its own

initiative or at the request of interested parties— based on the principles of the aforementioned United Nations Convention. The President of the GNCHR attended all of the National Accessibility Authority Plenary Sessions in 2025, without exception. For information on the activities of the National Accessibility Authority in 2025, please visit the website, www.amea.gov.gr

Participation of the GNCHR in the National Council against Racism and Intolerance

Pursuant to the provisions of Law 4356/2015, (Official Government Gazette, A' 181, 24.12.2015), the GNCHR, shall participate in the composition of the National Council Against Racism and Intolerance and be represented in its meetings, by persons designated by the GNCHR Plenary. In 2024, the GNCHR was represented by Ms Aikaterini Trimi (full member) and Ms Anna Apergi-Konstantinidi (alternate member).

Participation of the GNCHR in the Advisory Committee of the 2021-2030 National Roma Integration Strategy

Since 2023, the GNCHR has been participating in the Advisory Committee of the 2021-2030 National Roma Integration Strategy of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and represented by Dr Katerina Charokopou Specialised Scientific Office, (full member) and Ms Alexandra Karagianni, member of the GNCHR Plenary (alternate member).

Participation of the GNCHR in the development of the National Action Plan for Combating Antisemitism in Greece

In response to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs' document ref. no. 148025/2022, entitled, "National Action Plan for combating antisemitism in Greece — Call for submission of actions/proposals", the GNCHR is participating, represented by its member Maria Mousmouti, in the working group entrusted with the preparation of the Plan in question. The National Action Plan aims to coordinate all available tools and good practices to combat antisemitism in Greece, engaging all competent authorities and stakeholders.

Participation of the GNCHR in the drafting of the 2023-2028 National Action Plan of Greece for Women, Peace and Security

The Women, Peace and Security Agenda originates from the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (S/RES/1325 (2000)), which places the issue of women in armed conflict under the heightened and ongoing scrutiny

of the United Nations Security Council, the principal UN body responsible for preserving international peace and security. The above-mentioned Resolution incorporates a gender-sensitive perspective on international peace and security. It recognises the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and girls and highlights the significant role they play in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, and building democratic societies. Accordingly, it sets forth the following core priorities:

- prevention of armed conflict and associated gender-based and sexual violence
- participation of women in decision-making at all stages;
- protection of the rights of women and girls;
- and relief and recovery for women and girls who survive armed conflict.

Greece's National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security (2023–2028) horizontally incorporates the gender perspective into the development and implementation of the actions of public authorities for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Agenda on Women, Peace and Security, in accordance with Law 4604/2019 on substantive gender equality.

Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR is the focal person for the National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security and Dr Anastasia Chalkia, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR t as well, is the alternate member.

Further information on Greece's National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security (2023–2028) is available here.

Participation of the GNCHR in the Interdisciplinary Working Group for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking of the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum

The GNCHR participates in the Interdisciplinary Working Group on the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking. The Working Group is chaired by Mr Heracles Moskoff, General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. The GNCHR is represented in the Working Group by its Specialised Scientific Officer, Dr Anastasia Chalkia.

The general purpose of the Group is to coordinate, assess and modernise protection policies and mechanisms, by adopting a human-centred, victim-centred approach in cooperation with all competent stakeholders. At the

same time, it seeks to formulate fact-based proposals for the revision and strengthening of the new National Action Plan against Human Trafficking, which is currently being drafted.

In line with its priorities, the Working Group is expected to focus in particular on: 1) identifying and documenting problems arising in the implementation of the current legal framework, which lead either to impunity for perpetrators or to inadequate protection for victims, and submitting concrete proposals for improvement; 2)contributing to the drafting of the new National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking through in-depth analysis and cross-sectoral cooperation; and 3)assessing the effectiveness of the existing framework in relation to new, technologically enabled forms of trafficking in human beings, including online and technology-facilitated exploitation, and submitting proposals to strengthen prevention, identification and prosecution mechanisms.

Furthermore, in February 2025, the GNCHR submitted its observations on the **draft National Action Plan for the Prevention and Combating of Human Trafficking and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims 2025–2030.**

Participation of the GNCHR in the Management Committee of COST Action CA2210 Cultural Expertise Junior Network (K-Peritia)

The GNCHR is participant in the Management Committee of COST Action CA2210 Cultural Expertise Junior Network (K-Peritia). K-Peritia Action is a COST Action (CA22101) titled Cultural Expertise Junior Network, an EU-funded transnational research and innovation network that aims to develop an inclusive international network around “cultural expertise” in legal and policy contexts, empower junior experts, and digitalise knowledge on cultural expertise through a multilingual socio-legal database.

The Action is structured around three main challenges: 1) developing an international network for bridging the gap between the supply and the demand for professional cultural expertise which overcomes elitist and expensive features; 2) enabling the professional engagement of junior experts; and 3) digitalisation of the knowledge on cultural expertise. These three challenges will articulate on a newly designed transdisciplinary platform: a multilingual, open access, and cross-jurisdictional socio-legal database.

The GNCHR is represented to the Management Committee of COST Action CA2210 Cultural Expertise Junior Network (K-Peritia) by its Specialised Scientific Officer, Dr Anastasia Chalkia.

Further information is available here.

Participation of the GNCHR in the Working Group for the transposition: a) of Council Directive (EU) 2024/1499 on standards for equality bodies in the field of equal treatment between persons irrespective of their racial or ethnic origin, equal treatment in matters of employment and occupation between persons irrespective of their religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, equal treatment between women and men in matters of social security and in the access to and supply of goods and services, and amending Directives 2000/43/EC and 2004/113/EC; and b) of Directive (EU) 2024/1500 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on standards for equality bodies in the field of equal treatment and equal opportunities between women and men in matters of employment and occupation, and amending Directives 2006/54/EC and 2010/41/EU.

The GNCHR has participated as a member of the above legislative drafting committee since April 2025 (Official Government Gazette 1858/B'/15.4.2025). The GNCHR is represented by Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the Scientific Organisation Unit, and Dr Katerina Charokopou Specialised Scientific Officer.

Participation of the GNCHR in the Task Force for Fundamental Rights Compliance of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum

The GNCHR was appointed as a member of the Special Committee for Compliance with Fundamental Rights under Article 50 of Law 4960/2022 without having been involved in any prior consultation. By a Plenary decision, the GNCHR expressed serious reservations about the content and limits of its institutional participation in the Special Committee of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and requested the competent Minister to re-consider the status of its participation in the above-mentioned Special Committee in a way that is consistent with its independence and institutional role. Therefore, and in anticipation of the legislative regulation of the GNCHR cooperative relationship with this specific government body, the GNCHR is abstaining from attending its meetings.

Designation of members to the Naturalisation Committees

Pursuant to the provisions of the Code of Greek Citizenship Article 7(8), as in force after its amendment by the provisions of Law 4873/2021 Article 38 (Official Government Gazette, A' 248, 16.12.2021) and Law 4735/2020 Article 6 (9), a full member, and their alternate, designated by the GNCHR, shall participate in the Naturalisation Committees of all Decentralized Administrations of the country.

Designation of members to the Committees on Migration

According to Law 4251/2014 Article 134, as replaced by Law 4540/2018 Article 31(17), three Committees on Migration shall be established in the Ministry of Migration and Asylum 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 Migration and Asylum. The Committees shall be established by a decision of the Minister of Migration and Asylum, designating the Chair, as well as full and alternate members and secretaries. The Committees shall be composed of: a) two officials of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, one of whom as Chair b) one official of the Ministry of Interior c) one representative of Civil Society, on a proposal from the GNCHR d) one representative of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece.

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

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 in 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 greater authority and prestige 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.

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 NHRIs, in order to get, in an independent and objective way, all the important information, concerning the Human Rights situation in their country. NHRIs, on the other hand, benefit from their international status to strengthen the protection of human rights at the national level to the highest possible degree, by actively engaging with and learning from the best practices of their partner institutions.

Pursuant to the provisions of Law 4780/2021 "National Accessibility Authority, National Commission for Human Rights and National Bioethics and Technoethics Committee" (Official Government Gazette, A' 30, 28.02.2021), the GNCHR mission comprises: "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, point 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, point 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, point 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, point c).

GNCHR; partner institutions, ENNHRI and GANHRI

The GNCHR was a founding member of the (ENNHRI) in 2013. Ever since, it has been actively involved in the management and operation of the Network. Furthermore, the GNCHR actively participates in meetings, events, and Working Groups held by the GANHRI.

Milestones

- The GNCHR was an elected Member of the European Coordinating Committee (ECC) of NHRIs, which is the executive body of the ENNHRI, during the years 2002-2008, 2016-2018, and 2019-2021. The GNCHR is represented in the collective governing bodies, by its President, Professor Maria Gavouneli.
- The President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, was the Chair of the ENNHRI Task Force on Human Rights Education (2009-2011).
- The Coordinator of the Scientific Organisation Unit, Ms Eva Tzavala, was the Chair of the ENNHRI Working Group on Asylum and Migration (2021-2024). She is also the GNCHR representative in the ENNHRI Expert Group on Standards for National Human Rights Institutions.
- Dr Katerina Harokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR, was elected Chair of the ENNHRI Working Group on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ESCR) on 30.11.2024. It should be noted that she has co-chaired (together with the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights) the same Working Group since 2022.
- Dr Anastasia Chalkia, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR, has been attending the meetings of the ENNHRI Working Group on Business and Human Rights and the Working Group on Older Persons.
- Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR,, has been attending the meetings of the ENNHRI Working Group on AI and the Working Group on Asylum and Migration.
- Mr Dionysis Giakoumelos, Communication Officer of the GNCHR, has been attending the meetings of the ENNHRI Working Group on Communicating Human Rights.
- During the years 2002-2008 and 2019-2021, the GNCHR was also a Member of the GANHRI Bureau.
- In the years 2022-2024, the President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, and the Coordinator of the Scientific Organisation Unit, Ms Eva Tzavala, were appointed by ENNHRI as Alternate Members of the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA).

PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT NATIONAL LEVEL



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The main thematic priorities of the GNCHR in 2025

Encouragement of dialogue and promotion of interaction and cooperation between 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 realisation of human rights protection, continuously monitoring developments concerning the status and application of human rights in Greece and abroad, while simultaneously providing ongoing advisory support to the competent State authorities.

Indeed, the advisory role is undeniably among the most important roles entrusted to NHRIS and, according to the minimum standards set by the Paris Principles, is not limited only to submitting opinions, recommendations, proposals, or reports and participating in Parliament sessions (consulting), but also extends to providing input on the reports submitted by the national competent authorities regarding their compliance with international, regional, and/or European human rights standards (reporting), as well as encouraging the ratification of international human rights treaties.

At the same time, the GNCHR has undertaken 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 (A.3.b), conducting on-site visits whenever it deems necessary, on the basis of its methodology.

More specifically, in 2025, the GNCHR expressed an especially deep interest in the following thematic areas:

Business and Human Rights

GNCHR Reference Report: "Human Rights Due Diligence. Responsible State and Business Conduct under Directive (EU) 2024/1760"

In February 2025, the GNCHR published a Reference Report entitled "Human Rights Due Diligence: Responsible State and Business Conduct under

Directive (EU) 2024/1760". Together with the two-day conference "Business and Human Rights: Responsible State and Business Conduct under Directive (EU) 2024/1760" (21 and 22 November 2024), the Report is part of the project "Strengthening Corporate Responsibility and Human Rights Compliance under the CSDDD in Greece", implemented by the National Commission in cooperation with the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

The report provides an in-depth analysis of the new European framework for corporate due diligence, focusing on the protection of fundamental rights within the Greek legal system, with particular emphasis on critical areas such as gender equality, the environment, labour rights, and access to legal remedies and support for victims of violations. Particular importance is given to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In light of the above, the GNCHR formulates recommendations addressed to the State and to companies, identifying the institutional interventions needed for the effective protection of human rights.

You can read the full Report here.

The GNCHR and 9 more NHRIs express concern over the EU Omnibus initiative on corporate conduct and sustainable development.

The European Commission planned to present the "Omnibus" proposal in late February 2025, with the aim of revising certain aspects of the corporate sustainability framework (CSRD, Taxonomy Regulation, CSDDD), declaring its goal to reduce the administrative burden by simplifying and eliminating overlaps in reporting requirements.

In an open letter to the European Commission, the GNCHR and nine more National Human Rights Institutions acknowledged the need for greater coherence, consistency and clarity in sustainability-related legal requirements, but expressed serious concerns that the Omnibus process created uncertainty and could undermine the content and effectiveness of existing laws, while also disadvantaging businesses that had already invested resources to comply with them.

The signatories, as independent and impartial human rights institutions, had actively participated in the development of the CSRD, the CSDDD, and the EU Taxonomy, and welcomed the Union's leadership in addressing climate change and promoting an economy that "works for people." They took the view that the relevant policy and regulatory initiatives reflected the expectations of beneficiaries and other stakeholders, as expressed in public consultations.

They emphasized that the laws in question already constituted a political compromise, since the legislative process had been completed, that most Member States had transposed the CSRD into their national legal orders, and that businesses had already invested significant resources to comply with the new obligations, calling on the Commission to respect the integrity of the legislative instruments and to focus on their effective implementation through guidelines and accompanying measures, rather than substantially revising them.

The letter of the 10 National Human Rights Institutions, including the GNCHR, to the President and Members of the European Commission, concerning the Omnibus initiative, is available here.

The GNCHR participated in the anniversary event of CSR Hellas marking 25 years since its establishment

The GNCHR participated in the anniversary event organised by CSR HELLAS, which took place on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at the National Gallery's Amphitheatre

During the event, CSR Hellas honoured foundations and civil society organisations for their outstanding contribution to society through actions promoting social welfare, responsibility and sustainability, and signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Public Employment Service (DYPA). This was followed by a special discussion entitled "Business and Civil Society – Cooperation for a More Sustainable Future", which featured an innovative exchange highlighting the potential for partnership between the business sector and social initiatives. The event concluded with the cutting of the New Year's cake and a guided tour of the National Gallery's permanent collection

The GNCHR closely monitors legislative developments and the full range of policies in the business sector in the context of protecting and promoting human rights collaborates with other NHRIs, such as the Danish Institute for Human Rights, by organizing a special two-day thematic conference on business and human rights, and participates in international fora such as the Working Group of the GANHRI and the ENNHRI.

Meanwhile, in view of the OMNIBUS proposal, in an open letter to the European Commission, the GNCHR, together with nine more European NHRIs, acknowledged the need to strengthen the coherence, consistency and clarity of the legal requirements relating to corporate sustainability, but pointed out that the announcement of the Omnibus proposal had created uncertainty among a broad range of stakeholders.

The GNCHR was represented at the CSR event by its Specialised Scientific Officer, Dr Anastasia Chalkia.



Participation of the GNCHR in the Symposium on Access to Justice under the European Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and in the Workshop for NHRIs in Vienna

The GNCHR participated in the Symposium on Access to Justice in the framework of the European Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and in the Workshop for NHRIs, held in Vienna from 7 to 9 April 2025, organised by the NHRIs of Denmark, Germany and France, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

During the proceedings, a space for dialogue was created among experts from EU Member States on understanding the change that the CSDDD could bring to national frameworks and assessing the impact of the proposed changes

through the Omnibus proposal, highlighting the importance of clarifying the due diligence obligation in Article 29(1) and maintaining the mandatory overriding provision for the protection of beneficiaries' rights.

Discussions on civil liability, the role of supervisory authorities, corporate complaints mechanisms and support for beneficiaries' rights highlighted critical challenges and useful conclusions, while the Workshop for NHRIs allowed an exchange of knowledge and good practices for promoting the CSDDD and presented relevant actions and partnerships.

The GNCHR was represented at the Symposium by its Specialised Scientific Officer, Dr Anastasia Chalkia.

The GNCHR at the CSR Hellas atelier on Human Rights

The GNCHR took part in the atelier on "Human Rights" organised by CSR Hellas within the framework of the Hellenic Pact for Sustainable Business, on Thursday, 29 May 2026, at the ERMIS Hall of the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The event opened with a brief recorded video message by the President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, while the GNCHR Reference Report entitled, "Human Rights Due Diligence: State Commitment and Corporate Compliance under Directive (EU) 2024/1760" was presented by the report's researcher and drafter, Taygeti Michalakea, PhD in International Law and Human Rights.

The GNCHR Reference Report was completed within the framework of the project "Strengthening Corporate Responsibility and Human Rights Compliance under the CSDDD in Greece", implemented by the Commission in cooperation with the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

The GNCHR at the OSCE and Labour Inspectorate workshop on the promotion of human rights and social responsibility in light of the CSDDD

The GNCHR participated in the workshop entitled "Sustainable supply chains: Promoting human rights and social responsibility in light of the EU directive on corporate sustainability due diligence", held on 25 June 2025 at the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The workshop was organised by the OSCE and the Labour Inspectorate within the framework of the programme "Prevention of Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in Supply Chains", with financial support from the governments of Germany, Austria, Norway and France.

The GNCHR was represented by Dr Anastasia Chalkia, Specialised Scientific Officer, who highlighted the role of the National Commission putting particular emphasis on its institutional interventions in human rights due diligence aimed at strengthening state commitment and promoting corporate compliance. Illustrative examples coming from recent activities of the GNCHR, were presented, including the organisation of a two-day conference on the CSDDD Directive, participation in international fora and workshops, the development of synergies with other NHRIs, and the publication of its report on Corporate Due Diligence regarding sustainability. In addition, emphasis was placed on the critical role of NHRIs in the institutional monitoring and prevention of human rights violations in the context of business activity, as well as on the importance of their active participation, where appropriate, in the broader supervisory and regulatory framework governing the implementation of the CSDDD.



The GNCHR at the CSR HELLAS event "The European Commission's Omnibus Package and Its Implications for Businesses"

The GNCHR participated in the CSR HELLAS event "The European Commission's Omnibus Package and Its Implications for Businesses", held on 8 May 2025 in Athens. The event was opened by Alexandra Palli, Chair of the Board of CSR HELLAS, and the keynote speech was delivered by Morris Massarutto, Project Manager EU Affairs at CSR Europe. Further on, the programme included with two round tables, where both the application of the CSRD in companies of different sizes and the broader implications

of the new Omnibus sustainability package were analysed. The event was summarised and closed by Alexandros Katsiampoulas, Vice-Chair of the CSR HELLAS Board.

The GNCHR was represented by its Specialised Scientific Officer Dr Anastasia Chalkia.



Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the GNCHR and UN Global Compact Network Greece

The GNCHR and UN Global Compact Network Greece signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at strengthening corporate due diligence and fostering responsible business conduct grounded in respect for human rights.

This cooperation is based on the shared recognition that companies' compliance with their international, European and national obligations is crucial for promoting sustainability, accountability and social cohesion. The Memorandum establishes a structured framework for dialogue and knowledge-sharing, designed to enhance understanding, implementation and monitoring of corporate due diligence.

It builds on the successful partnership developed since 2021 through the Business & Human Rights Accelerator programme, which focuses on the training and empowerment of businesses concerning their responsibilities towards human rights.

The joint press release is available here.

Participation of the GNCHR in the GANHRI Training Meeting "Gender Equality, Business and Human Rights"

An online Training Meeting of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights of the GANHRI took place on Tuesday, 29 July 2025, entitled "Gender Equality, Business and Human Rights", with the aim of highlighting the role of businesses in safeguarding and respecting human rights.

The GNCHR was represented at the meeting by its Specialised Scientific Officers, Dr Anastasia Chalkia and Dr Katerina Charokopou.

The GNCHR at the Columbia Global Centre Athens event on Corporate Sustainability and Public Diplomacy

The GNCHR participated in the Columbia Global Centre Athens event entitled "Corporate Sustainability and Readiness in Greece: Perspectives from the Greek Diaspora and Public Diplomacy", which was held on 24 September 2025 in Athens, at the Hellenic Cosmos Cultural Centre, under the auspices of Columbia Law School.

The President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, delivered a presentation on how the EU CSDDD can create both challenges and opportunities for promoting of binding international standards on responsible business conduct.

Particular reference was made to the work of the GNCHR on business and human rights, especially its Report entitled: "Human Rights Due Diligence: Responsible State and Business Conduct under Directive (EU) 2024/1760

The GNCHR at the 7th CSR School 2025

Dr Anastasia Chalkia, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR participated in the training programme 7th CSR School 2025, co-organised by CSR HELLAS, the American College of Greece (Office of Sustainability — Public Affairs) and the University of Crete, held on 11 November 2025. She delivered a presentation in the proceedings of the fourth day, which was dedicated to the "Social" (S) dimension of ESG. Participants explored how organisations can promote human rights and make workplaces safer and fairer.

The GNCHR had the opportunity to brief participating executives from Greek companies on the importance of protecting and promoting human rights, both in general and specifically in the context of business activities, as well as on its work in the field of "Business and Human Rights."



GNCHR — The Greek presence at the 14th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights 2025

The session "Business and human rights developments in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia" was successfully held at the 14th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights 2025, at the *Palais des Nations* in Geneva. The session was co-organised by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia and the GNCHR as Greece's sole representative at the Forum. Professor Maria Gavouneli, President of the GNCHR, participated as a speaker.

Participants examined the increasing need for responsible business conduct alongside the barriers to its realisation, including weak governance, shrinking civic space and inadequate awareness of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. These factors, exacerbated by the current so-called global "multi-crisis," are placing a strain on efforts to provide more effective protection of human rights.

Although recent regulatory initiatives in the EU can drive positive reform, concurrent deregulatory trends threaten to weaken existing safeguards and intensify uncertainty around human rights due diligence, highlighting the urgent need to maintain and strengthen business and human rights frameworks.

The session was attended by Greece's Ambassador to Geneva, Mr Ioannis Gikas, and Ms Aikaterini Vounisiou, First Secretary for Human Rights at the Permanent Representation of Greece.

Dr Anastasia Chalkia, Specialised Scientific Officer, also participated in the GNCHR delegation to Geneva.

The full session is available here (from 01:30:77).

Further information on the 14th United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights is available here.

For further information on the GNCHR's work in the field of business and human rights, is available here.

ENNHRI Statement to inform trilogue negotiations on OMNIBUS I

The ENNHRI issued a statement to inform the trilogue negotiations on OMNIBUS I, which commenced on 18 November 2025.

The statement sets out ENNHRI's recommendations to the negotiators.

ENNHRI is the European Network of NHRIs. It brings together 51 NHRIs from across Europe to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the region. The Network provides a platform for cooperation and solidarity in addressing challenges in the field of human rights, while serving as the collective voice of NHRIs at European level.



The GNCHR at the annual event of UN Global Compact Network Greece

On International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2025, the GNCHR participated in the annual event of UN Global Compact Network Greece entitled

"Future-fit Sustainable Business Models: When Sustainability is Strategy", held at the Hotel *Grande Bretagne*.

The GNCHR was represented by Dr Anastasia Chalkia Specialised Scientific Officer, who referred to the proceedings and key conclusions of the 14th United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights. Held at the *Palais des Nations* in Geneva from 24 to 26 November 2025 under the theme "Accelerating action on business and human rights amidst crises and transformations", the Forum drew a record attendance of 4,600 participants.

The GNCHR co-organised a dedicated panel with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, entitled "Preserving business and human rights achievements in Central, Eastern Europe and Central Asia amid polycrisis". The GNCHR was the only Greek representative at the Forum's proceedings, with its President, Professor Maria Gavouneli, participating as a speaker.

Migrants and Refugees

GNCHR Statement: "The suspension of asylum applications and the violation of international law"

In a statement issued on Friday, 11 July 2025, the GNCHR, in its capacity as Greece's NHRI, underlined the crucial importance of **protecting the right to access to asylum and the prohibition of refoulement.** These guarantees are expressly enshrined in international and European treaty instruments [1] and constitute the cornerstone of international refugee law and international human rights law, which underpin the international and European legal order.

The National Commission emphasised the following on the legislative amendment providing for the suspension of asylum applications by persons arriving irregularly from North Africa by sea and for their return, without registration, to their country of origin or provenance:

1. The **right to access to asylum and the prohibition of refoulement** are explicitly enshrined in numerous international and European treaty texts binding on the country, while no derogation clauses from their application are provided for.
2. The return of these persons to their country of origin or provenance without registration and **without an individual examination of any asylum applications** or allegations of exposure to torture or inhuman and degrading treatment constitutes a direct violation of the principle of

non-refoulement and of the right to asylum and cannot be legitimised, even by way of derogation due to exceptional circumstances.

3. The suspension of asylum applications/access to the asylum procedure is not permitted either under the applicable law of the European Union [2] or under the Pact on Asylum and Migration, [3] which is expected to enter into force in June 2026.

The full GNCHR Statement is available here.

GNCHR Explanatory Note: "The suspension of asylum applications and the violation of international law"

A few days after issuing its statement, the GNCHR published an Explanatory Note on the suspension of access to asylum and the violation of international law. The Note sets out the legal and scientific basis for the positions and recommendations included in the Statement published on 11 July 2025.

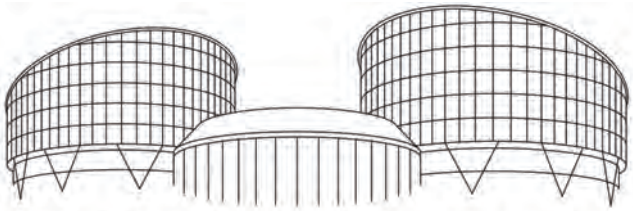
The explanatory text is available here.



The GNCHR at a meeting with the new EU Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, Magnus Brunner

The GNCHR participated in a meeting with the new EU Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, Magnus Brunner, on Thursday, 16 January 2025, represented by its Second Vice-President, Ms Ellie Varchalama, the

Coordinator of the Specialised Scientific Staff, Ms Eva Tzavala, and the Supervisor of the Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns, Mr Ilias Tsampardoukas. The meeting was held at the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, in the framework of Commissioner Brunner's first official visit to Greece since taking office.



Publication of the ECtHR judgements in A.R.E. v. Greece

On Tuesday, 7 January 2025, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) delivered its judgements in A.R.E. v. Greece (application no. 15783/21) and G.R.J. v. Greece (application no. 15067/21), proceedings in which the GNCHR intervened as a third party.

The cases concerned applications lodged against Greece by a Turkish national in the first case and an Afghan minor in the second, alleging that they had been subjected to informal forced returns to Türkiye: the first from the land border in the Evros region and the second from the maritime border in the Aegean. They further alleged that these returns had resulted in a violation of Article 3 of the ECHR; that, during the informal forced return, they had been subjected to informal detention in violation of Article 5 of the ECHR; and that they had been exposed to threats to their lives and treatment amounting to inhuman and degrading treatment, in breach of Articles 2 and 3 of the ECHR.

The related posts of the GNCHR are available here and here.

GNCHR contribution to the OHCHR study on human rights monitoring in the context of migration

In January 2025, the GNCHR published its contribution to the study of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on human rights monitoring in the context of migration, including at international borders.

The GNCHR contribution is available here.

Presentation on the Recording Mechanism of Incidents of Informal Forced Returns to students of the Postgraduate Programme "Advanced International and European Studies" of the Law Department of Democritus University of Thrace

The cases concerned applications lodged against Greece by a Turkish national in the first case and an Afghan minor in the second, alleging that they had been subjected to informal forced returns to Türkiye: the first from the land border in the Evros region and the second from the maritime border in the Aegean. They further alleged that these returns had resulted in a violation of Article 3 of the ECHR; that, during the informal forced return, they had been subjected to informal detention in violation of Article 5 of the ECHR; and that they had been exposed to threats to their lives and treatment amounting to inhuman and degrading treatment, in breach of Articles 2 and 3 of the ECHR.



GNCHR on-site visit to the Controlled Access Facility for Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers in Ritsona: "Remote accommodation with deficient reception safeguards"

On 23 October 2024, a delegation of the GNCHR, headed by the second Vice-President Ms Ellie Varchalama, visited the Controlled Access Facility for Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers in Ritsona to examine the reception conditions of applicants for international protection. The delegation included Mr Alexandros Konstantinou, Chair of the Third Section; Mr Spyros Apergis, Alternate Chair of the Third Section; and Dr Christos Tsevas,

Specialised Scientific Officer. A similar visit had also been carried out in 2020 and on 6 and 7 February 2024 at the Controlled Access Facility for Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers in Samos.

Https://nchr.gr/images/pdf/apofaseis/prosfuges_metanastes/2025/ritsona_episkepsi.pdf Following this on-site visit, the GNCHR published its report in February 2025. The GNCHR Report is available here.



The GNCHR at the 6th Thessaloniki Forum on Human Rights

The GNCHR took part in the 6th Human Rights Forum, organised by the Centre for European Legal Culture of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki on 6 and 7 March 2025, under the theme: "European Migration and Asylum Law after the New Pact".

The Forum opened with welcoming remarks by Professor Maria Gavouneli, President of the GNCHR.

In the second session, "The application of migration law following the Pact and the rights of migrants and refugees: perspectives from the responsible authorities". Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the GNCHR Scientific Staff, delivered a presentation entitled, "The role of the GNCHR in protecting the rights of refugees and migrants following the adoption of the EU Pact".

The detailed programme of the 6th Thessaloniki Forum is available here.

The GNCHR at an OSCE seminar on Human Rights and New Technologies at Borders

On 24 and 25 March 2025, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) organised a training seminar for NHRIs in Warsaw.

The two-day training programme aimed to support NHRIs in assessing the impact of technologies on human rights and in strengthening their capacity to monitor human rights at borders.

The GNCHR was represented by Mr Ilias Tsampardoukas, Supervisor of the Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns, and Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer.

The GNCHR at the Winter Law School on "Refugee and Migration Law" of ELSA Komotini

The GNCHR participated in the ELSA Komotini Winter Law School by giving two lectures on "Refugee and Migration Law" (9–16 March 2025). On 11 March 2025, Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer, represented the GNCHR in a lecture entitled, "Basic Elements on Asylum Law and its Principles — European Asylum Framework". On 14 March, Dr Anastasia Chalkia Specialised Scientific Officer delivered the second lecture, "Refugees' Predicament — Trafficking of Refugees, Drug Addicts and Refugees as Objects of Criminal Acts". Dr Anastasia Chalkia



The GNCHR at a conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on missing migrants

A parliamentary conference entitled, "Envisioning Effective Public Policy to Prevent and Address Cases of Missing Migrants", was held in Strasbourg on 23 and 24 April 2025 bringing together, members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Committee of the Red Cross, academic experts, national authorities, and civil society organisations representing victims and their families.

At the invitation of the Rapporteur for the Parliamentary Assembly Resolution, Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the Scientific Staff, participated in the conference on behalf of the GNCHR.

The GNCHR contributed to the documentation of the Rapporteur's report, which served as the basis for the Resolution while it remains constantly vigilant with its recommendations and interventions regarding the treatment of missing migrants and the rights of their families The relevant Council of Europe press release is available here.



Meeting between the President of the GNCHR and the Head of the ODIHR and a member of FRONTEX in Warsaw

The President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, held a series of meetings during her three-day stay in Warsaw from 28 to 30 April 2025.

The President of the GNCHR met the new Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Maria Telalian, with whom she discussed ODIHR's support for NHRIs, as well as the strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law in OSCE member states, including through the empowerment of civil society.

The President of the GNCHR also met a senior representative of the FRONTEX Fundamental Rights Office. Their discussion focused on the monitoring and documentation tools developed by the GNCHR Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns and on the broader need to guarantee respect for fundamental rights at the European Union's external borders in the context of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

The President of the GNCHR visits the ADAMA Centre in Kerameikos

On Wednesday, 4 June 2025, the President of GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, visited the ADAMA Centre in Kerameikos and was informed about the Centre's work and operation. The meeting was also attended by Mr Petros Mastakas, Durable Solutions Officer, representing the Office of

the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); Ms Maria Alverti, Director, and Ms Yolanda Androutsou, representing Caritas Hellas; Ms Nadia Diamantopoulou, Partnership and Capacity Strengthening Manager, representing Catholic Relief Services (CRS); and Mr Dionysis Giakoumelos, Communications Officer, representing the GNCHR.

Established in Kerameikos in December 2021, the ADAMA Centre provides for practical assistance, counselling and support to refugees and asylum seekers seeking to enter the labour market in Greece. The centre is operated by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Caritas Hellas, with support from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.



The GNCHR at a parliamentary committee meeting on the bill of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum

On Friday, 29 August 2025, the GNCHR participated in the meeting of the Hellenic Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice that considered the Ministry of Migration and Asylum draft "Reform of the framework and procedures for the return of third-country nationals — Other provisions of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum". The Coordinator of the Scientific Staff, Ms Eva Tzavala, and Dr Christos Tsevas Specialised Scientific Officer presented the GNCHR and submitted a Memorandum on behalf of the National Commission.

The GNCHR Memorandum is available here.

The statements and second interventions by the GNCHR representatives at the Committee session are available here.

The GNCHR at the one-day conference "Both prison and return: Greece in the landscape of European policies on migrant returns"

On Friday, 21 November, the National Centre for Social Research organised a seminar entitled, "Both prison and return: Greece in the landscape of European migrant return policies".

The one-day conference presented the findings of the study titled "Return Infrastructures in Greece and Abroad: Actors, Practices and Materials in the Continuum of Coercion", carried out by the National Centre for Social Research in the context of the research programme "De-centring the Study of Migrant Returns and Readmission Policies in Europe and Beyond" (GAPs), funded by the European Commission. Further information and materials on the research findings are available here.

Mr Ilias Tsampardoukas, Supervisor of the GNCHR Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns, participated in the project's expert panel and in the conference's round table, presenting the Recording Mechanism's findings on the modus operandi of informal forced returns of third-country nationals.

The GNCHR at a Council of Europe one-day conference in Strasbourg on fact-based communication on migration issues

The GNCHR participated in a round-table discussion organised by the Council of Europe on fact-based communication on migration issues on Friday, 7 November 2025, in Strasbourg. The event, organised by the Migration and Asylum Division of the Council of Europe Directorate of Human Rights, was attended by communication experts specialising in migration issues, as well as representatives of institutional bodies and non-governmental organisations. Participants examined current challenges and shared good practices for communication on migration that is reliable, balanced and respectful of human rights. The GNCHR was represented at the event by Communications Officer Mr Dionysis Giakoumelos.



The GNCHR at the meeting “Independent Monitoring under the new Pact on Migration and Asylum — Review and Planning for the Future”

The GNCHR participated in the meeting held in Warsaw on 24–25 November 2025, entitled, “Independent Monitoring under the new Pact on Migration and Asylum — Review and Planning for the Future”. Organised by the Fundamental Rights Office of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), with ENNHRI and the FRA, the meeting brought together representatives of national human rights bodies and European organisations, including the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA).

Discussions covered a) developments in European migration policy; b) the implementation of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum; c) monitoring methodologies; d) emerging challenges and the exchange of experience and good practices; e) tools for accountability and the strengthening of national institutions and f) enhanced cooperation at the European level.

The GNCHR was represented by Mr Ilias Tsampardoukas, Supervisor of the Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns, who highlighted Greek experience, challenges and national good practices in protecting the rights of refugees and migrants at the borders, contributing to the European dialogue on safeguarding fundamental rights.

Media presence

The President of the GNCHR on DION television on the suspension of asylum applications

The President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, spoke to the television channel "DION Television of Central Macedonia" on Thursday, 10 July 2025, about the legislative amendment under discussion that day in the Plenary of the Hellenic Parliament concerning the suspension of asylum applications.

Watch the interview with the President of the GNCHR here:



The GNCHR on DION television on the suspension of asylum applications

On Monday, 21 July 2025, Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer, represented the GNCHR in an interview with DION Television of Central Macedonia. He addressed the suspension of asylum applications, the GNCHR Statement of 11 July 2025, entitled, "The Suspension of Asylum Applications and the Violation of International Law", and the GNCHR long-standing and consistent positions on protecting access to asylum and the principle of non-refoulement.

The interview with Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR, is available here: "Greece 2025 and the handling of migration and refugee flows", 21/07/25, "Let's Start Together".

The President of the GNCHR in the newspaper *To Vima tis Kyriakis* on the new migration bill

On Sunday, 15 June 2025, the President of the GNCHR, Professor, Maria Gavouneli, spoke to journalist Antonis Ntiniakos in *To Vima tis Kyriakis*, on the occasion of the new migration bill.

The report, including the statements of the GNCHR is available here

Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns Incidents

Μηχανισμός Καταγραφής
Άτυπων Αναγκαστικών Επιστροφών

The Recording Mechanism was founded by a decision of the Plenary of the GNCHR in September 2021 as the response of the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) following two key findings: a) the absence of an official and effective mechanism for the recording of the reported IFR incidents and b) the necessity of establishing interconnection among stakeholders which, on their own initiative, record incidents alleged to have occurred against individuals who seek services from them

The Recording Mechanism is composed of civil society organisations operating in the field and offering free legal, medical, psychosocial or other forms of assistance to third-country nationals. The Recording Mechanism, within the scope of its mandate, cooperates with the Office of the UNHCR in Greece, from which it receives technical support

The Mechanism aims to monitor, record and highlight the phenomenon of informal forced returns of third-country nationals from Greece to other countries, through personal interviews with the alleged victims and through the application of a common, transparent and scientific methodology for recording such incidents. It seeks to foster and establish respect for the principle of non-refoulement, as well as to safeguard adequate guarantees and compliance with legal procedures. The objective of the Mechanism is defined as strengthening accountability for the reported human-rights violations alleged to occur in the course of incidents of informal forced returns of third-country nationals from Greece to other countries..

Press conference organised for the presentation of the 2024 Annual Report of the Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns



On Thursday, 17 July 2025, the Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns published its 2024 Annual Report.

The 2024 Annual Report is based on 61 testimonies concerning 52 incidents alleged to have occurred between January 2022 and December 2024. The incidents are estimated to have involved at a minimum 1,517 alleged victims, including at a minimum 300 women, 225 children and 133 persons with specific needs.

The 2024 Annual Report includes a recording and analysis of further crucial elements concerning the modus operandi of informal forced returns, as well as a presentation of new findings. In particular, the Report:

- analyses practices described as sequential detention and converging removal;
- documents, for the third consecutive year, an operational pattern extending beyond the border area into inland locations, including Thessaloniki and Komotini. According to testimonies concerning incidents that occurred in the area of Evros describe the identification of alleged victims away from the immediate border zone, highlighting the extent and organisational structure of the operations;
- identifies differing patterns in incidents recorded in the area of Evros and at sea; the formed involve a network of operations extending from the border into inland locations, whereas incidents at sea primarily concern actions preventing vessels from approaching or disembarking on Greek islands;
- notes qualitative differences in in the violence allegedly exercised against victims; in incidents occurred in the area of Evros, the violence

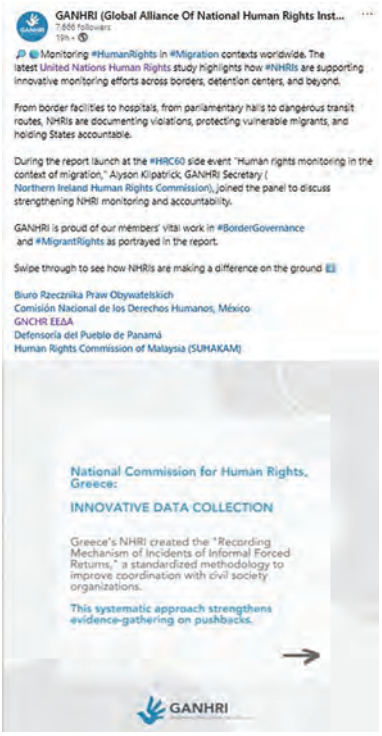
appears to be punitive and of greater physical intensity, whereas in incidents at sea it takes the form of acts preventing buoyancy and disembarkation on islands and is characterised by greater danger, with recorded fatalities.

The 2024 Annual Report of the Recording Mechanism is available here.

The GNCHR press release is available as a pdf file.

OHCHR report cites the GNCHR Mechanism as a good practice

The latest study published by the OHCHR identifies the GNCHR Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns as a good practice in human rights monitoring in the migration context. The study highlights the decisive role of NHRIs in supporting innovative practices for documenting human rights violations, protecting vulnerable migrants and ensuring State accountability.



Tackling Racism and Intolerance

EXODUS project workshop on combating antisemitic crimes

Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR, participated in an EXODUS project workshop held in Thessaloniki on 27 and 28 January 2025. He delivered a presentation during the first session on antisemitic conduct, symbolism and indicators of antisemitic bias, and moderated the second session on the European dimension of antisemitism. Discussions highlighted the role of NHRIs, particularly the GNCHR as a project partner, and stressed the importance of documenting relevant incidents through, *inter alia,* the Racist Violence Recording Network.

Funded by the European Commission under Grant Agreement No 101144655 through the **European Union's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme**, EXODUS runs from June 2024 to May 2026. The project seeks to address gaps in the criminal justice system by developing a comprehensive,

country-specific framework that strengthens responses to criminal justice issues, supports victims and promotes human rights.

More information is available here.

Can you recognise discrimination? Take part in the nationwide ECOSYSTEM survey

The survey, entitled, "Citizens' Attitudes and Experiences regarding Discrimination and Stereotypes", was conducted to explore citizens' perceptions and experience in relation to stereotypes, discrimination, prejudice, racism as well as their impact on those affected. It was open to everyone aged 18 or over and was conducted through an anonymous on-line questionnaire.

Participants accessed the survey through a dedicated on-line link. No names or contact details were collected, and IP addresses were protected and could not be traced. Completion of the questionnaire lasted approximately 10–15 minutes.

The survey was conducted within the framework of the European project "ECOSYSTEM — Strengthening Public Authorities' Capacity to Respond to Intersectional Discrimination through Multi-Agency Coalitions", implemented by the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family, the GNCHR and Social Action and Innovation Centre (KMOP). The project aims to contribute to the development of the Second National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance and to strengthen the capacity of national authorities in Greece to combat intolerance, racism and multiple and intersectional discrimination through a participatory, interdisciplinary and inter-agency approach.



Press Release Walk Against Discrimination 2025 (WAD 2025)

At a time of social uncertainty and challenges to shared values in Greece and around the world, the Walk Against Discrimination expanded in 2025. Held on 21 March, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, it took place simultaneously in Athens, Lesvos, Thessaloniki and Larissa. The GNCHR once again joined the initiative.

The press release is available as a PDF file.

The GNCHR at a Hellenic Police workshop on combating hate crime and hate speech

On 8 May 2025,Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the Scientific Staff, participated in a workshop held under a programme designed to strengthen the Hellenic Police's capacity to combat hate crime and hate speech. Her presentation focused on the role of civil society organisations in preventing, recording and highlighting hate crime and hate speech, as well as in protecting and supporting their victims.

Further information on the programme is available here: https://nohatepolice.eu/

The GNCHR at a National School of Judiciary conference on protecting victims of crimes involving serious forms of discrimination

Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR, participated in a conference organised by the National School of Judiciary in Thessaloniki on 19 May 2025, entitled, "The Protection of Victims of Crimes Involving Serious Expressions of Discrimination (racism, xenophobia, religious intolerance, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, expression and sex characteristics) in EU countries".

In his presentation, entitled: "Religious Intolerance and the Protection of Victims of Hate Crime: European and National Approaches", he outlined the work of the European Union, OSCE, notably through ODIHR. The role of NHRIs was also analysed, with particular reference to the GNCHR and the Racist Violence Recording Network, as well as to the National Council against Racism and Intolerance.

European project ECOSYSTEM Survey shows that 9 out of 10 persons believe stereotypes are very or extremely widespread

A new survey entitled "Citizens' Attitudes and Experiences regarding Discrimination and Stereotypes" shows that discrimination and stereotypes

remain deeply rooted in Greek society. The findings show that nine in ten respondents believe stereotypes shape everyday behaviour, while 83% report having personally experienced discrimination.

This initiative is implemented within the framework of the CERV programme and is expected to be completed in September 2026. In particular, the survey was conducted in the context of the European project "ECOSYSTEM – Strengthening Public Authorities' Capacity to Respond to Intersectional Discrimination through Multi-Agency Coalitions", implemented by the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs, the GNCHR and KMOP.

The UNHCR and the GNCHR express concern over rhetoric undermining civil society

In a joint statement issued on 28 August 2025, the Office of the UNHCR and the GNCHR, the independent advisory body to the Greek State operating in accordance with the UN Paris Principles, expressed their deep concern over the escalation of negative rhetoric and the adverse climate developing against refugees, migrants and the civil society organisations that support them.

The Joint Statement is available as a PDF file.

GNCHR meeting with the Canadian Race Relations Foundation on hate speech and hate crime

On 1 October 2025, the GNCHR welcomed a delegation from the Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF) to its premises. The discussion focused on hate crime and hate speech, the role of the GNCHR and the Racist Violence Recording Network, an exchange of good practices and a presentation of the work of the two institutions. Participants included the President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR; Mr Mohammed Hashim, Chief Executive Officer of the CRRF;

and Ms Beatrice Wayne, Director of Research and Policy at the Samara Centre for Democracy.

The CRRF is a federal Crown corporation mandated to raise public awareness of the causes and manifestations of racism in Canada.

The Samara Centre for Democracy is a non-partisan charity that produces ground-breaking research and dynamic events that advance a vibrant culture of civic engagement across Canada.

For further information click here and here.

The GNCHR educational actions in Thessaloniki and Athens on combating discrimination, racism and intolerance

The GNCHR, as a partner in the ECOSYSTEM project, "Strengthening public authorities' capacity to respond to intersectional discrimination through multi-agency coalitions", successfully organised two train-the-trainers sessions: in Thessaloniki on 20 October 2025 and in Athens on 21 October 2025.

The trainings aimed at strengthening the capacity of authorities and civil society in the recognition of discrimination (both direct and indirect), promoting the effective management of incidents of racist violence and hate speech through the establishment of referral mechanisms, and addressing in a holistic way these incidents with a victim-centric approach focusing on their needs.

Meeting of the ECOSYSTEM Steering Committee at the GNCHR premises

On Friday, 10 October 2025, the ECOSYSTEM Steering Committee met at the premises of the GNCHR. The meeting covered issues relating to the progress of project deliverables, medium-term planning and the design of the project's communication strategy.

The GNCHR hosts the National Council against Racism and Intolerance

On 11 November 2025, the GNCHR hosted members of the National Council against Racism and Intolerance at an ECOSYSTEM workshop in Athens. The project is implemented in Greece by the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs the GNCHR and KMOP, with the co-funding of the European Union.

The workshop was opened on behalf of the GNCHR by Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the Scientific Staff and Head of the Scientific Organisation Unit. Welcoming remarks were delivered by Ms Katerina Patsogianni, Secretary General for Equality and Human Rights of the Ministry of Social Cohesion

and Family Affairs, and Ms Tzeni Lazarou, Coordinator of the European Programmes Implementation Team of KMOP. The workshop programme is available here.

GNCHR workshop with ODIHR under the ECOSYSTEM project

In the framework of its participation in the ECOSYSTEM project, the GNCHR organised a workshop with the OSCE/ODIHR at its premises in Athens, on 10 November 2025. Apart from to the GNCHR, the other two members of the Consortium participated in the workshop as well.

Participation of the GNCHR in the train-the-trainers action on combating crimes with antisemitic motives under the EXODUS project

On Thursday, 20 November 2025, the GNCHR participated in the train-the-trainers action on combating antisemitic-motivated crime under the EXODUS research project.

The GNCHR under the section "Cooperation with Independent Authorities and Civil Society", trained police personnel with regard to the National Commission's competences and actions, focusing on issues of hate crimes, hate speech and discrimination as well as on its participation in the National Council Against Racism and Intolerance, its relevant positions within the framework of Greece's review before the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in 2024, including the role of the RVRN. The GNCHR was represented by Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer, and Dr Mariliza Deftou, Specialised Scientific Associate of the GNCHR, who handles issues falling within the competence the RVRN.

Further information is available here.

Racist Violence Recording Network

The Racist Violence Recording Network (RVRN) was established on the initiative of the GNCHR and the Office of the United Nations UNHCR, in mid-year 2011, on the basis of two significant findings: a) the absence of a formal and effective system for

recording incidents of racist violence and b) the necessity of establishing interconnection among stakeholders which, on their own initiative, record incidents alleged to have occurred against individuals who sought their services. The RVRN is comprised of actors providing medical, social, legal services and/or coming in direct contact with victims of racist violence or victims of other hate or bias motivated violent attacks and organisations set up by the very groups that are usually targeted by racist violence. Respect for human rights, diversity, multiculturalism, freedom of religion, as well as action to address discrimination and intolerance are key criteria for membership of the Network. In addition to the coordinators —the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the GNCHR— the Network comprises 55 non-governmental organisations and civil society actors. The Greek Ombudsman and the Migrant and Refugee Integration Council (MRIC) of the Municipality of Athens are also participants-observers in the RVRN.

During 2025, the 55 members of the Network were as follows: 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).

Participants in the Network recognise and pursue as their common goal the fight against racist violence as well as all hatred-inciting acts 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, violent actions or behaviour directed against human rights defenders, — that is, individuals who promote and protect human rights and are targeted because of their role— are also recorded.

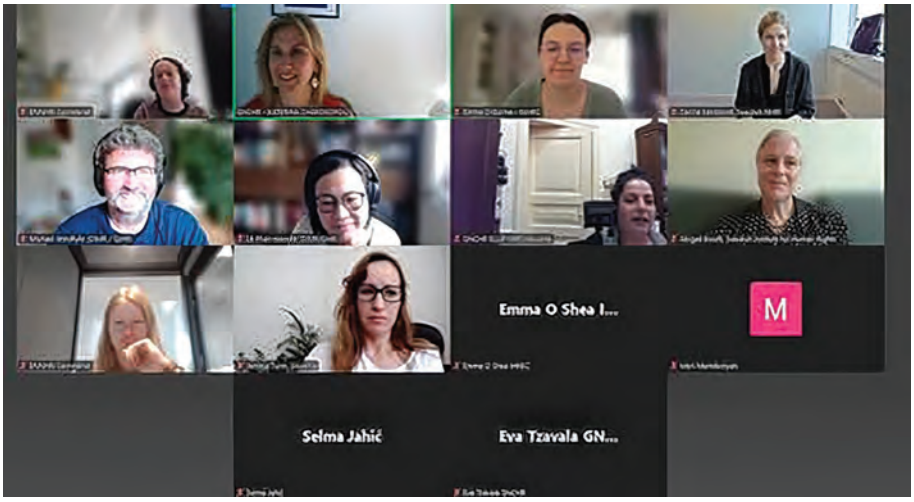
In pursuit of its common objective, the Network: a) formulates recommendations to the Greek authorities in accordance with Greek and international human rights law; b) promotes public information and awareness-raising on combating racist violence; c) engages in consultations on specific issues related to racist violence; d) strengthens cooperation with other bodies pursuing the combating of racist violence; e) organises and participates in training programmes for civil society and competent institutional bodies on issues relating to the identification, recording and response to hate crimes. From October 2011, when record-keeping began, to date, the Network's activities have been steadily expanding. The Network participates in institutional initiatives aiming at improving the way in which racist crime is being addressed and seeks to raise awareness of racist crime in every possible way. To that end, it responds to a particularly high number of requests by researchers, journalists, and students to provide them relevant information. Moreover, the RVRN participates in seminars, trainings, and public discourses, thus contributing to the dissemination of legislation against racism and racist crime. The acknowledgement of the role of the Network in the fight against racist crime is reflected in the frequent invitations that it receives from international and European organisations, national institutions, and other agencies and actors, with a view to express its opinion but also to present its collected data, operation, and methodology.

The RVRN annual reports can be found here.

Racist Violence Recording Network: "Concern over the deteriorating climate targeting refugees and migrants in political and public discourse"

In a press release issued on 14 July 2025, the RVRN expressed concern about the deteriorating climate targeting refugees and migrants in political and public discourse. As noted in the Network's press release, in recent times, public and media discourse surrounding refugees and migrants —particularly in light of the increase in new arrivals to Crete from Libya— reflects a worsening

climate of fear and polarization. This feeling has been further fuelled by statements made by representatives of the political leadership, political parties, and public authorities. The use of derogatory terms such as 'illegal immigrant', the description of new arrivals as an attempt of 'invasion' and 'population replacement', as well as misleading references to the privileges and benefits enjoyed by a certain group of people over other citizens, are just a few examples that have a negative impact on local communities and deepen social division. These are narratives that contribute to portraying these people as a threat to society, that exploit fear, undermine social cohesion and, as the Network's findings have repeatedly shown, normalise, encourage and ultimately lead to a sharp increase in intolerance and racist violence. The press release of the RVRN is available in PDF format.



Economic and Social Rights

Meeting of the ENNHRI Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights chaired by the GNCHR representative

On Monday, 16 June 2025, the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Working Group of the ENNHRI held an online meeting on the cost-of-living crisis. The meeting was chaired by Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR and Chair of the Working Group.

Working Group members presented national developments and examples of good practice, while the invited speakers Mr Michael Windfuhr, Deputy Director of the German Institute for Human Rights, and Ms Ellie Varchalama, Second Vice-President of the GNCHR, shared their experience with the participants.

GNCHR observations on the Ministry of Labour bill entitled “Fair Work for All”

The GNCHR submitted observations on the Ministry of Labour and Social Security bill entitled, “Fair Work for All: Simplification of Legislation — Support for Workers — Protection in Practice”. The text was adopted by the Plenary of the National Commission on 9 October 2025, while a relevant memorandum was submitted to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs of the Hellenic Parliament, which examined the draft law prior to its introduction for debate and voting in the plenary session of Parliament.

The GNCHR observations on the bill are available here.

Read the summary of the GNCHR observations here.



Meeting of the Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the ENNHRI

Meeting of the ENNHRI Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Working Group on 2 October 2025, in Edinburgh. Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR, chairs the Working Group.

The meeting focused on the principle of non-retrogression in the protection of economic, social and cultural rights.

On 2 and 3 October 2025, Dr Charokopou also represented the GNCHR at the CoE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform on Social and Economic Rights, which brings together ENNHRI, the Council of Europe, the EU FRA and the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET).

Participants highlighted the importance of cooperation, capacity-building and exchange of views in strengthening the protection of economic and social rights in rural areas throughout Europe.

Media presence

The GNCHR on *PARAPOLITIKA 90.1 FM* radio station on the labour bill

On Wednesday, 15 October 2025, Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR, was interviewed on the *PARAPOLITIKA 90.1 FM* radio programme *On Air,* hosted by journalist Niki Lymperaki concerning the observations submitted to Parliament by the National Commission on the Ministry of Labour and Social Security draft law "Fair Work for All: Simplification of Legislation — Support for Workers — Protection in Practice". Parliament adopted the bill on 17 October 2025 as Law 5239/2025 (Official Government Gazette/ A 178).

Listen to the interview with the GNCHR representative here.

The GNCHR at the Monitoring Committees of Sectoral and Regional Programmes for the 2021–2027 period



The GNCHR at the 4th session of the Monitoring Committee of the "Western Greece" Programme 2021-2027

The GNCHR participated in the fourth session of the Monitoring Committee of the "Western Greece" Programme 2021–2027 on 24 June 2025. The GNCHR

was represented at the meeting by Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer, who underlined the specific role entrusted to the National Commission in ensuring the compatibility of projects and actions funded under the 2021–2027 National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) programmes with human rights, pursuant to the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

The GNCHR at the Monitoring Committee of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) actions for the 2021-2027 programming period

On 26 June 2025, Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the GNCHR Scientific Staff, participated in the work of the Monitoring Committee of the Migration and Home Affairs Funds for the 2021-2027 Programming Period. Under the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the GNCHR has a specific mandate to ensure that projects financed by European funds are compatible with human rights and it therefore participates regularly and actively in the Monitoring Committee meetings.

In her intervention, the GNCHR representative recognised the progress achieved in the transparency of procedures, the information shared with Monitoring Committee members on matters under consideration, and civil society participation in the Committee's work.

The GNCHR at the 4th session of the Monitoring Committee of the Monitoring Committee of the "ATTICA" Programme 2021-2027

The GNCHR participated in the fourth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the "ATTICA" Programme 2021–2027, held in Elefsina on Friday, 27 June 2025. The GNCHR was represented by Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer who underlined the specific role entrusted to the National Commission, pursuant to the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, in ensuring the compatibility of the funded projects and actions of the 2021–2027 NSRF programmes with human rights at all stages of the work, from consultation and planning to implementation and evaluation.

Watch the intervention of the GNCHR representative here.

The GNCHR at the 4th session of the Monitoring Committee of the "Crete" Programme 2021-2027

The GNCHR participated in the 4th session of the Monitoring Committee of the "Crete" Programme 2021–2027, held in Rethymno on Friday, 4 July 2025. The GNCHR was represented by Dr Katerina Charokopou Specialised Scientific

Officer, who underlined the specific role entrusted to the National Commission under a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Coordination Authority of the General Secretariat for Public Investments and the NSRF, aimed at ensuring the compatibility of funded projects and actions under the the 2021–2027 NSRF programmes with human rights at all stages, from consultation and planning to implementation and evaluation, in accordance with the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

The GNCHR at the 4th session of the Monitoring Committee of the "Human Resources and Social Cohesion" Programme 2021-2027, with primary focus on promoting the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights

On Monday, 24 November 2025, Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR, participated in the Monitoring Committee for the Human Resources and Social Cohesion Programme for the 2021–2027 programming period. The National Commission, entrusted with a specific role under the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 for European Funds in ensuring the compatibility of projects funded by European Funds with human rights, participates regularly and actively in the meetings of all Monitoring Committees.

Rule of Law



The GNCHR publishes its 2025 Rule of Law Report

For the sixth year in a row, the GNCHR has contributed, in its capacity as Greece's NHRI, to the annual assessment procedures of Greece's progress on rule of law issues by the European Commission. The report is available in English on the website of the ENNHRI.

This year, European NHRIs focused on justice, media freedom and the protection of human rights defenders.

Meeting of the GNCHR with the Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression of the Council of Europe

On 8 October 2025, the GNCHR hosted a delegation from the Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression of the Council of Europe at its premises. Discussions addressed cooperation for the protection of freedom of expression, freedom of the action against, disinformation in the context of AI, hate speech, journalist safety and the protection of human rights defenders, action against strategic lawsuits aimed at discouraging public participation (SLAPPs), other relevant issues of the rule of law and democracy, and the exchange of good practices and the work of the two institutions.

The meeting was attended by the First Vice-President of the GNCHR, Mr Giannis Ioannidis; the Coordinator of the Scientific Staff, Ms Eva Tzavala; GNCHR Specialised Scientific Officers Dr Katerina Charokopou, Dr Anastasia Chalkia and Dr Christos Tsevas; the Head of the Freedom of Expression Cooperation Unit, Ms Alina Tatarenko; and the Unit's Project Manager, Ms Evangelia Vasalou.

Further information is available here.

Meeting of the GNCHR with the *Bodossaki Foundation* on the rule of law

On 17 February 2025, the National Commission, represented by Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the Scientific Staff, and Mr Ilias Tsampardoukas, Supervisor of the Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns, welcomed at its premises Ms Jennifer Clarke, Director of Programmes and Grants, and Ms Beatriki Giannoglou, Programme Manager, from the *Bodossaki Foundation*, as well as Ms Triin Toomesaar, Director of the Estonian NGO Network. The meeting took place in the framework of a study visit carried out on the initiative of the *Bodossaki Foundation* under the PLATO programme, which aims to promote and raise awareness of the fundamental rights and values of the European Union through the exchange of expertise to strengthen the role of civil society organisations in protecting the rule of law in Greece and Cyprus. PLATO is co-funded by the European Union through the CERV programme, the *Bodossaki Foundation* and the NGO Support Centre.

The GNCHR at a EUROPE Direct event on the rule of law

Following the publication of the GNCHR 2025 Rule of Law Report, Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the Scientific Staff, participated in the on-line event "Let's Talk about the Rule of Law in Greece and the EU", held on 19 May 2025 and organised by EUROPE DIRECT ELIAMEP Attica, PRAXI Network, Epirus and Peloponnese. In her presentation entitled, "Rule of Law and the Role of the GNCHR", Ms Tzavala analysed in particular the institutional role of the National Commission and the ENNHRI in the European Commission's prevention mechanism established in 2020. In the second part of her presentation, she referred to good practices and other tools available to the GNCHR for promoting and strengthening the institutions that constitute safeguards of a modern rule-of-law State.

The recording of the event is available on YouTube.

The GNCHR at the European Implementation Network on the execution of ECtHR judgements concerning freedom of expression

The GNCHR participated in the European Implementation Network (EIN) Conference on the execution of ECtHR judgements on freedom of expression. Entitled, «Implementing ECtHR Free Speech Judgements: Civil Society Impact, Lessons Learned and Future Strategies", the conference took place in Thessaloniki on 25 and 26 June 2025. This action falls under the two-year programme "Protecting Freedom of Expression by Supporting ECtHR Implementation".

Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer, represented the GNCHR and delivered a presentation entitled, «Protecting Freedom of Expression: The Role of NHRIs and the GNCHR in Ensuring Long-term Impact and Synergies».

Further information is available here: EIN CONFERENCE - Implementing ECtHR Free Speech Judgments: Civil Society Impact, Lessons Learned and Future Strategies — European Implementation Network.



The President of the GNCHR at the closing event of the co-funded BUILD programme on fundamental rights

The President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, spoke at the closing event of the BUILD programme, "Building a robust and democratic civic space", co-funded and coordinated by the *Bodossaki Foundation*, on Monday, 13 October 2025, at the Athens Conservatoire.

In the discussion entitled, "How do we ensure in practice the fundamental values of the EU?", moderated by journalist Ms Lina Giannarou, the President of the GNCHR was joined by Ms Christina Karakosta, Policy Officer at the European Commission Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, Rule of Law Unit, and Ms Vasiliki Karzi, attorney at law and legal researcher specialising in human rights.

Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights

Meeting of the GNCHR with the civil non-profit organisation Homo Digitalis on digital rights and artificial intelligence (AI) issues

The GNCHR welcomed the non-profit civil company Homo Digitalis at its premises on 13 May 2025, in a meeting on digital rights and AI. Discussions

covered recent developments in the field of new technologies, the European Union AI Act and its implementation, and the role of the GNCHR under the Regulation following its designation as one of the principles of Article 77 of the Regulation (Powers of fundamental rights authorities).

The meeting was attended by the President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, Ms Ellie Varchalama, Second Vice-President of the GNCHR, Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer, Mr Lefteris Chelioudakis, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Homo Digitalis, and Ms Lamprini Gyftokosta, Director of Human Rights and AI at Homo Digitalis.



The GNCHR as co-organiser of the Second International Regular Conference entitled, "Artistic Education and Disability in the Age of Artificial Intelligence"

The Second International Regular Conference entitled, "Artistic Education and Disability in the Age of AI. 'Schools of Free Music Access' close to society", took place at the Serafeio of the Municipality of Athens on Saturday, 6 and Sunday, 7 September 2025. The GNCHR participates as a co-organiser, along with, the Department of Music Studies of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki's School of Fine Arts, the National Confederation of Disabled People of Greece (ESAmeA), and the *Alypios* Music School.

The detailed conference programme is available here.

The GNCHR at the UNESCO Expert Round Table on AI Oversight Authorities

The Second Expert Roundtable on Capacity Building for AI Supervisory Authorities was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 30 September 2025 bringing together experts from supervisory and regulatory bodies, NHRIs, academia and international organisations to advance global efforts towards responsible AI oversight.



The GNCHR was represented by the President, Professor Maria Gavouneli, and Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer who actively contributed to discussions on the relationship between human rights and AI.

Further information is available here: https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/second-expert-roundtable-capacity-building-ai-supervisory-authorities

Participation of the GNCHR in an educational event of the Greek AI Network (GAIN) and Homo Digitalis on AI On Thursday, 18 December 2025, the GNCHR participated in an educational event on AI organised by the Greek AI Network (GAIN) and Homo Digitalis The event was designed to engage civil society organisations interested in protecting human rights in the age of artificial intelligence.

The GNCHR was represented by Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer. The presentation, entitled “The GNCHR in the Age of AI: Challenges and Perspectives against Discrimination”, focused on the GNCHR role in the emerging AI governance framework, its mandate and added value, and the challenges and perspectives in preventing and combating discrimination.

Media presence

The GNCHR on *ATHINA 9.84 radio station* on the legal and ethical dimension of AI

On Friday, 19 September 2025, Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer, represented the GNCHR in an interview on *ATHINA 9.84 radio station programme,* "Rights on FM", produced by the Hellenic League for Human Rights, on the legal and ethical dimensions of AI and its relationship with international law and the protection of human rights, the challenges, the steps taken, the prospects arising from AI use and the key role of the National Commission in this field.

The programme is presented by Dr Taygeti Michalakea and Mr Konstantinos Markou-Farmakidis.

The interview with DrChristos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR, is available here:

Environment

Written contribution by the GNCHR to the Special Rapporteur on the right to a healthy environment

The GNCHR responded to a call for input by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to a healthy environment, concerning environmental impact assessments, strategic environmental assessments and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The aim of the input was to inform the Special Rapporteur's thematic report, which will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly, on environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and strategic environmental assessments (SEAs), as an obligation to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Contributions were limited to 2,500 words and could respond to all or selected questions.

The GNCHR written contribution is available here:

The GNCHR at COP30 in Belém, Brazil



In November 2025, the GNCHR was present at the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30), held in Belém, Brazil, n order to take part in a COP30 side event on the role of NHRIs in advancing human rights-based climate action and climate justice. The event was organised by the GANHRI and the *Raoul Wallenberg* Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

The President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, spoke on behalf of the European NHRIs, sharing their experience in a contribution entitled, "From International Standards to National Practice: NHRI Experiences". The recorded message of the President of the GNCHR from COP30 is available here:

The GNCHR at COP30 at the event: "Advancing Rights-Based Climate Action and Climate Justice"

In November 2025, the GNCHR was present in Belém, Brazil, at COP30, the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Following an invitation from the GANHRI, the President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, participated as a speaker in a side event of the Conference entitled,

""Advancing Rights-Based Climate Action and Climate Justice": The Unique Role of National Human Rights Institutions". The event took place on Friday, 21 November 2025, with the following speakers participating:

Ms Rebeca Maria Williams, Director of Conventionality Control and Strategic Litigation Clinic, Honduras National Human Rights Commission (CONADEH);

Professor Maria Gavouneli, Chairperson, President of the GNCHR;

Ms Claudia Ituarte-Lima, Thematic Leader on human rights and environment and Senior Researcher, Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

The discussion was moderated by Ms Carolina Crittin, Senior Human Rights Officer at the GANHRI.

Detention conditions



A widely attended hearing of stakeholders was held at the GNCHR premises on the human rights situation in Greek prisons

On Thursday, 18 September 2025, the GNCHR held a hearing of stakeholders at its premises on the human rights situation in Greek prisons, bringing together a broad range of State bodies, independent authorities and civil society organisations, and numerous online participants. Convened at the initiative of the GNCHR First Section on Civil and Political Rights, the hearing was chaired by Mr Giannis Ioannidis, First Vice-President of the GNCHR. Participants also included Ms Ellie Varchalama, Second Vice-President, Mr Phoibos Iatrelis, Alternate Chair of the First Section, Dr Anastasia Chalkia, Specialised Scientific Officer, and other members of the GNCHR.



The GNCHR at the Council of Europe Round Table on the prison system and criminal justice in Greece

On 22 September 2025, the GNCHR participated in the Council of Europe round table, "Progress of the Penitentiary and Criminal Justice Reform in Greece", held in Athens by the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI), through its Cooperation Programme Division (CPDL).

The GNCHR was represented by its Specialised Scientific Officer Dr Anastasia Chalkia, who delivered a presentation entitled "The protection of human rights in Greek prisons"; Fani Stathoulopoulou, GNCHR Specialised Scientific Associate, also took part in the meeting. In her intervention, Dr Chalkia highlighted the contemporary challenges faced by the Greek prison system, underlining the need for institutional monitoring and policymaking to ensure respect for international and European standards on detainees' rights.

Meeting of the GNCHR with a delegation of the Council of Europe's European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)

On Monday, 20 January 2025, the GNCHR met a delegation from the CPT at its premises in Athens.

The CPT visited Greece as part of its periodic review visits concerning the monitoring of cases of ill-treatment or torture by the Greek authorities. In particular, discussions focused on prison conditions and police violence, as Greece has been found in violation by the European Court of Human Rights on several occasions regarding such issues The GNCHR also presented the Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns as a good practice for preventing human rights violations at borders affecting third-country nationals.

Participation of the GNCHR in a conference organised by the Centre for European Constitutional Law — Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation

On Monday, 10 February 2025, the GNCHR participated in a conference organised by the Centre for European Constitutional Law — *Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation*, entitled, "Challenges Facing the Greek Prison System: Protection and Reintegration, with an Emphasis on Vulnerable Groups". The event was held at the premises of the Journalists' Union of Athens Daily Newspapers.

During the first part of the event, issues related to the protection and reintegration of juvenile and young adults iin detention were discussed, with contributions from representatives of juvenile detention facilities and juvenile probation services. The second session focused on the dignified treatment and effective enjoyment of rights by prisoners in vulnerable situations, with contributions from the GNCHR, the Greek Ombudsman and civil society representatives.

GNCHR written contribution to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Report on social rehabilitation

The GNCHR responded to a call for input from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and submitted a written contribution for its report on human rights and the social reintegration of persons released from detention and persons subject to non-custodial measures.

The OHCHR report was scheduled for presentation to the Human Rights Council at its 60th session, held in September and October 2025.

The GNCHR written contribution is available here.

Participation of the GNCHR in a Focus Group of the Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation

On Monday, 5 May 2025, the GNCHR participated in a focus group on pre-trial detention under the European project "DIGNITY: Bridging Views for a Rights-Based Approach to Pre-Trial Detention", implemented by the Centre for European Constitutional Law — *Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation*.

The GNCHR was represented by Dr Anastasia Chalkia, Specialised Scientific Officer.

Women

The GNCHR, as the independent advisory body of the State on matters pertaining to the protection and promotion of human rights, has been closely monitoring, since its establishment, issues of gender equality, attributing paramount importance to the protection of women's rights and their equal treatment in the exercise of all their economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. It places particular emphasis on the effective protection and support of all women belonging to vulnerable groups, including women with disabilities, Roma women, refugee women, migrant women, LGBTIQ+ women, and any woman who is a victim of gender-based or domestic violence.

It is noted that, the GNCHR has completed an initial comprehensive assessment of the level of protection afforded to women in Greece, as set out in its Reference Report on the Status of Women in Greece. The data in the report were released in March 2024 and have been continuously updated since then. Beyond monitoring gender equality dimension across all policy areas, the National Commission, through this Report, has focused specifically on the issue of domestic violence, family relationships, the protection of women's labour rights, and o their equal participation in political and public life. In parallel, the National Commission has been consistently and closely monitoring gender equality issues relating to categories of women facing additional vulnerabilities. The National Commission will continue to work systematically to eliminate gender-based discrimination and empower women in both the public and private sectors, combating gender-based and domestic violence, and supporting all vulnerable groups of women.

In addition, the GNCHR has been closely monitoring the progress in implementing the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) It has also been monitoring the execution of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights by Greece, on matters concerning gender-based discrimination.

The GNCHR in Parliament on the Ministry of Justice bill on combating violence against women

On Monday, 20 January 2025, the GNCHR participated in a meeting of the Hellenic Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice, concerning the examination of the Ministry of Justice bill entitled "Addressing New Forms of Violence against Women –– Transposition

of Directive (EU) 2024/1385 – Additional provisions to the law on domestic violence — Reorganisation of forensic services — Strengthening the operation of Eurojust — Measures for the protection of minors and the fight against crime — Procedural provisions within the jurisdiction of the ordinary administrative courts and other provisions". Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer, represented the GNCHR at the meeting.

The GNCHR at the Hellenic Parliament Standing Committee on Social Affairs on the bill of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs

On Friday, 7 February 2025, the GNCHR participated in a meeting of the Hellenic Parliament's Standing Committee on Social Affairs, concerning the examination of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs bill entitled, "Measures for the balanced representation of genders in senior management positions of listed companies, unlisted public limited companies and public undertakings — Transposition of Directive (EU) 2022/2381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022 — Provisions for the strengthening of pilot programmes to enhance social cohesion". Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer, represented the GNCHR at the meeting.

The intervention of the GNCHR representative at the Standing Committee on Social Affairs of the Hellenic Parliament is available here.



International Women's Day 2025 — Equality, Rights and Empowerment for all women and girls worldwide

The United Nations General Assembly has established 8 March as International Women's Day, a day dedicated to recognising women's achievements, irrespective of national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political differences. The United Nations theme for International Women's Day 2025, "For All Women and Girls: Equality, Rights, Empowerment", calls for equal rights, equal opportunities and the empowerment of women and girls worldwide. In 2025, International Women's Day also coincides with the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This document is regarded as the most progressive and widely accepted action plan for the rights of women and girls worldwide, as it has radically changed the agenda for their rights regarding, *inter alia*, legal protection, access to services and the transformation of outdated social perceptions and stereotypes.

As every year, on 8 March the GNCHR joins its voice with women and girls around the world, calling for constant vigilance and action to advance women's rights, equality and empowerment, and to close gender gaps across economic, political, cultural and social life.

The GNCHR press release is available in PDF format.



The GNCHR at the 3rd Women in Law Conference organised by *Nomiki Bibliothiki*

The proceedings of the 3rd Women in Law Conference, organised by *Nomiki Bibliothiki* were successfully concluded for yet another year. Held at the Gennadius Library on 14 May 2025, the conference brought together 40 distinguished speakers and moderators from the legal profession and academia. The President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, also participated in the Conference as a moderator.

The President of the GNCHR at the two-day conference of the Association of Women over 40 «Life Beyond Age: Building Inclusive Futures»

The GNCHR participated on Friday, 23 May 2025, at the *Technopolis* of the Municipality of Athens in the two-day conference entitled "Life Beyond Age: Building Inclusive Futures", organised by the Association of Women over 40 – A40s, with a speech by the President of the National Commission, Professor Maria Gavouneli.

Her presentation was entitled "Respect for Older Persons as an Inalienable Human Right".

Participation of the GNCHR in a conference on Inclusivity and International Economic Law

On 22 September 2025, Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the Scientific Staff, participated in a conference on "Inclusivity and International Economic Law" at the NKUA. She presented the role of the GNCHR on matters of gender equality and women's inclusion in the first panel, which was chaired by the President of the GNCHR Professor Maria Gavouneli, Professor at the NKUA Law School. The GNCHR has published its first Report on the Status of Women in Greece, which it updates at regular intervals.

Further information is available here.

Meeting of the GNCHR with the organisation *Choisir la cause des femmes* at the French Embassy

The President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, met Ms Violaine Lucas, Director General of the organisation *Choisir la cause des femmes* at the Embassy of France in Greece on Wednesday, 24 September 2025.

The discussion focused on gender equality, with specific reference both to the GNCHR Report on the Status of Women in Greece and to the French organisation's support for the "most favoured European woman clause" (*clause de l'Européenne la plus favorisée*), an initiative arguing that, in every area concerning women's rights, the most progressive legislation in force in any European Union Member State should apply throughout Europe.



The GNCHR at the Round Table with the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of the Council of Europe (GREVIO)

On Thursday, 4 December 2025, Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR, participated in a round table with representatives of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO). The event, convened by the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family, focused on supporting the implementation in Greece of GREVIO's findings and the recommendations of the Committee of the Parties.

Approximately 45 representatives from women's NGOs that provide specialised support and advocacy services, as well as government bodies, participated in the roundtable discussion.

Further information on the event is available on the Council of Europe website

Family and child

The GNCHR at an event on domestic and gender-based violence organised by the *ESTIA EN POLI* Association in the Municipality of Nikaia — Ag. Ioannis Rentis

On Wednesday, 7 May 2025, the GNCHR participated in an event on domestic and gender-based violence organised by the *ESTIA EN POLI* Association in the Municipality of Nikaia — Agios Ioannis Rentis. The GNCHR was represented by Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer.

In its presentation entitled, "Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims — International, European and National Legal Framework", the GNCHR, after outlining its work and initiatives aimed at monitoring and addressing the phenomenon, underlined the need to ensure victims' rights at national, European and international level, with a view to effectively combating all forms of domestic violence.

The GNCHR at the hearing of the National Bioethics and Technoethics Commission on the "Charter of Children's Digital Rights"

On Monday, 28 April 2025, the GNCHR participated in a hearing held by the National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics on the "Charter of Children's Digital Rights".

The GNCHR was represented by Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer.

The GNCHR presented its positions on children's rights and proposals based on children's digital rights, the obligations of the State and the private sector, and the Charter's connection with relevant international and European legal instruments and policies.

Participation of the GNCHR in the 13th International Seminar of the European Forum for Restorative Justice (EFRJ) entitled, "Restorative Justice and Young People on the Move"

The GNCHR participated in the 13th International Seminar of the EFRJ entitled, "Restorative Justice and Young People on the Move", held in Athens on 16 and 17 May 2025, in cooperation with the Department of Social Work of the University of West Attica, through the Centre for Research on Social and Humanitarian Crises.

On behalf of the GNCHR, Dr Anastasia Chalkia, Specialised Scientific Officer, delivered a presentation on children deprived of their liberty. The presentation highlighted the situation of children involved in the criminal justice system, particularly those held in specialised detention establishments especially those with a migration background, as well as the resulting needs to protect their rights, their psychosocial support, and the implementation of restorative practices focused on their social reintegration.

The GNCHR at the presentation of innovative actions for juvenile offenders organised by the Ministry of Justice

On Monday, 29 September 2025, the GNCHR participated in an event organised by Ministry of Justice presenting innovative rehabilitative interventions for children in conflict with the law, held at the Ministry's *Lambros Margaritis* amphitheatre.

The initiative falls under the Joint Programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe on Child-Friendly Justice and aims to strengthen practices that place the best interests of the child, rehabilitation and social reintegration at the centre.

The GNCHR was represented by Dr Anastasia Chalkia, Specialised Scientific Officer, and Ms Fani Stathoulopoulou, Attorney at law, Specialised Scientific Associate.

GNCHR letter to Ministries and University Rectorate Authorities on the recognition of childcare parental leave as counting towards the prior service of Faculty Members

On Tuesday, 2 December 2025, the GNCHR sent a letter to the political leadership of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports and the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family, Affairs as well as to the Rectors of the country's Higher Education Institutions, raising the issue of equal treatment of faculty members of Higher Education Institutions during their professional advancement. The issue had also been raised in a joint letter from Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination Committees at Higher Education Institutions across the country, as well as by the Hellenic Society of University Women.

The GNCHR letter is available here:

Hearing of children at the GNCHR premises on the situation of the rights of the child in Greece

A hearing of children on the situation of the rights of the child in Greece took place at the premises of the GNCHR, on Friday, 19 December 2025. The hearing brought together children from different types of schools in Attica, as well as children from the Youth Networks of the Ombudsman for Children and the Network for Children's Rights. In addition, the hearing was attended, by the President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, the Second Vice President of the GNCHR, Ms Ellie Varchalama, and Dr Katerina Charokopou, Staff member of the GNCHR Scientific Organisation Unit.

The hearing aimed to draw on the GNCHR role as a bridge builder between the State and civil society, highlight the value of participation in all issues concerning children, and to map the challenges of child protection in practice, in view of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a fundamental and binding international framework for the promotion and safeguarding of the rights of all children.

LGBTIQ + persons



The GNCHR intervention before the Council of State in support of the constitutionality of the law on equality in civil marriage

The GNCHR made an intervention before the Council of State in support of the constitutionality of the law on equality in civil marriage. The intervention of the GNCHR was presented before the Court on Friday, 11 April 2025, by the First Vice-President of the GNCHR, Mr Giannis Ioannidis, and Ms Katerina Trimmi, member of the GNCHR Plenary.

It should be noted that this is the first time the GNCHR has intervened in a case before a Greek court since the enactment of Law 4780/2021 (A'30), which completely restructured its legal status and granted it legal personality.

The Council of State rejected the application for annulment filed by various associations, ruling that the provisions of Law 5089/2024, which extended the right to enter into a civil marriage to same-sex couples, did not conflict with the provisions of the Constitution regarding the protection of marriage, the family, motherhood, and childhood.



The GNCHR at the event organised by the Embassies of the Netherlands, Canada and Australia marking International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, Biphobia, and Interphobia (IDAHOBIT)

17th of May: To mark this International Day, the Embassy of the Netherlands in Greece, in collaboration with the Embassy of Canada and the Embassy of Australia, co-organised an event -a discussion at the home of the Dutch Ambassador, Ms Sussana Terstal, attended by representatives of civil society, government officials, and diplomats, on Thursday, 15 May 2025. The event was attended, among others, by the President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli; the Chair of GNCHR Fourth Section, Member of SYD, and Special Advisor to Diversity Charter Greece, Ms Anna Apergi; and the GNCHR Member and attorney at law, Ms Katerina Trimmi.

Roma

The GNCHR at the 1st Panhellenic Conference of the Roma Forum

The GNCHR participated in the first Panhellenic Roma Forum Conference, represented by Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer. The Conference, co-organised by the General Secretariat for Social Solidarity and Combating Poverty and the Roma Forum, took place at the *Antonis Tritsis*

Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Athens on Wednesday, 30 April 2025, in the framework of the European project "Development of the National Platform for Consultation and Dialogue on Roma Issues" and the Council of Europe OPRE Roma Month initiative, with the aim of strengthening Roma participation in public consultation and in policy-making affecting them.

In its intervention, the GNCHR —member of the Advisory Committee for Roma Social Integration under the National Roma Social Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2021–2030— underlined, *inter alia*, the need to intensify and effectively implement the actions of the National Strategy for the 2021–2030 period.

It is noted that for 2026, the GNCHR will publish a Report on the situation of Roma in Greece and will conduct a series of on-site visits to settlements.

Persons with disabilities

The GNCHR at an on-line Round Table of the Tsatsos Foundation on "Political Participation and Disability"

The GNCHR participated on Wednesday, 7 May 2025 in the online Round Table organised by the *Tsatsos* Foundation, entitled "Political Participation and Disability: Critical Discussions on Inclusion", within the framework of the European FAIR Programme, represented by Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer.

The GNCHR reiterated its positions on the rights of persons with disabilities, stressing the need to strengthen democratic participation and empower persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others. as well as the need to remove, by every means, barriers and discrimination to their free and unhindered participation in all aspects of the country's social, economic, political and cultural life.



3 December – International Day of Persons with Disabilities

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 1.3 billion people worldwide experience some form of significant disability.

The United Nations underlines that, in all regions of the world, persons with disabilities face significant challenges and barriers to their individual and social development, as:

– they are more likely to live in conditions of poverty;

– they continue to face discrimination in employment, receiving lower wages and being disproportionately represented in precarious jobs without labour rights, in the informal sector;

– social protection systems provide unequal coverage and insufficient measures, especially when the additional costs linked to disability are taken into account, while they often exclude persons with disabilities working in the informal sector; and

– many people with disabilities continue to experience a lack of dignity, autonomy, and the opportunity to make decisions for themselves within care and support systems.

Visit the United Nations webpage for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025 here.

Read the statement issued by the National Confederation of Disabled People of Greece for the Day here.

Building bridges between the State and civil society: The GNCHR as a bridge builder

Operating at the crossroads between state and non-state actors and in the context of its institutional role as NHRI, the GNCHR has a mission which, *inter alia*, includes building bridges between the State and civil society. As a reliable and supportive 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 actors, in order, for one part to contribute to the more effective protection of human rights, and furthermore, 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 issues related to human rights protection, but also in terms of getting closer to citizens and the rights violations they are confronted with in their daily life. 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 in dialogue with National Authorities

The GNCHR in the Hellenic Parliament

The GNCHR closely cooperates with the Parliament and its competent legislative drafting committees. Pursuant to Article 22 (1) Law 4780/2021, the GNCHR shall submit its Annual Report to the President of the Parliament, in order to 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 the further dissemination of its proposals and recommendations.

In addition to the above referenced parliamentary committee sessions, during the year under review, the GNCHR also participated in the following sessions:



The GNCHR in the Parliamentary Committees on the bill of the Ministry of Citizen Protection on the reorganisation of the Hellenic Police

On Friday, 14 March 2025, the GNCHR participated in the joint session of the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice and the Special Permanent Committee on the Penitentiary System and Other Detention Structures of the Hellenic Parliament, concerning the Ministry of Citizen Protection bill entitled, "Restructuring of the Hellenic Police organisational structure and upgrading the training of its uniformed personnel — Modernisation of the electronic monitoring system for non-convicted defendants convicted persons and detainees on leave — Regulation of issues concerning prisoners in correctional establishments and other provisions";

in the joint session of the Parliamentary Committees, the GNCHR was represented by Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer, who briefly presented the National Commission observations on the bill, submitted a relevant Memorandum and responded to questions raised by Committee members.



The GNCHR in Parliament on the Ministry of Justice bill on the Code of Civil Procedure

On Wednesday, 16 July 2025, the GNCHR participated in a session of the Hellenic Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice, during the discussion of the Ministry of Justice bill entitled, "Interventions in the Code of Civil Procedure — Amendments concerning the publication of wills — Amendments to the regulatory framework of objections against enforcement with a view to accelerating the proceedings – Other provisions falling within the competence of the Ministry of Justice". Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the Scientific Staff, represented the GNCHR at the Committee session.

The full Committee session is available here.

The GNCHR in the Parliamentary Committees on the bill of the Ministry of Digital Governance on digital approaches for road safety

On Tuesday, 25 November 2025, the GNCHR participated in a joint session of the Hellenic Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice and the Special Permanent Committee on Road Safety concerning the Ministry of Digital Governance bill entitled "Digital approaches for road safety and other provisions". The GNCHR was represented by Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer, who briefly presented the National Commission observations on the bill and submitted a relevant Memorandum

For further information click here.



The GNCHR in Parliament on the Ministry of National Defence bill

On Friday, 19 December 2025, the GNCHR participated in the session of the Standing Committee on National Defence and Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Parliament, concerning the Ministry of National Defence bill entitled, "Roadmap for the Transition of the Hellenic Armed Forces to the New Era : Careers and advancement of Military Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Professional Soldiers of the Armed Forces, pay provisions for military personnel of the Armed Forces, reorganisation of academic education of the Armed Forces, recruitment of Greeks, voluntary recruitment, of women and other provisions".

The GNCHR was represented by its member, Mr Phoibos Iatrelis, who briefly presented the National Commission's observations on the draft law, referring specifically to issues concerning conscientious objectors and alternative service, and submitted a relevant Memorandum.

The GNCHR memorandum is available here.

The GNCHR in dialogue with civil society

In addition to State partner institutions of NHRIs in the fulfilment of their mandate to promote and protect human rights, civil society constitutes a stable and essential ally, with whom NHRIs are called upon to maintain regular and constructive interaction and cooperation. Besides, the term "civil society", under 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)). It is no coincidence that NHRIs are required under the Paris Principles, "in view of the fundamental role played by the non-governmental organisations in expanding the work of the national institutions", to develop relations with 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 specialized areas" (Paris Principles, Methods of operation, paragraph (g)).



Working meeting and consultation with the participation of Civil Society organisations and the Director-General of DG HOME at the GNCHR premises

On Monday, 12 May 2025, the GNCHR hosted at its premises a working meeting with civil society organisations and Ms Beate Gminder, Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME). Representatives of 25 organisations took part in discussions on immigrants' reception and integration, challenges in implementing the Pact on Migration and Asylum, and the organisational and operational challenges faced by civil society organisations working in this field.

The GNCHR was represented by its President, Professor Maria Gavouneli; its Second Vice-President, Ms Ellie Varchalama; the Chair of the GNCHR Third Section, Mr Alexandros Konstantinou; and the Alternate Chair of the Section,

Mr Spyros Apergis. Mr Aristidis Psarras, Head of the Greece Sector at DG HOME, also participated on behalf of the European Commission.

Hearings of persons and stakeholders

As part of its institutional role as the NHRI in Greece, the national legislator, recognising the GNCHR as a "bridge builder" that bridges the gap between civil society and the State by bringing them closer together, entrusts it with the competence to "invite, at its discretion, persons to a hearing in order to facilitate its work by sharing personal experiences or opinions related to the protection of human rights" (Law 4780/2021 Article 18(4).

As already noted elsewhere in this Report, the GNCHR held two hearings at its premises in 2025:

- On 18 September, on the situation of human rights in Greek prisons.
- On 19 December, on the situation of the rights of the child in Greece.

PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL



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In 2025, the GNCHR fulfilled its mission with responsibility by delivering opinions on reports submitted by the Greek State to international and regional monitoring bodies, and submitting its own reports directly, by participating in meetings and other activities at the international and European level, by intervening in international and European fora, and by contributing actively and effectively to the formulation of international, regional, and European texts and policies. In particular:

Submission of international reports or written opinions on national reports to be presented to international and regional human rights bodies



Contribution of the GNCHR to the EU Rule of Law Report on Greece

As in previous years, the European Commission published its 2025 Rule of Law Report on developments in all EU Member States. The chapter on Greece refers to the consultation held in March 2025 between European Commission officials and the GNCHR on rule-of-law matters, within the framework of the European Commission's meeting with institutional bodies in Greece. Reference is also made to the corresponding GNCHR Report on the Rule of Law, regarding the National Commission contribution to the transposition into national law of EU legislation to improve gender balance among directors of listed companies, as a positive example of timely engagement. Finally, the EU report cites the GNCHR statement of 19 February 2025 on the need to respect the constitutionally guaranteed oversight role of the independent authorities.

Participation in the work of international and regional human rights monitoring mechanisms and meetings with international bodies and committees



Meeting of the GNCHR with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Michael O'Flaherty

On Wednesday, 5 February 2025, a meeting was held between the GNCHR and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Michael O'Flaherty, at the premises of the GNCHR in Athens.

The Commissioner's visit to Greece took place within the framework of monitoring and evaluating the human rights situation in the Member States of the Council of Europe. The discussion focused in particular on the rights of the Roma, as well as on human rights violations in the fields of migration and asylum.

The GNCHR was represented at the meeting by Professor Maria Gavouneli (President), Mr Giannis Ioannidis (First Vice-President), Ms Ellie Varchalama (Second Vice-President), Mr Alexandros Konstantinou (Chair of the Section for the Application of Human Rights to Aliens), Ms Anna Apergi-Konstantinidis (Chair-of the Section for the Promotion of Human Rights of the GNCHR), Ms Eleni Spathana (Alternate Member of the GNCHR, member of the Board of Directors of the Greek Council for Refugees), Ms Eva Tzavala (Coordinator of the Scientific Staff), Dr Katerina Charokopou (Specialised Scientific Officer), Dr Christos Tsevas (Specialised Scientific Office), Ms Garyfalia Anastasopoulou (Assistant Coordinator of the Racist Violence Recording Network) and Mr Ilias Tsamardoukas (Supervisor of the Recording Mechanism of Informal Forced Returns.

The Council of Europe delegation included, in addition to the Commissioner, the following members: Mr Özgür Derman (Head of Department, Deputy Director of the Commissioner's Office), and the Advisers to Commissioner Mr Matteo de Bellis and Mr Matthieu Birker.



The GNCHR at an event on child trafficking during the 34th session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, spoke at a side event on child trafficking organised in the context of the thirty-fourth session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The event was held on Monday, 19 May 2025 and was organised by the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Citizens and Institutional Protection of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, in cooperation with the Embassy of Greece and the Permanent Mission of Greece to the International Organisations in Vienna.

Visit of the Regional Research Director of Amnesty International to the GNCHR premises

A meeting between the GNCHR and Ms Dinushika Dissanayake, Amnesty International's Regional Research Director for Europe, took place on Tuesday, 9 September 2025 at the premise of the National Commission. The participants discussed matters of common interest, presented the priorities and planned actions of the two bodies for the coming period and explored ways to deepen their cooperation in line with their institutional roles. It should be noted that,

under the law, Amnesty International has been participating participated with its representatives in the composition of the GNCHR Plenary since the creation of the National Commission.

The GNCHR at the 25th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology

The GNCHR participated in the 25th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology, "Logos of Crime and Punishment", held at the American College of Greece in Athens from 3 to 6 September 2025.

Her presentation focused on the protection of prisoners' human rights and the need for institutional monitoring and prison policy fully aligned with international and European standards. Her presentation focused on the protection of prisoners' human rights and the need for institutional monitoring and prison policy fully aligned with international and European standards. The presentation took place in the context of a thematic panel dedicated to prisons and the consequences of incarceration, where approaches from Norway, the United States, Brazil and Romania were presented.

Encouraging ratification of international Human Rights instruments

According to the minimum standards set by the Paris Principles, 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.

In particular, in order to fulfil their mission, NHRIs are required to:

- monitor developments in the field of international human rights law;
- encourage the State's participation in the promotion and drafting of international human rights instruments;
- assess national authorities' compliance with international obligations and their reporting on these obligations, for example, by participating in the Universal Periodic Review (Universal Periodic Review, UPR) or by publishing annual and special reports;
- and to advocate for the unconditional ratification of international treaties.

In order to effectively fulfil their mandate, NHRIs must systematically monitor not only the legislation in force, but also any other legislative text submitted

for voting, with a view to ensuring its compliance with human rights standards. Furthermore, in this context, NHRIs are required to inform the state authorities regarding the scope and nature of any obligations that the State's accession to or ratification of international human rights treaties may entail.

For 2025, the GNCHR reiterated its Recommendations to the Greek State for the ratification of:

- the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, which has not yet been ratified by Greece;
- the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which Greece has not signed yet;
- the International Labour Organization Conventions on Work in Fishing, 2007 (ILO Convention No. 188); Decent Work for Domestic Workers, 2011 (ILO Convention No. 189); and Maternity Protection, 2000 (ILO Convention No. 183);
- Protocol No. 4 to the European Convention on Human Rights, which has not yet been ratified by Greece.

In 2025, Greece proceeded with the signature or ratification of the following international texts:

- On 5 March 2025, it ratified the Protocol amending the Council of Europe Convention for the (CETS No. 223) - by Law N. 5169/2025 (Official Government Gazette, A 4/17 January 2025).
- On 13 May 2025, it signed the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer (CETS No. 226).
- On 19 September 2025, it signed the Third Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (CETS No. 227).

By Law 5239/2025, Greece ratified the following International Labour Organization Conventions and Protocols:

- Convention No. 155 on Occupational Safety and Health and the Working Environment.
- Convention No. 191 on amendments to international labour standards relating to the recognition of a safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle.
- Protocol to the International Labour Convention No. 29 on Forced Labour.

Responding to requests for information and questionnaire surveys

GNCHR contribution to a UN questionnaire on accessible infrastructure for persons with disabilities

The GNCHR submitted its response to the United Nations questionnaire on accessible infrastructure for persons with disabilities. The report highlights shortcomings in the accessibility of transport and housing in Greece, underlining the need for coherent policies, meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and effective implementation of legislation. Despite progress, structural barriers remain, making accessibility a top priority for the effective implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in Greece.

The GNCHR contribution is available here.

GNCHR contribution to a UN questionnaire on AI, the Digital Space and Gender Equality

The GNCHR submitted its response to the questionnaire of the United Nations Working Group on discrimination against women and girls concerning the 2026 Thematic Report on Gender Equality, the Digital Space and the Age of AI.

The contribution addresses the following key thematic areas: the rights of women and girls in an era of new and emerging technology; women's leadership in political, economic, social and cultural rights; governance of AI and the content moderation of AI-generated content; technology-facilitated gender-based violence; labour and the rights of women and girls; privacy, autonomy and non-discrimination; availability of disaggregated data.

The GNCHR contribution is available here.

GNCHR contribution to a UN questionnaire on combating intolerance on grounds of religion or belief

The GNCHR submitted its response to a United Nations questionnaire aimed at providing input for the report of the UN Secretary-General on combating intolerance based on religion or belief, pursuant to the UN Resolution 79/180 adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2024

The Secretary-General's report refers to the contribution of the GNCHR and concludes that further progress is needed in the implementation of every part of the action plan referred to in the UN General Assembly Resolution

79/180. Such progress will require consistent engagement by States, NHRIs, UN bodies, independent experts, technology companies and civil society, including religious actors. The GNCHR contribution is also available on the UN website.

Cooperation with Counterpart Commissions and Networks of NHRIs

During 2025, the GNCHR responsibly fulfilled its mission to promote and protect human rights by participating in the work of GANHRI and ENNHRI. GNCHR representatives took part in meetings and conferences organised by both networks, delivered presentations and interventions, and made substantive contributions to relevant texts and policy work.

The GNCHR at the GANHRI Annual General Meeting in Geneva

The GNCHR participated in the Annual Meeting of GANHRI, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 March 2025. The National Commission was represented by Mr Giannis Ioannidis, First Vice-President of the GNCHR, and Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer, who presented good practices drawn from the experience and work of the GNCHR. On 11 March 2025, during the GANHRI General Assembly, the good practices implemented by the GNCHR for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities were presented, highlighting the role of the National Confederation of Disabled People of Greece which appoints a voting member to the GNCHR Plenary, thereby contributing dynamically to the protection and monitoring of the effective implementation of the institutional framework in practice. The GNCHR also shared lessons from its reaccreditation process before GANHRI's 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.



Award of A status accreditation to the GNCHR during the GANHRI General Assembly in Geneva

The GNCHR was accredited with A status, during the regular assessment process of the competent 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. This prestigious award was received by Mr Giannis Ioannidis, First Vice-President of the GNCHR, and Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer, during the Annual General Assembly of the Global Alliance of GANHRI, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 March 2025.

Watch the video released by the GNCHR on Human Rights Day 2024 (10 December), on the occasion of its re-accreditation with A status:

The GNCHR at the first meeting of NHRIs and Ombudspersons with the Council of Europe

Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the GNCHR Scientific Staff, participated in the first meeting of Nhris and Ombudsperson Institutions with the Council of

Europe, held in Strasbourg on 27 and 28 March 2025 at the invitation of the Luxembourg Presidency. The two-day meeting addressed issues relating to contemporary challenges to the rule of law, the execution of judgements of the Strasbourg Court and tools for assessing the human rights impact of the use of AI applications. In her intervention, Ms Tzavala focused on GNCHR good practices in monitoring Greece's compliance with judgements of the European Court of Human Rights, proposing broader synergies between the Court's Department for the Execution of Judgements, NHRIs and national parliaments.

The GNCHR at an ENNHRI seminar on the impact assessment of AI systems on fundamental rights



The ENNHRI organised an online seminar on Thursday, 10 April 2025, on the occasion of the publication of its Statement entitled "ENNHRI calls on the European Commission to ensure effective Fundamental Rights Impact Assessments (FRIAs) under the EU AI Act". Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer and member of ENNHRI's Working Group on Artificial Intelligence, represented the GNCHR and presented the recommendations of the Statement.

Further information is available here.

The GNCHR at the ENNHRI meeting in Berlin

ENNHRI held a meeting in Berlin on 19 and 20 May 2025, bringing together members of its Board, Secretariat and Working Group Chairs. The GNCHR was represented by Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer and Chair of ENNHRI Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Discussions included strengthening the organisational resilience of NHRIs and responding to contemporary human rights challenges., which will be reflected to a significant extent in the Network's new Strategic Plan currently under preparation for the next period.



The GNCHR at the 2025 NHRI Academy of ENNHRI and ODIHR

Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer, participated in the 2025 NHRI Academy, organised by ENNHRI and the OSCE/ODIHR in Warsaw from 9 to 13 June 2025. The Academy focused on the protection of human rights defenders.

The programme addressed the UN Paris Principles; gender mainstreaming in the work of NHRIs, international and regional standards for the protection of Human Rights Defenders, early warning signs, smear campaigns and attacks against human rights defenders, legislation and policies affecting freedom of association and freedom of assembly, judicial harassment and criminalisation, Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), digital threats against human rights defenders and the protection of human rights defenders in the digital space.

The GNCHR at the first Global Network on National Action Plans for Human Rights

The GNCHR participated in the First Global Network on National Action Plans for Human Rights and the Workshop on 30 Years of National Action Plans for Human Rights — Lessons from Five Continents, held from 4 to 6 June 2025 and organised by the School of Law and Social Justice of the University of Liverpool.

The GNCHR was represented by Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer, who delivered a presentation entitled, “The National Action Plan for Human Rights in Greece: Good Practices and Challenges”. During the

Workshop, discussions were held on developments and the evaluation of National Action Plans for Human Rights, experiences from different countries, good practices and protection gaps, and links between National Action Plans, digitalisation and National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs).

For further information click here.



Meeting of the ENNHRI Working Group on Communication

The ENNHRI Working Group on Communication held an on-line meeting on Tuesday, 1 July 2025, with the participation of the GNCHR.

The meeting focused on the creation and adaptation of content for different audiences and platforms.

The GNCHR was represented by its Communication Officer Mr Dionysis Giakoumelos.

The GNCHR at the ENNHRI Leadership Forum 2025

The National Commission as a member of the ENNHRI is consistently and actively involved in the work and governing bodies of the European Network. At this year's Leadership Forum, successfully organised by the ENNHRI Secretariat in Brussels from 24 to 26 September 2025, the GNCHR was represented by Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the Scientific Staff. Ms Eva Tzavala moderated the debate of counterparts on the relationship of the National Institutions and the European Network with the Council of Europe, in

the spirit of the Reykjavik Declaration on the Future of the Council of Europe (2023) and the proposal of the Secretary General for a New Pact for Democracy for Europe (2025).



Participation of the GNCHR in an OSCE/ODIHR training programme and conference in Warsaw

The GNCHR was in Warsaw from Tuesday, 14 October to Thursday, 16 October 2025, participating in a series of training sessions and events, represented by the Coordinator of the Scientific Staff, Ms Eva Tzavala, and Communications Officer Mr Dionysis Giakoumelos.

In particular:

On 14 and 15 October, the GNCHR participated in an ODIHR training session on crisis management for NHRI staff.

On 16 October, the GNCHR took part in the "Warsaw Human Dimension Conference", organised by the OSCE from 6 to 17 October 2025, specifically in the session on fundamental freedoms, during which particular reference was made to the protection of the fundamental freedoms of NHRIs.

FOSTERING A CULTURE OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



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A discussion with the students followed, aimed at fostering a culture of respect for human rights. 153

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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 familiarising society with issues related to human rights. Knowledge is the cornerstone of the effective promotion of human rights. Providing information and education with a view to raise awareness of and disseminate knowledge about human rights is a key aspect of promotion, bearing in mind that the protection of human rights depends essentially on the degree to which citizens are aware of their rights and the mechanisms available to them for the implementation of those rights. However pivotal knowledge dissemination may be, it is not on its own sufficient enough to ensure a culture of respect for human rights. It must also be accompanied by the commitment of the state authorities and all those involved in promoting human rights to put this knowledge into practice. Here too, NHRIs have a key role to play, not only in informing citizens of their rights, but also in encouraging and strengthening state institutions to implement them, on the one hand by raising public awareness of human rights issues and, on the other hand, through human rights education and research.

Raising public awareness

The mission to promote human rights is undoubtedly best fulfilled by providing information and disseminating knowledge in the field and comprises actions such as, collection, production and dissemination of information material, planning of relevant promotional events and cooperation with the media. A common denominator in all these activities is to seek to raise public awareness of human rights issues and to inform citizens about their rights and the mechanisms available to defend them.

Participation in projects for the promotion of human rights research

In addition to raising public awareness and providing education, the research work carried out by the GNCHR, and the dissemination of the relevant findings contribute significantly to the fulfilment of its mandate. Indeed, its founding law entrusts it with the promotion of research on issues concerning the protection and promotion of human rights (Law 4780/2021 Article 11(a)), while at the same time the Paris Principles include research among the core functions of NHRIs (A.3(f)).

Undoubtedly, the publication of its reports and studies, the creation of a database of ECtHR case-law both against Greece and with references to the work of the GNCHR, and the organisation of consultations on themes related to human rights not only promote a climate of respect for human rights, but also contribute decisively to a better understanding of the root causes of human rights problems and consequently to the proposal of more realistic solutions.

In 2025, the GNCHR participated in the following research projects:

Participation of the GNCHR in the European project ECOSYSTEM — Strengthening Public Authorities' Capacity to Respond to Intersectional Discrimination through Multi-Agency Coalitions

The European project "ECOSYSTEM — Strengthening Public Authorities' Capacity to Respond to Intersectional Discrimination through Multi-Agency Coalitions" is implemented by the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family, the GNCHR and Social Action and Innovation Centre and KMOP, with co-funding from the European Union's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme, for a period of two years, from 2024 to 2026.

The aim of the project is to contribute to the development of the 2th National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance and to strengthen the capacity of the national authorities in Greece to combat intolerance, racism and multiple and intersectional discrimination. Through a participatory, interdisciplinary and inter-agency approach, the project seeks to strengthen cooperation between public authorities and civil society, focusing on three interconnected pillars: a) strengthening victims' access to information and services through a relevant platform; b) enhancing the skills of public

officials and the capacities of the National Council against Racism and Intolerance; and c) raising public awareness through a national awareness-raising campaign.

Further information is available here.

Participation of the GNCHR in the EXODUS research project

Hate crimes motivated by antisemitism undermine the values of non-discrimination and human dignity in democratic societies. Law enforcement authorities face challenges in effectively identifying and responding to these crimes because of the underlying biases. EXODUS is a two-year project, running from June 2024 to May 2026, coordinated by the Hellenic Police with the involvement of the GNCHR. The aim of the project is to address this gap in the criminal justice system by developing a comprehensive, country-specific framework that enhances the response to criminal justice issues and supports victims, all while promoting human rights.

The project is funded by the European Union's CERV programme, for the 2021–2027 period. The CERV Programme aims to promote the EU's fundamental values, including democracy, equality, tolerance, inclusiveness and human rights by supporting actions that strengthen social cohesion and combat hate and discrimination.

The main deliverables of the project include:

1) A White Paper, offering public authorities practical tools, including a) A guide to Jewish culture and antisemitic terminology; b) A detailed action plan outlining effective procedures for addressing antisemitic crimes; c) A framework for providing victim support.

2) Training programmes to empower 1,000 professionals from diverse fields with the skills needed to combat antisemitic crimes effectively.

The EXODUS Project aspires to align with the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life 2021-2030 (COM/2021/615 final), creating a model that strengthens criminal justice responses and promotes best practices across Europe.

Participation of the GNCHR in the research project "Strengthening Corporate Responsibility and Human Rights Compliance under the CSDDD in Greece"



Background

Human rights are at the core of the European Union and its Member States. At the same time, businesses play a critical role in ensuring the effective protection and promotion of human rights. The **European Union Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)** requires companies to ensure compliance with human rights and environmental obligations throughout their chain of activities.

As Greece's NHRI, the GNCHR works to advance human rights and sustainability. The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR), Denmark's NHRI, *"Building capacity of national human rights institutions and strengthening policy outcomes on business and human rights"*, with the support of the *Laudes* Foundation. The initiative aims to strengthen European NHRIs' capacity to contribute effectively to the transposition and implementation of the Directive.

Project description

In this context, the Danish Institute has entered into a consultancy cooperation agreement with the GNCHR to strengthen corporate responsibility and compliance with human rights in Greece, in accordance with the European Directive. The principal objective is to strengthen the GNCHR capacity to support the transposition of the Directive into Greek legislation and to facilitate cooperation among stakeholders for responsible business conduct and human rights.

The consultancy cooperation includes two main activities:

Cooperation with an external expert to prepare a report on corporate due diligence and the protection of human rights in the light of the Directive.

Organisation of a two-day event aimed at raising awareness and strengthening dialogue on the transposition and implementation of the Directive among key stakeholders.

Supported by DIHR, the project forms part of broader European efforts to ensure corporate accountability within the EU regulatory framework on business and human rights.

Duration of the project

The project was implemented from June 2024 to February 2025, and its completion included the submission of the final report and the organisation of the workshop. Its deliverables are intended to underpin the GNCHR long-term engagement on business and human rights.

Participation of the GNCHR in the Management Committee of COST Action CA2210 Cultural Expertise Junior Network (K-Peritia)



The GNCHR participates in the Management Committee of COST Action CA22101 Cultural Expertise Junior Network (K-Peritia).

K-Peritia Action is a COST Action (CA22101) titled Cultural Expertise Junior Network, an EU-funded transnational research and innovation network that aims to develop an inclusive international network around “cultural expertise” in legal and policy contexts, empower junior experts, and digitalise knowledge on cultural expertise through a multilingual socio-legal database.

The Action is structured around three main challenges:

- Creating an international network that bridges the gap between supply and demand for professional cultural expertise, overcoming the elitist and costly characteristics of the existing system.
- Strengthening the professional participation of young experts.
- Digitising knowledge on cultural expertise

These three challenges will be pursued through a new interdisciplinary platform: a multilingual, open-access, transnational socio-legal database.

Dr Anastasia Chalkia, Specialised Scientific Officer, represents the GNCHR on the Management Committee of COST Action CA22101, Cultural Expertise Junior Network (K-Peritia).

The Action commenced in October 2023 and is expected to be completed in October 2027.

Further information

- on the action is available here.
- Further information on the members of the Management Committee is available here.

Protocols of Cooperation with academic institutions and students' unions

The GNCHR, in accordance with its legal mandate and mission to promote research on matters related to human rights, has signed Protocols of Cooperation with ten University Faculties and Departments, in order to establish and enhance cooperation between them on both research and education issues. 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 its mission. More specifically, this cooperation facilitates the mission of the GNCHR through the contribution of the Greek higher education institutions in the research and documentation of recommendations, proposals, studies, reports and opinions elaborated and submitted by the GNCHR, in relation to the human rights situation in Greece. In addition, the opportunity for 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 2025, bilateral Protocols of Cooperation were signed (in chronological order) with:

- the Law School of the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki,

- the Law School of the Democritus University in Thrace,
- the Social Administration and Political Science Department of the Democritus University in Thrace (now Department of Social Policy, 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 (KENoP) of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 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.

It should also be noted that the GNCHR supports student initiatives. In this context, the GNCHR has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with ELSA Greece (European Law Students' Association – Greece), establishing an expanded framework of collaboration that includes the joint organisation of events, support for academic and research activities, cooperation in communication activities, as well as the provision of internship opportunities at the GNCHR for young lawyers, distinguished in competitions organised by ELSA Greece. In 2025, specifically, Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR, served as Academic Director for the Moot Court Competition on Human Rights which was attended by students from the Athens Law School and the University of Queen Mary in the United Kingdom.

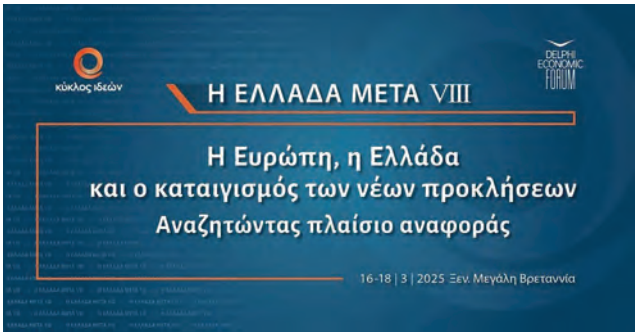
Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the GNCHR and ELSA Greece

A Memorandum of Understanding between the GNCHR and ELSA Greece (The European Law Students' Association — Greece) was signed on Friday, 9 May 2025, at the premises of the National Commission by the President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli and ELSA Greece President, Ms Christina Sotiriou.

By signing the Memorandum, the two bodies continue their long-standing and constructive cooperation, which includes the co-organisation of events, support for academic and research activities, cooperation in the field of communications, and internship opportunities at the GNCHR for young legal professionals who distinguish themselves in competitions organised by ELSA Greece.



Participation in conferences and other events dedicated to the promotion of human rights



The First Vice-President of the GNCHR Mr Giannis Ioannidis at the Conference "Greece After VIII"

Watch the speech delivered by the First Vice-President of the GNCHR, Mr Giannis Ioannidis, during the panel entitled, "From Reformist Hesitation to Institutional Innovation" at the conference "Greece After VIII," organised by the "Circle of Ideas" in collaboration with the "Delphi Economic Forum," from 16 to 18 March 2025, at the *Grande Bretagne* Hotel.

The President of the GNCHR at the diaNEOsis event on Constitutional Revision

The President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, was among the speakers at the sixth diaNEOsis event on Constitutional Revision, participating in the round table entitled "Individual Rights" on Wednesday, 28 May 2025.

The discussion was moderated by Professor of Constitutional Law, Dr Lina Papadopoulou, (Law School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki).

The GNCHR at the theatrical performance of Aristophanes "Wasps" at Korydallos I Detention Establishment

The GNCHR attended the theatrical performance of Aristophanes "Wasps", presented on Monday, 16 June 2025, at Korydallos I Detention Establishment by the Detainees' Theatre Workshop.

The performance marked the culmination of the detainees' creative work carried out through the Theatre Workshop, implemented in cooperation with the non-profit organisation "The Young Quill", under the adaptation and

direction of Ms Aikaterini Papageorgiou. The Theatre Workshop is supported by the Greek National Opera, which provided costumes for the production.

The GNCHR at the workshop of the *Tsatsos Foundation* on the role of human rights bodies in Greece

The GNCHR participated in the on-line workshop entitled, "The Role of Human Rights Bodies in Greece: Strengthening Fundamental Rights Impact Assessment through the EU Charter", organised by the Centre for European Constitutional Law — *Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation* on 10 July 2025. The GNCHR was represented by Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the Specialised Scientific Staff, and Specialised Scientific Officers Dr Katerina Charokopou and Dr Christos Tsevas. The GNCHR representatives shared the Commission's experience, highlighting both good practices and the challenges encountered in fulfilling the institution's mandate.

More information about the project is available at the following link: https://fair-project.org/



The GNCHR on the human rights impact assessment of Artificial Intelligence systems at a workshop of the University of Piraeus

On Saturday, 21 June 2025, the GNCHR participated in the Scientific Conference of Alumni of the Master's Programme Law and Information and Communication Technologies of the University of Piraeus. The GNCHR was represented by its Specialised Scientific Officer Dr Christos Tsevas, who delivered a presentation entitled "Human Rights Impact Assessment of Artificial Intelligence Systems: The Perspective of the GNCHR and the ENNHRI.

Further information on the conference is available here.

Announcements/Press Releases

GNCHR Statement on the need to respect the constitutionally guaranteed supervisory role of the Independent Authorities

On 19 February 2025, the GNCHR issued a Statement on the need to respect the constitutionally guaranteed oversight role of the Independent Authorities.

As the independent advisory body to the State and Greece's NHRI, the GNCHR has been closely monitoring developments relating to the rule of law, including respect for the constitutional role of the Independent Authorities, which serve as institutional checks and balances on the exercise of public power.

The GNCHR has consistently addressed recommendations and opinions to the State concerning the mandate of the Independent Authorities and has publicly intervened to safeguard their establishment and functioning in accordance with the Constitution. As the GNCHR has previously underlined, the constitutional recognition of the Independent Authorities through the 2001 constitutional revision reflected the legislator's clear intention to reinforce their institutional independence and ensure that they can protect rights without interference from the government of the day.

In this context, the GNCHR expresses deep concern over the statement issued by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy on 4 February 2025, which portrayed the investigation conducted by the Independent Authority of the Greek Ombudsman into the Pylos shipwreck as politically motivated, thereby disregarding its institutional role as the National Mechanism for the Investigation of Arbitrary Incidents.

The GNCHR Statement is available in PDF format.

GNCHR Statement on the protection of art in a democratic society

In a Statement published on 12 March 2025, the GNCHR, the independent advisory body to the State with broad competence across all fields of human rights, expressed concern following the vandalism of works of art exhibited at the National Gallery by a Member of Parliament.

The right to freedom of artistic expression is guaranteed by international and European instruments, including Article 19(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 15(1)(c) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and Article 13 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

The GNCHR Statement is available in PDF format.PDF format.



The GNCHR on the completion of the term of office of President of the Republic Katerina Sakellaropoulou

Following the completion of her term of office, the GNCHR paid tribute to Ms Katerina Sakellaropoulou, the first woman President of the Hellenic Republic, recognising her integrity, strong sense of public duty, dedication, modesty and respect for human rights. Of particular significance was her participation in the ceremonial Plenary meeting of the GNCHR on 10 December 2020, Human Rights Day, marking the first time that a sitting President of the Hellenic Republic had participated in a plenary meeting of Greece's NHRI.

Human Rights: essential every day! The GNCHR statement on Human Rights Day 2025

Marking Human Rights Day 2025, the GNCHR highlighted the essential role of National Human Rights Institutions in promoting and protecting human rights at a time when hard-won achievements of the international human rights system are increasingly being challenged across the world.

The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to further intensifying its efforts to address the complex and multifaceted areas of human rights protection and to respond to emerging human rights challenges in cooperation with its national and regional networks. Today, more than ever, human rights constitute an integral part of everyday life and an essential prerequisite for security, prosperity and human dignity.

The GNCHR press release is available in PDF format.

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

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 in the hardcore of the GNCHR mission.

Training Seminar Series: "The Next Day of Rights: Artificial Intelligence — Sustainability — Securitisation"



From September to December 2025, the GNCHR organised a series of five training seminars, open to the public, entitled, "The Next Day of Rights: Artificial Intelligence — Sustainability — Securitisation" Hosted by the Athens Bar Association, the seminars attracted significant public interest and participation. The opening session featured welcoming remarks by Vice-President Ms Marinetta Gounari-Hatzisarantou on behalf of Athens Bar Association President Mr Dimitris Vervesos. The seminars are available on the GNCHR YouTube channel.

More specifically, the following seminars were held within the framework of the Seminar Series:

1st Seminar, Monday, 29 September 2025: "Artificial Intelligence: Levels of Protection"

Speakers:

- Ms Sofia Kastranta, Senior Legal Adviser, Special Legal Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Dr Eufrosyni Siougle, Information Technology Specialised Scientific Officer, Head of the Department of Advisory Work / Opinions and Means of Compliance, Hellenic Data Protection Authority;
- Mr Eleftherios Chelioudakis, attorney at law and Executive Director of Homo Digitalis;
- Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer, GNCHR.

The seminar was moderated by the First Vice-President of the GNCHR, attorney at law Mr Giannis Ioannidis.

2nd Seminar, Monday, 13 October 2025: "Artificial Intelligence: Rights"

Speakers:

- Mr Giannis Mastrogeorgiou, Special Secretary for Strategic Foresight at the Presidency of the Government, on the topic: "Artificial Intelligence and Work: Augmentation, not Replacement";
- Dr Stefanos Gritzalis, Professor of Information and Communication Systems Security at the University of Piraeus and Member of the GNCHR, on the topic: "Algorithmic Governance, Generative Artificial Intelligence and Bias: Friends or Foes?" and
- Dr Fereniki Panagopoulou, Associate Professor in the Department of Public Administration at Panteion University, on the topic: "Artificial Intelligence and Health".

The seminar was moderated by Professor of International Law at the Athens Law School of the NKUA Maria Gavouneli, President of the GNCHR and by Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR.

3rd Seminar — Monday, 10 November 2025: "The Right to a Healthy Environment" The right to a healthy environment:

Speakers:

- Ms Theodota Nantsou, Head of Policy, WWF Greece, and Member of the GNCHR, on the topic: "Individual and Social Rights in Times of Climate Crisis";
- Mr Nikos Charalampidis, Executive Director of Greenpeace Greece, on the topic: "Human Rights and Environmental Protection: From Public Participation to Action and from Action to Legislation";
- Dr Sofia Kopela, Lawyer Teaching Law at Law School of the Democritus University of Thrace, on the topic: "The Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment in the Context of the Climate Crisis, with Particular Emphasis on Intergenerational Justice and the Rights of Nature";
- Dr Ilias Plakokefalos, Assistant Professor of Public International Law in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

The seminar was moderated by Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR.

4th Seminar — Monday, 24 November 2025: "The Cost-of-Living Crisis and Social Rights"

Speakers:

- Dr Panos Tsakloglou, Professor in the Department of International and European Economic Studies at the Athens University of Economics and Business;
- Ms Marianella Kloka, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Greek Anti-Poverty Network;
- Ms Anastasia Chatzipavlou, Director of the Consumers' Workers Union of Greece;
- Ms Vasiliki Poula, PhD Candidate in Urban Infrastructure, University of Oxford — Content Director, 1830 Lab.

The seminar was moderated by Dr Petros Stangos, Emeritus Professor, in Law School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, former Member and Vice-President of the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe.

5th Seminar — Securitisation and Human Rights

Speakers:

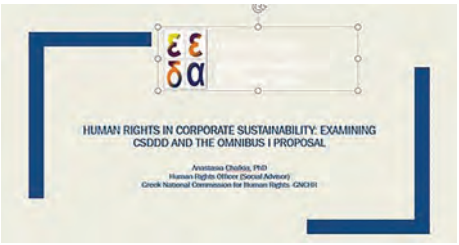
- Ms Oleksandra Zub, Adviser to the Secretary-General of the ENNHRI;
- Dr Sofia Vidali, former Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy, Panteion University;
- Dr Sofia Vidali, former Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy, Panteion University;
- Dr Dimitris Koros, Adjunct Lecturer in Law, School of Democritus University of Thrace; Associated teaching staff, Hellenic Open University;
- Dr Chara Karagiannopoulou, Associate Professor of Comparative and International Politics, Panteion University.

The seminar was moderated by Giannis Ioannidis, First Vice-President of the GNCHR, attorney at law.

Human rights education in schools and higher education institutions

Recognising that the ultimate objective of human rights education is to introduce and integrate international human rights standards and practices

into people's everyday lives, the GNCHR undertook the following initiatives in this field during 2025:



Presentation by the GNCHR to students of the English-speaking LL.M. in International and European Law of the NKUA School of Law

The GNCHR participated in the English-language LL.M. Programme in International and European Legal Studies of the Law School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Dr Anastasia Chalkia, Specialised Scientific Officer, represented the GNCHR and delivered a presentation entitled, "Human Rights in Corporate Sustainability: Examining the CSDDD & the Omnibus I Proposal".

The presentation focused on the transition from voluntary to binding legal obligations for businesses with regard to human rights and the environment, while also analysing the role of international organisations, such as the United Nations and the OSCE, and NHRIs, with emphasis on the contribution of the GNCHR.



The GNCHR at the Human Rights Moot Court Competition of ELSA Athens & ELSA Queen Mary

Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer, participated as Academic Coordinator in the English-language Human Rights Moot Court Competition, organised once again by ELSA Athens in cooperation with the ELSA society of Queen Mary University of London, under the auspices of the *Marangopoulos*

Foundation for Human Rights. The competition comprises preliminary rounds and a final, in which students compete in cases concerning alleged violations of the European Convention on Human Rights and the protection of human rights before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

Presentation by the GNCHR to students in the English-language LL.M. in International and European Law of the NKUA School of Law (2025)

On 12 May 2025, the GNCHR participated in the English-language Postgraduate Programme in International and European Legal Studies of the Law School of the NKUA. Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officer, represented the GNCHR and delivered a presentation entitled, «European Social Charter: New developments, Business and Human Rights.»

On-line GNCHR training, in the framework of the course "Security and Human Rights"

On Tuesday, 27 May 2025, the GNCHR delivered an on-line training session in the framework of the course "Security and Human Rights" of the Department of Social Policy of Democritus University, at the invitation of the Department's Associate Professor, Dr Nikolaos K. Koulouris. The training session featured presentations by Dr Katerina Charokopou and Dr Christos Tsevas, Specialised Scientific Officers, who presented, *inter alia*, the National Commission's work, its responsibilities and how they are carried out, as well as its interventions regarding law enforcement bodies —particularly the Hellenic Police— its powers and how they are exercised, its activities and the oversight thereof, and the protection of human rights with an emphasis on vulnerable groups, racial profiling, ECtHR case law on police violence, and the execution of judgements finding violations of the European Convention on Human Rights by law-enforcement authorities.

The GNCHR at the "Law and Art" series of talks at the NKUA School of Law

On Thursday, 4 December 2025, the event "Breaths Behind the Walls: Painting from Inside Prison" took place at the Library of the Athens Law School.

The GNCHR was represented by Dr Anastasia Chalkia, Specialised Scientific Officer, who highlighted the Commission's role in protecting the rights of persons deprived of their liberty and addressed key aspects of the current situation in Greek prisons. Visit of the Arsakeio–Tositseio General Upper Secondary School of Ekali and Psychiko to the GNCHR

On Tuesday, 18 June 2025, students of the First Grade of the Arsakeio–Tositseio General Upper Secondary School of Ekali and Psychiko, accompanied by their teacher, Ms Ioanna Kourti, visited the premises of the GNCHR. The President of the GNCHR, Professor Maria Gavouneli, and members of the National Commission staff welcomed the students and introduced them to the GNCHR mandate and its practical contribution to the effective protection of human rights.

A discussion followed with the President and the GNCHR staff on contemporary human rights challenges, with the aim of raising awareness and fostering a culture of respect for human rights. Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer, also presented the GNCHR role and work.

GNCHR educational activity at the 10th Lower Secondary School of Piraeus on Human Rights Day

The GNCHR carried out an educational activity at the 10th Lower Secondary School of Piraeus on Wednesday, 10 December 2025, Human Rights Day 2025. Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer of the GNCHR, in the framework of awareness-raising activities carried out by the National Commission, visited the school and spoke about the protection of children and the prohibition of discrimination against them, with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups of children.

A discussion with the students followed, aimed at fostering a culture of respect for human rights.



Visit of the 2nd Arsakeio -Tositseio General Upper Secondary School of Ekali to the GNCHR premises

On Tuesday, 18 February 2025, students in the third grade of the Second Arsakeio–Tositseio General Upper Secondary School of Ekali, specialising in

Humanities Studies, accompanied by their teacher, Mr Ilias Androvitsaneas, visited the premises of the GNCHR. The students were introduced to the GNCHR's role and mandate, as well as to its practical contribution to the effective realisation of the protection of human rights.

A discussion followed with the GNCHR staff on contemporary human rights challenges, with the aim of raising awareness and fostering a culture of respect for human rights.

Training programmes for professionals

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

Working meeting of the National Coordination Authority (NCA) and the GNCHR on training staff in the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

A working meeting was held on Thursday, 23 January 2025 at the Ministry of National Economy and Finance, in the framework of the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the National Coordination Authority and the GNCHR. At the working meeting, which was the first for 2025, emphasis was placed on the preparation of training for staff of Special Managing Authorities with the aim of strengthening the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The Ministry of National Economy and Finance was represented at the meeting by the following officials: Ms Ioanna – Athina Nikolaidou, Ms Zeta Astra, Ms Eleftheria Efthymiou, Ms Georgia Tsoni and Mr Andreas Kanellopoulos, and Dr Katerina Charokpou on the part of the NCHR.



The GNCHR at the seminar of MOU S.A. entitled, “Management and Control System and Monitoring Information System (OPS) in the 2021-2027 Programming Period: New developments”

The GNCHR participated in the seminar organised by MOD S.A. at its premises on the topic “Management and Control System and the OPS in the 2021–2027 Programming Period: New developments,” on Wednesday, 12 February 2025. The GNCHR was represented by Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer, who delivered a presentation entitled, “The Charter in the NSRF 2021–2027.”

The seminar was addressed to staff of the Special Management Agencies of the Regions of Western Greece and the Peloponnese.

The GNCHR at the MOU S.A. seminar in. Thessaloniki on the implementation of the Charter in the NSRF 2021-27

The GNCHR participated in the seminar organised by MOD S.A. at its premises on the topic “Management and Control System and the OPS in the 2021–2027 Programming Period: New developments,” on Wednesday, 12 February 2025. The GNCHR was represented by Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer, who delivered a presentation entitled, “The role of the GNCHR in the implementation of the Charter in the NSRF 2021–2027 The seminar was

addressed to staff of the Special Management Agencies of the Regions of Central Macedonia, Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, and Thessaly, and was held in Thessaloniki from 27 to 28 March 2025.

The GNCHR on the Charter in the NSRF 2021-2027

The GNCHR participated in the seminar organised by MOD S.A. at its premises on the topic "Management and Control System and the OPS in the 2021–2027 Programming Period: New developments," on Thursday, 06 March 2025. The GNCHR was represented by Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer, who delivered a presentation entitled, "The Charter in the NSRF 2021–2027."



The seminar was addressed to staff of the Special Management Agencies of the Regions of the North and South Aegean.

The GNCHR at the MOU S.A. seminar on the implementation of the Charter in the NSRF 2021-2027

The GNCHR participated in the seminar organised by MOD S.A. at its premises on the topic "Management and Control System and the OPS in the 2021–2027 Programming Period: New developments," on Thursday, 3 April 2025. The GNCHR was represented by Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer, who delivered a presentation entitled, "The role of the GNCHR in the implementation of the Charter in the NSRF 2021–2027 The seminar was addressed to staff of the Special Management Agencies of the Regions of Crete and the Peloponnese.

GNCHR training at the MOU S.A. seminar on topic "Management and Control System and the OPS in the 2021–2027 Programming Period: New developments"

The GNCHR participated in the seminar organised by MOD S.A. at its premises on the topic "Management and Control System and the OPS in the

2021–2027 Programming Period: New developments," on Tuesday, 13 May 2025. The GNCHR was represented by Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer, who delivered a presentation entitled, "The Charter in the NSRF 2021–2027."

The seminar was addressed to staff of the Special Management Agencies of the "Digital Transformation 2021–2027" Programme.

GNCHR training at MOU on the implementation of the European Charter in the NSRF 2021-2027

The GNCHR participated in the seminar organised by MOD S.A. at its premises on the topic "Management and Control System and the OPS in the 2021–2027 Programming Period: New developments," on Thursday, 19 June 2025. The GNCHR was represented by Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer, who delivered a presentation entitled, "The Charter in the NSRF 2021–2027."

The seminar was addressed to staff of the Special Management Agencies of the "Human Resources and Social Cohesion 2021–2027" Programme.

The GNCHR at the MOU seminar on the topic "Management and Control System and OPS in the 2021-2027 Programming Period: New developments"

On 3 July 2025, Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the Scientific Staff, participated in an MOU S.A. seminar entitled "Management and Control System and the OPS in the 2021–2027 Programming Period: New developments", intended for staff of the Special Management Agencies under the NSRF 2021–2027 "Environment and Climate Change" and "Civil Protection" Programmes.

Ms Tzavala's presentation focused on the implementation the Charter in the NSRF 2021–2027.

The GNCHR at the seminar entitled, "Management and Control System and OPS in the 2021-2027 Programming Period: New developments"

The GNCHR participated, in the seminar organised by MOD S.A. at its premises on the topic "Management and Control System and the OPS in the 2021–2027 Programming Period: New developments", on Monday, 3 November 2025, at the TITANIA Hotel . The GNCHR was represented by Dr Katerina Charokopou,

Specialised Scientific Officer, who delivered a presentation entitled, "The Charter in the NSRF 2021–2027."

The seminar was addressed to staff of the Special Management Agency for Transport of the "Transport" Programme.



The GNCHR at an ECHOFunds project event on Enhancing Compliance of European Funds with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

The GNCHR, represented by Ms Eva Tzavala, Coordinator of the Scientific Staff of the National Commission, and Dr Katerina Charokopou, Specialised Scientific Officer participated on Wednesday, 3 December 2025 in the Dissemination Event of the project "ECHOFunds — Enhancing Compliance of European Funds with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights", co-organised by the project partners, namely the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Austria), the Centre for European Constitutional Law (CECL — Greece), the Institute for Law and Society (INPRIS — Poland), and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights (project leader, Austria).

ALLOCATION OF THE GNCHR RESOURCES



ALLOCATION OF THE GNCHR RESOURCES

The GNCHR is financed for its operating expenditure and staff salaries from the national budget, in addition to other resources of funding, which have been previously approved by its Plenary Assembly. In particular, pursuant to the provisions of Law 4780/2021, Article 17: *"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 shall be possible, provided that it is approved by the Plenary of the GNCHR. The allocation of appropriations and the commitment of the corresponding expenditure shall be made by the President of the GNCHR as Chief Authorising Officer. By decision of its President, the GNCHR may open a simple bank account to which the appropriations resulting from the programmes referred to in paragraph 3 as well as from other resources, shall be transferred. 2. The GNCHR shall draw up its own budget drafted under the responsibility of its President, without requiring a partnership of another body. The budget shall be drawn up on an annual basis and submitted directly to the Greek General Accounting Office, in accordance with the procedure provided for in the Public Accounting System.*

Since 1 December 2023, the GNCHR has acquired financial autonomy as a general government entity and independent administrative authority, and holds the distinct analytical expenditure account 2310802067 (Ministerial Decision No 2/86269/ΔΠΓΚ "*Amendment of Ministerial Decision No 2/58493/ΔΠΓΚ/31.07.2018 on the economic and administrative classification of the State budget*"- Official Government Gazette, B 3422, 28.07.2021) For 2025, the appropriations entered in the GNCHR budget totalled EUR 753,000.00 from State grant and EUR 81,841.87 from European Union programmes.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE GNCHR



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The 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"** (Official Government Gazette, A 30, 28.2.2021) the provisions of which now govern the operation of the National Commission. The GNCHR has acquired legal personality, functional, administrative and financial independence, under the provisions of Law 4780/2021, amending its founding legislation.

ORGANISATION of the GNCHR Presidential Decree 74/2023 A 128).





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