



## NEWS REPORT

**Date:** 09 December 2011  
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**Title:** Anti-discrimination Authority Annual Report 2010  
**Country:** Cyprus  
**Context**

**Issue at stake:** The Anti-discrimination Authority, one of the two bodies comprising the national equality body, issues its annual report for 2010

**Ground of discrimination:** All grounds

**Source:** Annual Report of the Anti-discrimination Authority for the year 2010

**Field:** All fields beyond employment

**Legislative provisions:** The Combating Racial and Certain Other Discriminations (Commissioner) Law of 2004, in harmonisation with directive 2000/43/EC; the Equal Treatment (Race or Ethnic Origin) Law of 2004, in harmonization with directives 2000/78/EC and 2000/43/EC.

### Content

**Description:** The annual report was published in both English and Greek and records in 78 pages the activities of the Anti-discrimination Authority<sup>1</sup> during 2010. The introductory note by the new Ombudsman and head of the Equality Body focuses entirely on attitudes towards immigration, stating that although immigration has proven to be beneficial for the economy and has enriched the national culture, attitudes towards immigrants are ambiguous, manifesting mostly negative behaviors, namely racism, intolerance and discrimination affecting not only migrants but also other vulnerable groups. The introduction underlies the need to develop a new approach and response towards immigration, beyond the practices of deterring the arrival of immigrants, the inadequate consolidation of their

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<sup>1</sup> The Anti-discrimination Authority is one of the two units comprising the Equality Body, which deals with all grounds of discrimination in all fields beyond employment. The other unit is the Equality Authority which deals with all grounds (including gender) in the employment field.

rights, border control and the combating of illegal immigration, referring to a “historic occasion for society to rise with self-confidence to the challenges of an ever changing world.”

The report describes the activities of the Equality Body for the year under review, which include the awareness raising campaign funded under the “Progress”

Program, the issue of the Code of Conduct on Disability and the Guidelines for the media, the creation of the Equality Body’s own website, the unit’s participation and presentations in public events and stakeholders’ meetings at both national and EU level, its role and participation in the National Working Group against Discrimination, in Equinet and in the Special Committee of Experts for the inclusion of immigrants set up by the Ministry of Interior for the drafting of the first National Action Plan on Social Inclusion of Immigrants. During the year under review, as in previous years, the focus of the activities of the Anti-Discrimination Body was the investigation of individual complaints related to racism and discrimination and the provision of independent aid to victims of discrimination. The reports issued concerned the following: Police operations aimed at the control, arrest, detention and deportation of immigrants with summary proceedings; access of undocumented immigrants to public health services; support of the education of students of Maronite, Armenian and Latin origin attending private secondary education schools; transfer of property to and from Turkish Cypriots residing in the Government controlled area; detention and deportation order for an HIV-positive EU citizen; duties and taxes imposed on European citizens; same-sex couple relationships; women prisoners and their admission into the Open Prison and the Centre for Non-Institutional Occupation; foreign detainee ill-treated on the grounds of his religious beliefs; minimum age limit for appointment to the position of Certifying Officer; age criterion of the Subsidy Scheme for infertile couples for IVF treatment; age restriction in the provision of financial aid to cover the cost of robotic radical prostatectomy abroad and others. Special emphasis is placed on its mediation role and the results of the mediation activities are listed in detail (17 cases or 11% were resolved as a result of the unit’s successful mediation).

The statistical data section offers the following information: From its establishment on 1 May 2004 until the end of 2010, the Body has received a total of 1014 complaints. In particular:

- In 2010 the Anti-discrimination Authority received 158 complaints; in 2009, 151; in 2008, 241; in 2007, 157; in 2006, 105; in 2005, 141; and in 2004, 61.
- In 2010 the complainants were 43 Greek Cypriots (31%); 48 EU citizens (30%); 44 third country nationals (28%); 17 Turkish Cypriots (11%).
- In 2010 the grounds of discrimination complained of were: 121 complaints on the ground of race/ethnic origin (76%); 18 complaints on the ground of religion or belief or family status (11%); 9 disability (6%); 8 age (5%); 1 sexual orientation (1%); 1 gender (1%).
- In 2010 the fields of discrimination complained of were: 47 complaints in the field of social protection, social insurance or health care (30%); 37 complaints in the field of public benefits (23%); 49 in the field of access to goods and services and housing (31%); 25 in the field of education (16%).

During 2010, the investigation of 154 individual complaints was completed. A total of 16 reports with recommendations were submitted in relation to 25 of these complaints.

**Internet link source:** [http://www.no-discrimination.ombudsman.gov.cy/sites/default/files/report\\_of\\_the\\_anti-discrimination\\_body\\_for\\_the\\_year\\_2010.pdf](http://www.no-discrimination.ombudsman.gov.cy/sites/default/files/report_of_the_anti-discrimination_body_for_the_year_2010.pdf)