



**Pledge submitted by the Republic of Cyprus to the Human Rights 75 Secretariat
December 2023**

Original language of submission: English

Type of pledge: Single (by one state/actor)

Pledging entity: Government of the Republic of Cyprus

PLEDGE NUMBER 1: Femicide, the gender-related killing of women and girls, is the most extreme and brutal manifestation of gender-based violence. In 2022, Cyprus introduced femicide in the national legal framework, as an offence, separate of the offence of homicide. The offence of femicide has been worded and recognized, by demonstrating Cyprus' political will to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence, to make visible this extreme form of gender-based violence, to deconstruct gender stereotypes and achieve gender equality in line with CEDAW and Istanbul Convention. Cyprus is committed to develop a disaggregated data collection system and develop trainings to all relevant stakeholders. We envisage at reducing considerably gender-based violence incidents. We aim at raising universal awareness about criminalizing femicide as a means of contributing to further address gender inequalities.

Since 2017, Cyprus operates a Children's House aiming at providing services to child victims of sexual abuse, based on a multidisciplinary/multiagency approach. Services include forensic interview, medical, psychological and social support under one roof, ensuring the best interests of the child. To further reach out to children in need of protection and considering that the operation of the existing Children's House has been successful, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus pledges to establish by 2026 a second Children's House with the same mandate.

Expected deadline within which pledge will be realised: Dec 31, 2026

PLEDGE NUMBER 2: The respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy and welfare of persons with disabilities constitutes a core element of the Cyprus' social development strategies. To this end, the Cyprus Government pledges to develop a new 5-year National Strategy and Action Plan for disability, aiming at enhancing the social inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities based on the values and principles of UNCRPD. The strategy will include comprehensive measures and actions with measurable objectives, to be developed in collaboration with civil society organizations, including increasing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, through new structures offering access to employment in social enterprises, as well as enhancing independent living through new programs of support services in the community.

Considering the rise of racist discourse on a European and global level, the threats that this entails to human rights and with a view to tackle discrimination on any ground, the Cyprus

Government pledges to apply a holistic application of the antiracist policy at schools, a vital component of building social respect and safeguarding human rights. The new planning establishes a monitoring mechanism aiming at standardizing the assessment of the implementation of the antiracist policy at schools, which includes a comprehensive set of measures to prevent and for teachers to react to discrimination incidents in the school environment. By monitoring the antiracist policy, the Government is aiming at pre-empting racist incidents, eliminating discrimination behaviors and upholding respect for all.

Expected deadline within which pledge will be realised: Dec 31, 2028