
World Programme for Human Rights Education

At the Cyprus Police Academy, human rights issues are included in the curriculum of all ranking officers and recruits. The courses for recruit police officers, inspectors, sergeants, chief inspectors and special constables include:

Basic Training Program for Recruit Police Officers – Semester I

- Citizens Rights Charter
- Communication in a Multicultural Society
- Treatment and needs of detainees

Basic Training Program for Recruit Police Officers – Semester IV

- Law on Equal Treatment of Men and Women
- Racial Discrimination and other forms of Discrimination
- Asylum and Refugees
- Securing Human Rights: Law Enforcement Agencies, the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus and International Law
- The implementation of the Schengen Agreement – Asylum
- Policing a Multicultural Society

Inspectors' Course

- Enforcement of Human Rights by Law Enforcement Agencies
- Communication in a Multicultural Society
- Citizens Rights Charter
- Convention on the Implementation of the Schengen Agreement

Sergeants' Course

- Enforcement of Human Rights by Law Enforcement Agencies
- Human Rights/ Migration and Asylum issues
- Citizens Rights Charter
- Communication in a Multicultural Society

Chief Inspectors' Course

- Policing a Multicultural Society
- Communication in a Multicultural Society
- Securing Human Rights: Law Enforcement Agencies, the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus and International Law
- The implementation of the Schengen Agreement – Asylum

Basic Training Program for Special Constables

- Policing a Multicultural Society
- Communication in a Multicultural Society

- Securing Human Rights: Law Enforcement Agencies, the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus and International Law

Basic C.I.D. Course

- Human Rights/ Asylum and Migration

The Police Human Rights Office has prepared a one-day seminar titled "Treatment of detainees" for 600 police members who are directly or indirectly involved with detainees. During the period 09/2010 - 07/2011, 200 police members attended the seminar. The seminar focuses on issues concerning the treatment of detainees, the living conditions in the police detention centers and the needs of detainees. Moreover, it elaborates on the provisions of national legislation and of international conventions for the protection of human rights and the prevention of torture. A representative of Ministry of Health lectures on HIV/AIDS and other contagious diseases, and an official of the Ombudsman Office lectures on the treatment, the living conditions of detainees, the new competences of the Ombudsman according to the provisions of the optional protocol of United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (L. 2(III)/2009), etc.

As regards training on issues of discrimination, the police training focuses on harmonizing police mentality with the new multicultural environment of the Cyprus society. Great emphasis is given on building and maintaining a positive approach by Police Members towards all individuals, regardless of their culture, belief, age, religion, language, ethnic origin, sexual orientation and gender. A series of training courses regarding discrimination, racism and xenophobia, are taught at the Cyprus Police Academy at various levels (basic police training, Sergeants' and Inspectors' Courses). Additionally, members of the Police participate in seminars on these issues abroad.

It is also worth noting that for the period 2009-2010, the European Union co-financed a project for the Cyprus Police concerning discrimination and diversity, which included the organization of seminars, the dissemination of information leaflets and the presentation of a study concerning equality between men and women in the Police. The Project included the following actions and outcomes:

- Two conferences on the 17th and 18th of December 2010, in Nicosia, under the title "Police and Diversity" with participants from abroad, experts in the field, representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, and also members of the Police.
- Train the trainer seminar on "Diversity and Policing" that took place on the 9th and 10th of December 2010, in Nicosia. The training included lectures by members of the Police and representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations which deal with these issues.
- A Conference on "Woman and Police" was held on the 13th of December 2010, in Nicosia.

- A Police Guide on awareness and sensitivity in dealing with multi-cultural and multi-religious situations as a handbook of good practices and a training tool in police training was developed in cooperation with an NGO.

Moreover, police officers of various ranks are constantly trained abroad on issues concerning human rights, racism, discrimination, police ethics, police corruption etc. and they actively participate in seminars, courses, workshops and roundtables organized by CEPOL (European Police College), FRA (Fundamental Rights Agency), FRONTEX and other foreign competent organizations.

Additionally, members of the Cyprus Police participate in seminars and conferences on trafficking of human beings. Lectures on trafficking in Human Beings are also included in Police Academy's basic course attended by recruit police officers, as well as the Crime Investigation Department's and the Sergeant's courses. During those courses, special attention is given to the below subjects:

- Indicators for victim's identification
- Knowledge about trauma
- Handling of potential victims of THB
- Protection of victim's human rights

Recently the Identification of Victims of Human Trafficking Guide was issued, concerning the procedure of identifying victims of Human Trafficking. This Guide is mostly based on the recommendations of several international Organizations such as ILO, ICMPD, INTERPOL and WHO regarding the victim identification process.

Cyprus Police has also issued and circulated an Operational Guide on Trafficking of Human Beings for Police Officers. It includes guidelines for the identification of victims of human trafficking and for the investigation of such cases.

The Cyprus Police Academy Library holds an entire section on human rights issues, which is available to all Police officers.