



**Committee of the Parties  
to the Council of Europe Convention  
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**

**Recommendation CP/Rec(2025)06  
on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention  
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings  
by Cyprus**

***adopted at the 36th meeting of the Committee of the Parties  
on 20 June 2025***

The Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"), acting under the terms of Article 38(7) of the Convention;

Having regard to the purposes of the Convention to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, while guaranteeing gender equality, protect the human rights of victims of trafficking, design a comprehensive framework for the protection and assistance of victims and witnesses, ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of the offences related to trafficking in human beings, and promote international co-operation;

Bearing in mind the provisions of Article 36(1) of the Convention concerning the monitoring role of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in the implementation of the Convention;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Parties;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification deposited by Cyprus on 25 October 2007;

Having examined the fourth report concerning the implementation of the Convention by Cyprus, adopted by GRETA at its 52nd meeting (18-22 November 2024);

Bearing in mind the focus of the fourth evaluation round of the Convention on vulnerabilities to human trafficking and measures taken to prevent them, detect and support vulnerable victims, and punish the offenders, as well as the additional focus on the use of information and communication technology (ICT);

Considering the conclusions and proposals for action contained in Appendix 2 of GRETA's fourth report on Cyprus related to the thematic focus of the fourth evaluation round and the follow-up topics specific to Cyprus;

Welcoming the measures taken and the progress achieved by Cyprus in implementing the Convention, and in particular:

- the adoption of the National Strategy on the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings for the period 2023-2026, along with an Action Plan, which include measures to address vulnerabilities to human trafficking;
- the increase of the staff of the Police Office for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, which is responsible for the formal identification of victims and the investigation of cases of trafficking;

- the establishment of an Anti-trafficking Unit within the Social Welfare Services, tasked with co-ordinating the provision of assistance to victims of trafficking;
- the provision of training and guidance on detecting human trafficking to relevant staff, including those involved in the asylum procedure and labour inspectors, and the increase in the detection of presumed victims of trafficking among asylum seekers and victims of labour exploitation;
- the steps taken to raise awareness among the younger population about online safety and prevent risks of ICT-facilitated trafficking.

A. Recommends that the Government of Cyprus take measures to address the following issues for urgent action<sup>1</sup> identified in GRETA's report:

1. take measures to prevent trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, taking into account GRETA's Guidance Note on combating trafficking for labour exploitation and the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation to Member States CM/Rec(2022)21 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, including by:
  - ensuring that migrant workers enjoy the same rights and protections, including the same minimum wage, as Cypriot and EU workers;
  - increasing oversight of the employment of foreign domestic workers and allowing them to change employers without their immigration status being affected (paragraph 52);
2. take appropriate measures to prevent asylum seekers from becoming victims of trafficking in human beings, in particular by:
  - ensuring that a vulnerability assessment is systematically carried out in respect of all persons accommodated in asylum reception centres in order to identify their individual vulnerabilities and needs;
  - ensuring that asylum seekers, including those with disabilities, have access to adequate support and health care;
  - providing timely access to the labour market for asylum seekers;
  - reducing the amount of time unaccompanied and separated children spend in asylum reception centres and ensuring that they are placed in safe and appropriate accommodation and have access to education as early as possible;
  - ensuring that the age assessment procedure is conducted without delay and in line with international standards, including the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation to Member States CM/Rec(2022)22 on human rights principles and guidelines on age assessment in the context of migration;
  - ending the practice of forced returns (pushbacks) of asylum seekers, including vulnerable individuals, into the buffer zone, as it increases the risk that these individuals will be exposed to human trafficking (paragraph 66);
3. take further steps to improve the identification of victims of trafficking, including by:
  - ensuring that the formal identification of victims of trafficking by the Police Office for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings is not dependent on the possibility to investigate and prosecute the case;
  - proactively identifying victims of trafficking in human beings among domestic workers;

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<sup>1</sup> The number of the paragraph setting out GRETA's proposals in the report is indicated in brackets.

- ensuring that a vulnerability assessment is systematically carried out in respect of all asylum seekers and that it includes the detection of possible indicators of trafficking in human beings;
  - ensuring that a proper procedure is in place for the identification of victims of trafficking among irregular migrants, including by duly conducting individualised risk assessments prior to any forced return, fully assessing the risks of trafficking or re-trafficking on return. In this context, full consideration should be given to the UNHCR's Guidelines on the application of the Refugees Convention to trafficked persons and GRETA's Guidance note on the entitlement of victims of trafficking, and persons at risk of being trafficked, to international protection;
  - providing training on trafficking in human beings to social workers, asylum officers, health care providers, prison staff and other relevant professionals involved in the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings (paragraph 91);
4. improve the provision of assistance to victims of trafficking, in particular by:
- ensuring that all presumed victims of trafficking receive the assistance measures they are entitled to under Article 12 of the Convention, tailored to their specific needs;
  - ensuring that presumed victims of trafficking identified in the asylum procedure are provided with specialised assistance and adequate accommodation outside of reception centres, fully taking into account their vulnerabilities and ensuring that they are not exposed to further exploitation and re-trafficking;
  - providing adequate funding for NGOs which provide assistance measures and accommodation to victims of trafficking (paragraph 103);
5. ensure that victims of trafficking in human beings, including child victims, receive specialised legal assistance and free legal aid at an early stage of the criminal proceedings, and throughout the latter. Legal assistance should be provided as soon as there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person is a victim of human trafficking, before the person concerned has to decide whether or not to co-operate with the authorities and/or make an official statement. Furthermore, training should be provided to lawyers representing victims of trafficking (paragraph 145);
6. take further steps to facilitate and guarantee victims' access to compensation, in particular by:
- setting up, as a matter of priority, a victim compensation fund and amending the legislation with a view to ensuring that state compensation is not conditional on failure to obtain compensation through civil proceedings;
  - enabling all victims of trafficking to exercise their right to compensation, by ensuring access to legal aid and building the capacity of legal practitioners to support victims in claiming compensation;
  - ensuring that the collection of evidence about the harm the victim has suffered, including the financial gain from the exploitation of the victim, is part of the criminal investigations with a view to supporting compensation claims in court;
  - ensuring victims' right to claim compensation through civil proceedings regardless of the outcome of the criminal proceedings;
  - including compensation in the training programmes for prosecutors and the judiciary, and encouraging them to use all the possibilities the law offers to uphold compensation claims by victims of trafficking (paragraph 150);
7. specify in law that a recovery and reflection period be granted when there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person is a victim of human trafficking, as provided for in Article 13 of the Convention. Reference is made in this context to GRETA's Guidance Note on the recovery and reflection period (paragraph 153);

- B. Bearing in mind GRETA's conclusions that certain recommendations made repeatedly in preceding evaluation rounds have not been implemented or have been only partially implemented, requests the Cypriot authorities to take steps to implement the recommendations in points 4, 5, 6 and 7 as a matter of priority;
- C. Recommends that the Cypriot authorities take measures to implement the other proposals for action listed in Appendix 2 of GRETA's fourth evaluation report;
- D. Requests the Cypriot Government to report to the Committee of the Parties on the measures taken to comply with this recommendation **by 20 June 2027**;
- E. Invites the Cypriot Government to continue the dialogue in progress with GRETA and to keep GRETA regularly informed of the measures taken in response to GRETA's conclusions.