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Greece

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I. Process for the preparation of the report – General framework

1. The present report focuses on the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Greece during the third UPR cycle, reflecting the legislative, institutional and policy measures adopted since the previous review. An overview of the state of play was provided in our voluntary mid-term progress report, submitted in 2024.
2. The drafting of the report was coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in close cooperation with all Ministries involved in the promotion and protection of human rights. The final draft of the report was submitted to Greece's NHRI, the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR). The Commission's views were taken into consideration in the finalization of this report.
3. The reporting period has been characterized by sustained legislative and institutional initiatives, underpinned by continued efforts to foster effective inter-agency coordination and ensure rigorous follow-up of national action plans against measurable indicators.
4. Landmark legislation has reinforced the protection of women against all forms of violence, broadened support structures for victims, and advanced gender equality in employment and public life. Freedom of opinion and expression has been strengthened through the decriminalization of simple defamation, enhancement of the safety of journalists and protection of persons who engage in public participation. Greece has modernized its justice system and accelerated the administration of justice. Significant progress has been achieved in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities, with new frameworks for independent living, expanded employment quotas and improved accessibility across public services. In the field of migration and asylum, Greece has consolidated its reception and asylum system, reduced processing times and built dedicated protection structures for unaccompanied minors, including a national guardianship system now in operational deployment. New legislation implementing the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum aims to combine effective border management, expedited examination of applications for international protection, safeguards for persons in need, and the enforcement of returns for those not entitled to remain. The rights of the child have been advanced through comprehensive child protection legislation, a national strategy on violence prevention and juvenile delinquency, and a pioneering regulatory initiative to protect minors in the digital environment. In the area of social rights, Greece has raised the minimum wage, and expanded housing support through a multi-billion-euro program.

II. Implementation of recommendations from the previous cycle

Ratification of international instruments

5. Greece ratified in 2025 the Protocol to ILO Convention 29 (Forced Labor Convention). It has signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and the Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer.

Legal and institutional framework¹

6. The institutional framework for the protection of human rights has significantly evolved. The new Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs integrates policies on human rights, gender equality, child rights and vulnerable groups, promoting a coordinated, whole-of-government approach. The GNCHR operates under a legislative framework guaranteeing its independence and functional capacity; the Greek Ombudsperson, an independent authority, has been designated as the National Preventive Mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the CAT, examines complaints about the conduct of law enforcement personnel, and has assumed the role of the equality body.
7. National strategies and action plans address a wide range of issues, including the fight against racism and intolerance, women's rights, children's rights, trafficking in human beings,

the rights of Roma, the rights of persons with disabilities, and the safety of journalists. Their implementation is carefully monitored, to ensure effectiveness.

Combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance²

National action plan and institutional framework

8. Greece has continued to implement Law 4285/2014, which criminalizes public incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence on grounds of race, color, religion, descent, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. Article 82A of the Criminal Code establishes a comprehensive list of characteristics constituting aggravating grounds for hate crimes; since those amendments entered into force, prosecutions and convictions have increased significantly.

9. The National Council against Racism and Intolerance (NCRI), an inter-ministerial body also comprising the GNCHR, the Greek Ombudsman and other independent bodies, chaired by the General Secretary for Equality and Human Rights (Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs), adopted in February 2026 the second National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance. Drawing on an evaluation of the previous 2020–2023 Plan, which identified fragmented implementation, weak inter-agency coordination and over-reliance on project-based funding, the new Plan marks a shift toward a holistic, evidence-based approach aligned with EU equality strategies. In its report, the GNCHR stressed the importance of dedicated resources allowing the Council to better fulfill its mandate.

10. The Plan is structured around five strategic pillars: prevention and elimination of stereotypes; combating racist crime and empowering victims; education and professional training on discrimination; public awareness and counter-narrative initiatives; and governance, monitoring and accountability. A key structural innovation is the mainstreaming of anti-racism measures into the regular budgets of participating ministries, moving away from project-based financing. Implementation is further supported by the EU-funded ECOSYSTEM project, which has developed a multilingual (11 languages) digital platform³ now integrated into permanent state infrastructure, and will be monitored through annual reports, real-time progress tracking, a mid-term review and a final impact evaluation.

11. Within the same framework, the Council has produced and disseminated the guide “Public Administration against Racist Crime and Hate Speech”.

12. Law 5187/2025 established the Community-Oriented Policing Directorate as a permanent institutional structure focusing on vulnerable groups and communities at risk of social exclusion. Its Department for Combating Racism is mandated to prevent, detect and respond to racist conduct, hate speech and hate crime through standardized procedures, systematic incident recording, specialized training and a victim-centered approach, to prevent secondary victimization. Anti-racism objectives are integrated into the Hellenic Police's Strategic Operational Plan, Racist Violence Response Services and First Response Services operate nationwide, and training on hate crime and hate speech extends across frontline, operational and specialized units.

13. The National Council for Radio and Television's (NCRT) competence, pursuant to Law 5253/2025, now encompasses all audiovisual media service providers, including internet-based platforms, with authority to impose administrative sanctions for non-compliance with rules on human dignity, hate speech, privacy, accuracy of information and the presumption of innocence. The EU Digital Services Act, implemented by Law 5099/2024, grants any individual the right to lodge a complaint against online platforms and search engines before the Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission (EETT), which has established a dedicated online complaint mechanism.

14. The judicial system responded, with full respect for due process, to the criminal activities of an organization that operated under the guise of a political party and was found responsible for racist and other serious criminal acts. Legislative provisions adopted in 2023 bar political parties from parliamentary elections where electoral law conditions are not met, including where individuals convicted of racist acts and certain other serious offenses

exercise the party's actual leadership, subject to the *ex officio* review by the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court. Public funding of political parties may also be suspended, under conditions laid down in 2024 legislation, where party leadership is prosecuted for serious offenses, including criminal organization membership.

LGBTIQ+ rights

15. Survey data have indicated high rates of perceived discrimination among LGBTIQ+ individuals, underscoring persistent gaps in effective protection. Greece has implemented its first National LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2021–2025. Law 5089/2024 on civil marriage equality represents a historic milestone, extending the right to marriage to same-sex couples and strengthening protection against discrimination; it amends the Civil Code and labor and social security legislation, and fully recognizes parental relationships between same-sex parents and children born abroad through medically assisted reproduction. Law 4931/2022 banned conversion therapies on vulnerable persons, including minors, and Law 4958/2022 explicitly prohibits medical intervention on intersex persons' sex characteristics without prior, free, informed and documented consent. Dedicated training programs have been organized for public servants, police officers, judges and consular authorities.

Training and awareness-raising

16. Human rights training and awareness-raising have remained priorities across public institutions. The National School of the Judiciary has provided mandatory initial training for judges and prosecutors since 2022, covering human rights, racism, gender-based violence, LGBTIQ+ rights, human trafficking and victim treatment and support; Law 5197/2025 extended this framework to a broader range of human rights topics and vulnerable victims.

17. The Hellenic Police Academy coordinates an integrated, multi-level training framework, encompassing initial and refresher training, in-service programs, specialized courses, and participation in European and international initiatives, addressing fundamental rights across all ranks.

18. The National Center for Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA), also in cooperation with its partners, delivers training programs for public officials covering non-discrimination, vulnerable groups, gender equality, Roma inclusion, trafficking, and a human rights-based approach to public administration. The Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs, in cooperation with KETHI, addresses gender stereotypes, gender gaps and awareness of sexual and reproductive rights; the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports (through its General Secretariat for Religious Affairs) has co-organized annual training on gender-based and domestic violence prevention since 2023; in 2024, the Labor Inspectorate conducted workshops and information sessions on workplace violence and harassment for inspectors, students and employees.

19. The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs has undertaken extensive Holocaust education and antisemitism-awareness actions, including in cooperation with Jewish cultural institutions, student contests and teacher seminars. The Roma Holocaust and broader Roma history have been integrated into the school curriculum.

20. A range of handbooks, guides and codes of conduct have reinforced human rights standards across the public sector: the NCRI has produced guides for victims of racist crime and for public servants handling such cases; the Greek Ombudsperson issued a guide for public servants on serving vulnerable groups; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued guidelines to consulates on LGBTIQ+ matters; and codes of conduct addressing non-discrimination, hate speech and equal treatment have been adopted for Members of Parliament, police officers, public sector employees and integrity advisors.

Non-discrimination in employment

21. Greece has continued to implement Law 4443/2016, as amended, prohibiting discrimination in employment on grounds of race, color, national or ethnic origin, descent, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender characteristics. Law 5225/2025 amended the Civil Servants' Code to extend an existing disciplinary offense, previously limited to gender discrimination, to all grounds under Law 4443/2016, and

introduced a standalone offense of workplace violence and harassment. The Ministry of Interior and the National Transparency Authority issued a Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for public sector employees with specific provisions against discrimination, racist and intolerant behavior and bullying.

22. Law 4795/2021 established the Integrity Advisor institution in the Greek public sector, providing employees with a dedicated point of reference for reporting integrity breaches and obtaining protection, support and advice. A Working Group at the Ministry of Labor and Social Security on equal treatment at work, comprising public administration bodies, the Equality Body, the Economic and Social Council, research institutions and social partners, has supported implementation, and the Ministry published a workplace discrimination brochure in 20,000 copies across eight languages. Under Law 5239/2025, employers are required to designate a Reference Person, establish internal reporting channels, and adopt workplace policies and procedures addressing violence and harassment. Project SHARE, co-financed by the EU, promotes work-life balance and equal sharing of care responsibilities through gender equality certification (award of an “equality mark”), awareness-raising and workplace consultation. In January 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established an Equality Unit and adopted a four-year Equality Action Plan (2024–2027) covering 39 actions, integrating gender mainstreaming into diplomatic activity, targeting increased female representation and addressing workplace harassment through a dedicated internal reporting mechanism.

Protection of the Roma

23. Roma are citizens with full civil rights, though poverty and social exclusion place many in vulnerable situations. The National Strategy and Action Plan for Roma Social Inclusion 2021–2030, guided by the principle “for the Roma, with the Roma”, is structured around four pillars: combating Roma poverty and social exclusion; ensuring equal access to education, employment, health, social care and housing; preventing discrimination and stereotypes; and promoting active Roma participation in social, economic and political life. Overall coordination rests with the Government Committee for Roma Social Inclusion, chaired by the General Secretary for Social Solidarity and Fight Against Poverty of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs, with the participation of the GNCHR and the Greek Ombudsman; a Roma Forum of 13 organizations serves as the principal consultation body.

24. The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Institute of Educational Policy, ensures Roma children's full participation in mainstream education through targeted inclusion policies. School allocation is based solely on geographical proximity, ensuring that any concentration of Roma pupils reflects local demographics rather than segregation; students from vulnerable groups are admitted regardless of municipal registration, and transportation support is provided for mobile Roma populations. Roma education mediators support both families and the educational community across multiple regions, and Roma persons are eligible for all welfare benefits on equal terms with the general population.

Rights of persons belonging to minorities

25. Greece recognizes as a “minority” the religious Muslim Minority in Thrace, the status of which was established by the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, on the basis of religion, without reference to the ethnic origin of its members. The latter can identify themselves as of Turkic, Pomak or Roma origin. Greece fully respects the principle of individual self-identification.

26. During the reporting period, Law 4964/2022 for the modernization of the Muftiates in Thrace was adopted. The Law provides for the participation of members of the Muslim Minority in Thrace with thorough knowledge of the Islamic religion, including imams, in a broad-based Advisory Committee tasked with selecting the most qualified candidates for the position of the Mufti and proposing them to the competent Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. The participation of women, required by the Law, in the Advisory Committee is a strong testament to Greece's unwavering commitment to equal gender participation in decision-making processes. In implementation of said Law, the new Mufti of Didymoteicho was officially appointed on 8 January 2026, followed by the call for

applications for the positions of the Muftis of Komotini and Xanthi, issued on 8 February 2026.

27. Law 4765/2021 reserves 5% of permanent and indefinite-contract public sector positions for members of the Muslim Minority in Thrace.

28. By virtue of Law 5224/2025, members of the Muslim Minority in Thrace who follow Alevism are recognized as a distinct community with their own places of worship, religious leaders, vakifs and their Managing Committee consisting solely of Alevis.

29. With regard to freedom of association, Greece has taken concrete steps for the implementation of four judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, in cooperation with the Council of Europe. Over the last ten years, more than 230 associations established by and comprising members of the Muslim Minority have been registered with local courts in the region of Thrace and freely operate.

30. It should be clarified that the rights of members of other groups who do not qualify as "minorities" are protected through the application of general legislation.

Gender equality⁴

Institutional and legal framework

31. Within the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs, created in 2023, the General Secretariat for Equality and Human Rights remains the lead body for planning, implementing and monitoring gender equality policies across all sectors. Law 4604/2019 on the Promotion of Substantive Gender Equality mandates horizontal gender mainstreaming in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of all public policies, programs and budgets, and provides for the progressive establishment of Gender Equality Units across Ministries.

32. As already mentioned, in January 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established an Equality Unit and adopted a four-year Equality Action Plan 2024–2027⁵.

33. Successive four-year National Action Plans constitute the principal policy instrument in this domain. The incoming Plan 2026–2030, currently under preparation with civil society input, mainstreams intersectionality as a horizontal principle, prioritizes the empowerment of women from vulnerable and under-represented groups facing compounded discrimination, and identifies equitable access to health services as a key area. The Gender Equality Observatory, operating under the General Secretariat, systematically collects and analyzes gender-disaggregated data, including in the electoral domain, in support of evidence-based policymaking. The National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, adopted under UN Security Council Resolution 1325, has been fully implemented for the 2020–2024 period. In 2024, the GNCHR completed its first comprehensive Report on the Status of Women in Greece, which will serve as a benchmark for future policy.

Participation of women in political and public life

34. The legislative framework mandates a minimum gender quota of 40% of candidates in parliamentary, European Parliament, municipal and regional elections. There has been a noticeable increase in women's candidacies across all levels of political governance, with the highest proportion of women elected recorded at the European Parliament level. Notwithstanding this positive trend, women remain significantly under-represented in elected bodies, particularly in leadership positions, where overall representation continues to fall below 30%. The Government recognizes this persistent challenge and combines the existing legislative quotas with awareness campaigns, alongside monitoring by the Gender Equality Observatory.

35. With respect to the diplomatic service, the Equality Action Plan 2024–2027 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs includes specific, time-bound measures to further increase female representation in diplomatic and senior management positions.

Employment and the gender pay gap

36. The employment rate of women aged 20–64 reached 62.3% in 2025, the highest on record, and 2.4 percentage points above 2024, while women's unemployment fell to 11.2%, the lowest since 2015, and the gender employment gap narrowed to 17.4%. Notwithstanding this progress, the unadjusted gender pay gap stood at 13.4% (provisional data for 2024), reflecting persistent structural challenges.

37. The National Action Plan addresses these challenges by reducing the gender pay and pension gaps, promoting work-life balance, including through the Neighborhood Nannies program (a nationwide childcare scheme for infants aged 2 months to 2.5 years that bridges the gap in nursery school places), and strengthening parental leave arrangements, with incentives for men's participation in family responsibilities under Law 4808/2021. The transposition of the EU Directive on balanced board representation (Law 5178/2025) is expected to improve women's position in corporate governance. The Hellenic Public Employment Service (DYPA) implements targeted employment subsidy programs for unemployed women, including victims of gender-based violence, mothers returning to work, with particular attention to the compounded disadvantages facing migrant and refugee women, Roma women and single-parent families. By Law 5316/2026 presented by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security and adopted in July 2026, EU Directive 2023/970 was transposed, requiring gender-neutral job postings, inclusive of applicable salary ranges, and sanctioning enterprises with unjustified pay disparities exceeding 5%, to operationalize pay transparency.

Violence against women

38. Preventing and combating violence against women, including domestic violence, remains a top Government priority. Greece ratified the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention (C190) by Law 4808/2021, whose provisions have been progressively extended to the public sector. The integrated network of support structures now comprises 65 nationwide facilities, including a 24-hour SOS Helpline (15900), 47 Counseling Centers and 20 Shelters, all accessible to persons with disabilities; the Government acknowledges that shelter capacity is insufficient and is committed to expanding it.

39. Law 5172/2025, transposing Directive (EU) 2024/1385, has reinforced the domestic violence protection framework by redefining the concept of "partner", criminalizing stalking, unlawful surveillance, cyber harassment and cyber stalking, and introducing procedural reforms on pre-trial measures, jurisdiction and enforcement. Amendments to criminal mediation require coverage of victims' immediate financial needs as a precondition, empower prosecutors to reject mediation agreements by reasoned order, and extend mandatory reporting obligations to pharmacists and physiotherapists. The "Panic Button" digital application, developed in partnership with the Ministries of Citizen Protection and Digital Governance and Artificial Intelligence, enables victims to request immediate police assistance with location detection; available free of charge to any adult victim nationwide since May 2024, it counted 6,728 enrolled beneficiaries by 31 December 2024, of whom 1,028 activated it and received assistance. In its report, the GNCHR stressed that an official definition of femicide and a dedicated observatory on gender-related killings should be established.

40. The institutional response has been substantially strengthened. Operational Domestic Violence Police Offices have increased from 18 to 63, covering all regional units, and a Directorate of Social Policing has been established at Police Headquarters to coordinate responses to gender-based, domestic and racist violence at the strategic level. Since 2019, more than 27,130 police officers have undergone retraining. The National School of the Judiciary provides mandatory initial and ongoing training⁶. Statistical data reflect both the impact of these measures and a reduction in under-reporting: in 2025, the SOS Helpline handled 6,773 calls, of which 4,275 related to violence; Counseling Centers assisted 4,755 women; and during the first ten months of 2025, police services handled more than 19,000 cases. In 2025, 16 femicides were recorded, perpetrated by a male family member of the victim in each case.

Refugees, asylum seekers, and migration⁷

Regular migration

41. In 2025, Greece adopted legislation on legal migration structured around three pillars: an administrative framework for legally residing migrants; the admission of workers in key sectors, including agriculture, tourism, construction and industry, through bilateral agreements and new permit categories to facilitate the recruitment of skilled persons; and provisions for beneficiaries of international protection, linking continued residence to language and vocational training and to employment, while retaining the temporary character of protection status. New legislation in 2026 further modernized and simplified admission procedures and clarified the rights of legally residing migrants.

Reception system and asylum procedures

42. As an EU frontline state, Greece continues to face considerable challenges in managing mixed and irregular migration flows. Significant progress has nonetheless been achieved through modern reception infrastructure and the development of one of Europe's most efficient asylum services. Law 4939/2022 consolidated provisions on reception, international and temporary protection into a comprehensive legal framework, strengthening rights of third-country nationals and stateless persons, streamlining administrative processes and upholding principles of legality and the rule of law. The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum entered into application on 12 June 2026; the relevant Law 5307/2026 introduces a framework for screening procedures, international protection procedures, establishment of "Eurodac" for the comparison of biometric data, as well as a new EU solidarity mechanism.

43. The Greek Asylum Service has expanded its capacity substantially, now operating twenty-six offices nationwide, including offices on frontline islands and two specialized offices in Athens and Thessaloniki for vulnerable applicants; increased staffing, appropriate specialization and training, stricter processing deadlines and digitization have significantly reduced processing times and the backlog of pending applications, while ensuring fairness and compliance with EU and international obligations and standards. In parallel, the Reception and Identification Service (RIS) has further improved the national reception system for applicants for international protection. Its operational network includes Reception and Identification Centers, Closed Controlled Access Centers on five eastern Aegean islands and Controlled Access Facilities for the Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers on the mainland.

44. Dignified living conditions and safety are ensured in all facilities. Safeguards are in place for the timely identification and care of persons with special reception needs, including accompanied and unaccompanied children, single-parent families, older persons, persons with disabilities or serious illness, and victims of torture, trafficking and various forms of violence; staff receive systematic training on the identification and management of vulnerable persons.

45. Since July 2024, IOM's and partners' Hippocrates program has provided medical and psychosocial screening during reception and identification, addressing immediate needs, identifying vulnerable persons, and supporting care continuity through rapid assessments, primary healthcare and nursing care, medication, psychosocial support, case management and referrals to public healthcare, coordinated with health and epidemiological protocols.

Living conditions and reception standards

46. In all RICs and CCACs, accommodation is organized into distinct areas with separate facilities for persons belonging to vulnerable groups, in particular unaccompanied minors and single-parent families. Eight designated Safe Areas, supported by child protection personnel from NGOs and IOM and funded by partner country donations and national resources, currently operate nationwide, ensuring that unaccompanied minors receive psychosocial and legal support, interpretation, individual needs- and best-interests assessments and access to basic services.

47. The RIS has issued Standard Operating Procedures on identifying and responding to trafficking cases within reception facilities. Since October 2022, EUAA case managers conduct an initial rapid assessment upon arrival to identify vulnerabilities. Individuals identified as presumed human trafficking victims are referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) operated by the National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA) and, where required, to specialized actors, for individual support.

48. Seven pre-removal centers for third-country nationals operate under Hellenic Police management, with renovation and maintenance work ongoing to ensure decent living conditions.

Border management and the principle of non-refoulement

49. The Hellenic Police and the Hellenic Coast Guard conduct land and sea border surveillance with full respect for the fundamental rights of every third-country national. Both national authorities and Frontex follow a strict Code of Conduct; every allegation of ill-treatment, including alleged pushbacks, is investigated at internal and/or EU level. The protection of human life at sea is the highest professional and moral obligation of the Hellenic Coast Guard: all maritime operations are carried out in full compliance with Greece's international obligations under UNCLOS, SOLAS and the SAR Convention, and hundreds of thousands of migrants have been rescued throughout the crisis and thereafter. In all cases involving identified vulnerable individuals, immediate medical care is ensured; where minors are identified, the juvenile prosecutor is notified without delay.

50. Allegations of pushbacks are not compatible with the well-established standard operating procedures of the Hellenic authorities. Greece has put in place a three-tier system to address complaints. At the administrative level, a sworn inquiry is ordered upon receipt of any allegation. At the level of independent authorities, the National Transparency Authority is competent to investigate allegations of incidents involving human rights violations at the borders. In parallel, the Greek Ombudsperson has reviewed cases related to border protection and fundamental rights, while also serving as the responsible independent authority for monitoring return operations and allegations of ill-treatment by law enforcement personnel. Finally, such claims may be submitted to the competent judicial authorities.

51. To further strengthen compliance monitoring, Law 4960/2022 established, within the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the post of Fundamental Rights Officer (FRO), responsible for the collection and preliminary evaluation of complaints regarding alleged fundamental rights violations during reception or asylum procedures, and a Special Fundamental Rights Compliance Committee to monitor the implementation of national, EU and international legislation in the fields of border protection and the granting of international protection. A Complaints Mechanism, operational since September 2023, receives such complaints; the FRO also conducts regular field visits to islands and mainland border regions to liaise with stakeholders, monitor compliance and provide advice, and delivers training to frontline personnel. In addition, Law 5303/2026 designated the National Transparency Authority as the independent monitoring mechanism for safeguarding fundamental rights during screening and asylum border procedures, as foreseen in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Protection of unaccompanied minors

52. Greece has built a comprehensive protection system for unaccompanied minors. Presidential Decree 13/2026 reorganized the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection (GSVIP) of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, establishing a new organizational structure that reinforces institutional safeguards and ensures appropriate and specialized reception conditions for vulnerable persons.

53. The national accommodation system is governed by a legal framework established since 2022 for the operation of accommodation centers and supervised semi-independent living apartments, accompanied by monitoring mechanisms and a complaint system. As of May 2026, 1,465 unaccompanied children were distributed across accommodation centers, semi-independent living apartments, emergency facilities, RICs and CCACs, and controlled

facilities for asylum seekers in Greece, of whom 95% were boys and 5% girls, and 27.6% under 15 years of age.

54. The National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM), established operationally in 2021 and by law in 2022, addresses the immediate protection needs of unaccompanied minors in precarious conditions, through comprehensive emergency assistance including tracing, emergency accommodation, support in identification procedures and primary healthcare, holistic case management, and prevention of human trafficking, recruitment into criminal networks, begging, prostitution and drug trafficking. Presidential Decree 13/2026 elevated the NERM to an independent department and expanded its mandate.

55. On 1 January 2024, the National Guardianship System for Unaccompanied Minors was operationally launched, ensuring that every unaccompanied child has a designated guardian providing care tailored to their age and specific needs. The GSVPIP oversees the planning, monitoring and coordination of the system. Guardians represent children in legal and administrative proceedings, ensure access to education and healthcare, develop tailored durable solutions plans and assist with practical matters. Currently, 151 guardians are active, 26 of whom are stationed at key entry points. Since the launch of the nationwide project, 8,189 unaccompanied children have received guardianship services. Law 5307/2026 transferred competence for the appointment of guardians from the Public Prosecutor to the General Secretary and introduced the role of temporary representative, ensuring prompt representation of children.

56. Under a Voluntary Relocation Program for Unaccompanied Minors (2020–2023), 1,368 minors of various nationalities were relocated to twelve EU Member States. Future relocations will fall under the new solidarity mechanism established by the European Pact on Migration and Asylum, starting as of 12 June 2026.

57. In June 2026, the GSVPIP adopted, after public consultation, the National Strategy for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons, as the central policy framework for the design and implementation of comprehensive protection measures for vulnerable third-country nationals and stateless persons residing in Greece.

Civil society and NGOs

58. NGOs are recognized as indispensable partners in the field of migration, collaborating with competent authorities on interpretation in asylum procedures, protection of children and unaccompanied minors, housing and community integration. Law 5275/2026 limited the registration requirement to organizations receiving state or EU funding or operating within Ministry facilities, thereby ensuring transparency and accountability while substantially simplifying procedures and reducing the administrative burden; no registration fee is charged and the three-member committee review has been removed, reducing processing time and eliminating subjectivity. NGOs not required to register remain free to operate and may receive funding from other sources. These provisions create no new criminal offenses and do not affect provisions exempting search and rescue operations and humanitarian action from sanctions; human rights defenders working on migration issues remain fully protected under Greek law. Furthermore, in May 2026, a new framework for regular and structured dialogue between the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the CSOs was formally established, including consultation meetings, while ensuring continuous participation and broader representation.

59. Social integration measures for refugees and migrants have been strengthened across multiple sectors. The HELIOS program facilitates access to the labor market and delivers targeted interventions, including cultural mediation. Refugee children may enroll in schools with insufficient documentation and may attend Reception Classes without any documentation, receiving intensive Greek language support within Educational Priority Zones; Reception School Annexes for Refugee Education and Refugee Education Coordinators further support access and liaison between schools, Ministries and accommodation centers, with regular teacher training organized in support.

60. It should be noted that the GNCHR is closely monitoring the implementation of European and domestic legislation on migration and asylum, focusing its recommendations

on integration policies, border management, protection of unaccompanied minors, civil society and NGOs.

Human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery⁸

61. The legislative framework criminalizing trafficking in human beings has been strengthened through amendments to Article 323A of the Criminal Code, reflecting the full range of exploitation forms and introducing enhanced protections for minors; in cases involving child victims, offenses are established without requiring proof of violence, threat, coercion or victim consent⁹. Currently, the relevant legal framework is under review to transpose the amended EU Anti-Trafficking Directive 2024/1712 and to enhance the criminal justice response to offences concerning human trafficking.

62. At the policy level, the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is updating the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking to address evolving new challenges and supervises and coordinates the NRM, whose operation is entrusted to EKKA (National Center for Social Solidarity).

63. Building on this legislative foundation, the NRM, now in its seventh year of operation, brings together 65 civil society organizations and multiple state agencies under a victim-centered framework. The NRM delivers comprehensive training to frontline professionals on trafficking indicators and Standard Operating Procedures for victim protection, and publishes an annual national report documenting identified cases and emerging trends. The Training Institute (INEP) of EKDDA/Ministry of Interior implements relevant training programs. According to the most recent NRM data (2025), 327 victims were identified as exploited within Greece, representing over one-third of the total number of cases (881). Among them, 292 were adults while 35 were children. The predominant type of exploitation affecting adult victims is labor exploitation, particularly in the agricultural sector. A growing trend is the recruitment of victims via social media platforms. For child victims, case management is entrusted to designated guardians, juvenile prosecutors, and supervisory boards, in accordance with a stricter child protection framework. In its report, the GNCHR stressed that victim identification should be pursued through swift, proactive and coordinated procedures, including regular inspections in high-risk sectors.

64. The GSVPIP further maintains a dedicated unit for trafficking victims, supporting frontline capacity-building and participating in the following EU-funded transnational projects: “Safe Borders” strengthening child anti-trafficking responses; “Embrace”, advancing business-led prevention of labor exploitation; and “Host”, enhancing prevention and protection measures against trafficking in the tourism and hospitality sector. In parallel, the NERM has operated a free tracing hotline (15107) for homeless or at-risk unaccompanied minors since April 2021; this service has been extended to vulnerable adult third-country nationals, including potential trafficking victims. The Reception and Identification Service issued updated guidelines in September 2024 on identifying and responding to trafficking incidents across its regional services.

65. Trafficking for labor exploitation remains a priority area of action. The Labor Inspectorate implements an annual operational plan in coordination with the Hellenic Police; joint inspections, supported by the European Labor Authority and Europol, target high-risk sectors, particularly agriculture, construction and catering. Inspectors are trained to apply trafficking indicators and may conduct inspections in response to specific complaints. The Prosecutor's Office of the Supreme Court has issued guidelines to the Labor Inspectorate on cooperation with prosecution authorities and the handling of sensitive personal data. Anti-trafficking information is available on the Labor Inspectorate's website in seven languages. More broadly, bilateral agreements on migration and mobility incorporate provisions on combating trafficking and facilitate legal entry, particularly for seasonal agricultural work. According to the GNCHR, cooperation between law enforcement, labor inspectors and financial-crime units should be strengthened to improve the detection of trafficking offenses.

Prohibition of torture and ill-treatment¹⁰

66. Law 4985/2022 amended the Penitentiary Code to establish a judicial remedy enabling detainees to challenge their conditions of detention and access to healthcare before the Sentence Enforcement Court. The remedy is triggered where living conditions violate human dignity as guaranteed by international and national law, and the Court may order all necessary corrective measures and award financial compensation.

67. Structural measures to reduce overcrowding and expand alternatives to detention, at both pre-trial and post-conviction stages, have been adopted across all correctional facilities. Law 5187/2025 introduced a comprehensive package of reforms aimed at alleviating prison overcrowding, including the phased introduction of electronic surveillance as an alternative means of serving custodial sentences. Law 5282/2026 further introduced community service into the Penitentiary Code as an alternative to imprisonment, broadening the range of available non-custodial measures. Greece has further adopted a new Action Plan for 2025–2030, which consolidates these efforts within a strategic framework addressing prison population management, infrastructure improvement, staffing capacity, healthcare service quality and reintegration support. In its report, the GNCHR stressed that infrastructure measures should be accompanied by clear policies to reduce the prison population.

68. The Penitentiary Code guarantees equal access to education, training, work, healthcare and leave, through measures such as provision of special diets, facilitation of religious practices, an electronic visiting room, consular access and civil society collaboration to address language barriers. The prohibition of ill-treatment is further reinforced through operational guidelines issued to all law enforcement authorities: upon arrest, detainees are informed of the grounds of detention and their rights, with access to legal assistance at all stages; foreign detainees receive interpreter services, translated information leaflets and assistance in contacting relatives, legal counsel, consular authorities and international bodies.

69. Hellenic Police Headquarters continuously monitors the implementation of orders relating to allegations of ill-treatment by law enforcement personnel, transmitting relevant cases electronically to the Greek Ombudsperson on a weekly basis for informative purposes or possible further action. The 2024 reform of the disciplinary legislative framework reinforced these guarantees by providing for the removal from active service of uniformed officers involved in serious criminal or disciplinary offenses, enhancing anti-corruption measures, streamlining procedures and ensuring the expeditious administration of disciplinary justice.

70. Independent oversight constitutes a further pillar of Greece's legal framework. The Greek Ombudsman functions both as the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under OPCAT and as the National Investigation Mechanism for allegations of arbitrariness by law enforcement and prison personnel. Investigations may be initiated on complaint, ex officio, by ministerial referral or following an ECtHR judgment against Greece; disciplinary proceedings are suspended pending the Ombudsman's report. Since 2017, over 1,400 relevant cases have been referred.

Freedom of opinion and expression¹¹

71. Greece has pursued a coherent strategy to strengthen freedom of opinion and expression through legislative and institutional reforms. Law 5090/2024 repealed Article 362 of the Criminal Code, eliminating the offense of simple defamation, a longstanding concern, as journalists accused of press libel were frequently convicted on that lesser charge due to the difficulty of proving malice, with criminal convictions subsequently serving as the basis for civil compensation claims.

72. On the safety of journalists, a Memorandum of Understanding on the Protection, Safety and Empowerment of Journalists and Media Professionals, signed in May 2022 at the initiative of the General Secretariat for Communication and Media, established a framework of targeted measures to promote media pluralism and freedom of expression in alignment with international standards, including UN resolutions on journalist safety (a Greek initiative

at the UN General Assembly). The MoU gave rise to a Task Force of 22 members drawn from government, academia, media associations and journalist unions, now in its fourth consecutive mandate and expanded to include the Hellenic Coast Guard and the National Cybersecurity Authority, addressing secure working conditions, digital safety, gender-based challenges, journalist security in conflict zones and the combating of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs). Article 40 of Law 5253/2025 institutionalizes this work through a National Action Plan for the Safety of Journalists, covering incident recording, early warning mechanisms, training and cross-sectoral cooperation, to be updated every three years. In January 2023, Greece established the International Training Center for the Safety of Journalists and Media Professionals in Thessaloniki, which has since conducted numerous training sessions and international conferences. A draft law will shortly transpose EU Directive 2024/1069 on protecting persons engaged in public participation from SLAPPs, closing a gap also highlighted by the GNCHR.

73. In the area of media literacy, the General Secretariat for Communication and Media has discharged its mandate under Article 35 of Law 4779/2021 through five national conferences, emphasizing pre-bunking disinformation and strengthening societal resilience; Law 5253/2025 further establishes a National Strategy for Media Literacy with provisions for annual reporting and inter-institutional coordination.

74. The regulatory framework against hate speech and discrimination in the media has been correspondingly reinforced. Article 8 of Law 4779/2021 prohibits discrimination and hate speech in audiovisual media, enforced by the NCRT across all platforms. An independent Committee of Deontology reviews complaints against print and electronic media for violations of the ethical standards established under the codes of the Journalists' Union of Athens Daily Newspapers and the Panhellenic Federation of Journalists' Unions.

75. The National Action Plan for the Management of Public Open-Air Assemblies, in force since 2021, includes a dedicated liaison officer to facilitate unimpeded media access to public demonstrations.

Freedom of religion or belief¹²

76. Law 5224/2025 strengthens the protection of freedom of worship, enhancing legal certainty by establishing a modern regulatory framework governing the licensing, construction, establishment, operation, relocation and structural modification of places of worship of any religious community, with the exception of the Eastern Orthodox Church as recognized under Article 3 of the Constitution, as well as provisions on the appointment and removal of religious ministers from the relevant register. Greece follows at the national level the 2013 EU Guidelines on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief, recognizing the State's primary role in ensuring freedom of religion or belief in practice: its legal system provides adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, applicable throughout its territory without exclusion or discrimination and duly enforced; all individuals within its jurisdiction are protected, including persons holding non-theistic or atheistic beliefs and persons belonging to religious minority; all are treated equally without discrimination on the basis of religion or belief; and effective measures are in place to prevent and sanction violations and ensure accountability.

77. Greece has pursued sustained efforts to combat antisemitism and promote Holocaust remembrance. January the 27th, as the Greek and International Day of Holocaust Remembrance, is commemorated annually at the highest political level, and a Special Envoy for Combating Antisemitism and for the Protection of Holocaust Remembrance has been in post for several years in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Greek Delegation to the IHRA, acting in coordination with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports and the Jewish Museum of Greece, supports educational seminars and awareness-raising projects in schools. Practical guides on combating antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes have been issued by the General Secretariat in partnership with OSCE/ODIHR, supported by dedicated workshops for law enforcement and community representatives. There have been no serious acts of violence

against Jews or places of worship, but only occasional incidents of vandalism of Jewish monuments or cemeteries, which the authorities condemn and investigate.

78. Military service is constitutionally mandated under Article 4(6). Conscientious objectors may fulfill this duty through alternative service, provided their convictions, whether religious, philosophical or moral, are consistently reflected in their conduct. Under Law 5265/2026, applications are reviewed by a committee comprising three university professors, a State Legal Council member and one Armed Forces Officer; upon application, service suspension is automatically granted, and, statistically, most applications are approved. The Minister of National Defense does not have the authority to suspend alternative service provisions, including in wartime. Alternative service lasts 15 months, or, where reductions apply, 12, 9 or 5 months, a proportionately longer duration reflecting the comparatively less demanding conditions under which it is performed. Conscientious objectors otherwise enjoy equal standing under the law with those fulfilling standard military service.

Administration of justice¹³

79. During the reporting period, Greece has undertaken a comprehensive reform of its justice system aimed at strengthening judicial independence, enhancing efficiency and broadening access to justice. These reforms span the institutional, procedural and digital dimensions of judicial administration.

80. Law 5123/2024 formally associated the judiciary with the selection of its own leadership for the first time: the Plenaries of the Council of State, the Supreme Civil and Criminal Court (Areios Pagos), the Court of Audit and the Prosecutor's Office of Areios Pagos are now consulted on the appointment of Supreme Court Presidents, Vice-Presidents, the General Prosecutor and the General Commissioner of the Court of Audit.

81. Procedural reform has been pursued on multiple fronts. Law 5090/2024 amended the Code of Criminal Procedure to accelerate criminal proceedings, while Law 5095/2024 transferred a significant volume of non-litigious matters, including succession certificates, mortgage notations and affidavits, from courts to lawyers, relieving the judiciary of a substantial administrative burden. Rationalization measures before the Council of State and administrative courts, including case filtering and reallocation, have complemented these efforts. Digitalization has been integrated as a cross-cutting priority through the upgrading of case management systems, the use of AI and machine-learning tools under human oversight, electronic submissions and the digitization of records. Human resources have been reinforced through successive recruitment, and court infrastructure continues to be modernized. Law 5108/2024 introduced a new Judicial Map for civil and criminal justice, enabling a more balanced distribution of caseload and the creation of larger, more productive courts. In its report, the GNCHR stressed that measurable performance indicators should be developed to monitor the effectiveness of justice reform.

Policing of assemblies and use of force

82. The legislative framework governing public assemblies safeguards freedom of peaceful assembly on the basis of necessity and proportionality. It defines police powers, provides judicial protection to persons affected by police action and establishes procedural safeguards; assemblies may be restricted or dispersed only on convincing grounds and with the prior approval of a judge and a public prosecutor, while organizers retain the right to appeal. In 2023, more than 4,500 rallies were held in Greece, of which only three were prohibited. The Hellenic Police prioritizes non-violent methods of crowd control; recourse to tear gas or riot units is made only where strictly necessary.

Rights of persons with disabilities¹⁴

83. Greece has continued to strengthen its legislative and institutional framework on disability rights in line with the CRPD. The National Accessibility Authority (Law 4780/2021) monitors accessibility across physical, digital and service environments, proposes standards, and participates in legislative drafting and awareness-raising, while the

National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2024–2030 sets targets across accessibility, employment, education, health and independent living. The Institute of Educational Policy is redesigning special and inclusive education structures.

84. Law 4961/2022 introduced the Digital Register of Persons with Disabilities, consolidating individual profiles and entitlements in a single digital record, and the Disability Card for individuals. DYPA Vocational Schools for Persons with Disabilities offer accessible facilities and adjusted training programs. Three new fully accessible Disability Certification Centers have been created, complemented by the National Disability Portal, contributing to the streamlining of administrative procedures and the reduction of pending appointment requests.

85. Two pilot programs funded by the Recovery and Resilience Facility promote independent living: Law 4837/2021 established the Personal Assistant service for persons with disabilities, covering both independent-living support and labor market reintegration for carers, with 1,100 persons provided with assistants since 2021; a complementary program (Law 4997/2022) subsidizes accessibility upgrades in 4,700 buildings, comprising 4,000 private homes and 700 workplaces of self-employed persons with disabilities. Significant progress has been made in deinstitutionalization: more than 700 individuals have transitioned to supported living arrangements across 147 facilities, with marked improvements in quality of life documented for those relocated from the Lechaina facility, where physical and chemical restraints had been recorded. Social welfare institutions are required to appoint protection officers to report abuse, and the National Transparency Authority conducts independent inspections wherever abuse is reported or suspected.

86. With respect to employment, Law 4765/2021 reserves 12% of annual public sector recruitment for individuals with a disability rate of at least 50%, yielding 997 positions in 2026. In October 2024, the Supreme Personnel Selection Council issued a special call for 1,592 such positions. Law 5157/2024 withdrew the requirement to cease employment in order to receive a disability pension, ending the choice between work and state support. Law 5003/2022 (Article 81) further increased disability quotas. A Special Employment Program for 3,000 unemployed persons with disabilities is being implemented in first- and second-tier Local Authorities.

87. Law 5023/2023 extended equality and non-discrimination for persons with disabilities to more socio-political fields and enhanced access to justice by eliminating discriminatory terminology from primary legislation, appointing accessibility officers in all courts, and granting direct legal aid irrespective of income. A project to improve courtroom accessibility for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, launched in 2022, is scheduled for completion by 2026. Labor Inspectors conducted 216 inspections of businesses employing persons with disabilities, verifying compliance with reasonable accommodation obligations and informing employers of their duty to adopt positive measures and ensure equal participation.

Rights of the child¹⁵

88. Greece's legislative framework for child protection was significantly reinforced by Law 4837/2021, which introduced statutory definitions of child abuse and established the National System for Recording and Monitoring relevant incidents. The Law imposes mandatory obligations on competent agencies, including the appointment of minors' protection officers, immediate notification requirements and regular reporting.

89. Financial protection for families with children is ensured through a range of income-targeted benefits: a monthly child benefit, a birth allowance, an allowance for families residing in mountainous or disadvantaged areas and financial aid for foster parents. Access to early childhood care services for children under the age of four is further supported through a voucher-based program for placement in childcare facilities.

90. In the area of alternative care and deinstitutionalization, Greece continues the transition to family-based models. The regulatory frameworks for foster care and professional fostering have been consolidated through an online platform enabling electronic applications by prospective foster and adoptive parents. A pilot program for Semi-

Autonomous Living Units provides young people aged 15–26 residing in child protection structures with financial assistance, daily support, legal counseling and employment guidance. The Early Intervention Program for children aged 0–6 with disabilities or developmental delays extends personalized services to both children and their families.

91. At the international level, Greece, during its tenure as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, assumed the presidency of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, taking initiatives to advance child protection in cooperation with the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, UNICEF and civil society. In the margins of the 61st HRC session, Greece organized a high-level side event on preventing violence against children and child-centered justice, where Foreign Minister George Gerapetritis underscored the imperative of safeguarding children's rights and agency in the face of technological advancement.

92. The National Strategy for the Prevention of Violence and Juvenile Delinquency 2025–2030 adopts a multi-level, rights-based approach covering all forms of violence against and by minors, structured around prevention, protection, rehabilitation and inter-institutional cooperation. It consolidates policies implemented since 2019, including a National Strategy on Protection of Minors from Internet Addiction, a school mobile phone ban, and the "Kids Wallet" application, the first age-verification mechanism deployed by an EU Member State. The Strategy additionally proposes 29 new policies, including 7 flagship measures on bullying, positive parenting, digital safety, child-friendly justice and community violence, supported by 69 concrete actions coordinated across 10 ministries and monitored through 38 indicators.

93. Complementing this framework, in April 2026 Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced a landmark legislative initiative to protect children in the digital environment. Rather than imposing an outright digital ban, the initiative establishes a coherent regulatory structure, prohibiting access to social media platforms for children under 15. The measure applies to social networking services and does not extend to private communications. The legislative framework establishing this initiative is scheduled to be formally enacted in 2027.

Right to education¹⁶

94. Greece has adopted a comprehensive legislative and policy framework to promote human rights, inclusion and non-discrimination in education at all levels. Law 5029/2023 introduced a nationwide anti-bullying policy, supported by a dedicated digital reporting platform (stop-bullying.gov.gr) and a general ban on mobile phones in schools to address cyberbullying; a large-scale in-service teacher training program launched in February 2025 extends this framework to cover gender-based violence, online bullying, hate speech and inclusive education, while the 2024 curriculum initiative "Actions for Active Citizenship" embeds critical thinking, social responsibility and the UN Sustainable Development Goals across all school levels.

95. The "Skills Workshops" (Skills Labs) initiative, introduced nationwide in the 2021–2022 school year, integrates human rights, social inclusion, active citizenship, employment readiness and democratic culture into compulsory curricula across pre-primary, primary and secondary education. Developed in cooperation with civil society, universities and international organizations including UNHCR and UNICEF, it reached over 100,000 teachers and was awarded the Global Education Award 2020/2021.

96. Human rights education is mainstreamed across the national curriculum and is compulsory in both secondary school and vocational training programs. At the tertiary level, Law 4957/2022 requires Higher Education Institutions to establish Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination Units and Equal Access Plans for persons with disabilities, while the National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2024–2030 mandates Accessibility Offices in universities by 2026.

97. Children may be exempted from religious education without authorization, verification of religion or any associated sanctions.

98. Dedicated structures, Reception School Annexes, after-hours Reception Units and Refugee Education Coordinators guarantee access to formal education for refugee and migrant children regardless of documentation status, while transportation support and multilingual guides facilitate enrollment and integration. Targeted measures for Roma children, including unconditional enrollment in full-day pre-primary and primary programs, flexible documentation requirements, Educational Priority Zones and psychosocial support, similarly aim to reduce early school leaving and ensure meaningful participation in mainstream education. Both sets of measures are supported through NSRF and AMIF funding frameworks.

99. Steps are being taken to integrate disability-related content into university curricula, together with awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives for academic staff on inclusion and equal access.

100. In May 2026, Greece established, for the first time, a regulatory framework governing the use of artificial intelligence in educational settings, upon an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports and the Ministry of Digital Governance and Artificial Intelligence. The framework ensures that AI supports learning without substituting personal effort, critical thinking or the pedagogical role of the teacher, embedding safety, transparency and educational responsibility into its design. Digital Safety is also addressed through the Preschool Education Curriculum as well as the Curricula of Informatics and Communication Technology in Elementary Education and Informatics in Secondary Education.

Fight against poverty, rights to health, and to adequate housing¹⁷

101. Greece implements comprehensive measures to combat poverty and uphold the right to an adequate standard of living. The Minimum Guaranteed Income program provides financial assistance to extremely poor households and homeless individuals, integrating income support with complementary social services and labor market reintegration pathways. This is complemented by a network of local social structures, shelters, day centers, soup kitchens and social pharmacies, offering direct support to vulnerable groups.

102. To address the rising cost of living, the Government has repeatedly raised the minimum wage as well as paid pensions and introduced targeted benefits for low-income pensioners, persons with disabilities and uninsured elderly persons, alongside broader relief packages covering food and fuel subsidies.

103. Addressing rising housing costs has similarly emerged as a central government priority. A comprehensive 6.5-billion-euro program encompasses a rent rebate scheme delivering an average 8% reduction, targeted support enabling approximately 30,000 young people to purchase their first home, and renovation initiatives designed to expand housing supply through the activation of idle public real estate. A centralized digital platform consolidates information on 47 government housing measures, including 21 housing programs, energy upgrade schemes and 11 tax arrangements such as reductions in property tax and exemptions for long-term rentals.

104. Greece has adopted legislative and administrative measures to ensure access to healthcare for migrants, asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international and temporary protection and vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied minors, as well as Roma communities. Asylum seekers benefit from a Provisional Insurance and Healthcare Number, which grants access to medical, pharmaceutical and labor market services and is automatically converted into a standard insurance number upon granting of international protection. For Roma populations, coordinated vaccination campaigns and sustained health promotion initiatives ensure access to preventive healthcare.

Human rights and climate change¹⁸

105. Greece established in 2021 the Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, signaling a shift from reactive emergency management to a resilience-oriented approach based on adaptation, prevention, preparedness, and rapid response.

106. Environment- and disaster-related legislation systematically undergoes public online consultation (“OpenGov” platform since 2009 and dedicated Ministry portals), enabling stakeholder and local community participation in policymaking.

107. Greece implements its National Climate Law (Law 4936/2022), setting emissions reduction targets of -55% by 2030 and -80% by 2040 compared to 1990 levels, and climate neutrality by 2050. It also implements its National Adaptation Strategy, operationalized through Regional Strategies across its Regions.

108. Greece implements the Aarhus Convention, *inter alia*, by expanding open geospatial environmental data systems, digitalizing meteorological and spatial datasets, and integrating environmental education across mandatory curricula.

III. Conclusion

109. Greece is aware that challenges persist and that gaps in implementation continue to affect the full enjoyment of rights. It stands ready to address these gaps through continued reform, strengthened coordination and sustained engagement with the National Commission for Human Rights, other independent authorities, civil society and international human rights mechanisms. The Greek authorities are committed to taking further steps to protect all those in vulnerable situations, to effectively promote the rights of the child and the rights of persons with disabilities, to further gender equality and the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to adequate housing, to combat violence against women, to manage the mixed migration flows with full respect for human rights, and to prioritize the digital transformation, leveraging the use of artificial intelligence. The recommendations emanating from the UPR process will inform and guide these efforts.

Notes

¹ Recommendations 130.8, 130.9, 130.163.

² Recommendations 130.10, 130.14, 130.13, 130.27, 130.22, 130.39, 130.43, 130.49, 130.12, 130.15, 130.30, 130.32, 130.17, 130.19, 130.34, 130.35, 130.36, 130.40, 130.23, 130.21, 130.37, 130.20, 130.16, 130.29, 130.33, 130.38, 130.42, 130.26, 130.11, 130.41, 130.31, 130.24, 130.25, 130.189, 130.28, 130.113, 130.114, 130.44, 130.45, 130.46, 130.48, 130.18, 130.190.

³ Available at <https://racism-victim-support.gr/>.

⁴ Recommendations 130.129, 130.132, 130.164, 130.165, 130.160, 130.161, 130.162, 130.167, 130.173, 130.178, 130.157, 130.75, 130.77, 130.79, 130.84, 130.85, 130.86, 130.87, 130.89, 130.116, 130.171, 130.158, 130.159, 130.166, 130.168, 130.169, 130.170, 130.172, 130.174, 130.175, 130.176, 130.177, 130.156, 130.117, 130.118, 130.120, 130.122, 130.123, 130.124, 130.125, 130.126.

⁵ See *supra*, para. 22.

⁶ See *supra*, para. 16.

⁷ Recommendations 130.201, 130.213, 130.219, 130.234, 130.238, 130.210, 130.224, 130.218, 130.202, 130.203, 130.209, 130.212, 130.215, 130.216, 130.220, 130.225, 130.237, 130.223, 130.217, 130.208, 130.232, 130.221, 130.228, 130.231, 130.235, 130.138, 130.211, 130.90, 130.91, 130.92, 130.94, 130.239, 130.230, 130.233, 130.205, 130.229, 130.236, 130.206, 130.141, 130.149, 130.150, 130.152.

⁸ Recommendations 130.98, 130.99, 130.100, 130.101, 130.102, 130.103, 130.104, 130.105, 130.106, 130.107, 130.108, 130.109, 130.110, 130.111, 130.112, 130.115.

⁹ As already mentioned, Greece has also ratified the ILO Protocol to Convention No. 29 on Forced Labor.

¹⁰ Recommendations 130.70, 130.56, 130.57, 130.58, 130.60, 130.61, 130.63, 130.64, 130.66, 130.68, 130.69, 130.71, 130.55, 130.59.

¹¹ Recommendations 130.83, 130.93, 130.95.

- ¹² Recommendations 130.76, 130.78.
- ¹³ Recommendations 130.67, 130.72, 130.54, 130.62, 130.74.
- ¹⁴ Recommendations 130.191, 130.195, 130.196, 130.197, 130.199, 130.119, 130.121, 130.192, 130.73, 130.193, 130.194, 130.200, 130.139, 130.135, 130.137, 130.140, 130.148, 130.155.
- ¹⁵ Recommendations 130.182, 130.183, 130.184, 130.185, 130.179, 130.198, 130.181, 130.180.
- ¹⁶ Recommendations 130.142, 130.143, 130.144, 130.145, 130.146, 130.147, 130.151, 130.153, 130.154.
- ¹⁷ Recommendations 130.130, 130.134, 130.128, 130.131, 130.133, 130.136.
- ¹⁸ Recommendations 130.51, 130.52.
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